

Individual Mi'kmaw Member Application

V1.0 REV 10 JULY 4, 2024

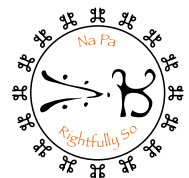
WWW.MIKMAWITASIK.CA



Mi'kmawitasik is currently a pilot project; all documents are subject to review and revision.



Maw-lukutijik **Saqmaq**
Assembly of Nova Scotia
Mi'kmaw Chiefs



Kwilnu'kw Maw-klusuq
Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative
Our Rights. Our Future.

SECTION 1

OVERVIEW

Mi'kmawitasik: Mi'kmaw Made (Meeg-maw-wee-duh-sig) is a cultural tourism brand certification trademark registered for the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia by the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs. This brand serves to preserve and promote Mi'kmaw culture and traditions while providing a meaningful and authentic cultural experience to visitors in Nova Scotia. Mi'kmawitasik is guided by the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Eligibility

Our members consist of Mi'kmaw artisans, craftspeople, performers, cultural experience providers, and entrepreneurs who want to showcase their products and services to a wider audience. Mi'kmawitasik is currently a pilot project. Presently, Mi'kmawitasik membership is open to:

- ◆ Individual Mi'kmaw community members with a verified ancestral connection to one of the 13 Mi'kmaw communities within Nova Scotia.
- ◆ Mi'kmaw community-owned cultural tourism entities.

Note: At this time, Mi'kmawitasik eligibility does not include regulated, commercial industries.

Membership Approval

Membership approval is based on the following criteria:

1. **Weta'pek'sin** - Verification of eligibility based on the Mi'kmaw principles of Weta'pek'sin – sharing information about your family roots and ancestral connection to community.
2. **Cultural Authenticity** – Transparency regarding your cultural knowledge and creative expression and a willingness to continue to learn about Mi'kmaw culture and share our teachings.
3. **Nationhood** - As a member of Mi'kmawitasik, you become a Cultural Ambassador for the Mi'kmaw Nation. Attending an orientation session is a requirement for membership. Note: Applicants will need a copy of their Status Card (Certificate of Indian Status) or Wula Na Kinu Card (Proof of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Identity) in order to submit their application. Mi'kmaq may apply for Wula Na Kinu at <https://www.mikmawns.ca>

Mi'kmawitasik Application Process

1. Mi'kmawitasik applications can be completed on paper or electronically. Please visit [mikmawitasik.ca](https://www.mikmawitasik.ca) for more information.
2. Fill out the Mi'kmawitasik application and submit to the Mi'kmawitasik Administration Team.
3. Applications will be reviewed, verified, and approved by our Team.
4. Approved members will:
 - ◆ Attend a Mi'kmawitasik Rights and Responsibilities Orientation Session.
 - ◆ Sign the Licensing (Rights and Responsibilities) Agreement.
 - ◆ Receive personalized Mi'kmawitasik membership materials including a QR Code.
 - ◆ Work with Mi'kmawitasik team to create an online marketing profile.
 - ◆ Participate in ongoing training, funding, and marketing opportunities.
 - ◆ Renew membership every two years.

Privacy

All information you provide within your application will remain confidential. The information will be shared with the Mi'kmawitasik Administration Team in order to process, verify, and approve applications. Approved Mi'kmawitasik members will work with the Team to identify public facing information they want included on the Mi'kmawitasik website and social media sites.



IMPORTANT

We understand that this form may seem extensive. However, it is part of our commitment to addressing the concerns of our community and leadership. We aim to ensure that this process is thorough and transparent. If you need help, don't hesitate to reach out to us at info@mikmaqrights.com or 902-843-3880 or at Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn, 75 Treaty Trail, Millbrook, NS, B6L 1W3.

SECTION 2

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of Application (DD/MM/YYYY) _____

Preferred Title ☐ Mrs. ☐ Mr. ☐ Ms. ☐ Miss ☐ Dr. ☐ Other: _____

Given Name(s) _____

Last Name (Family Name/Surname) _____

Previous Name (if different from current surname) _____

Preferred Name/Nickname _____

Date of Birth (DD/MM/YYYY) _____

My Gender and pronouns are (This question is not mandatory but is included for those who wish to identify) _____

Identity Documentation

A copy of your Status Card or Wula Na Kinu Card must be submitted as a requirement of this application process to verify identity. If you do not have either, please visit <https://www.mikmawns.ca> to begin the process of applying through the Wula Na Kinu system. We will hold your application until one of these cards has been submitted.

** Note: Having an Indian Status Card does not guarantee automatic acceptance to Mi'kmawitasik; you must be able to demonstrate ancestral connection to one of the 13 Mi'kmaw communities within Nova Scotia.

10-Digit Status Registration Number _____

Band Name _____

Or

Wula Na Kinu Registration Number _____

Band Name (as applicable) _____

Contact

Home Address _____

City

Province/State

Country

Postal/Zip Code

Mailing Address (if different) _____

City

Province/State

Country

Postal/Zip Code

Email Address _____

Primary Phone Number _____

Secondary Phone Number _____

SECTION 3

WETA'PEK'SIN (WHERE ARE YOUR ROOTS?)

We respect and follow the principles of Weta'pek'sin (wed-a-bek-sin), as directed by our Grand Council, Elders, Leaders, and Community members.

Weta'pek'sin provides an opportunity for applicants to share information about your family roots and ancestral connection to community.

UNDRIP Article 4: Indigenous Peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs.

UNDRIP Article 9: Indigenous Peoples and individuals have the right to belong to an Indigenous community or nation, in accordance with the traditions and customs of the community or Nation concerned. No discrimination of any kind may arise from the exercise of such a right.

We have the right to make our own decisions about our community and live according to our traditions. We can be part of our M'kmaw Nation or community without facing discrimination, meaning we should be treated fairly and respected for who we are.

Do you have ancestral connection to at least one of the thirteen Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw bands? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Which Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw band(s) and/or areas do you belong to, or have ancestral connection to?

Do you have ancestral connection to at least one Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw family? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Which Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw family/families do you have ancestral connection to (i.e. Glode, Paul, Sylliboy)?

Who are your Parents? _____

Where are your Parents from? _____

Who are your Grandparents? _____

Where are your Grandparents From? _____

Do you have Indian Status? ☐ Yes ☐ No

How did you gain Indian Status? ☐ Birth ☐ Marriage* ☐ Adoption**

*If Status gained through Marriage, please complete Sub-Section i.

**If Status gained through Adoption, please complete Sub-Section ii.



i. Status through Marriage

Please complete this section **if you do not have ancestral connection** to a Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw family **and if**:

- ◆ You are a band member of one of the thirteen Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw bands;
- ◆ You gained status through marriage before 1985; and/or
- ◆ You have status because your mother gained status before 1985.

Completion of this section will aid the Mi'kmawitasik committee in understanding your family and community connections.

Did you gain Indian Status through marriage? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please Note: If you have answered yes, you must submit a letter to the committee explaining the applicant's cultural and community connections.

If your mother gained Indian Status through marriage, does your father have Indian Status? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please Note: If you have answered yes, you must submit a letter to the committee explaining the applicant's cultural and community connections.

ii. Status through Adoption

Please complete this section **if you gained status through adoption**, to aid the Mi'kmawitasik committee in understanding your family and community connections.

If you gained status through adoption, was your adoption custom or legal?

☐ Legal Adoption ☐ Custom Adoption

Place of Adoption: _____

Age at Time of Adoption: _____

Adoptive Parents (Required)

Parent 1 Name: _____

Status: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Parent 2 Name: _____

Status: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Are your adoptive parents Mi'kmaw? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Biological Parents (Optional)

Parent 1 Name: _____

Status: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Parent 2 Name: _____

Status: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Are your biological parents Mi'kmaw? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

SECTION 4

CULTURAL AUTHENTICITY

As Mi'kmaq, we have the sovereign right to define and express our culture, a right that empowers us to carry forward the legacy of our ancestors while embracing the possibilities of the present and future. At Mi'kmawitasik, we celebrate this dynamic evolution of our culture, encouraging members to proudly and creatively express their Mi'kmaw identity.

Cultural authenticity is at the heart of Mi'kmawitasik. We acknowledge the historic influences that have impacted Mi'kmaw language and cultural knowledge and practices today. At the same time, the primary focus of Mi'kmawitasik is to emphasize Mi'kmaw cultural authenticity within creative expression, honoring our ancestral heritage and fostering cultural reclamation and continuity.

Within such an authentic framework, it's important to clearly communicate any non-Mi'kmaw elements as part of your products and experiences to consumers. Mi'kmawitasik therefore requires Members to be transparent with their cultural offerings.

The process of self-assessment in artistic ability, cultural confidence, and creative expression, as detailed in our L'nuimk document, is a commitment to maintaining the vibrancy and integrity of our culture. By engaging with Mi'kmawitasik, you affirm your role in preserving and evolving authentic Mi'kmaw culture.

UNDRIP Article 11: Indigenous peoples have the right to practise and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artefacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature.

We have the right to keep, celebrate, and grow our culture and traditions, from the stories and art of our ancestors to our ways of life today and for the future. This means we can take care of our important places, things, and ways of doing things, making sure they are respected and passed on.

Membership Authenticity Guidelines

Applicants must meet the following standards, taken from the *Authentic Mi'kmaw Cultural Tourism Guidelines for Nova Scotia* as developed by the community, to be considered an authentic Mi'kmaw cultural tourism experience, product, or service. We invite you to reflect on these standards as you consider your participation in Mi'kmawitasik. Your commitment to these principles ensures our culture remains a living, thriving force for generations to come.

1. **Owned, operated, or led by Mi'kmaw individuals or organizations.**
2. **Developed by Mi'kmaw individuals or organizations.**
3. **Approved within the Mi'kmaw community.**
4. **Delivered by Mi'kmaw individuals or organizations.**
5. **Excludes sacred or private ceremonies.**
6. **Reflects Mi'kmaw cultural values, culture, and customs.**

Do you agree to honour and uphold the authenticity standards for Mi'kmawitasik? ☐ Yes ☐ No



Your Cultural Tourism Offerings, Skills, and Knowledge

In our community, we know the value of sharing and learning, while also embracing humility. You might not realize it, but the knowledge and skills you have are special and not everyone knows what you know.

This part of the application lets you talk about the experiences you offer and the products you create. Take a moment to think about what you bring to our community and how it connects to our culture.

As you fill out this section, see it as an opportunity to share the depth and breadth of your connection to Mi'kmaw culture. Your contribution, no matter how small it may seem to you, is a vital thread in the fabric of our shared heritage.

Use this space to reflect upon the knowledge you carry. **Check all that apply.** (Note: These are examples to spark thoughts and ideas; they are not a complete list. Please add to this.)

Cultural Knowledge and Practices

- ☐ Prayers and Ceremony (sweat lodge, smudging) _____
- ☐ Storytelling (legends, events) _____
- ☐ Traditional Skills (navigation, drumming) _____
- ☐ Treaty Knowledge / Historian (geography, place names) _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Language and Education

- ☐ Mi'kmaw Language Speaker
- ☐ Mi'kmaw Language Learner
- ☐ Mi'kmaw Linguist
- ☐ Cultural Education / Reconciliation Training / Consulting Services: _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Land-Based Learning and Traditional Practices

- ☐ Hunt (deer, moose) _____
- ☐ Trap (beaver, rabbit) _____
- ☐ Fish (salmon, eel) _____
- ☐ Medicine (Identifying, using, and preparing traditional medicines) _____
- ☐ Harvest (Gathering traditional plants, berries, etc) _____
- ☐ Guide (Cultural and environmental guiding) _____
- ☐ Land-Based Skills Workshops (basket weaving, traditional tool making) _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Artistic and Creative Expression:

- ☐ Artist / Crafter (wooden flowers, paintings) _____
- ☐ Designer (textiles, websites, beading) _____
- ☐ Performer (dancer, drummer, rapper) _____
- ☐ Writer: _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Indigenous Science and Environmental Wisdom

- ☐ Mi'kmaw Numeracy, Engineering, & Math: _____
- ☐ Traditional Ecological Knowledge: _____
- ☐ Land and Water Guardianship: _____
- ☐ Sustainable Practices & Conservation: _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Sports, Recreation, and Cultural Activities

- ☐ Sport and Culture (Waltos, canoe racing) _____
- ☐ Traditional Games and Activities _____
- ☐ Other _____

Please Check All That Apply: ☐ I offer experiences (Host). ☐ I create products (Maker).

What products or experiences do you provide for customers? _____

How do your products/experiences integrate traditional Mi'kmaw knowledge, teachings, and/or practices? In other words, how is your heritage reflected in your cultural tourism offerings? If you don't reflect your cultural heritage at the moment, can you see opportunities for this in the future? (The Mi'kmawitasik Team can also assist with this.)

What do you consider to be your top three specialty areas of expertise?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Do your products/experiences contain non-Mi'kmaw elements? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please describe if so: _____

Are you willing to participate in self-assessment / professional development opportunities? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Mi'kmaq have a history of working together and helping one another through mentorship. Are you open to engaging in mentorship opportunities within the Mi'kmawitasik program? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

If yes, are you interested in being: ☐ Mentor (*teaching others*) ☐ Mentee (*learning from others*)

Note: Individuals who offer experiences or personal services to children are required to complete a Vulnerable Sector Check.



SECTION 5

NATIONHOOD

Mi'kmawitasik is a representation and exercise of Mi'kmaw Nationhood and cultural integrity. As a member of Mi'kmawitasik, you become a Cultural Ambassador for the Mi'kmaw Nation. Orientation and training are a requirement for membership.

UNDRIP Article 31: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.

We have the right to keep and take care of our cultural heritage, knowledge, and ways of expressing ourselves, including our understanding of nature, stories, art, and sports.

We also have the right to control how this knowledge and these expressions are used, ensuring they are respected and preserved for future generations.

Your Mi'kmawitasik Member Responsibilities include:

1. Compliance with program guidelines and standards, reflecting the principles of
 - ◆ **Pkijo'tmnej** (Bee-gee-joe-dim-n-edge) - Let's make it last
 - ◆ **Wlo'tmnej** (Wool-owe-dim-n-edge) - Let's treat it well
 - ◆ **Maliaptmnej** (Molly-op-dim-n-edge) - Let's take care of it
2. Respect for and commitment to Mi'kmaw culture and customs, acting as a Cultural Ambassador.
3. Accurate representation of certified products, showcasing undeniably authentic Mi'kmaw culture for a genuine visitor connection.
4. Compliance with local laws and regulations, upholding ethical practices while adhering to **L'nuimk** (ool-noo-imk) principles.
5. Representing the collective interests of your people, contributing to Mi'kmaw culture, heritage, and economic growth.

Acceptance of Responsibilities

Becoming a member of Mi'kmawitasik is a privilege, and we ask members to bring their best and to represent our Nation with pride, respect, and integrity. The Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs reserves the right to revoke membership at any time if a member contravenes the Mi'kmawitasik Membership Agreement.

Do you agree to uphold the above responsibilities as a Mi'kmawitasik Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you willing to participate in an initial orientation session to fully understand the rights and responsibilities for becoming a Mi'kmawitasik member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

SECTION 6

APPLICANT'S BUSINESS INFORMATION

This section is optional. Please complete this section if you own a Mi'kmaw business currently and would like to share information about your business for marketing purposes. The Mi'kmawitasik Admin Team will work with you to develop your online profile.

Note: Individuals and business owners are not obliged as a requirement of this program to register their businesses federally and/or provincially unless they choose to do so. You may not have access to some benefits, but you will not be excluded. The Mi'kmawitasik training program can assist members to understand their business options.

Name of Applicant's Business _____

Business Number _____

Number of Years in Business _____

Business Structure

- ☐ Sole Proprietorship ☐ Corporation ☐ Partnership (Percentage of Ownership: _____ %)
☐ Joint Venture (Percentage of Ownership: _____ %)

Type of Cultural Tourism Business:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Accommodation | <input type="radio"/> Recreation and Outdoor Adventure |
| <input type="radio"/> Arts and Heritage | <input type="radio"/> Retail |
| <input type="radio"/> Food and Beverage | <input type="radio"/> Transportation |
| <input type="radio"/> Entertainment | <input type="radio"/> Tourism and Travel Trade and Services
(organizations that support tourism) |
| <input type="radio"/> Events and Conferences | |
| <input type="radio"/> Other _____ | |

Business Address _____

City

Province/State

Country

Postal/Zip Code

Business Mailing Address (if different) _____

City

Province/State

Country

Postal/Zip Code

Business Email _____

Primary Business Phone Number _____

Secondary Business Phone Number _____

Business Contact Name (if different) _____

Business Contact Title (if different) _____

Business Contact Email (if different) _____

Business Contact Phone (if different) _____



Let's write your business profile. What additional information about you or your business would you like to include in your online profile? Some ideas to consider include:

How did you gain your knowledge and skills? What makes your products or services unique? Why do you do what you do? What are some of your success stories? What are you most proud of?

Note: We can work with you upon acceptance to build your final public profile for the Mi'kmawitasik website.

Where can a tourist or consumer find your products and services? Include options such as:

Do you have a physical location and offer regular open hours? Are your products sold in other stores? Galleries? Online? Do you regularly attend different cultural gatherings or business events? Do you partner with other organizations to offer experiences?

Social Media

Website

Facebook

Instagram

Other

SECTION 7

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

The documents listed below are **required** to fulfill application requirements and must be submitted with this application by all applicants. Please check the boxes below to confirm that the following documents are attached:

☐ Photocopy or Phone Photo of Status Card **or** Wula Na Kinu Membership Card

Do you provide personal services to children? ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Vulnerable Sector Check – Required for those providing personal services to children

(Note: Please visit the website of your local police service for details regarding this process.)

SECTION 8

OPTIONAL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

The following documents may be submitted to strengthen the application and support the Mi'kmawitasik Committee's assessment, but are not required. Submitting supporting documentation may help shorten assessment timelines in some cases. The Mi'kmawitasik Committee may, at times, request any of the below documentation specifically from an application via written request to support their assessment of the application. Please check the boxes below to indicate which, if any, documents are attached:

- ☐ Letter of support from: ☐ Elder ☐ Knowledge Holder ☐ Chief ☐ Councilor ☐ Grand Councilor
- ☐ Letter to committee explaining the applicant's cultural connections, community connections, Elders and Knowledge Keepers who the applicant learned from, descriptions of vision or goals, etc.
- ☐ Testimonials from clients or customers ☐ Marriage Certificates
- ☐ Photographs or videos of products or services ☐ Other (Please Define) _____
- ☐ Adoption Records _____

SECTION 9

DECLARATION

I, _____ (name) declare that the information and attachments I am providing in this application are accurate, true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if I have deliberately given false information or have withheld any pertinent information to my application, my application may be revoked upon review by the Mi'kmawitasik Administration Team. I also understand that by applying for this program, I am aware that membership includes both rights and responsibilities that I am prepared to accept.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

SECTION 10

MI'KMAWITASIK CONSENT FORM

I, _____ (name) of _____ (First Nation, city, town, municipality), in the province of _____, give consent to the Mi'kmawitasik Selection Process for the purposes of confirming my name on the Band List of the above noted First Nation within my application. I consent to the release of such information as necessary for the Mi'kmawitasik Selection Process to make the appropriate decision on my application. I understand that this release of information to the Mi'kmawitasik Selection Process will only be used in conjunction with the application process and that the information will not be disclosed to any other person for any other purpose.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

Our Mi'kmawitasik Application Committee will review your submission carefully. We respect the depth of cultural heritage and personal journey that each application represents. You will be contacted regarding the next steps.

WELA'LIN

Thank you for completing the Mi'kmawitasik application. Your dedication to preserving and promoting Mi'kmaw culture and traditions is invaluable to our collective journey. The information you have shared is a crucial step in strengthening our community and fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of our rich heritage. Our Mi'kmawitasik Application Committee will review your submission carefully. We respect the depth of cultural heritage and personal journey that each application represents. You will be contacted regarding the next steps.

