

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: *What age do I have to be to apply for Citizenship?*

A: There is no age limit on Citizenship. All applicants are encouraged to apply at any time.

Q: *What is the criteria for eligibility?*

A: The criteria is outlined in Chapter 3 of the Agreement-in-Principle. But a quick and easy rule to remember is that you need an ancestor who meets the requirements of *Time, Place* and *Ethnicity*.

Time – December 31, 1921 or prior,
Place – anywhere within the agreement area (including the three communities),
Ethnicity – a person who is a Métis of Cree, Chipewyan or Slavey descent

Q: *What if I am enrolled in another Land Claim or Agreement?*

A: If you are a Treaty Indian you will not be entitled to enrol in the NWT Métis Land Claim. If you are not a Treaty Indian but enrolled in another Land Claim or Agreement you will need to renounce your enrollment to that Land Claim or Agreement prior to being granted Citizenship to the NWT Métis Land Claim. At which point your participation in the Métis Land Claim will only become effective after the Agreement has been ratified.

Q: *How detailed do I need to be when filling out my Family Tree chart (genealogy chart)?*

A: Your Family Tree is used by our Genealogist to identify an Ancestor who grants you birthright to being a Citizen of the Northwest Territory Métis Nation. This birthright is identified by having an Ancestor who meets the Eligibility Criteria noted above. To assist the Genealogist, you will need to provide your Ancestor's full name, and any of the following date of birth, birth location and any location within the agreement area and date at that location (example: John Doe born 1889 Edmonton AB, worked Hudson Bay Company 1909 Ft Resolution NT). Most of the time you may not be able to provide information other than a full name, date of birth and birth location. We will still accept your application, it only means that our Genealogist may have to do a bit more work to find your ancestor who grants birthright.

Q: *Do I need to provide vital statistic documents to support my application?*

A: Any vital statistic documents, such as a birth certificate or baptismal certificate, you can provide for yourself or ancestors to support your claim would be greatly appreciated. In any event, you will be asked to sign release forms that will allow the NWT Métis Nation to obtain birth certificates, baptismal certificates, marriage certificates or death certificates on your behalf. Please note, the vital statistic documents we require must list the names of the parents (example: your long form birth certificate will include the names of your Mom and Dad).

Q: *What is the process my application will go through for consideration?*

A: The application process consists of four steps.

Step 1 - Intake, this is where you fill out an application form and submit for review.

Step 2 – Initial Administration, this is where the NWT Métis Nation will begin processing your application by data entering your information into our system and preparing your application for genealogical research.

Step 3 – Genealogical Research, this is where your application is researched to identify a birthright Ancestor. This is also the step in which we will begin collecting vital statistic documents to support your application

Step 4 – Final Administration, your Approved or Rejected application is then returned to the NWT Métis Nation. Your application's data entry is updated with the research findings. The results of the research are then communicated to you. If your application has been Rejected, you are given the reason why and offered an opportunity to provide more information. If your application is Approved, you are then invited to schedule an appointment at one of our Field Offices to fill out a form so that you can be issued a NWT Métis Nation Citizenship Identification Card (CIC).

Q: *What is a Citizenship Identification Card (CIC) and what will it be used for?*

A: The CIC is an official piece of identification issued by the NWT Métis Nation identifying you as Métis Citizen entitled to all the rights and benefits allowed to you under the NWT Métis Land Claim and under Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution. The CIC will also be used to identify you as a birthright beneficiary and allow you to access programs and services that will be offered by the NWT Métis Nation. The CIC is also recognized as an official replacement for a NWT Hunting Licence and a Wood Buffalo National Park Hunting Licence, which means you will not have to apply or carry these licences in the future.

Q: *Do I need to be living in the South Slave Region of the NWT to apply?*

A: No. Your current geographic location does not determine your eligibility. The only time geography matters is for the Ancestor granting you a birthright to the NWT Métis Land Claim.

Q: *Does my place of birth need to be in the Agreement Area?*

A: No. Your place of birth does not determine your birthright. It is your Ancestor who will grant you birthright if they meet the terms of the eligibility criteria.

Q: *If I am eligible would other family members be eligible?*

A: If you are deemed eligible, your children, grandchildren and great grandchildren would all share the same birthright and are encouraged to register (includes adopted offspring). At the same time your birth Brothers and Sisters would all share the same birthright Ancestor and again we encourage all of them to register. Basically, any family member who is a direct descendant of your birthright Ancestor shares your birthright. Keep in mind, any family members who married into your family tree would not have a birthright.

Q: *Where can I get help in the registration process?*

A: We know the entire registration process can be overwhelming. But we are here to help you! The Northwest Territory Métis Nation intends to identify and locate as many birthright holders as we can possibly find. After all, it is the primary obligation of the Registries Division to help you identify your birthright and to ensure you participate in the NWT Métis Nation Land Claim. So, if you have any questions, big or small, don't hesitate to contact our offices by calling your nearest Métis Council Office or calling the Northwest Territory Métis Nation Headquarters – Registration Division at (867) 872-2770 or via e-mail at Enumeration@northwestel.net