



**SENATE**  
*Apihtow-kosison nekanapowin*  
**MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
*Apihtow-kosison peyakosihtwawin*

Sandra Porteous

and

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA CENTRAL REGISTRY

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

To: Sandra Porteous  
To: MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA CENTRAL REGISTRY  
From: MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA SENATE CLERK

**Introduction**

[1] On March 16, 2020 the Applicant, Sandra Porteous, received a letter from the Respondent, the MNBC Central Registry, indicating that her citizenship could not be validated or verified based on the requirement to genealogically support ancestral connection to the historic Métis Nation Homeland, a mandatory component of the registration process. Further, the letter from the MNBC Central Registry stated that the review verified the ancestry to be from Eastern Ontario, which is not part of the historic Métis Nation homeland. Specifically, the Respondent's letter highlighted:

- The MNBC Citizenship Registry must be able to link applicants to a Métis ancestor of theirs whose indigeneity is derived from the historic Métis Nation homeland sometime in the late 1700s through 1800s using historical records. These records often include Métis scrip, census, church or fur trade records.

- The MNBC Citizenship Registry requires historical records that show at least one ancestor identified as Métis, historically often referred to as a Half-Breed, who lived in Canada, and records to link each subsequent generation to that ancestor.
- Métis is a very young culture and didn't exist in the 1600's. There were people of mixed blood ancestry, but they were not yet living the distinct Métis culture that would later be developed. During this time people assimilated into European or First Nations culture. They were not recognized as having a distinct culture.

[2] The Applicant has requested a review of their 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 September 8, 2020, the Applicant 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 the Applicant's citizenship file to a third-party for a second professional genealogical opinion.
- iii. To utilize all information supplied or demanded for the purposes of the MNBC Senate appeal process.

#### **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] Halley Ducharme from the Genealogical Department of the Société historique de Saint-Boniface supplied a second professional genealogical opinion by letter on October 26, 2020. Halley Ducharme indicated the following:

*“The information submitted by your client, Sandra Gail Porteous (nee Robinson), has been reviewed. The ancestor in question, Frederick Boissoneau, undoubtedly has indigenous ancestry. What is interesting is that while he has mixed ancestry, and even identifies as a “French-Breed” on the 1901 Canadian Census; he does not, nor do any of his indigenous ancestors appear to fall within the parameters of what is believed to be the Historic Métis Nation Homeland.*

*It may indicate Frederick saw himself as culturally distinct from both his father and his mother.*

*However, it is my professional opinion that Mrs. Porteous 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 Société 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] Thus although the indigenous ancestor in question undoubtedly has indigenous ancestry evidence was supplied that would indicate Sandra Gail Porteous’ genealogical ancestry held no direct connection to the Historic Métis Nation Homeland.

### **Denial of Leave to Appeal**

[9] Based on the information supplied and the genealogical opinions (MNBC Central Registry and the Société historique de Saint-Boniface) there could not be verified any genealogical connection to the Métis Nation Homeland or the presence of a Métis ancestor.


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[10] Based on the evidence provided and the genealogical line researched (Frederick Boissoneau) 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 City of Victoria, in the Province of British Columbia, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom, positioned above a solid horizontal line.

W.P. Bresser  
MNBC Senate Clerk