

## **APPLICATION GUIDELINES: NOVA SCOTIA MI'KMAQ ENROLLMENT PROCESS**

### **WHO MUST SUBMIT AN APPLICATION?**

Individuals who are Non-Status or are registered Status Indians on the Atlantic General List (those who do not have a status card to one of the thirteen Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Bands.)

### **ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible to be enrolled as a Mi'kmaw of Nova Scotia, an applicant must meet **both** of the following criteria:

**A. Familial Connection**, established by one of three methods:

- i. The applicant has Mi'kmaw of Nova Scotia Ancestry, meaning the applicant can demonstrate their ancestry to a Mi'kmaw of Nova Scotia family; or
  - ii. The applicant was adopted before the age of 18, under laws recognized in Canada or in accordance with Mi'kmaq custom, by an individual who can establish Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Ancestry under (i); or
  - iii. The applicant is the biological or adopted child of an enrolled Mi'kmaw of Nova Scotia;
- AND,

**B. Acceptance** by the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Nation

### **DEMONSTRATING A “FAMILIAL CONNECTION”**

Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq have clearly stated that to be a Mi'kmaw of Nova Scotia, a person must be ancestrally Mi'kmaq. However, the English word “ancestry” does not translate and explain Mi'kmaq concepts of family and connection in the same way. The Mi'kmaq explain **ancestry** through concepts like *tami wetapeksin*, *wenik kikmaq*, *wenik kujjewijik*, and *tami tleyawin*. It is about your relations – who is your family, what are you roots and to whom you are related.

Being a Mi'kmaw of Nova Scotia does not simply mean you can present evidence that somewhere within your family tree (Section E – Mi'kmaq Family Connections) or lineage, you had one blood relative who was a Mi'kmaw. Ancestry for the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq, and for the purposes of the Enrollment Process, is centered on the consistent and present role of the family.

Flowing from this understanding, the criterion of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Ancestry under s. 2(a)(i) and 2(a)(ii) of the Eligibility Criteria requires proof of two elements: an ancestral connection on at least one side of the family, and a present-day connection to at least one Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq family. Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Ancestry may be established by birth or adoption.

You must demonstrate, in your Application, that:

1. At least one side of your family (maternal or paternal) has Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Ancestry.
2. You have an ancestral connection after 1871.
  - As Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq have stated, “just because your great, great, great, great grandparent was Mi'kmaw, that doesn't make you Mi'kmaw”.
3. You are connected to and/or a part of at least one Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq family presently.
  - Even if you can demonstrate Mi'kmaq heritage from a historical time point, you must still demonstrate your current and continued connection to a Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq family.

Usually, your present-day connection to a Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq family will be provided through:

- Letter(s) of support included with Application; or
- by the Enrollment Committee establishing an Advisory Committee, with your authorization.

If your evidence cannot verify your familial connection, you may explain in your Application and through supporting documentation any special circumstances that caused you to be disconnected from your family. Special circumstances may include, but are not limited to:

- Residential schools;
- The “Sixties Scoop”;
- The child-welfare system;
- Domestic or intimate-partner violence or abuse;
- Gender-based discrimination under the *Indian Act*;
- Reasons related to personal characteristics such as gender, disability, family or marital status; or
- Other impacts of colonialism.

### **DEMONSTRATING “ACCEPTANCE” BY THE NOVA SCOTIA MI'KMAQ NATION**

“Acceptance” means the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Nation accepts you as a Mi'kmaw of Nova Scotia.

Mi'kmaq customs, traditions and practices connect many aspects of Mi'kmaq life. Even if a person hunts, makes baskets, attends powwows, and harvests sweet grass, this does not mean a person is L'nu pursuant to Mi'kmaq customs, traditions and practices.

You must demonstrate in your Application that you meet the Acceptance criterion for eligibility, by providing information or evidence related to the following factors:

- a. Letter(s) of support;
- b. Your participation, contribution, or to the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Nation or a recognized Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq band and/or area;
- c. Knowledge of you by members of the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Nation;
- d. Your degree of knowledge of or familiarity with Mi'kmaq culture, customs, lifestyles, and history;
- e. Your degree of knowledge of the Mi'kmaq language;
- f. Where and how you were raised, and how this factor may have impacted clauses (b)-(e), above;
- g. The impacts of colonialism, including residential schools, the Sixties Scoop, or the child welfare system; or other special circumstances; and how these factors may have impacted your acceptance by the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Nation.

If your evidence of Acceptance is not strong and/or a letter of support is not available and/or verifiable, you should provide information or evidence to explain how any of the following factors may have impacted your acceptance by the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Nation:

- a. the impacts of colonialism, including residential schools, the Sixties Scoop, or the child welfare system;
- b. any reasons related to your personal characteristics, such as gender, disability, family or marital status, including but not limited to domestic or intimate-partner violence or abuse and gender-based discrimination under the *Indian Act*.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION CHECKLIST**

The following documentation is **required** to be included with your Application Form:

- Copy of long-form birth certificate;
- Copy of government-issued photo identification;
- Identification photo;

Note: If this documentation is not included with your Application form, your Application will be considered incomplete.

### **Recommended Additional Supporting Documents**

In addition to the required documents, you are encouraged to include as much other documentation as possible to demonstrate how you meet the Eligibility Criteria, such as:

- Letter of support
- Vital Statistics Records (e.g., birth certificate, marriage certificates, death records).
- Letter from membership clerk of a band or a recognized Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq association or organization that provides support to off-reserve or Non-Status Mi'kmaq, confirming Acceptance.
- Court Orders or Court documents.
- Church records (e.g., for birth, baptism, marriage, and death).
- Census records.
- Historical photographs.
- Completed Genealogy.
- Adoption Records.
- Indian Status Card(s) of relative(s).
- Statutory declaration(s) of the applicant or other individuals.

Note: documentation dated prior to 1871 will not be accepted unless it is accompanied by more recent documentation.

Please do not provide originals of official documents, except for letters and statutory declarations.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

There are seven (7) pages in this Application form. You must complete the entire Application. Incomplete Applications will result in delays in processing and may result in your Application being rejected. Once you have submitted your completed Application form together with all supporting documentation, you will receive notice that your Application has been received.

The Enrollment Committee will review your Application file. The Enrollment Committee may determine that it needs more information before it can make a decision. If so, the Enrollment Committee may request further documents from you, or may request an interview with you to supplement or verify the information in your Application. The Enrollment Committee may also interview any other individuals, including establishing an Advisory Committee.

Note: You are encouraged to provide as much supporting documentation as possible with your initial Application. The processing of your Application may be delayed if your Application is incomplete or does not contain enough information to allow the Enrollment Committee to evaluate your eligibility for enrollment.

### **ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE**

The Enrollment Committee is an independent body comprised of five individuals who are responsible for assessing Applications based on the Eligibility Criteria. The Enrollment Committee includes a representative from each of the following groups: Elders, youth, single parents, urban/off-reserve, and Grand Council.

### **NOTICE OF DECISION**

Once the Enrollment Committee has completed its review of your Application, you will receive written notice of their decision. If your Application is accepted, you will receive your Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Harvester Identification Card. If your Application is rejected, you will have the right to ask the Enrollment Committee to reconsider their decision, to appeal to the Appeals Committee, or to reapply at a later date. Your decision letter will explain these options.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

If you need assistance in completing this application, you can appoint a representative or contact our office toll-free at 1 888 803 3880 or email: [info@mikmaqns.ca](mailto:info@mikmaqns.ca).

Note: It is your responsibility to keep the Enrollment Committee informed of your current address and personal information.

Please note: Eligibility and enrollment as a Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq is not the same as enrollment as a band member and will not interfere with Indian Status and/or Band entitlements. If you need to register as a Status Indian, please contact the Indian Registry Administrator (IRA) for assistance.

**APPLICATION FOR ENROLLMENT (FORM 001)**

**Office Use ONLY**

Application Received

Received by (name): \_\_\_\_\_

Received by (signature): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Application Screened: \_\_\_\_\_

Interviews (if applicable):

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Final Review: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewing Committee Members (names):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signatures of Reviewing Enrollment Committee Members:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Letter of Notification

Mailed by (name): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailed by (signature): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

- Please read the entire Application before completing
- Refer to the Application Guidelines for specific instructions
- Please print in ink or type
- Tick where applicable

The information you provide should not be limited by the space allowed to answer the question. If you need more space, attach another sheet of paper and **indicate the number of the question you are answering.**

**A. Language you prefer for service:**

\_\_\_ English \_\_\_ Mi'kmaq

**B. I have special needs that require accommodation:** \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Yes

➔ If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION CHECKLIST**

The following documentation is **required**:

- Copy of long-form birth certificate;
- Copy of government-issued photo identification;
- Identification photo;

Note: If this documentation is not included with your Application form, your Application will be considered incomplete.

### A. Personal Information

Preferred title: ___ Mrs. ___ Mr. ___ Ms. ___ Ms. ___ Dr. Other: _____	
Last Name (Family Name/Surname):	Given Name(s):
Previous Name (if different from current surname):	Also known as (nicknames):
Date of Birth (DD/MM/YYYY):	Place of Birth (Town, Province/State, Country):
Home Address: City/Village Province/State Country Postal/Zip Code	Mailing Address (if different from Home Address): City/Village Province/State Country Postal/Zip Code
Email:	
Home/Cell Phone:	Work Phone:

### B. Children

You may write below if there is not enough space

Full Name (Given, Last Name)	Birth Date (D/M/Y)	Adopted or Biological
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

<b>C. Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Ancestry</b>		
Do you have ancestral connection to one of the thirteen Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq bands?  <p style="text-align: center;">Yes _____ No _____</p>	Which Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq bands and/or areas do you belong to, or have ancestral connection to?	
Do you have ancestral connection, through birth or adoption, to at least one Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq family?  <p style="text-align: center;">Yes _____ No _____</p>	Which Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq family/ families do you have ancestral connection to (i.e. Glode, Paul, Sylliboy)? (see the List of Family Names)	
If you do not have ancestral connection to a Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq family, but currently are a band member of one of the thirteen Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq bands, is this because you gained Indian Status through marriage?  <p style="text-align: center;">Yes _____ No _____</p>	→ If no, please explain:	
Do you have Indian Status? Yes _____ No _____	How did you gain Indian Status?  Birth _____ Marriage _____ Bill C-31 _____ Bill C-3 _____	
Did you ever lose Indian Status?  <p style="text-align: center;">Yes _____ No _____</p>		
Have you been adopted?  <p style="text-align: center;">Yes _____ No _____</p> → If "YES", please complete:		
Legal Adoption _____ Custom Adoption _____	Place of Adoption:	Age at Time of Adoption:

**Recommended Supporting Documents**

Please attach as much documentation as possible to demonstrate how you meet the Eligibility Criteria, such as:

- Letter of support
- Vital Statistics Records (e.g., birth certificate, marriage certificates, death records).
- Court Orders or Court documents.
- Church records (e.g., for birth, baptism, marriage, and death).
- Census records.
- Historical photographs.
- Completed Genealogy.
- Adoption Records.
- Indian Status Card(s) of relative(s).
- Statutory declaration(s) of the applicant or other individuals.

Note: documentation dated prior to 1871 will not be accepted unless it is accompanied by more recent documentation.

Please do not provide originals of official documents, except for letters and statutory declarations.

### **D. Personal Statement**

The Enrollment Committee may look for further demonstration of community and family connections through the submission of your Personal Statement, and will ask questions during “Pitewey time”.

Consider the following areas and write your personal statement in 200 words or less (use extra paper if needed):

- Knowledge of Mi’kmaq culture and traditions
- The ways in which you participate in the Nova Scotia Mi’kmaq Nation
- Your contribution, acceptance and connection to the Nova Scotia Mi’kmaq Nation
- Your family and community connections

You are encouraged to include supporting documents to support your Personal Statement. Examples may include: photos, letters of support. The Enrollment Committee may decide your Application on the basis of the information submitted, may request further information, or may request an interview with you or third parties identified in this Application (Section E).



### E. Mi'kmaq Family Connections

Family Connections – Specify family connection and complete all information about the individual.

**Mother's side include:** Mother, Grandmother (mother), Grandfather (Mother), Great-Grandmother (mother), Great-Grandfather (mother), Great-Great-Grandmother (mother), Great-Great-Grandfather (mother).

**Father's side include:** Father, Grandmother (Father), Grandfather (Father), Great-Grandmother (Father), Great-Grandfather (Father), Great-Great-Grandmother (Father), Great-Great-Grandfather (Father).

**Complete all connections like the following example:**

<b>Connection:</b> <i>Great-Grandmother (Mother)</i>	<b>Family Name:</b> <i>Gloade</i>	<b>Marital Name:</b> <i>MacDonald</i>	<b>Full Name:</b> <i>Mary Ann</i>
<b>Date of Birth (DD-Mon-YYYY):</b> <i>01-Aug-1920</i>	<b>Place of Birth:</b> <i>Sydney, Nova Scotia</i>	<b>Deceased (Yes/No):</b> <i>YES</i>	<b>Year Deceased:</b> <i>1977</i>
<b>Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Band or Other Area (i.e. Eskasoni, Paq'tnekek, Potlotek (Chapel Island), North Sydney, Middleton, Liverpool)</b> <i>North Sydney</i>			

<b>Connection:</b>	<b>Family Name:</b>	<b>Marital Name:</b>	<b>Full Name:</b>
<b>Date of Birth (DD-Mon-YYYY):</b>	<b>Place of Birth:</b>	<b>Deceased (Yes/No):</b>	<b>Year Deceased:</b>
<b>Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Band or Other Area:</b>			

<b>Connection:</b>	<b>Family Name:</b>	<b>Marital Name:</b>	<b>Full Name:</b>
<b>Date of Birth (DD-Mon-YYYY):</b>	<b>Place of Birth:</b>	<b>Deceased (Yes/No):</b>	<b>Year Deceased:</b>
<b>Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Band or Other Area:</b>			

<b>Connection:</b>	<b>Family Name:</b>	<b>Marital Name:</b>	<b>Full Name:</b>
<b>Date of Birth (DD-Mon-YYYY):</b>	<b>Place of Birth:</b>	<b>Deceased (Yes/No):</b>	<b>Year Deceased:</b>
<b>Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Band or Other Area:</b>			

<b>Connection:</b>	<b>Family Name:</b>	<b>Marital Name:</b>	<b>Full Name:</b>
<b>Date of Birth (DD-Mon-YYYY):</b>	<b>Place of Birth:</b>	<b>Deceased (Yes/No):</b>	<b>Year Deceased:</b>
<b>Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Band or Other Area:</b>			

<b>Connection:</b>	<b>Family Name:</b>	<b>Marital Name:</b>	<b>Full Name:</b>
<b>Date of Birth (DD-Mon-YYYY):</b>	<b>Place of Birth:</b>	<b>Deceased (Yes/No):</b>	<b>Year Deceased:</b>
<b>Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Band or Other Area:</b>			

Print out extra copies of this page for additional connections.

**Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Bands:** Acadia - Annapolis Valley - Bear River - Eskasoni – Glooscap – Membertou – Millbrook - Paqtn'kek (Afton) - Pictou Landing - Potlotek (Chapel Island) - Sipekne'katik (Shubenacadie/Indian Brook) - Wagmatcook - Wekoqma'q (Waycobah/Wycocomagh)

### F. Consent to Conduct Interviews

The Enrollment Committee may determine that it needs more information before it can make a decision on your Application. With your consent, the Enrollment Committee may choose to interview third parties to inquire into or verify that you meet the Eligibility Criteria.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree that the Enrollment Committee may communicate with the following individuals and/or organizations with respect to my Application, and may disclose and collect personal information about me to and from those individuals and/or organizations for the purpose of assessing my Application, including but not limited to determining whether I meet the Eligibility Criteria for enrollment as a Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia.

- I understand that if I decline to provide my consent to interviews, the Enrollment Committee may decide my Application on the basis of the documentary information I have provided.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: (D/M/Y): \_\_\_\_\_ Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

### G. Appointment of Representative (Optional)

Is the applicant an adult under a legal disability or incapacity? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Do you want to appoint a person to make enquiries about your application on your behalf (e.g., legal counsel, family member)?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

➔ If you have answered “yes” to either question above, please complete below:

Last Name of Representative:

Given Name(s) of Representative:

Home/Cell Phone:

Work Phone:

Email:

Relationship to Applicant:

**Business Name/Company of Representative (if applicable):**

#### Authority to Disclose Information

I hereby authorize the Enrollment Committee to release information about my Application to the person named above. I understand that the authorization will remain effective until the Enrollment Committee has completed its assessment of my Application, or until I withdraw or change this authorization by so advising the Enrollment Committee in writing. I understand that while my representative may accompany me to any interview with the Enrollment Committee, my representative will not be permitted to answer interview questions on my behalf.

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date (DD/MM/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_

### H. Declaration

**Please note: Submitting false information in an Application may result in its rejection.**

I understand that as a Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq, that with Rights come Responsibilities, and I commit to adhering to these Responsibilities.

I \_\_\_\_\_ solemnly declare that the facts contained in this application are true to the best of my knowledge.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: (D/M/Y): \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

### I. Privacy Notice

The purpose of this Application under the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Enrollment Process is to determine your eligibility as a beneficiary and rights-holder eligible to exercise Mi'kmaq Aboriginal and Treaty rights in the Province of Nova Scotia, as authorized by the Framework Agreement between the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs, Canada, and Nova Scotia.

Personal information about you collected by the Enrollment Office and/or Enrollment Committee will be used for the limited purpose of assessing your eligibility for enrollment as a Mi'kmaw of Nova Scotia under the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Enrollment Process, to fulfill their duties as set out in the *Enrollment Process*, and to keep you informed about the status of your Application. If your Application is rejected and you choose to file an appeal, the Enrollment Office will provide your Application file to the Appeals Committee. The Enrollment Office may also use your information to develop aggregate statistical information for policy analysis, research, and/or communications.

By signing below, you confirm that you have read and understood this privacy notice, and consent to the collection of your personal information by the Enrollment Office as set out above.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: (D/M/Y): \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Consent to Electronic Communication

The Enrollment Committee may need to communicate with you concerning your Application, and such communications may include your personal information. Although the Enrollment Committee will endeavour to protect the privacy of your personal information, the Enrollment Committee cannot guarantee the security or integrity of any information sent over the Internet or by electronic means.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, consent to communicating with the Enrollment Committee and the Enrollment Office by email or other electronic means using the following address:

→ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: (D/M/Y): \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_