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# Indigenous Peoples Open Doors Program with Métis Nation of Alberta

## What is the Indigenous Open Doors Program with Métis Nation of Alberta?

The Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) has a connection to the lands and waters comprising the National Parks/National Historic Sites located in the province of Alberta. Parks Canada is proud of its Indigenous Peoples Open Doors program, which seeks to enhance relationships with Indigenous peoples by providing free access to national parks or national historic sites with which they feel a connection without undue requirements for purchasing passes or permits.

Parks Canada and the MNA are proud to announce, beginning August 1, 2018, MNA citizens will have free access to National Parks and National Historic Sites located in the province of Alberta (see Annex I).

## How does it work?

Complimentary entry, under the Indigenous Peoples Open Doors Program, requires MNA citizens to present their MNA citizenship card at National Parks/National Historic Sites located in the Province of Alberta (see Annex I). With presentation of MNA citizenship cards, Parks Canada will provide MNA citizens a park pass for the duration of their stay. As with other park passes, the park pass will have to remain in the vehicle, at all times, visible to Parks Canada staff. Accessing different parks/sites will require a new park pass each time you gain free entry. You may receive different type of passes depending of the park/site.



## Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. **Do I need to go to the gate to get free entry?**  
Yes, you need to stop at the gate of a National Park or a National Historic Site to get free access to the park/site. It may mean waiting in the line-up of other visitors. Upon presenting your MNA citizenship card, you will receive a park pass for the duration of your stay. It is important to leave the park pass in your vehicle, so Parks Canada staff can easily see it.
- Q. **What if there is no gate?**  
Parks Canada recommends keeping your MNA citizenship card with you in case you meet a Parks Canada employee.
- Q. **Do I need to pay for campgrounds?**  
The Indigenous Peoples Open Doors Program with the MNA provides free entry to National Parks and National Historic Sites in Alberta. Other fees for attractions and services, including campgrounds, hot pools, other park facilities, or any other levies associated with park/site/area use, other than entry, still apply.
- Q. **Can I hunt or practice traditional activities in the park?**  
Except where pre-existing harvesting agreements exist, the Indigenous Peoples Open Doors Program does not authorize the bearer to, among other things, hunt, fish, trap, harvest plants and natural objects, or remove cultural objects within the National Park/ National Historic Site <sup>1</sup>.
- Q. **If I travel through a National Park regularly for business (e.g. hauling RVs through Banff), do I need to carry my MNA citizenship card each time?**  
No. A park pass is not required for anyone passing through a national park. However, a park pass is required for anyone stopping to use facilities of any kind.
- Q. **Does each family member in the car have to have their Métis citizenship card with them?**  
Yes. Each adult needs to have their Métis citizenship card with them to gain free access to Parks Canada National Historic Sites and Parks in Alberta. Admission is now free for youth 17 and under.
- Q. **Does this also apply to my partner who is not Métis?**  
No. The Open Doors Program with MNA only applies to citizens of the Métis Nation of Alberta.
- Q. **How long will the program be in effect?**  
The Indigenous Peoples Open Doors Program with Métis Nation of Alberta started on August 1, 2018 and has no expiry date.

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<sup>1</sup> Hunt and trap, as defined in the *National Parks Wildlife Regulations*.

**Annex I – List of heritage sites included in the  
Indigenous Peoples Open Doors Program with the Métis Nation of Alberta**

**National Parks**

- Banff National Park
- Elk Island National Park
- Jasper National Park
- Waterton Lakes National Park

**National Historic Sites**

- Banff Park Museum National Historic Site
- Bar-U Ranch National Historic Site
- Cave and Basin National Historic Site
- Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site

**National Historic Sites which are included with the park entry fees**

- Athabasca Pass National Historic Site (within Jasper National Park)
- First Oil Well in Western Canada National Historic Site (within Waterton Lakes National Park) – *closed until further notice because of the Kenow fire – see website*
- Howse Pass National Historic Site (within Banff National Park)
- Jasper House National Historic Site (within Jasper National Park)
- Jasper Park Information Centre National Historic Site (within Jasper National Park)
- Maligne Lake Chalet and Guest House National Historic Site (within Jasper National Park)
- Sulphur Mountain Cosmic Ray Station National Historic Site (within Banff National Park)
- Yellowhead Pass National Historic Site (within Jasper National Park)

**National Park or National Historic Sites with no entry fees**

- Frog Lake National Historic Site – self-guided site
- Wood Buffalo National Park