Otipemisiwak
Métis Government

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Office of the President

November 2, 2026

Trevor Ward
Otipemisiwak Métis Government
Citizens' Representative for the Rocky View Métis District
E: tward@metis.org

Re: Otipemisiwak Métis Government Cabinet Mandate Letter for the Portfolio of Health, Wellbeing, and Seniors

Dear Secretary Ward,

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 Health, Wellbeing, and Seniors.

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, which align to support the negotiation of a modern Treaty to secure and protect our rights and self-determination as a Métis Government. This is 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. **Advance a Métis Health and Wellbeing Strategy** grounded in Métis values, ways of knowing, cultural practices, and the priorities expressed by Citizens, recognizing the interconnectedness of physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and community wellbeing. Champion a distinctions-based approach that guides the Department's work in responding to the needs of Métis Citizens while navigating the realities of external funding, and advocate for the partnerships, policy commitments, and sustainable investments necessary to advance Métis-defined health priorities.
2. **Advance Equitable Access to Primary and Preventive Healthcare** by championing distinctions-based approaches that address barriers experienced by Métis Citizens, particularly those living in rural, northern, and remote communities, and advocating for culturally safe services, improved care coordination, and continuity of care.
3. **Champion a Métis-led Continuum of Mental Wellness, Substance Use, and Addictions Recovery** by supporting the completion, integration, and long-term sustainability of recovery services, stabilization, and recovery-focused housing, in collaboration with the Secretary responsible for Housing and Infrastructure and supported by Administration.
4. **Advance the Health and Healthy Aging of Métis Elders and Seniors** by championing culturally appropriate healthcare, chronic disease prevention, primary and continuing care access, dementia supports, caregiver health and support, palliative care, and health navigation, in collaboration with relevant portfolios and subject to identified resources.
5. **Advance Strategic Health Partnerships and Cultural Safety** with provincial and federal governments, healthcare organizations, and regulatory bodies to improve Métis participation in health-system decisions, strengthen culturally safe, trauma-informed, and anti-racist care, and support measurable improvements in healthcare access and outcomes, while advocating for meaningful Métis representation, recognition, and accountability within provincial health governance and service delivery, including mechanisms to address systemic barriers experienced by Métis Citizens.
6. **Champion Recognition and Appropriate Integration of Métis Traditional Healing**, cultural practices, and ways of knowing within healthcare, guided by Elders and Knowledge Keepers, respecting cultural knowledge, Métis self-determination, and Citizens' choices in care.
7. **Champion Métis Interests in Alberta's Evolving Health System** by advancing coordinated review of proposed health legislation, regulations, policies, and governance reforms, and advocating for meaningful Métis participation in decisions affecting healthcare access, quality, and accountability.
8. **Advance Distinctions-Based Federal Health Relations with Canada**, including opportunities for Métis health legislation, formal agreements, recognition of Métis health priorities and jurisdiction, and sustainable long-term funding arrangements, in collaboration with the Office of the President and supported by Administration.
9. **Champion Accountability, Métis Health Data Governance, and Evidence-Informed Decision-Making** by supporting measurable health outcomes, evaluation, and responsible financial stewardship, ensuring findings inform policy advocacy, strategic priorities, and long-term investment decisions.

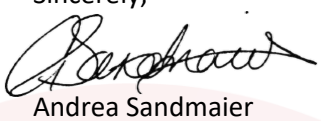
10. **Champion Responsible and Sustainable Investment in Métis-Led Health Priorities** by supporting multi-year funding opportunities, intergovernmental agreements, and evidence-informed resource planning, with due consideration for financial sustainability, organizational capacity, and long-term obligations.

In your role, you will have support from and liaise with the Office of the President, the Senior Executive Officer, and the Health Department through their associated Directors and Department heads. You will provide Cabinet and Citizens' Council with regular reporting on progress, emerging legislative and policy matters, emerging priorities, strategic risks and opportunities, and financial sustainability.

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 honour 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