



## SUPPLEMENTARY COMMUNITY GUIDE

Affirming Indigenous Citizenship or Membership — Community-Facing Supplement to MAPP 1.58

### Purpose of this Guide

This guide explains when Western University may request affirmation of Indigenous citizenship or membership from community members, what may be needed, and how your information is protected. It supports Western's [MAPP 1.58](#) — Affirmation of Indigenous Citizenship or Membership, using clear, accessible language for community users. If this content is triggering, support resources are available in the [Procedure](#) on page 12.

### What is affirmation and when does it apply?

Affirmation is an Indigenous-led process that confirms a person's Indigenous citizenship or membership only when it provides a material benefit — tangible, intangible, or authority-based. It is required only when identifying as Indigenous gives access to a benefit.

### When Affirmation Applies

#### Tangible benefits:

- Indigenous-designated employment positions
- Contracted roles (Elders, Knowledge Keepers, cultural educators)
- Honoraria for Indigenous-specific invitations
- Paid speaking roles connected to Indigenous identity
- Funded programs or grants for Indigenous participants

#### Intangible benefits:

- Priority access to spaces or programs
- Opportunities reserved for Indigenous-led teaching or cultural support
- Invitations to represent an Indigenous community or Nation

#### Authority-based benefits:

- Providing teachings or ceremony
- Offering community-recognized knowledge
- Speaking as a representative of an Indigenous Nation or community
- Taking on roles requiring Indigenous authority

### When Affirmation Is Not Required

**Affirmation is not needed for attending general events, participating in open community programming, sharing lived experiences informally, or visiting socially.**

### What to Prepare (Community Members)

Submit three (3) components: two documents proving Indigenous citizenship/membership, and one required Positionality Statement.

#### Two (2) Proof Documents (examples, non-exhaustive)

- Citizenship/membership card or letter from your Nation/community or recognized authority
- Inuit beneficiary documentation
- Métis citizenship from recognized Métis governments
- Letters from Indigenous relatives
- Letters from Elders, Clan Mothers, Lodge Keepers, Knowledge Keepers
- Lineage documentation (parent/grandparent status card, genealogy)
- Sworn affidavit with historical/genealogical account (for those impacted by displacement)

**Required: Relational Positionality Statement**

- Nation, community, and family connections, including lineal descent
- Relational responsibilities and roles within your community
- Cultural, language, and land-based ties
- Impacts of colonial systems (e.g., residential schools, Sixties Scoop, enfranchisement) on documentation
- How you carry or express Indigenous authority

**How Your Information Is Handled**

Your information is confidential, stored securely, and reviewed only by designated Office of Indigenous Initiatives staff (and the Indigenous Affirmation Advisory Committee, if needed). Departments and units receive only an eligibility decision. Reviews typically take about three weeks after all materials are received.

**Appeals**

If your declaration is not affirmed, you may request an oral appeal hearing. You will receive a written decision. The appeal decision is final.

**Quick Checklist**

- Prepare two proof documents
- Prepare your required Positionality Statement
- Allow approximately three weeks for review after submission

**Contact**

Office of Indigenous Initiatives (OII)  
Email: [indigenous.affirmation@uwo.ca](mailto:indigenous.affirmation@uwo.ca)