



SENATE
Apihtow-kosison nekanapowin
MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA
Apihtow-kosison peyakosihwawin

Ms. Kathlene Sue Gastaldo

and

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA CENTRAL REGISTRY

**CITIZENSHIP/CENTRAL REGISTRY APPEAL
RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF APPEAL TO THE SENATE**

To: Ms. Kathlene Gastaldo

To: METIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA CENTRAL REGISTRY

From: METIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA SENATE CLERK

Introduction

[1] On February 12, 2014 the Applicant, Ms. Kathlene Sue Gastaldo received a letter from the Respondent, the MNBC Central Registry, indicating that her citizenship could not be validated or verified based on the current qualifiers for MNBC Citizenship. Further, the letter from the MNBC Central Registry stated that they were unable to verify any aboriginal ancestry from their research. Specifically, the Respondent's letter highlighted:

"Please be advised the Central Registry carefully reviewed the additional genealogical information submitted and has been unable to verify aboriginal ancestry and specifically a genealogical connection to a member of the Historic Métis Nation. Unless you can provide further primary source documentation to prove otherwise, your ancestry does not connect you into the

Gastaldo vs. MNBC Central Registry Page 2

Historic Métis Nation, as they were then known or to the traditional Métis Homeland.

Therefore, the genealogical information you have provided for your application does not meet the required criteria for Métis citizenship within the province of British Columbia as defined by Section 61 of the MNBC Constitution."

[2] The applicant has requested a review of her citizenship application package and all related materials and a decision if the processes and interpretations of the Registrar were consistent with the intent of the "national definition" and the **MNBC Citizenship Act**.

Privacy Consent to Release

[3] On March 9, 2014, Ms. Gastaldo supplied a signed and witnessed "Consent to Release Confidential Information" form. This form provided the Senate with the following consents:

- i. Utilization of the documentation supplied to the MNBC Central Registry for the purpose of the applied for appeal.
- ii. To send the contents of Ms. Gastaldo's citizenship application file to a third-party for a second professional genealogical opinion.
- iii. To utilize all the information supplied or demanded for the purposes of the MNBC Senate appeal processes.

Second Genealogical Opinion

a) Société historique de Saint-Boniface

[4] A second professional genealogical opinion was obtained from the Société historique de Saint-Boniface (Saint Boniface

historical society). The Société does research to identify if the applicant has an ancestor that has been identified as Métis through official documentation such as census records, scrip, land grant documents or other official documents such as church records.

[5] Ms. Janet La France from the genealogical department of the Société historique de Saint-Boniface supplied a second professional genealogical opinion by letter on June 3, 2014. Ms. La France indicated the following;

"The information submitted by your client, Ms. Kathleen (sic) Gastaldo (née Dilworth) has been carefully reviewed. We were able to trace back the lines in question to Eastern Canada, without encountering any evidence of Métis ancestry. Our research conclusions are in accordance with the findings of the MNBC Central Registry in that no aboriginal background could be confirmed within the genealogical line we were asked to examine. Therefore, Ms. Gastaldo's ancestors do not connect into the Historic Métis Nation as they were then known or their homeland."

Analysis

b) Genealogical Interpretation

[6] Both the MNBC Central Registry and the historique de Saint-Boniface indicated that they could not determine a link and/or ancestor that identified as Métis and resided within the Métis Nation Homeland.

[7] Furthermore, both the MNBC Central Registry and the Société historique de Saint-Boniface specified that they could not confirm any aboriginal ancestry within the genealogical line that was specified for research into possible Métis ancestry.

[8] Thus there was no evidence supplied that would indicate Ms. Gastaldo's genealogical ancestry held any connection to an aboriginal (First Nations, Métis or Inuit) origin.

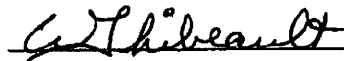
Denial of Leave to Appeal

[9] Based on the information supplied and the genealogical opinions (MNBC Central Registry and the historique de Saint-Boniface) there could not be verified any genealogical connection to the Métis Homeland or the presence of a Métis ancestor or the presence of any aboriginal background in Ms. Gastaldo's genealogy in the ancestral line researched.

[10] Based on the evidence provided and the genealogical line researched there is not sufficient justification to send this appeal file to the Senate, and the application to appeal is therefore denied.

[11] It ought to be noted that should the parameters for MNBC citizenship change, or if the applicant discovers new information or documentation, that this decision does not limit or negate the applicant from reapplying for MNBC citizenship.

Dated at the community of Vanderhoof, in the Province of British Columbia, this 25th day of June, 2014.



W.I. Thibeault

MNBC Senate Clerk