

Métis Harvesting in Alberta Policy  
Effective September 1, 2019

Métis harvesting is an important topic for many Métis people throughout Alberta. While the Harvesting Agreement between the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) and the Government of Alberta (GoA) is signed, the MNA is still finalizing important components, such as the application process and will continue negotiations on some key items – such as harvesting rights for southern Alberta.

We understand there are many questions and concerns surrounding this topic. Please visit [albertametis.com](http://albertametis.com) for information, updates, and frequently asked questions (FAQs).

**Please note:** Policy is not effective until September 1, 2019.

Frequently Asked Questions:

**1. Southern Alberta is not included in the updated policy, why not? What is the plan?**

A previous court decision has found that Métis do not have harvesting rights in the Cypress Hills area. Alberta feels bound by these decisions and unable to recognize Métis harvesting rights in the Treaty 7 area at this time. The MNA strongly disagrees and continues to fight for the recognition of Métis harvesting rights in the south.

The Métis Harvesting Agreement includes several wins for MNA Region 3:

- For the first time, Alberta recognizes Métis harvesting rights in the north of Region 3, particularly around Rocky Mountain House;
- MNA members living in Region 3 will be able to harvest in central and northern Alberta if they can show a historical and contemporary connect there; and
- Alberta has committed to further discussions regarding recognition of Métis harvesting rights in the south.

Until now, Alberta had refused to discuss Métis harvesting in southern Alberta. With this agreement, that has changed.

**2. How do I show historical and contemporary connection to a harvesting area?**

To show connection to a harvesting area, through the MNA harvester application process, one must show a pre-1900 ancestral connection to the Métis Harvesting Area(s) in the Métis Harvesting in Alberta Policy (2018). Potentially, an MNA citizen can connect to two, three, or all harvesting areas.

Applicants must meet three requirements:

- A. Self-identify as Métis. Membership in the MNA will be considered sufficient evidence that a person self-identifies as Métis.
- B. Applicants must show a pre-1900 ancestral connection to the Métis Harvesting Area where they are applying. This evidence must be shown by genealogical history, including where ancestors lived and when they lived there. The MNA is currently enhancing our database and registration

process to assist MNA members in establishing their ancestral connection to the Métis Harvesting Areas.

- C. Show a contemporary connection to the same Métis Harvesting Area. This will be shown through compliance with the MNA's policy on contemporary community acceptance. This policy is currently being finalized.

Currently, the MNA is developing the application process including identifying the connection to the historical Métis community, the Métis Harvester Identification Sticker distribution, and the ongoing implementation review process.

### **3. When can I apply for my Métis Harvester Identification Sticker?**

The effective date for this new system will be September 1, 2019. The MNA staff are working hard to make sure we have the systems, processes, and people in place to have this happen before September 1, 2019.

### **4. Where do I get my Métis Harvester Identification Sticker? Can I apply with my local? My regional office?**

Similar to the MNA citizenship application process, the Métis Harvester Identification Sticker application process will be based out of the provincial head office. Like the MNA citizen application process, teams will be travelling the province to facilitate easy applications.

All current MNA citizens will have to go through this process, whereas new citizens will be able to apply for the Métis Harvester Identification Sticker simultaneously.

### **5. How long is the Métis Harvester Identification Sticker valid?**

The Métis Harvester Identification Sticker is valid for the life of the Métis citizen.

### **6. Can family members (e.g. partner) who are not Métis harvest under my harvesting rights?**

No, the Métis Harvesting Agreement and Policy solely applies to approved harvesters who are citizens of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

### **7. Is there a limit to the amount of harvesting areas I can have a connection to?**

No. However, you need to show both historical and contemporary connection to each harvesting area. Through the MNA harvester application process, one must show a pre-1900 family-roots in the respective harvesting area(s). Potentially, an MNA citizen can connect to two, three, or all harvesting areas, if they comply with the MNA's policy on contemporary connection.

### **8. How do Métis citizens who are already harvesters with their letter from the Government of Alberta get their Métis Harvester Identification Sticker?**

If they are an MNA citizen, they may choose to reapply through the MNA process. The MNA will work with Alberta to facilitate this process. If they are not MNA citizens or choose not to apply through the MNA, they will have to go through Alberta's application process.

**9. What if I live on a Métis Settlement, but I am not a citizen of the Métis Nation of Alberta?**

This implementation process relates only to the citizens of the Métis Nation of Alberta. You will need to contact either the Métis Settlement General Council to find out about their process or contact the Government of Alberta.

**10. When can I start harvesting?**

The effective date for Alberta's new Métis harvesting policy will be September 1, 2019. The MNA staff are working hard to make sure we have the systems, processes, and people in place to have this happen.

The actual date of being able to harvest will depend on successfully completing the applications process and receiving your Métis Harvester Identification Sticker.

**11. Where am I able to harvest?**

Through your application process, you will have to show historical (pre-1900s) and contemporary connection to a defined Métis Harvesting Area.

Please click here to see the Métis Harvesting Area maps:

- a. [Harvesting Area Mosaic](#)
- b. [Harvesting Area A](#)
- c. [Harvesting Area B](#)
- d. [Harvesting Area C](#)
- e. [Harvesting Area D](#)
- f. [All Harvesting Areas](#)

**12. If I have my harvesting letter from the Government of Alberta, do I pre-qualify for the Métis Harvester Identification Sticker?**

No. You will have to apply for a Métis Harvester Identification Sticker with the MNA, as outlined above.

**13. How long is my harvesting letter from the Government of Alberta valid?**

All questions regarding Alberta's harvesting letters should be directed to the Government of Alberta.

**14. I self-identify as Métis, or am not currently a citizen of the MNA, what does this mean for me?**

This Métis Harvesting Agreement applies to citizens of the Métis Nation of Alberta. If you are interested in learning about the citizenship application form, please visit [albertametis.com](http://albertametis.com).

**15. What if I already applied but am waiting for my MNA citizenship card?**

Until each current applicant is accepted as an MNA citizen, the MNA cannot process your application to be identified as a Métis Harvester under the Métis Harvesting Agreement. You will have to apply for your Métis Harvester Identification Sticker after receiving your MNA citizenship card.

**16. Where do I find the Métis Harvesting in Alberta Policy?**

The policy can be viewed at [albertametis.com/harvesting](http://albertametis.com/harvesting)

If you have questions not listed in the FAQs section, please contact Craig Letendre at 780-455-2200 ext. 436 or by email ([cletendre@metis.org](mailto:cletendre@metis.org)).