Otipemisiwak
Métis Government

780-455-2200 · 1-877-454-0684
mna@metis.org · albertametis.com
Delia Gray Building · 11738 Kingsway Avenue · Edmonton, AB · T5G 0X5

Office of the President

November 2, 2026

Catherine Schnell
Otipemisiwak Métis Government
Citizens' Representative for the Medicine Hat Métis District
cschnell@metis.org

Re: Otipemisiwak Métis Government Cabinet Mandate Letter for the Portfolio of Housing & Infrastructure

Dear Secretary Schnell,

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 Housing & Infrastructure.

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:

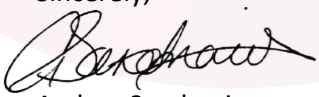
1. **Support a Métis Housing Strategy** to be developed and implemented by Administration that addresses the spectrum of needs from emergency shelters to home ownership across urban, rural, and northern communities.
2. **Advance Infrastructure Development** by supporting Administration efforts to establish Métis-specific building standards and prioritizing projects that serve as community hubs while meeting environmental sustainability goals.
3. **Oversee Affordable Housing Stock Expansion** by supporting Administration's engagement in strategic acquisitions, partnerships with developers, and innovative financing models that increase availability while reducing wait times.
4. **Create Specialized Housing Solutions** by collaborating with Administration to build, develop, or acquire transition homes, recovery residences, and culturally-appropriate senior living facilities that incorporate traditional design elements.
5. **Advocate for Property Tax Exemptions** and other fiscal measures to reduce operating costs and increase reinvestment in housing maintenance and improvements.
6. **Establish Infrastructure Partnerships** with federal and provincial governments to secure long-term funding for developments in support of Otipemisiwak Métis Government goals and objectives.
7. **Facilitate Transition of the Métis Housing** and its associated corporations to become one or more Institutions of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, as set out in the Constitution and Transition Plan, with support from the Senior Executive Officer.
8. **Support the Capital Projects & Expenditure Review Committee of Cabinet**, alongside your Cabinet colleagues to transform decision-making, approval, transparency and accountability processes with respect to Capital projects and major expenditure decisions, to align with the goals and aims of the Constitution.

In your role, you will have support from and liaise with the Office of the President, the Senior Executive Officer, Métis Housing, Facilities and Building Operations Department, and associated Directors and/or 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 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