



Genealogy Records Guide for Application to the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan

Definition of Métis

The official definition of Métis recognized by the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN-S) was first adopted by the Métis National Council (MNC) in 2002. In 2004, the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) in Saskatchewan accepted the MNC's definition for the purpose of Citizenship. As stated in Article 10 of the Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan:

1. **Métis means a person, who self identifies as Métis**
2. **Is of historical Métis Ancestry**
3. **Is distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples**
4. **And is accepted by the Métis Nation**

The Historical Métis Homeland refers to the territory of west central North America used and occupied by the Métis, or “Half Breeds” as they were known, before July 15, 1870, when control of the area known as “Rupert’s Land” was transferred from the Hudson’s Bay Company to the Government of Canada in the largest land sale in Canadian history. This territory included Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, as well as parts of Ontario, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, and the Northern United States

Genealogical Records

Historical documentation to show an ancestor was specifically identified as Métis is required to be registered as an MN-S citizen. To prove Métis ancestry, the Registry needs to document the generation-to-generation connections that link the applicant to a historic Métis ancestor who lived in the Métis Homeland sometime during the 19th century (1800-1901) and was recognized in primary historical documents as Métis.

Various terminology was used in historical records to identify the Métis , including “Half-Breed”, “French Breed”, “Métis ”, “Cri-Breed”, etc. Name and date discrepancies in these records also need to be documented, corrected, or have a very simple explanation.

The Registry has a large internal collection of genealogical records and information available to staff, and we have also partnered with eHealth Saskatchewan and Alberta Vital Statistics to access information about vital life events that took place in those provinces. This means that applicants do not normally need to conduct extensive genealogical research on their own; Registry staff advise applicants about any specific documentation required, based on their submitted family tree.

Genealogical Records for the Applicant

Birth Registration showing name, birthdate, birthplace, and parents’ names.

OR

A short form birth certificate and baptismal certificate with name, birthdate, birthplace, and parents’ names.

Parental Information

Birth Registration showing their name, birthdate, birthplace, and parents’ names.

OR

Saskatchewan Provincial Citizenship Registry:

metisnationsk.com MAIL: Attn Registry Dept 310 20th Street East, Saskatoon, SK S7K 0A7

PHONE: 306.343.8391 TOLL FREE: 833.343.8391 FAX: 1.639.489.2984 EMAIL: info@mnsregistry.ca



A baptismal certificate with their name, birthdate, birthplace, and parents' names.

Grandparent, Great Grandparent, and 2nd Great Grandparent....

Birth Registration showing their name, birthdate, birthplace, and parents' names.

OR

A baptismal certificate with their name, birthdate, birthplace, and parents' names.

Records for the Deceased

Next of kin can order copies of baptismal or birth records. Proof of death maybe be required. Acceptable proof includes a copy of a death certificate issued from vital statistics or funeral home, an obituary, or a record of burial. Most records will be released 20 years after death or 75 years after the event.

Name Changes

If your name has changed since birth, we require documents to show each name change. If you have reverted back to your name at birth, we should not need to document previous names.

- Legal name change: Copy of certificate showing legal name change
- Marriage: Copy of marriage certificate
- Adoption: Copy of papers from Adoption agency or Court house showing name change
- Divorce: Copy of divorce certificate / papers

Adoption

The applicant may contact the province in which the adoption occurred and make a request for information from their file. If the applicant's parent or grandparent was adopted, and their adopted family member cannot access/share this information, then the applicant may be eligible to request their adoption information from the province where the adoption took place. The MN-S Registry cannot access these files on behalf of applicants; consult with the appropriate adoption agency for assistance.

If the adoption took place in Manitoba, the MN-S Registry may be able to access some information with applicant permission.

Privacy Restrictions

Privacy laws and institutional policies limit public access to certain types of records. Access restrictions will vary, including the time frame of the restriction (from date of creation -event?) and the conditions for access and/or copying certain records. If you are looking for a specific record, please contact the records holder directly for more information on their access policies.

MN-S Registry Private Collection

The MN-S Registry has been gathering digitized records since 2009. There are currently more than 500,000 birth, baptismal, marriage, government and fur trade records in the collection. Many of these are subject to privacy restrictions and, as such, are for Registry use only.

Primary Historical Documents and Where to Find Them

The main types of **primary historical documents** used to identify Métis ancestors are:



- **Métis (“Halfbreed”) Scrip:** land and money “scrip” was issued to members of the historic Métis Nation by the Canadian government for the purpose of extinguishing their Aboriginal title, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Scrip application documents that include genealogical information about the Métis Nation are available from Library and Archives Canada (LAC) here: <https://library-archives.canada.ca/eng/collection/research-help/indigenous-heritage/pages/finding-metis-scrip.aspx>
- Canadiana Heritage also has copies of LAC records, including scrip, on their website: heritage.canadiana.ca/
- **Census Records:** created by the government and also available through Library and Archives Canada (LAC): www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/Pages/census.aspx
- **Fur Trade Records:** created by fur trade companies to document their employees. The Hudson’s Bay Company Archives website is here: www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/hbca/.
- **Attestation Papers:** document military service in World War I. Available from LAC: www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/personnel-records.aspx
- LAC’s Métis Genealogy page has information on finding primary records: <https://library-archives.canada.ca/eng/collection/research-help/indigenous-heritage/Pages/metis-genealogy.aspx>
- The Saskatchewan Genealogical Society can provide professional assistance with family history research: www.saskgenealogy.com/

The MNS Registry will not accept the following items as proof of ancestry:

- Family genealogy files or family trees, downloaded from the internet
- Photocopies from published books, guides or indexes
- Books purchased from St. Boniface or Métis Resource Centre
- Family tree without supporting documents

These types of sources are secondary documents, and may assist with research, but are not acceptable on their own to prove a genealogical connection



Further Information for Research and Documentation

Vital Statistics records:

Copies of birth, marriage, and name change certificates can be ordered through Vital Statistics agencies in the province where the event took place. Access to these documents may vary, but you can always request your own records. The MN-S Registry has agreements with eHealth Saskatchewan and Service Alberta to access information on vital events that took place in Saskatchewan and Alberta, for the purposes of assisting citizenship applicants.

Alberta:

Service Alberta
1.780.427.2711
(Toll free outside Alberta)
www.alberta.ca/life-events.aspx

Manitoba:

Vital Statistics Agency
1.866.949.9296
<http://vitalstats.gov.mb.ca>

Ontario:

Office of the Registrar General
1.800.461.2156
(Toll free outside Toronto)
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/official-government-id-and-certificates>

Provincial Directory

<https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/health/vital/2012001/con>

British Columbia:

Vital Statistics Agency
1.250.952.2681
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/life-events>

Saskatchewan:

eHealth Saskatchewan
1.800.667.7551
www.ehealthsask.ca



Long Form Birth Certificates or Genealogical/Live Birth Registrations are the most common vital statistics documents. To be accepted by the Registry they must include parents' names.

Church Records:

Baptismal and marriage certificates for yourself and your ancestors can be obtained from local churches, church diocese offices, or church archives. Be prepared to answer why you need the certificate(s) (Métis Citizenship Application) and have as much information as possible on the person whose certificate you need. Helpful information that will make the search easier: place and date baptized, place and date married, person's name, birthdate, and other possible name spellings. Church records may be restricted from public access, depending on the age and type of record. Since cost and record access varies, make sure to call to inquire first.

Roman Catholic Diocese in Saskatchewan

Northern:
Archdiocese of Keewatin Le Pas
Ph. 204.623.6121
www.dioceseofkeewatinlepas.ca

North Central:
Diocese of Prince Albert
Ph.306.922.4747
<https://www.padiocese.ca>

Central:
Saskatoon Diocesan Centre
Ph. 306.242.1500
www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com

Southern:
Archdiocese of Regina
Ph. 306.352.1651
<https://archregina.sk.ca/>

United Church Diocese of Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Conference of the United Church of Canada
Ph. 306.721.3311
<http://www.sk.united-church.ca/>

Anglican Diocese in Saskatchewan

Qu'Appelle:
Ph. 306.522.1608
<http://quappelle.anglican.ca>

Saskatoon:
Ph. 1.306.244.5651
<http://www.saskatoon.anglican.org>

