

## Confirming Aboriginal matches in the 1901, 1911 and 1916 censuses

This document explains the process used for confirming that an individual was in fact Aboriginal. It also includes a description of the codes used to denote the strength of an Aboriginal match.

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### A) Matching Methods

There were four primary methods which were used for confirming Aboriginal matches (whether a person was Aboriginal) in the, 1901, 1911 and 1916 censuses which will henceforth be referred to as method A, B, C and D. Method A was used first, Method B was used second and Method C was used third. If an individual was connected to Winnipeg's Roostertown settlement method D was used.

**A:** The first method for confirming Aboriginal matches was using information on individuals found in the censuses, namely tribal origin and language. Of these, the most weight was given to a matching tribal origin, followed by a matching colour and finally by a matching language. Tertiary factors were also used to help establish the strength of a match, but did not warrant a match by themselves. In the codes, Aboriginal matches found using this method are highlighted in **yellow**.

**Racial or Tribal Origin** = Match if: HB/Half Breed, EB/English Breed, SB/Scotch Breed, IB/Irish Breed, FB/French Breed, CB/Cree or Chippewa Breed, OB/other breed<sup>1</sup>, Métis/Metisse, Métis Francais/MF, Indian or name of specific First Nation (ie. Cree). There were a number of other possible answers that suggested a person was Aboriginal, but these were the most common.

**Colour**= Match if: R (Red), HB (Half Breed), EB (English Breed), SB (Scotch Breed), IB (Irish Breed), FB (French Breed), CB (Cree Breed), OB (other breed), B<sup>2</sup> (Breed/Black), I (Indian). There were a number of other possible answers that suggested a person was Aboriginal, but these were the most common.

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<sup>1</sup> When matching an individual who's tribal origin is OB or Other Breed, a person will be considered a weak match (without other supporting evidence) because OB can be used in reference to a non-Aboriginal person. For example, someone who is half English and half Asian.

<sup>2</sup> When matching an individual whose colour is denoted as B (which can either represent Breed or Black), Tribal Origin or language must also be present to ensure that a Black individual is not mistaken for an Aboriginal person.

**Language** = Match if: Aboriginal language is recorded in the mother tongue category.

**Tertiary Factors**= Positive if: Aspects outside of Tribal Origin and Language suggest a match. For example have an Aboriginal name, born in Canada, work in common Aboriginal professions, or live on reserve.

Negative if= Aspects outside of tribal origin and language contradict a match. For example are born outside of North America, responses are crossed out or are illegible.

Colour was not recorded in each census. Below is a list of which was recorded each year. In 1901, when language was recorded it was much easier to find Aboriginal matches.

**1901** =Racial or Tribal Origin, Colour and Language. Because colour was only recorded in 1901 the codes in that year are slightly different. The existence of a third column that was relevant for identifying Aboriginal people likely contributed to the large number of people found using method A in that year.

**1911** = Racial and Tribal Origin and Language.

**1916** = Racial and Tribal Origin and Language.

**B:** The second method for confirming Aboriginal matches was linking records between censuses. For example, if an individual recorded in the 1916 census was also found in the 1901 or 1911 census, and was recorded as an Aboriginal, it affected the strength of match in the 1916 census. In the codes, Aboriginal matches found using this method are highlighted in purple. See appendix 1 for rules when a non-match is linked to an Aboriginal match in another census. See appendix 2 for rules when an Aboriginal match in is linked to an Aboriginal match in another census.

**C:** The third method for confirming Aboriginal matches was the Aboriginal status of immediate family members (parents, siblings and children). If an individual was found to not be Aboriginal but a member of their immediate family was, it affected the strength of the match.<sup>3</sup> In the codes, links using this method are highlighted in blue. See appendix 3 for rules when some family members are Aboriginal matches while others are not.

**D:** The fourth method for confirming Aboriginal matches was through linking individuals to outside sources that stated one of the following: 1. that they were Aboriginal 2. confirmed that a member of their nuclear family was Aboriginal or 3. That linked them to someone who was already confirmed to be an Aboriginal match. This was primarily done when a person was connected to the Roostertown settlement. Commonly used outside sources included:

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<sup>3</sup> When matching using method C, due to the prevalence of adoption and remarriage, it was also very important to take tertiary factors (ex. last names or whether a couple is married in multiple censuses) into consideration when defining an individual's nuclear family.

*Metis Families* by Morin

*The Genealogy of the First Metis Nation* by Sprague and Frye

*The Winnipeg Free Press Archives*

The 1881, 1891, 1906 and 1921 census

MNC Metis Scrip records

Manitoba Vital Statistics

First World War Service Records

## **B)Codes for Matching**

Note: When doing analysis, it is probably worthwhile to trust High and Medium Matches, but not worth it to trust Low Matches.

### **High**

1.1 Tribal Origin = Match

1.2 Tribal Origin = Match + Language = Match

1.3 Medium Match + positive tertiary factors

1.4 No match + High Link to a High Match

1.5 High Match + Low, Medium or High Link to a High Medium Low Match

1.6 Medium or Low Match + High Link to a High Match

1.7 Tribal Origin = Match + Colour = Match

1.8 Colour + Match + Language = Match

1.9 Tribal origin = Match + Colour = Match + Language = Match

### **Medium**

2.1 Language = Match

2.2 High Match + negative tertiary factors

2.3 Low Match + positive tertiary factors

2.4 No Match + Medium Link to a High Match

2.5 No Match + Medium or High Link to a medium Match

- 2.6 Medium Match + Low or Medium Link to a Low, Medium or High Match
- 2.7 Medium Match + High Link to a Low or Medium match
- 2.8 Low Match + Medium Link to a Medium or High Match
- 2.9 Low Match + High Link to a Medium Match
- 2.10 Child is No Match + Mother or Father are a High Match
- 2.11 Sibling is no Match + Sibling is a High Match
- 2.12 Family member is no match + Multiple Siblings/Parents are Medium or High match
- 2.13 Colour = Match

### Low

- 3.1 Medium match + negative tertiary factors or High Match with very negative tertiary factors or No Match with Positive tertiary factors
- 3.2 No Match + Low Link to a Low, Medium or High Match
- 3.3 No Link + Medium or High link to a Low match
- 3.4 Low Match + Low Link to a Low Medium High Match
- 3.5 Low Match + Medium or High Link to a Low Match
- 3.6 Mother and Father are no Match + Child is a Low, Medium or High Match
- 3.7 Child No match + Mother or Father = Low or Medium Match
- 3.8 Sibling is no Match + Sibling is a Low or Medium Match
- 3.9 Family member is no match + Multiple Siblings/Parents are a low match
- 3.10 Tribal Origin is OB or Other Breed

### C)Recording Matches in the Census Documents

#### Winnipeg Census Documents

In the 1901-1916 Winnipeg Census documents three categories were used to record Aboriginal matches.

**Aboriginal census:** Uses the codes listed above to record the strength of a person's Aboriginal match according to methods A, B and C.

**Aboriginal External:** Answered as Yes "Y," or No "N." Uses method D to conclude whether a person is Aboriginal using non census sources.

**Aboriginal Final:** Using their own discretion and the Aboriginal census and Aboriginal External columns, the researcher comes to a final conclusion as to whether a person is Aboriginal or not. Recorded as Yes "Y," No "N," or Unsure "U".

**D) Appendix 1: Rules when an Aboriginal non-match is linked with an Aboriginal match from another census**

Explanation of chart: This chart is meant to be used to establish the strength of a match when an Aboriginal non-match is linked with an Aboriginal match from another census. The X axis represents the strength of the link. The Y axis represents the strength of the match.

Example: When working with the 1916 census, an Aboriginal non-match is highly linked to a medium match in the 1911 census. Using the chart, this person will now become a medium match, instead of a non-match, in the 1916 census.

	<b><u>Low Link</u></b>	<b><u>Medium Link</u></b>	<b><u>High Link</u></b>
<b><u>Low Match</u></b>	Low (3.2)	Low (3.3)	Low (3.3)
<b><u>Medium Match</u></b>	Low (3.2)	Medium (2.5)	Medium (2.5)
<b><u>High Match</u></b>	Low (3.2)	Medium (2.4)	High (1.4)

X axis= Strength of Link (to the other census)

Y axis= Strength of match (whether or not they appear Aboriginal)

**Appendix 2: Rules when an Aboriginal match is linked with an Aboriginal match from another census**

Explanation of chart: This chart is meant to be used when recalculating the strength of a match when an Aboriginal match is linked with an Aboriginal match from another census. The X axis represents the strength of the link. The Y axis represents the possible combinations in regards to the strength of matches.

Example: When working with the 1916 census, someone who is a low match is highly linked to someone who is high match in 1911. Using the chart, this person will now become a high match, instead of a low one, in the 1916 census.

	<b><u>Low Link</u></b>	<b><u>Medium Link</u></b>	<b><u>High Link</u></b>
<b><u>Low Match-&gt; Low Match</u></b>	Low (3.4)	Low (3.5)	Low (3.5)
<b><u>Low Match-&gt; Medium Match</u></b>	Low (3.4)	Medium (2.8)	Medium (2.9)
<b><u>Low Match-&gt; High Match</u></b>	Low (3.4)	Medium (2.8)	High (1.6)
<b><u>Medium Match-&gt; Low Match</u></b>	Medium (2.6)	Medium (2.6)	Medium (2.7)
<b><u>Medium Match-&gt;Medium Match</u></b>	Medium (2.6)	Medium (2.6)	Medium (2.7)
<b><u>Medium Match-&gt;High Match</u></b>	Medium (2.6)	Medium (2.6)	High (1.6)
<b><u>High Match-&gt;Low Match</u></b>	High (1.5)	High (1.5)	High (1.5)
<b><u>High Match-&gt;Medium Match</u></b>	High (1.5)	High (1.5)	High (1.5)
<b><u>High Match-&gt;High Match</u></b>	High (1.5)	High (1.5)	High (1.5)

X axis= Strength of Link (to the other census)

Y Axis= Strength of match (whether or not they appear Aboriginal) -> Strength of match of Linked record

**Appendix 3: Rules when some family members are confirmed Aboriginal and others are not**

Explanation of chart: This chart is meant to be used to recalculate the strength of Aboriginal non-matches who have immediate family members who are Aboriginal matches. In this chart the X axis represents the quality of match for the already matched relative. The Y axis represents the possible combinations of matched and non-matched relatives.

For example: If a child is an Aboriginal non-match and his/her mother is a high match, the child will now become a medium match instead of a non-match.

	<u>Low Match</u>	<u>Medium Match</u>	<u>High Match</u>
<b><u>Child Aboriginal-&gt;Mother + Father Not</u></b>	Low (3.6)	Low (3.6)	Low (3.6)
<b><u>Mother or Father Aboriginal -&gt;Child Not</u></b>	Low (3.7)	Low (3.7)	Medium (2.10)
<b><u>Sibling Aboriginal-&gt;Sibling Not</u></b>	Low (3.8)	Low (3.8)	Medium (2.11)
<b><u>Multiple Siblings/Parents Aboriginal-&gt; Family Member Not</u></b>	Low (3.9)	Medium (2.12)	Medium (2.12)

X axis=Quality of Relatives match (whether or not they appear Aboriginal)

Y axis= Aboriginal relative -> non Aboriginal relative