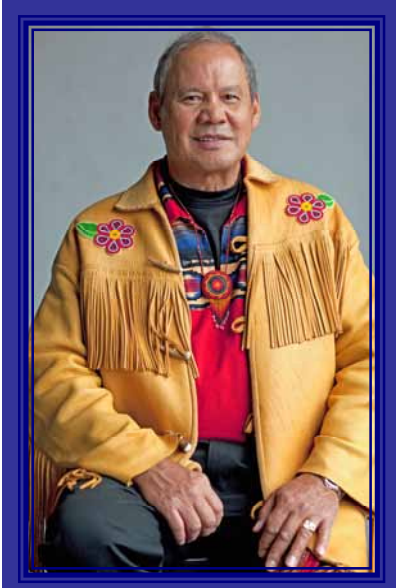




Métis Nation  
British Columbia  
Citizenship Registry

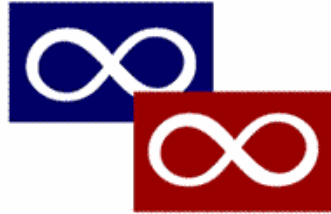


*Our Proud Heritage*



Bruce Dumont  
President Métis Nation British Columbia  
& Minister Responsible for Registry

## Message from the President



*The Métis are unique aboriginal people and often considered one of the first true Canadians with a history, culture and language that developed in Canada. We walk proud and tall as Métis Citizens and Canadians who pay taxes as aboriginal people, helping build Canada to what it is today.*

*Today the Constitution Act, 1982 Section 35, speaks to the distinct aboriginal people as Métis with inherent rights and title. I am very dedicated as your leader and Minister Responsible for Registry to promote and advocate for our Métis people to make application for Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) Provincial Citizenship that enhances our growth as a Nation while strengthening our MNBC self governance and determination.*

*With a MNBC Provincial Citizenship card the individual can demonstrate to anyone who they are, vote and be accepted as a candidate in the Métis Provincial elections, have a voice/vote at the Métis Nation Governing Assembly and the Annual General Meeting, apply for employment training funding, apply for MNBC training initiatives, register in the Education system as a Métis and Census Canada, apply for Bursaries and Scholarships and, be defended in court as a Métis citizen.*

### Vision Statement

"Métis Nation British Columbia will build a proud, self-governing, sustainable Nation in recognition of inherent rights for our Métis Citizens."

### MNBC Mandate

"Métis Nation British Columbia develops and enhances opportunities for our Métis communities by implementing culturally relevant social and economic programs and services."

*Bruce Dumont, President*

*Métis Nation British Columbia*



# Métis Nation British Columbia Registry



The importance of having a central Métis registry to identify Métis section 35 right holders became apparent after the Powley decision in the summer of 2003. The inclusion of Métis in section 35 was never defined until the Powley decision came to fruition. The purpose of the section 35 is to protect practices that were a historically important feature of distinctive Métis communities and that persist in the contemporary Métis community as an integral element of the Métis culture. Prior to the Powley decision, Métis identification was community driven, however, this simply defined Métis membership at a community level. The Powley decision defined not only who the Métis were in section 35 but affirmed that the specific collective identified has an aboriginal right. The Powley decision spoke about the urgent need to develop a more systematic method in identifying Métis rights holders.

The court identified three broad factors in Métis identification: self identification, ancestral connection to the historic Métis community, and contemporary Métis community acceptance. The MNBC central registry was introduced in October 2004 and fully implemented in 2005. The Provincial citizenship registry is responsible for compiling and maintaining a database of Métis citizens in British Columbia and is based on the process requirements identified as per the Supreme Court decision of Powley.



The Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) central registry is the “objectively verifiable process” that enforces the collective voice of the Métis throughout the homeland.

Regional registry staff assist the citizenship applicant with the completion of their application for Métis citizenship and forward the files to head office in Vancouver, BC for verification by the provincial office of the Registrar.

## MNBC Citizenship Components

### Self identification

- A person who self-identifies as Métis

### Is of Historic Métis Nation ancestry

- Genealogy

### Accepted by the Métis Nation

- Chartered Métis community acceptance

### Unique from other Aboriginal groups

- Indian and Northern Affairs screening



## Making your application for Métis Nation British Columbia Citizenship

An application package for MNBC citizenship can be obtained from your local registry clerk. Once you have the application package, take the time to review the contents and familiarize yourself with the requirements requested of you. Being accurate and detailed in your application submission will significantly reduce your application's processing time. Our registry clerks are there to help you with this process, however it is the responsibility of the applicant to provide the necessary requirements to complete the submitted application.

### Getting started

Specific documentation is required to support your pedigree chart (family tree). You will be asked to supply a copy of your long form birth certificate (the one with the names of your parents on it) as well as the long form birth certificate for your Métis parent, Métis grandparent and great-grandparent to ensure your documentation confirms your pedigree chart back to at least 1901. You may substitute baptismal certificates for long form birth records.



### Documents

If you do not have the required documents, you may obtain them by making application to the vital statistics office in the province of the individual's birth or by contacting the Archdiocese of the church where their baptism occurred. Each province has their own guidelines as to who may access records and how old the document must be in order to be obtained for genealogical purposes. Please consult the vital statistics office specific to your province for further details. Documentation for deceased parents may be obtained by the living next-of-kin.

### Pedigree Chart

Use the 5 generation pedigree chart included in your application package to detail as extensively as possible the names, dates, places and events of your Métis ancestors. Without these details the office of the Registrar may not be able to verify your genealogy. Remember to always use the maiden names for the women in your family tree.



### Identification

You must submit one additional form of BC government issued photo identification such as: BC Driver's license, BC identification or a Canadian passport.

### Photograph

Please include a recent colour photograph for each applicant unless under the age of 5 years.

This should be of passport size and quality.

### Processing Fee

There is a \$20 non-refundable processing fee per application. Cheques or money orders should be made payable to Métis Provincial Council of BC

### Proof of Residency

You must be a resident of the province of BC to be eligible to receive your MNBC citizenship card. Consult the list of items within the application to see the acceptable forms of documented proof of residency.

### INAC

Sign and date your 2-part Indian and Northern Affairs Canada screening form. This form allows the MNBC to verify that you are not listed on the Indian Band List and will confirm your intention to identify as unique from other Aboriginal groups.

### Consent Forms

Ensure consent forms are signed and witnessed.

### Submit to Clerk

All applications should be submitted to your local Registry Clerk.

## Researching your Family Tree



The MNBC registry receives numerous questions on how to go about researching for documents necessary to complete an application. The most important thing to remember is that the applicant must always start with themselves and work backward as their own

documentation is usually the easiest to acquire. The pedigree chart (family tree) is your basic roadmap to your family and working from this chart to fill in the blanks as completely as possible will lead you to the locations in which to search for your records.

Contact your family members to inquire about documentation. Birth records or baptismal certificates of parents may already be on hand within your family. Asking for help from your family may even produce additional information you were not aware has already been collected and can be a worthwhile family project. The cost of collecting documentation can also be significantly reduced if family members share in the expenses.



If you are fortunate enough to already have a family historian amongst your relatives, you will likely be able to collect many documents needed to complete your application from them, or at least be provided more detail as to where to start to look.

Long form birth certificates can be obtained from the vital statistics office in the province in which you were born and documentation for deceased family members can be obtained through their living next-of-kin.

There are additional resources available to the family researcher on many internet websites, and through government agencies.

While it is the responsibility of the applicant to provide the necessary information and documentation to

complete their MNBC citizenship application package, the registry staff is available to assist where possible.

Please consult the list below for some helpful resources as well as the [www.mnbc.ca](http://www.mnbc.ca) registry page.

### Canada General

Library & Archives Canada:

<http://www.collectionscanada.ca>

Canada Genweb:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~canwgw/>

### Canada Census Records:

Automated Genealogy – Indices to Canadian Censuses: 1901, 1906, 1911:

<http://automatedgenealogy.com/>

### Hudson's Bay Company Biographical Sheets:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/hbca/biographical/index.html>

### Alberta:

Provincial Archives of Alberta

<http://culture.alberta.ca/archives/>

### Saskatchewan:

Saskatchewan Archives

<http://www.isc.ca/VitalStatistics>

Saskatchewan Homestead Index

<http://www.saskhomsteads.com/>

### Manitoba:

Archives of Manitoba

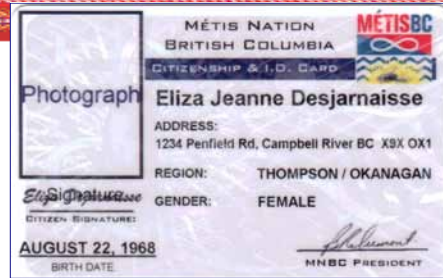
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/index.html>

### Genealogy Software Programs - Free Download:

Legacy Family Tree Software



## Citizenship Process



The citizenship process begins when an application is initially received by the regional registry clerk. The clerk creates an electronic file within the citizenship database and enters all pertinent information regarding the application. The file is then reviewed in detail for completion and, if required, a letter is prepared by the registry clerk outlining any missing elements and forwarded to the applicant.

Once all items needed are submitted by the applicant, the registry clerk forwards the file to MNBC head office in Vancouver, BC for further review by the registry staff responsible for processing the

genealogical aspect of the citizenship application. The processing time fluctuates between 6-8 months depending on the volume of applications being reviewed. When this process has been completed, the processed files are reviewed by the Registrar for accuracy and approved. Once MNBC citizenship cards are ordered and received, the applicant is mailed a congratulatory letter along with their MNBC citizenship card.

Citizenship cards are renewable every five (5) years and reminder notification letters are issued to each Métis citizen by the registry prior to their expiry date.

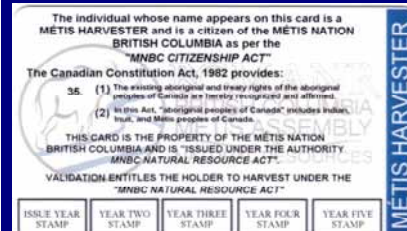
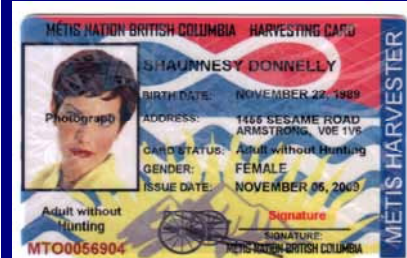
## Harvesting Card

In September 2008, the Métis Nation British Columbia passed legislation during its annual general meeting that was instrumental in the creation of the harvesting card for qualifying Métis Nation BC citizens. There are two types of harvesting cards available: with hunting, and without hunting.

While this application process is independent from the citizenship process, a harvesting card applicant must first have their citizenship card before being eligible to make application for a harvesting card.

For clarification on the privileges of an MNBC harvesting card, please contact:

**Gary Ducommun**  
**Director of Natural Resources**  
**(250) 267-1256 or**  
**gducommun@mnbc.ca**



## Frequently Asked Questions

### How is Métis identity and citizenship established within Métis Nation British Columbia?



*Métis identity is verified through Métis ancestry. By providing your genealogy with supporting documentation, we are able to determine if you qualify for citizenship.*

### How long will I have to wait until I receive my card if my application is approved?

*The application processing time fluctuates between 6-8 months.*

### I have lost my card. Can it be replaced?

*Yes. You can request a replacement card application and pay a fee to have your card re-issued*

### One of my parents is First Nations and the other is Caucasian. Does that make me Métis?

*No. You will have to apply and prove your Métis ancestry.*

### What do I do if I have received a letter stating that I do not qualify for Métis citizenship and I disagree with this decision?

*MNBC offers an appeal process to the decisions made by the Registry. Please contact the Senate Clerk: Dean Trumbley at (604) 317-4175 or email senateclerk@mNBC.ca*

### Why do I have to provide proof that I live within the province of BC?

*MNBC citizenship is only available to Métis who reside within the province of BC. Proof of current*

*residency must be included for all applicants 18 years and older. This is to ensure that MNBC provincial Métis citizenship cards are not being issued to individuals living outside the province of BC.*

### I was born in another province. Do I submit my Métis citizenship application to my birth province, or the province where I reside?

*Applications are only accepted in the province of residency.*

### If I move outside the province of British Columbia, will I need to re-apply for Métis citizenship in my new province?

*Yes. All provinces offering a Métis citizenship registry operate independently from each other.*

*If you move to another province you will need to contact the Métis citizenship registry for that province to inquire about their registry process.*



### I have recently moved to British Columbia and had previously held a Métis card from another province. Does this mean I will automatically be entitled to an MNBC Métis citizenship card?

*No. Each citizenship registry operates independently and has their own process by which they verify their Métis citizenship.*

*MNBC requires that you submit all necessary documentation for review by the provincial registrar, even if you have been issued a Métis card in another province.*



### I have a Métis community membership card. Is this the same as having my provincial Métis citizenship?

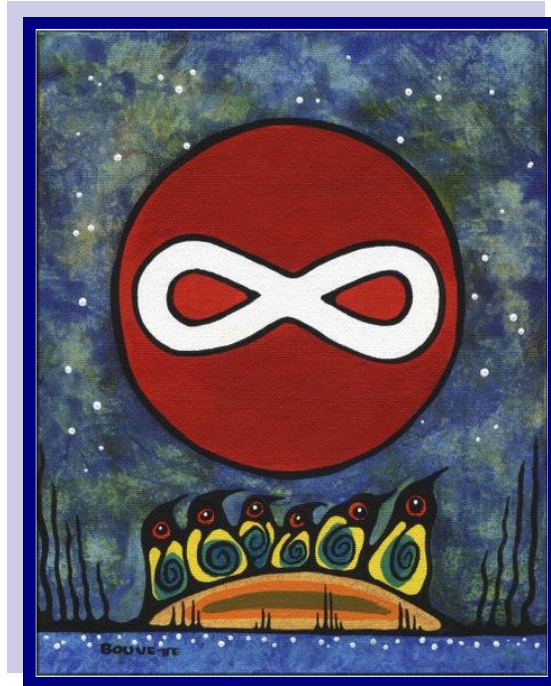
*No. Local Métis communities issue their own membership cards independently of the provincial Métis citizenship process. The MNBC provincial citizenship card is unique in it's appearance as it is not laminated and has several security features. If you are unsure of the type of card you currently hold, please contact the MNBC provincial registry to verify.*

### My parent is a Métis citizen in another province. Are you able to have the information contained within their file forwarded to you to complete my application in BC?

*No. Due to privacy laws, information is not shared between the provincial registries. You will need to collect the necessary documents and forward them to the MNBC registry to complete your application.*



## Registry Clerk contact information



Art work contained within this publication has been used with the expressed written consent of the Métis artist Ayla Bouvette. Her art can be viewed and purchased at [www.bouvette.com](http://www.bouvette.com)

**If you have questions regarding the MNBC application process please contact us**

### **Vancouver Island**

156 D Government St.  
Duncan, BC V9R 2N2

Ph: (250) 710-3400

[lbrockenborough@  
mnbcregistry.ca](mailto:lbrockenborough@mnbcregistry.ca)

### **Lower Mainland**

905 -1130 W. Pender St.  
Vancouver, BC V6E 4A4

Ph: (604) 801-5853 or  
1-800-940-1150

[afisher@  
mnbcregistry.ca](mailto:afisher@mnbcregistry.ca)

### **Thompson /Okanagan Kootenays**

208 - 444 Victoria St.  
Kamloops, BC V2C 2A7

Ph:(250) 320-7055

[dwilliams@  
mnbcregistry.ca](mailto:dwilliams@mnbcregistry.ca)

### **North Central North East & West**

201-513 Ahbau St.  
Prince George, BC  
V2M 3R8

Ph:(250) 961-1181

[aprevost@  
mnbcregistry.ca](mailto:aprevost@mnbcregistry.ca)