Otipemisiwak Métis Government

Ombudsman

Status of the Office of the Ombudsman

August 18, 2026

This brief report is intended to provide an overview of the current status of the Office of the Ombudsman and the steps taken to date to fill that role appropriately.

At the May 21, 2026 meeting of the Citizens' Council, the appointment of the individual appointed as Ombudsman immediately following the 2023 General Election was revoked in accordance with section 12(2) of the *Ombudsman Act.* This section of the Act provides for the revocation of the Ombudsman's appointment by special resolution of the Citizens' Council for cause or incapacity.

Following the revocation of the previous Ombudsman's appointment, the process began to recruit and appoint a new Ombudsman. While that process is in progress, the Office of the Ombudsman is in a caretaker state—during this period, the Acting Ombudsman continues to monitor communications directed to official Ombudsman channels, but active investigations are on pause.

At present, applications have closed for the role of Ombudsman, and shortlisted applicants are being reviewed, with interviews expected to take place over the coming weeks. With the assistance of Otipemisiwak Métis Government Human Resources staff, the Citizens' Council Nominations Committee will review the applicants to select a suitable candidate to put forward for appointment.

Once the Nominations Committee has made their recommendation to the Citizens' Council regarding a suitable candidate, the Citizens' Council as a whole will consider that recommendation and appoint the recommended individual for the balance of the current term (i.e., until the upcoming 2027 General Election)—or direct the Committee to bring forward another recommendation if the first is determined not to be suitable.

Once an individual has been appointed, taken their oath of office, and been onboarded into their role, the office of the Ombudsman will return to full operations. We are hopeful that a qualified candidate will be selected by mid-September, supporting the continued independent oversight and service provided through the Office of the Ombudsman.

Jeannette Blumentrath, Acting Ombudsman