



Office of the President

June 11, 2025

Nelson Lussier
Otipemisiwak Métis Government
Citizens' Council Representative
Provincial Secretary

Re: Mandate Letter for Justice

Dear Secretary Lussier,

It is my pleasure to appoint you as a Provincial Secretary to the Cabinet of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, holding the portfolio of Secretary of Justice.

As a Provincial Secretary and member of Cabinet, you hold a critical role in advancing our Nation's priorities and serving Métis Citizens across Alberta. Your leadership, alongside your colleagues, will help drive progress on key initiatives, including the negotiation of a modern Treaty to secure and protect our rights and self-determination; a historic opportunity to benefit current and future generations. At a time of shifting political landscapes both federally and provincially, your work must be strategic, adaptable, and rooted in our Constitution's vision of fairness, accountability, and the advancement of Métis self-government in Alberta. Together, we will uphold these principles while ensuring our laws and policies reflect the needs of Citizens in all five Métis Territories and beyond.

The Otipemisiwak Métis Government is committed to strengthening our Nation-to-Nation and government-to-government relationships, asserting our jurisdiction, and delivering programs that improve the lives of Métis families and communities. As both an ambassador and key part of the executive branch of this government, as well as in a renewed focus on developing our governance framework here at home, your portfolio will play a vital role in shaping our future. As outlined in the Self-Government Act, you will collaborate with the Citizens' Council, engage meaningfully with Citizens, and ensure transparent decision-making that aligns with our collective goals. The path to a modern Treaty requires unity, persistence, and bold leadership; qualities I know you will bring to this role.

I am confident that your dedication will help us meet these challenges and seize the opportunities ahead. By working with integrity and purpose, you contribute to a stronger, more self-sufficient Métis government that honours our past while building a brighter future. Thank you for stepping forward in service to our people, and I look forward to achieving meaningful progress together.

With respect to your portfolio area, over the next 12 months, you are empowered with the following mandate:

1. **Support the Development of a Métis Justice Framework** in collaboration with Administration, that incorporates traditional dispute resolution methods while addressing contemporary legal challenges facing our communities.
2. **Establish Community Justice Programs** by supporting Administration initiatives that include restorative justice initiatives, elder mediation circles, and culturally-grounded sentencing alternatives.
3. **Combat Systemic Discrimination** by advocating for implementation of training programs for justice system professionals and the creation of Métis-specific court support services.
4. **Strengthen Legal Partnerships** with law schools, legal aid organizations, and provincial/federal justice departments to improve access to justice.
5. **Advocate for Policy Reforms** at all government levels to address the overrepresentation of Métis in the criminal justice system.
6. **Support the Development of Youth Justice Initiatives** by Administration and external bodies, which focus on prevention, diversion, and rehabilitation through culturally-relevant programming.
7. **Advance Justice Infrastructure** by supporting Administration developed programs including dedicated Métis court workers, community legal clinics, and public legal education resources based on available funding.

In your role, you will have support from and liaise with the Office of the President, and the Justice Department through their associated Directors and Department heads.

As you move forward in this vital role, remember that your leadership is part of a greater journey; one shaped by the resilience of our ancestors and the dreams of future generations. The work ahead will demand courage, creativity, and unwavering commitment to our Nation, our Citizens, and our Government; but it is through this collective effort that we will secure true self-determination, protect our rights, and build a thriving Métis Nation within Alberta. I have every confidence in your ability to rise to this challenge with integrity and heart. Together, let us honor our past, serve our people, and forge a legacy of strength and unity. *Marsee*, thank you, for answering this call to leadership.

Sincerely,



Andrea Sandmaier

President

Otipemisiwak Métis Government