

FIRST NATION GAS CARD Q's & A's

Effective January 1, 2020, the Ontario Gas Card will be discontinued.

What is new as of January 1, 2020?

Instead of the Ontario Gas Card, First Nation people will be able to use their Indian Status card (Status card), which is issued by the Government of Canada, as proof of entitlement to buy gasoline exempt of Ontario gasoline tax.

First Nation individuals will be able to use the version of the card that they currently have in their possession (or may apply to the Government of Canada to obtain a Status card if they currently are not in possession of a Status card).

- » As proof of entitlement to buy tax-exempt gasoline at on-reserve retailers, First Nation individuals will use their:
 - Certificate of Indian Status Card, including the laminated Certificate of Indian Status Card with no renewal date;
 - Secure Certificate of Indian Status Card; or
 - Temporary Confirmation of Registration Document
- » Band councils, tribal councils, and band-empowered entities will use an Ontario-issued unique identifier number issued by the Ontario Ministry of Finance.

What is being discontinued beginning January 1, 2020?

- » First Nation individuals, bands, and band councils will no longer need to apply to the Ontario Ministry of Finance for the Ontario Gas card, and will no longer need to use existing Ontario Gas Cards to purchase gasoline exempt of Ontario gasoline tax.
- » Authorized retailers will no longer accept the Ontario Gas Card as proof of rights to purchase gasoline exempt of Ontario gasoline tax.
- » The Ontario Ministry of Finance will no longer issue the Ontario Gas Card.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q1: Why are you discontinuing the Ontario Gas Card?

A1: Discontinuing the Ontario Gas Card will simplify how First Nation people and band councils buy tax-exempt gas on reserve.

It will remove the need for First Nation people to use a separate card to prove their entitlement to buy tax-exempt gas. It will also reduce red tape by eliminating the Ontario Gas Card application and renewal process.

Q2: Are on-reserve gasoline retailers ready for this change?

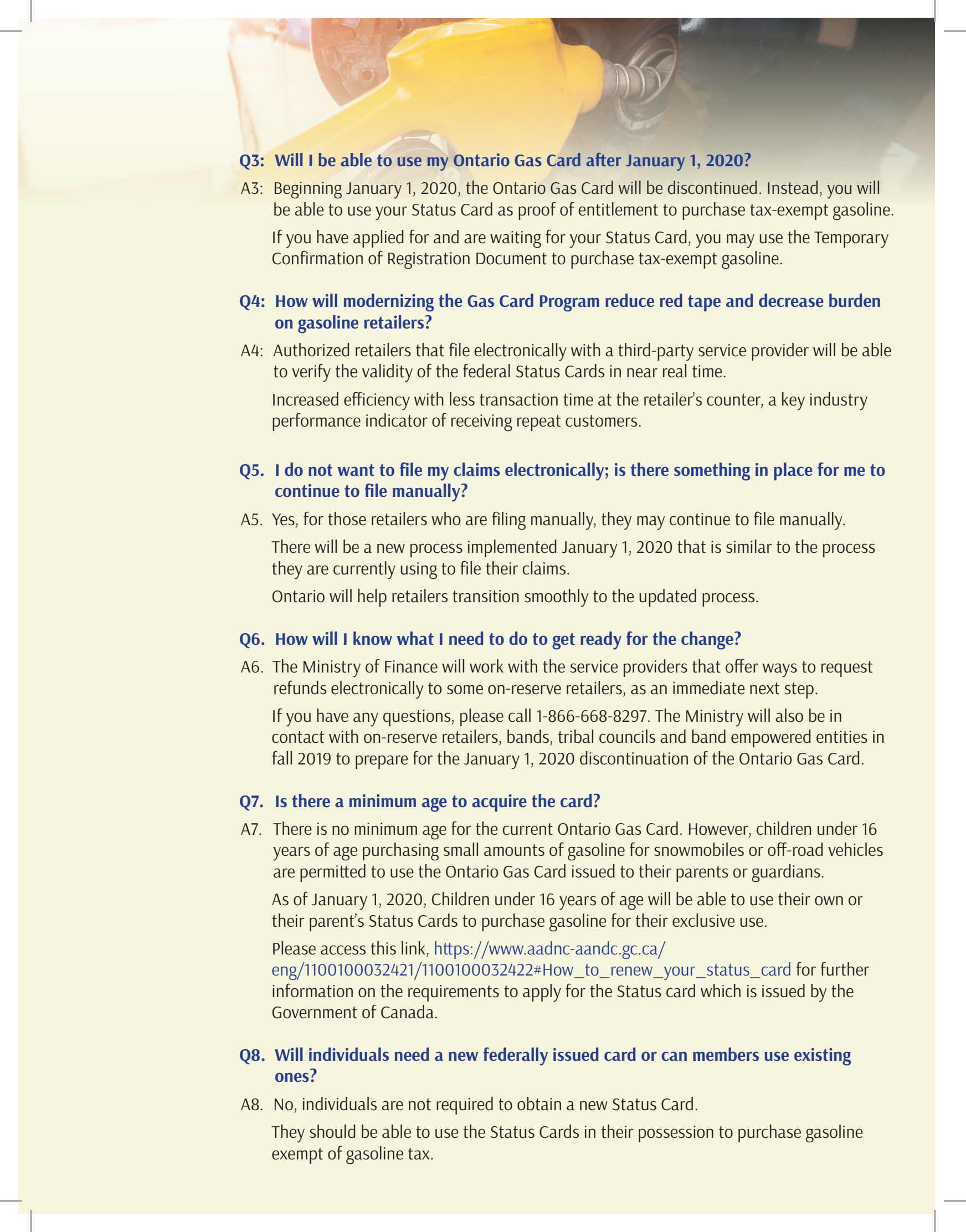
A2: The Ministry of Finance (MOF) will be working with gasoline retailers in the months leading up to the January 1, 2020 effective date to ensure they are prepared.

Retailers who request refunds electronically from MOF will follow the same steps. Federal Status Cards will be validated at point-of-sale in near real time, and for valid cards, the transaction will be completed.

Discontinuing the Ontario Gas Card will benefit on-reserve gasoline retailers:

- The Status Card is more secure, which will reduce the number of refund applications that are not able to be processed.

For retailers that file electronically, they will be able to verify the validity of a Status Card in near real-time, making it quicker to process transactions.



Q3: Will I be able to use my Ontario Gas Card after January 1, 2020?

A3: Beginning January 1, 2020, the Ontario Gas Card will be discontinued. Instead, you will be able to use your Status Card as proof of entitlement to purchase tax-exempt gasoline. If you have applied for and are waiting for your Status Card, you may use the Temporary Confirmation of Registration Document to purchase tax-exempt gasoline.

Q4: How will modernizing the Gas Card Program reduce red tape and decrease burden on gasoline retailers?

A4: Authorized retailers that file electronically with a third-party service provider will be able to verify the validity of the federal Status Cards in near real time.

Increased efficiency with less transaction time at the retailer's counter, a key industry performance indicator of receiving repeat customers.

Q5. I do not want to file my claims electronically; is there something in place for me to continue to file manually?

A5. Yes, for those retailers who are filing manually, they may continue to file manually.

There will be a new process implemented January 1, 2020 that is similar to the process they are currently using to file their claims.

Ontario will help retailers transition smoothly to the updated process.

Q6. How will I know what I need to do to get ready for the change?

A6. The Ministry of Finance will work with the service providers that offer ways to request refunds electronically to some on-reserve retailers, as an immediate next step.

If you have any questions, please call 1-866-668-8297. The Ministry will also be in contact with on-reserve retailers, bands, tribal councils and band empowered entities in fall 2019 to prepare for the January 1, 2020 discontinuation of the Ontario Gas Card.

Q7. Is there a minimum age to acquire the card?

A7. There is no minimum age for the current Ontario Gas Card. However, children under 16 years of age purchasing small amounts of gasoline for snowmobiles or off-road vehicles are permitted to use the Ontario Gas Card issued to their parents or guardians.

As of January 1, 2020, Children under 16 years of age will be able to use their own or their parent's Status Cards to purchase gasoline for their exclusive use.

Please access this link, https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100032421/1100100032422#How_to_renew_your_status_card for further information on the requirements to apply for the Status card which is issued by the Government of Canada.

Q8. Will individuals need a new federally issued card or can members use existing ones?

A8. No, individuals are not required to obtain a new Status Card.

They should be able to use the Status Cards in their possession to purchase gasoline exempt of gasoline tax.