



## RESOLUTION 2

APPROVED AT THE SPRING 2025  
MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY

Subject: *Citizenship Act* Amendments

Legislation Affected: *Citizenship Act*

Submitted by: MNBC Board of Directors

Submitted to: MNGA Clerk

Date Submitted: December 9, 2024

Vote Required for Approval: 75%

### WHEREAS

1. Some of the language in the *Citizenship Act* is inconsistent and unclear, and so does not completely serve the needs of Citizens and those applying for Citizenship;
2. The Ministry of Citizenship staffing and practices have evolved and a general review of the *Citizenship Act* is necessary to ensure that legislation aligns with current practices;
3. Legislation must be regularly reviewed to ensure consistency and clarity.

### BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The *Citizenship Act* be amended as follows:

- A. Strike the following definitions:
  - i. 2.20 “Registration”
  - ii. 2.26 “Registered”
- B. Amend the following definitions as indicated, by deleting the struck-through words and inserting the underlined words:
  - i. “**Appeal**” or “**Appeals**” means a written document submitted by: an Applicant who has been rejected entry in the Métis Nation British Columbia Citizen Registry, ~~a Métis Nation British Columbia Citizen who is objecting to the registration of any Applicant to the Métis Nation British Columbia Central Registry,~~ or a person whose citizenship has been revoked under Article Six of this Act;
  - ii. “**Applicant**” means an individual who applies for a ~~Provincial~~ MNBC Citizenship Card by filing the necessary documentation with the ~~Citizenship Authority~~ Ministry of Citizenship.

- iii. **“Application”** means the ~~Provincial~~ MNBC Citizenship Standardized Application Form provided by MNBC through the Ministry of Citizenship or on the MNBC website.
- iv. **“Citizenship Authority”** (the “Authority”) means the office in the Ministry of Citizenship which processes, assesses, ensures Chartered Community acceptance is approved within the required timeframe, and issues citizenship cards. The Authority consists of:
  - The Executive Director of Citizenship
  - The Director of Citizenship
  - The ~~Citizenship Assessment~~ Indigenous Research Manager
- v. ~~“Métis”~~ or “Citizen” means a Métis Citizen as defined by the *Constitution*.
- vi. **“Under Review”** means a citizen whose Citizenship is currently being reviewed by the Citizenship Authority following an audit of the Citizen Registry. ~~means a previously registered Citizen whose Citizenship is currently being reviewed by the Citizenship Authority following an audit or review of the Central Registry.~~

C. Insert definitions as follows:

**“Application Process”** means the process to receive Applications and determine Métis Citizenship, outlined in Article 4 of this *Act*, and that is operationalized, maintained, and updated from time to time by the Ministry of Citizenship.

**“Ministry of Citizenship”** means the Ministry at MNBC that promotes Métis Citizenship in British Columbia and supports people who self-identify as Métis through the citizenship application process, while ensuring integrity of the Registry.

D. Amend Article 3.1 as indicated, by deleting the struck-through words and inserting the underlined words:

3.1 The MNBC shall accept an application for ~~citizenship~~ Citizenship upon the Applicant providing to the ~~Citizenship Authority~~ Ministry of Citizenship a written ~~application~~ Application together with sufficient Genealogical evidence which, if accepted by the Citizenship Authority, is proof that the Applicant is of Métis ancestry, and that the Applicant complies with the following conditions:

E. Amend the title and certain parts of Article Four as indicated, by deleting the struck-through words and inserting the underlined words:

#### ARTICLE FOUR – ~~REGISTRATION~~ APPLICATION PROCESS

- 4.1 An individual is entitled to apply for Métis Citizenship by submitting an ~~application~~ Application directly to the Ministry of Citizenship or through a Métis Chartered Community; ~~An individual is entitled to make application for registration as a Métis Citizen by making application to the MNBC or to a Chartered Community;~~
- 4.2 Upon approval ~~of registration~~, the Citizenship Authority shall issue a ~~Provincial~~ MNBC Citizenship Card recognizing the Applicant as a Métis Citizen;
- 4.3 The parent or guardian of a child under nineteen (19) years of age may ~~apply for registration~~ on behalf of the child;
- 4.4 The guardian of an individual who is under a mental or legal disability may ~~apply for registration~~ on behalf of that individual;
- 4.6 The Applicant must provide the Ministry of Citizenship with the necessary supporting documentation, as described in the Application Process for the Applicant to be considered for Métis Citizenship. ~~In the case of an application for registration, the Applicant must provide the Citizenship Authority with genealogy and the supporting documentation necessary to validate and verify that the Applicant is Métis;~~
- 4.7 The Citizenship Authority shall provide final review of complete Applications ~~applications for Métis Citizenship registration and approve the application~~ shall register an Applicant as a Métis only if the Applicant is eligible ~~entitled to be registered as a Métis Citizen pursuant to the provisions of this Act.~~
- ii. ~~Upon completion of the Métis Nation acceptance process; and~~
- iii. ~~The application~~ Application ~~fulfills all the requirements of the Application Process is properly made.~~
- F. Delete Article 4.8 entirely.
- G. Amend Articles 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 as indicated by deleting the struck-through words and inserting the underlined words:
- 5.1 An MNBC Citizen may, at any time, voluntarily remove themselves from the Citizen Registry;
- 5.2 The Citizenship Authority shall remove an MNBC Citizen who, by written request, declares that they no longer wish to be ~~registered as~~ an MNBC Citizen;

- 5.3 An MNBC Citizen who has removed themselves from the Registry may re-apply upon following the application procedure for becoming an MNBC Citizen, as set out in this Act.~~may re-apply for Registration upon following the procedure for Registration as a Métis Citizen as set out in this Act.~~
- H. Amend Articles 6.5 and 6.6 as indicated by deleting the struck-through words and inserting the underlined words:
- 6.5 A person whose citizenship has been revoked under Article Six may re-apply for MNBC Citizenship by completing the Application Process. ~~may re-apply for Registration upon following the procedure for Registration as a Métis Citizen as set out in this Act.~~
- 6.6 A person who is placed under review by the Citizenship Authority is not eligible to apply for any further supports, programs, or funding through MNBC until their ~~citizenship~~ Citizenship has been reaffirmed. A person currently receiving supports will continue to receive them for at least sixty (60) days following the notice sent by the Citizenship Authority. This time frame can be extended, by request of the person under review, by a further ninety (90) days.
- ~~i. Extension requests are granted at the discretion of the responsible program director. A negative decision can be appealed within thirty (30) days to the MNBC Board, who can overturn the decision by a majority vote.~~
- I. Amend the title and certain parts of Article Seven as indicated, by deleting the struck-through words and inserting the underlined words:

#### **ARTICLE SEVEN – ~~CENTRAL~~ CITIZEN REGISTRY**

- 7.1 The Ministry of Citizenship shall maintain an objectively verifiable uniform system for ~~the processing of Metis Citizenship Applications; Registration of Métis Citizens;~~
- 7.2 The Ministry of Citizenship shall collect and maintain the information necessary to determine ~~registration~~ Citizenship eligibility; the information to be collected is listed on the MNBC Citizenship Application Package and updated from time to time.
- 7.3 The Ministry of Citizenship may collect and ~~register~~ maintain additional demographic information about Métis Citizens as, in the Ministry of Citizenship's sole discretion, is deemed necessary and/or expedient;
- 7.7 Applicants may apply for Citizenship by written Application through a Chartered Community, ~~a regional registry clerk,~~ or directly to the Ministry of Citizenship ~~Métis Nation British Columbia registry;~~

- 7.8 ~~Application~~ Applications may shall be submitted by a the Chartered Community of the MNBC and/or the Regional Registry Clerk to the Ministry of Citizenship on behalf of the applicant for consideration and entry into the Central Registry;
- 7.10 An Applicant, ~~having applied for Citizenship directly to the MNBC and~~ whose Application the Citizenship Authority approves, shall be issued a Provincial an MNBC Citizenship Card by the Central Registry Ministry of Citizenship; ~~and forwarded directly to the Applicant;~~
- J. Strike Article 7.11 because its purpose is covered in 7.10.
- K. Strike the title “ARTICLE EIGHT – REGISTRY OFFICE” because its purpose is covered by Article Seven.

**Note:** the following Sections of the Citizenship Act referenced below are the sections enumerated in the Act as ratified in September 2023. The final resolution will allow for reordering and renumbering all definitions, sections, and subsections, as appropriate.

- L. Amend Article 9 as indicated, by deleting the struck-through words and inserting the underlined words:
- 9.2 Receive and review applications for citizenship submitted by an Applicant on the ~~Provincial~~ MNBC Standardized Citizenship Application Forms and shall render a decision whether a person is entitled to be a Métis Citizen. ~~registered pursuant to this Act;~~
- 9.5 Maintain the ~~Central~~ Citizen Registry in a suitable and proper manner;
- 9.6 Provide a written decision to the Applicant ~~and/or Chartered Community,~~ as may be appropriate under the circumstances concerning an application;
- 9.9 Applicants whose applications are not approved for Citizenship ~~by the Central Registry~~ may appeal such decision to the Senate;
- M. Delete Articles 9.8 and 9.12 entirely.
- N. Strike all remaining instances of the following words and phrases, and insert the words and phrases indicated throughout the *Citizenship Act* in their places:

| Strike               | Insert                |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Registry             | Citizen Registry      |
| Central Registry     |                       |
| Provincial MNBC Card | MNBC Citizenship Card |

|                             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Provincial Citizenship Card |             |
| citizenship                 | Citizenship |

- O. Reorganize and renumber all definitions so that they are in alphabetical order, renumber all Articles and sub-Articles as appropriate, and make all consequential changes necessary within Articles due to renumbering.