



## Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat

Dear Métis Nation of Ontario Citizens,

These are important times for Métis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”) citizens and rights-bearing Métis communities across Ontario!

We are readying ourselves to make significant gains on Métis rights and self-government in the near future. From the signing of our **Memorandum of Understanding to Advance Reconciliation with Canada** in February 2017 to our joint announcement with Ontario that recognizes **seven historic rights-bearing Métis communities** across Ontario at our 2017 Annual General Assembly. These mark important steps forward in our journey toward self-government.

With the release of the results of our ground-breaking **Ontario Métis Root Ancestors Project (Phase I)**, we are finally able to help our citizens to complete their Citizenship and Harvester Card applications in ways we have never been able to before. These comprehensive and Ontario Métis Root Ancestor resources are also incredibly valuable as we educate others on our unique history and undeniable presence—as distinct Métis communities—here in Ontario.

**On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 The PCMNO passed a resolution to undertake a review of all MNO citizenship files in order to begin issuing new MNO Citizenship Cards that verify that the holder of each one of these new cards is a Métis rights-holder under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.** This will be another step in our collective journey to advance Métis rights and self-government for Ontario Métis.

The **MNO Registry and Self-Government Readiness Process (“RSRP”)**—is being undertaken in anticipation of the upcoming Métis self-government and rights negotiations we are beginning with Canada and Ontario. The MNO’s steadfast position is that **all** MNO citizens are Métis rights-holders—not just MNO Harvester Card holders. In order to be able to advance this position in our negotiations with other governments, we will be issuing new MNO Citizenship Cards that verify that a MNO citizen is also a Métis rights-holder because their Registry file is complete.

I encourage you to read the attached backgrounder and frequently asked questions that provide further details on the RSRP. This process will allow individuals to be validated as Métis rights-holders and provide a greater recognition of who the MNO represents (i.e., knowing the number of MNO citizens who are ancestrally connected to historic Métis communities in Ontario or Métis communities on western Canada).

Further, while this is a necessary step in advancing our self-government and rights agenda, we do not want this to be a burden to our Métis citizens. For example, individuals with completed citizenship files or who have valid MNO Harvester Cards will automatically be issued a new MNO Citizenship Card that verifies they are a rights-holder—at no cost. Any citizen whose file is found to require additional documentation will be notified and the MNO will provide information about the new resources we have created (i.e., Ontario Métis Root Ancestor documents, etc.) that will assist you through the process.

The RSRP process will start with the elected leadership of MNO as a means to demonstrate their commitment to this initiative and to ensure that MNO citizens have confidence that future negotiations on self-government and Métis rights are being led by Métis rights-holders. This will ensure that no outside government or entity can ever question the credibility of the MNO Registry and the MNO's mandate to represent Métis rights-holders and rights-bearing Métis communities across Ontario; doing this hard work now will protect Métis rights for generations to come.

Additional details on the RSRP as well as the design of the new MNO Citizenship Cards will be forthcoming, however, I wanted to send out these initial documents to generally explain what is being undertaken. We will also be creating a dedicated webpage on the MNO website to explain progress being made on the RSRP. If you have questions or concerns, we have developed a dedicated email at [RSRP@metisnation.org](mailto:RSRP@metisnation.org) and you can of course reach out to any member of the PCMNO.

We know this is going to be a tremendous undertaking; however, we are all in this together in taking this necessary next step towards achieving Métis self-government in Ontario, which lies at the foundation of the MNO *Statement of Prime Purpose*.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Froh', written in a cursive style.

Margaret Froh, MNO President  
On behalf of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario