



Proposed Phase 1 Amendments to the MN-S Citizenship Act
DRAFT
 tabled to the MNLA on May 25, 2024 for consideration

Existing	Proposed	Explanation
Article 1: Title 1. This Act may be cited as "The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Citizenship Act, 1999."	Short title 1 This Act may be cited as the <i>Citizenship Act, 2024</i> .	The phrase “Métis Nation Saskatchewan” should not be formally included in the short title to every enactment of the MNLA. Each Act can still be described, if necessary, as being an MNLA enactment but the short title should be a more concise name.
2. In this Act:	Definitions 2 In this Act:	
2.1. "Act" shall mean the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Citizenship Act.		It is not necessary to define “Act” as whenever the Act is referred to it is described as “this Act”.
2.2. "Appeals" shall mean any written objection by a person who has been rejected entry in the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Central Registry or by a Métis Nation - Saskatchewan citizen who is objecting to the registration of any person to the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Central Registry.		It is not necessary to define the word “appeals”; the rights of appeal and rights to object are set out in the provisions of the Act.
2.3. "Child" shall mean a child of a Métis citizen.		It is not necessary to define “child” because of the context in which this word is used throughout the Act.



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none	"Constitution" means the <i>Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Constitution</i> ;	The proposed amendments to the Constitution include a formal title by which it may be referred to.
2.4. <i>Repealed February 20, 2021</i>		
2.5. "Membership" shall mean citizenship.		The term "Membership" is used only in the current Article 13 which is a transitional provision which is no longer needed.
2.6. "Métis" means a person who is Métis as defined in Article 10 of the Constitution	"Métis" means a person who is Métis as defined in the Constitution;	The definition of who is Métis is contained in the Constitution. This Act only provides for the process of applying for and becoming registered.
2.7. <i>Repealed February 20, 2021.</i> 2.8. <i>Repealed February 20, 2021.</i>		
2.9. "Métis Nation Legislative Assembly" shall mean the governing authority of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan, as set out in the Constitution.	"MNLA" means the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly provided for in the Constitution;	Added for clarity; this term was to be defined in the <i>Interpretation Act</i> , which is not going forward at this time.



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	"MN-S Citizen" means a Métis person who is registered in the registry as a citizen of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan;	Added for clarity; this term was to be defined in the <i>Interpretation Act</i> , which is not going forward at this time.
	"MN-S Judicial Body" means the Judicial Body established pursuant to the <i>Kwayaskastasowin Judiciary Act</i> ;	Added for clarity; this term was to be defined in the <i>Interpretation Act</i> , which is not going forward at this time.
	"PMC" means the Provincial Métis Council provided for in the Constitution;	Added for clarity; this term was to be defined in the <i>Interpretation Act</i> , which is not going forward at this time.
2.10. "Records" shall mean any records used to support an application for citizenship including historical records, church records, archival records, census records and oral history from Métis Elders.		The terms "genealogical evidence" and "records" are only used in reference to applications and so the substance of the definitions is included in the provision relating to applications for registration.
2.11. "Registered" shall mean registered as a Métis under this Act.		The term "registered" as used in the Act always refers to being registered as a Métis citizen so the word "registered" doesn't have to be defined.
2.12. "Registrar" shall mean the Registrar appointed by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly to administer the Central Registry.	"Registrar" means the Registrar appointed pursuant to section 3;	Section 3 refers to the Registrar being appointed by the MNLA.



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2.13. “Genealogical evidence” shall mean evidence which indicates proof that an applicant’s parent is, or parents are, of Métis Ancestry.		The terms “genealogical evidence” and “records” are only used in reference to applications and so the substance of the definitions is included in the provision relating to applications for registration.
none	“registry” means the central registry of MN-S Citizens maintained by the Registrar in accordance with section 5;	Provides clarity about references in the Act to the Registry.
none	“Registry Office” means the Registry Office established pursuant to section 4.	Provides clarity about references in the Act to the Registry Office.
<p>ARTICLE EIGHT - THE REGISTRAR</p> <p>8. The Registrar:</p> <p>8.1.1. [Repealed September 9, 2008.]</p> <p>8.1.2. [Repealed September 9, 2008.]</p> <p>8.1.3. [Repealed September 9, 2008.]</p> <p>8.1.4. [Repealed September 9, 2008.]</p> <p>8.1.6. Shall administer this Act.</p> <p>4.8. Following the coming into force of this Act, the Registrar shall establish and implement a process to seek out and</p>	<p>Registrar</p> <p>3(1) The MNLA shall appoint a Registrar to administer the Registry.</p> <p>(2) The Registrar shall:</p> <p>(a) administer this Act;</p> <p>(b) establish and implement a process to seek out and encourage the registration of all persons who are entitled to be registered as MN-S Citizens;</p>	<p>The Registrar is appointed by the MNLA. This statement is currently included in the definition of the term “Registrar” but is better placed in the Act as a substantive provision and not just a definition.</p> <p>The functions of the Registrar are listed here and are substantially unchanged from the existing Act.</p>



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<p>encourage the registration of all persons who are entitled to be registered as Métis.</p> <p>8.1.5. Shall maintain the Central Registry.</p> <p>8.1.13. Shall manage the staff of the Registry Office.</p> <p>8.1.7. Shall accept and review applications for citizenship submitted and decide whether a person is entitled to be registered pursuant to this Act.</p> <p>8.1.8. <i>Repealed February 20, 2021.</i></p> <p>8.1.9. Shall make decisions on the voluntary removal from the registry of individuals pursuant to this Act.</p> <p>8.1.10. Shall forward Appeals to the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly.</p> <p>8.1.11. <i>Repealed February 20, 2021.</i></p>	<p>(c) maintain the registry and manage the staff of the Registry Office;</p> <p>(d) accept and review each citizenship application received, decide whether the applicant is entitled to be registered as an MN-S Citizen, and provide a written decision to the applicant in relation to each application;</p> <p>(e) remove individuals from the registry when requested to do so in accordance with section 9;</p> <p>(f) forward any appeals together with the relevant files to the MN-S Judicial Body;</p>	<p>Appeals from decisions of the Registrar will be heard and determined by the Métis Judiciary.</p>



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<p>8.1.12. <i>Repealed February 20, 2021.</i></p> <p>8.1.14. Shall have a seal of office that may be reproduced by the Registrar in any manner and has the same effect whether it is manually applied or otherwise reproduced.</p> <p>8.1.15. Shall deliver an annual report to the Provincial Métis Council, to be submitted to the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, through the Senate, within 60 days following the end of each calendar year.</p>	<p>(g) obtain a seal of office to be affixed to official documents issued by the registry;</p> <p>(h) deliver a report to the PMC and to the Clerk of the MNLA at least 60 days prior to each sitting of the MNLA.</p>	<p>Reports on registrations will be provided prior to each sitting of the MNLA.</p>
<p>ARTICLE SEVEN - REGISTRY OFFICE</p> <p>7. A Registry Office shall be established, based on available fiscal resources.</p> <p>7.1. The Registry Office shall consist of:</p> <p>7.1.1. The Registrar and</p> <p>7.1.2. The staff of the Registry Office.</p> <p>7.2.2. Shall act impartially and in good faith in the exercise of its functions; and</p> <p>7.2.3 [Repealed September 9, 2008.]</p>	<p>Registry office</p> <p>4(1) A Registry Office is established consisting of the Registrar and the staff of the Registry Office, who shall act impartially and in good faith in the exercise of the functions of the Registry Office.</p>	<p>No substantive changes.</p>



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7.2.4. <i>Repealed February 20, 2021.</i>		
7.2. The Registry Office 7.2.1. is separate and independent from the public service of the Métis Nation but the staff of the Registry Office shall be considered to be members of the public service for the purpose of employment benefits;	(2) The Registry Office is separate and independent from the public service of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, but the staff of the Registry Office are to be considered as members of the public service for the purpose of employment benefits.	No substantive changes.
ARTICLE TWELVE - FINANCES 12. The remuneration and employment benefits of the Registrar and the staff of the Registry Office shall be established by the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Treasury Board, based on available fiscal resources.	(3) The PMC shall establish the remuneration and employment benefits of the Registrar and the staff of the Registry Office based on available fiscal resources.	There is no Treasury Board at present.
ARTICLE SIX – CENTRAL REGISTRY 6. In this Act: 6.1. The Registrar shall maintain a uniform system for the registration of the citizens of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan.	Central registry 5(1) The Registrar shall maintain a central registry comprising a uniform system for the registration of MN-S Citizens containing, at a minimum, the following information with respect to each person registered:	No substantive changes, except that Locals are not involved in the registration process.



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<p>6.2. The following minimum information about a Métis citizen may be included in the Central Registry:</p> <p>6.2.1. The person's name;</p> <p>6.2.2. The person's address or place of residence;</p> <p>6.2.3. The person's date of birth;</p> <p>6.2.4. The person's marital status and the name of any spouse;</p> <p>6.2.5. The dates of any marriages;</p> <p>6.2.6. The names and dates of birth of any children of the person;</p> <p>6.2.7. The Local under which the person has applied for registration;</p> <p>6.2.8. The Mother's full name and date of birth;</p> <p>6.2.9. The Father's full name and date of birth;</p>	<p>(a) name;</p> <p>(b) address or place of residence;</p> <p>(c) date of birth;</p> <p>(d) marital status and the name of any spouse;</p> <p>(e) dates of any marriages;</p> <p>(f) names and dates of birth of any children of the person;</p> <p>(g) the mother's full name and date of birth;</p> <p>(h) the father's full name and date of birth;</p>	



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<p>6.2.10. The other information submitted in support of the person's application for registration; and</p> <p>6.2.11. Such genealogical information about the person as may exist.</p>	<p>(i) the other information submitted in support of the person's application for registration; and</p> <p>(j) any genealogical information that may exist to establish the person's Métis ancestry.</p>	
<p>6.3. The Registrar may collect and register additional demographic information about Métis citizens</p>	<p>(2) The Registrar may collect and register additional demographic information about MN-S Citizens.</p>	<p>No changes.</p>
<p>6.4. The Registrar shall treat the registry as confidential.</p>	<p>(3) The Registrar and the staff of the Registry Office shall treat the registry as confidential.</p>	<p>No changes.</p>
<p>6.5. The Registrar shall cause the registry system to be kept safely by administrative, physical and technological safeguards that are reasonable and consistent with this Act.</p>	<p>(4) The Registrar shall cause the registry system to be kept safely by administrative, physical and technological safeguards that are reasonable and consistent with this Act.</p>	<p>No changes.</p>
<p>6.6. The Registrar with the consent of the Provincial Métis Council may enter into agreements with the government of a province or territory or with the government of Canada respecting the collection and exchange of information for the better</p>	<p>(5) The Registrar may, with the consent of the PMC, enter into agreements with the government of a province or territory or with the government of Canada respecting the collection and exchange of information for the better functioning of the registry system</p>	<p>Allows the Registrar to enter into agreements with other governments with the permission of the PMC.</p>



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functioning of the registry system but may not disclose confidential information without the consent of the registrant.	but may not disclose confidential information in relation to an individual without the individual’s consent.	
6.8 The Registry shall be maintained separate from the political structure of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan.	(6) The Registry shall be maintained separate from the political structure of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan.	No change.
<p>ARTICLE FOUR - REGISTRATION PROCESS</p> <p>4. In this Act:</p> <p>4.1 A person who is entitled to be registered as a citizen of the Métis Nation Saskatchewan in accordance with the criteria set out in Article 10 of the Constitution may apply to the Registrar by completing the citizenship registration application form provided by the Registrar and submitting it together with all documents and records that are necessary to establish the person’s entitlement to registration as a Métis citizen.</p> <p>4.2. <i>Moved February 20, 2021</i></p>	<p>Application for registration</p> <p>6(1) A person who is Métis in accordance with the criteria set out in the Constitution is entitled to be registered as a citizen of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, whether or not the person resides in Saskatchewan.</p> <p>(2) A person described in subsection (1) may apply to the Registrar for registration as an MN-S Citizen by submitting a completed application in the form provided by the Registrar together with the documents and records necessary to establish the person’s entitlement to registration.</p>	<p>Applications for registration as a citizen are made by the applicant directly to the Registrar and must include the completed application form and the documents and records that support the applicant’s claim to be entitled to be registered as a Métis citizen in accordance with the criteria for citizenship set out in the Constitution.</p>



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<p>4.6. In the case of an application for registration, the applicant must provide historical and genealogical evidence, such as the records or documents of a government, church or community, including oral testimony from a Métis Elder reduced to writing, to show that the person is a descendant of a Métis.</p> <p>6.7.1. A person makes application to a Métis Local for citizenship by completing the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Citizenship Application Form.</p> <p>6.7.2. <i>Repealed February 20, 2021.</i></p>	<p>(3) The application form provided by the Registrar may only include questions relating to the definition of Métis contained in the Constitution.</p>	
<p>4.3. The parent or guardian of a child under 16 years of age may apply for registration on behalf of the child.</p>	<p>(4) The parent or guardian of a child under 16 years of age may apply for registration on behalf of the child.</p>	<p>No changes.</p>
<p>4.4. The guardian of a person who is under a mental or legal disability may apply for registration on behalf of the person.</p>	<p>(5) The guardian of a person who is under a mental or legal disability may apply for registration on behalf of the person.</p>	<p>No changes.</p>



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4.5. No person is obliged to apply for registration.	(6) No person is obliged to apply for registration as an MN-S Citizen.	No substantive changes.
4.7. The Registrar shall review applications for registration and shall register a person as a Métis only if: 4.7.1. The person is entitled to be registered as a Métis pursuant to this Act and 4.7.2. The application is properly made. <i>6.7.3. Repealed February 20, 2021.</i>	(7) The Registrar shall review each application for registration received and shall: (a) if the person is entitled to be registered, register the person as an MN-S Citizen in the registry; or (b) otherwise, reject the application; and in all cases shall notify the applicant in writing of the decision.	No substantive changes, except that the Registrar shall notify the applicant directly of the decision.
6.7.4. In the event that the Registrar accepts the registration, the Registrar forwards a signed standardized Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Citizenship Card to the Métis Local President or Secretary who then issues the standardized Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Citizenship Card to the person.	(8) If the Registrar registers a person as an MN-S Citizen, the Registrar shall forward a citizenship card to the person to whom it relates, and only a citizenship card issued by the Registrar constitutes proof of MN-S citizenship.	As applications for registration will be made directly to the Registrar the Registrar will send the citizenship card directly to the applicant.



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6.7.6. Only the standardized Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Citizenship Cards shall be recognized as legitimate for the purposes of the Constitution and this Act.		
6.7.7. <i>Repealed February 20, 2021.</i>		
<p>ARTICLE ELEVEN – CHALLENGES TO PERSONS CURRENTLY REGISTERED</p> <p>11. Challenges to persons registered as Métis may be made by Métis citizens registered in the Central Registry:</p> <p>11.1. Challenges of Métis ancestry to persons currently on MNS citizenship/membership lists may be made by Métis citizens/members in writing to the Registrar. The challenge must include the full name of the person being challenged, the Local which that person is registered with, and the grounds for the challenge. The person so challenged will be notified by the Registrar in writing and shall have the right to refute that challenge by providing evidence that he/she is in fact Métis the burden of proof being the same as</p>	<p>Improper registrations</p> <p>7 Where the Registrar determines that any person has obtained registration as an MN-S Citizen by providing inaccurate, incorrect or fraudulent information, the Registrar may remove that person’s name from the registry and shall notify the person of that decision.</p>	<p>Challenges to registration will not be provided for but where the Registrar receives information that suggests that a registration has been obtained improperly the Registrar may remove that person’s name from the registry. If that happened, the Registrar’s decision rejecting the registration would then be appealable by the person to the Métis Judiciary.</p>



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<p>required for all persons applying for inclusion as Métis under this Act.</p> <p>11.2. The written decision of the Registrar shall be forwarded by registered mail to both parties, and shall inform them of their right to appeal within thirty (30) days to the Citizenship Appeal Board.</p> <p>11.3. <i>Repealed February 20, 2021.</i></p> <p>11.4. <i>Repealed February 20, 2021</i></p>		
ARTICLE TEN - CITIZENSHIP APPEALS	Citizenship appeals	No substantive changes.
<p>10. The process for Appeals will be such that:</p> <p>10.1. The Appellant bears the burden of proof.</p>	<p>8(1) The appellant bears the burden of proof on any appeal.</p>	
<p>10.2. <i>Repealed February 20, 2021.</i></p> <p>10.3. Any person whose application for registration as a Métis citizen is rejected by the Registrar may appeal in writing to the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly within 30</p>	<p>(2) Any person whose application for registration as an MN-S Citizen is denied or whose name is removed from the registry is entitled to appeal by forwarding a written notice of appeal within 30 days of the</p>	<p>No substantive changes, except that appeals will now be made to the Métis Judiciary.</p>



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days of the Registrar's decision and the decision of the Assembly is final.	Registrar's decision to the MN-S Judicial Body.	
10.4. <i>Repealed February 20, 2021.</i>		
10.5. All appeals by a person regarding rejection of registration must include: 10.5.1. The name and address of the person who has been rejected; 10.5.2. <i>Repealed February 20, 2021</i> 10.5.3. The evidence submitted as proof of Métis ancestry; 10.5.4. Copies of all correspondence regarding the appeal; 10.5.5. The signature of the person who has been rejected; and 10.5.6. The date of submission of the appeal.	(3) A notice of appeal must include the following: (a) the name and address of the appellant; (b) the evidence submitted as proof of Métis ancestry; (c) copies of all correspondence regarding the application and appeal; (d) the signature of the appellant; and (e) the date of submission of the appeal.	No substantive changes.
10.6. Any person whose registration is being objected to shall be given a reasonable opportunity to make representation in the case at each level, and shall receive copies of all correspondence regarding the appeal.	Deleted	Objections to registration by others will no longer be formally provided for.



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none	(4) Unless an appeal is settled in accordance with the principles of Kwayaskastasowin, the MN-S Judicial Body shall hear the appeal and may: (a) dismiss the appeal; or (b) allow the appeal and direct the Registrar to register the appellant as an MN-S Citizen in the registry.	
10.7. <i>Repealed February 20, 2021.</i>		
10.8. The Registrar shall take whatever steps are necessary to implement the decision of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly.		The MNLA will not deal with citizenship appeals.
10.9. All appeals are confidential and shall be treated as such by all involved parties.	(5) All appeals are confidential and shall be treated as such by all involved parties.	No changes.
ARTICLE THREE – <i>Repealed February 20, 2021</i>		



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<p>ARTICLE FIVE - VOLUNTARY REMOVAL FROM REGISTRY</p> <p>5. In this Act:</p> <p>5.1. A person who is registered as a Métis citizen may, at any time, voluntarily remove him/herself from the registry.</p> <p>5.2. The Registrar shall remove a person who, by written request, declares that he or she no longer wishes to be registered as a Métis.</p>	<p>Removal from registry by request</p> <p>9(1) Any person who is registered as an MN-S Citizen may apply to the Registrar to have their name removed from the registry and, on receipt of the application and the person's citizenship card, the Registrar shall remove the person's name from the registry as requested.</p>	<p>No substantive changes.</p>
<p>5.3. A person who has removed him/herself from the registry may re-apply for registration.</p>	<p>(2) A person whose name has been removed from the registry may reapply for registration in accordance with section 6.</p>	
<p>ARTICLE THIRTEEN <i>Repealed February 20, 2021</i></p>		
<p>none</p>	<p>Repeal</p> <p>10 "The Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Citizenship Act, 1999" is repealed.</p>	<p>Repeals the current <i>Citizenship Act</i>.</p>
<p>none</p>	<p>Coming into force</p>	<p>The revised <i>Citizenship Act</i> comes into force when it is adopted by the MNLA. It is not</p>



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	11 This Act comes into force when it is enacted by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly.	connected to any potential changes to the Constitution and does not have to be tied to the coming into force of any Constitutional changes.

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