Legally reclaiming your traditional name can be a part of your healing journey and help define who you are as an Indigenous person.

You can legally reclaim your (or your child’s) traditional name in Alberta if you are a resident of the province and a survivor of residential schools, the 60s scoop, day schools, or a survivor’s family member.

Traditional names include:

Name used before residential schools, 60s scoop, or day schools, or

Name you received in a cultural naming ceremony.

Following the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) recommendation #17, there is no application cost to change your birth certificate, driver’s licence and Alberta I.D. card.

**HOW DO I LEGALLY RECLAIM MY TRADITIONAL NAME?**

1. Write an email with the subject title “Attention Supervisor” and explain your request before January 2024.

2. Send the email to Alberta Vital Statistics at vsregistries@gov.ab.ca or call 780-427-7013 and ask to speak with a Vital Statistics Specialist.
WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MY LEGAL NAME CHANGE?

- Contact Alberta Vital Statistics directly.
- Only go to a Registry to change your Driver’s licence or Alberta I.D. card once your legal name change is complete.
- A new name must contain only letters from the English alphabet. No numbers, symbols (other than a period, hyphen or apostrophe), or profanity.
- General name change process: Fill out the application, gather your supporting documentation, get your fingerprints taken, find existing birth certificate(s), and submit application form.

- Required documentation may vary depending on your circumstance.
  - Minimum requirements: valid government-issued photo I.D. with first and last name, proof of name (existing birth certificate), & fingerprints (for those +12 years old).
  - You may have to pay for fingerprints (fees vary) and swear an oath (fees vary). Keep your receipts to get your money back.

RECLAIM YOUR TRADITIONAL NAME - DRIVER’S LICENCE AND ALBERTA I.D. CARD

Go to your closest Alberta Registry and bring your legal name change certificate or updated birth certificate.

Find your nearest Alberta Registry at www.alberta.ca, & search Find Registry.

When you arrive at the Alberta Registry, the employee will ask you to:

1. Provide your legal name change certificate or an updated birth certificate. This is your proof that you legally reclaimed your traditional name.

2. Sign a statutory declaration - written legal document. It allows you to say your experience is true to the best of your knowledge without any other evidence.

No deadline or cost to apply.

STATUTORY DECLARATION

A Registry employee can help you write the declaration, if you require assistance. You will need to state the following:

- Your name and show proof of identity document (birth certificate, driver’s licence, Alberta I.D. card),
- You are a survivor of residential school, 60’s scoop, or a day school,
- You are reclaiming your traditional name.

At the end, you will receive a temporary paper copy of your I.D. and you will get your new Driver’s Licence or Alberta I.D. card in the mail.