

SSBA Indigenous Constituency Membership - Indigenous Citizenship Verification Process

The SSBA Executive and Governance Policy 17.0 on Indigenous Constituency Membership – Indigenous Citizenship Verification was created in 2024. The SSBA has also created a process document to support implementation of the policy for Indigenous Constituency Membership – Indigenous Citizenship verification for inclusion in the Indigenous Constituency. Below describes the rules of procedure for a trustee to become a member of the Indigenous Constituency. Indigenous Constituency members are eligible to participate in the election for the Indigenous Constituency Representative on the SSBA Executive.

The policy and process aim to support and protect authentic Indigenous voice at the SSBA Executive table and the Indigenous Constituency Representative position. As the subject matter is still quite new, evolution and refinement are expected to occur and therefore the policy and this document is subject to change.

Steps for confirming Indigenous Constituency Membership

1. Following elections, trustees will be asked to declare if they are Indigenous and if they wish to join the Indigenous Constituency.
2. The SSBA responds to the trustee to determine the method of Indigenous citizenship verification required for Indigenous Constituency membership:
 - producing accepted Indigenous government issued documentation, or the alternative,
 - a dialogue with a Verification Vetting Panel.

Producing Indigenous Government Issued Evidence - the SSBA schedules a mutually agreed upon time where the school board member shows, either in-person or virtually, their Indigenous government issued documentation to the SSBA. (The current list of accepted Indigenous government issued evidence is in the **Appendix** of this document.) The trustee's name, email and date of verification is documented. The SSBA will maintain the official membership list for meeting and election purposes. No copies of documentation will be maintained/kept by the SSBA.

Dialogue With a Verification Vetting Panel – this is for trustees who do not have Indigenous government issued documentation but identify as Indigenous and are seeking membership in the Indigenous Constituency.

- The trustee contacts the SSBA to request a meeting with the Verification Vetting Panel. A Verification Vetting Panel will be created for each specific request. It is

- convened by request and members will be appointed as needed for each specific request.
- The SSBA convenes a panel that shall consist of the Indigenous Constituency Representative and 2 Indigenous Constituency members (volunteers) who determine membership based on the presentation. An Elder/Knowledge Keeper may also be included to provide advice to the panel. The Indigenous Constituency Representative will Chair the Verification Vetting Panel and appoint the members, ensuring there is no conflict of interest for any panel members, including the Chair. If the Chair declares a conflict, the SSBA President will appoint a Chair from the Indigenous Constituency membership. The SSBA will provide support to the Verification Vetting Panel.
 - Once the Verification Vetting Panel is assembled, the trustee is contacted by the SSBA to arrange a meeting. This may occur in person or virtually. The trustee will be notified with a minimum of two weeks' notice prior to the panel meeting.
 - During the presentation, the trustee engages in dialogue with the panel and can present historical evidence to support their claim of Indigenous membership/citizenship. Trustees may do so orally or with the presentation of historical materials. At the discretion of the trustee, they may invite one guest to speak to support the trustee's claim. The entire presentation and subsequent discussion should be no longer than 30 minutes.
 - Following the presentation, the panel members privately discuss and make a decision on the trustee's membership in the Indigenous Constituency. Within seven days, the Indigenous Constituency Representative notifies the SSBA of the panel's decision and the SSBA will immediately notify the trustee of the decision. The decision of the panel is final, and the panel is then dissolved.
3. Should a trustee who was denied membership to the Indigenous Constituency previously gain additional evidence to support their claim, they may contact the SSBA if they wish to re-engage in the Indigenous citizenship verification process.
 4. The SSBA and verification vetting panel members will be required to work within the Indigenous membership/citizenship verification process. They may be party to sensitive discussions relating to a trustee's information and have access to confidential information that should not be passed on or shared outside the meeting. No photos, video or recording of any documentation, evidence or materials presented to, or records

of conversations will be stored or saved. Any documents or evidence presented must be destroyed within seven days of the panel presentation.

5. The SSBA will maintain a list of the Indigenous Constituency and those listed will be eligible to run and vote for the Indigenous Constituency Representative on the SSBA Executive.

Appendix

Indigenous Government Documentation Examples

*All documentation must be current, valid and up to date.

Métis

- One of the follow documents:
- Letter from Métis Nation-Saskatchewan stating the individual has met the criteria for citizenship from the registrar
- Métis Nation-Saskatchewan Citizenship card *No local citizenship/membership cards will be accepted
- Valid Métis Nation Citizenship cards from MN-British Columbia, MN-Alberta, Manitoba Métis Federation, MN-Ontario will also be accepted.

First Nations

- Documentation is to be determined by each First Nations government
- Status Card
- Non-Status-to be determined by the Verification Vetting Committee

*Expired cards will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Inuit

- Membership of one the 4 collectives defined by the Inuit Kapiriit Kanatami (ITK) from Section 1.4 of the Inuit Nunangat Policy <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1650556354784/1650556491509#sec4>
- The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (Inuvialuit Final Agreement)
- Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (Nunavut Agreement)
- Makivik Corporation (James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement)
- The Nunatsiavut Government (Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement)

Source: <https://indigenous.usask.ca/indigenous-initiatives/deybwewin-taapwaywin-tapwewin.php>