Otipemisiwak
Métis Government

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Office of the President

November 2, 2026

Gabrielle Blatz
Otipemisiwak Métis Government
Women's Representative
Provincial Secretary Women, Gender Equity and Inclusivity
E: gblatz@metis.org

Re: Otipemisiwak Métis Government Cabinet Mandate Letter for the Portfolio of Women, Gender Equity and Inclusivity, and Justice

Dear Secretary Blatz,

It is my pleasure to re-affirm your appointment as Provincial Secretary to the Cabinet of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, holding the portfolio of Secretary of Women, Gender Equity and Inclusivity, and to advise you of the addition of the Justice portfolio to your existing mandate.

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. **Address Systemic Barriers** in collaboration with all Departments and Institutions in support of Métis Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals, in order to ensure gender perspectives are integrated across all government policies and programs.
2. **Build Strategic Partnerships** with advocacy organizations to expand opportunities in support of Métis Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ Citizens that align with the goals and objectives of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.
3. **Support Intergenerational Knowledge Transfer** by supporting Administration in the establishment of safe, culturally-grounded spaces for mentorship and intergenerational knowledge sharing that centre the experiences of Métis Women and Girls.
4. **Ensure Accountability Measures are Implemented** by Administration to track outcomes and ensure services meet the diverse needs and expectations of Métis Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ Citizens.
5. **Support the Development of a Métis Justice Framework** in collaboration with Administration, that sets out the vision, principles, strategic pillars, desired outcomes, and long-term direction of the Justice Department, and incorporates traditional dispute resolution methods while addressing contemporary legal challenges facing our communities.
6. **Expand and Strengthen Community Justice Programs** by supporting existing and new Administration initiatives that include restorative justice initiatives, elder mediation circles, and culturally-grounded sentencing alternatives.
7. **Combat Systemic Discrimination** by advocating for implementation of training programs for justice system professionals and the creation of Métis-specific justice navigation services.
8. **Strengthen Justice Partnerships** with law schools, legal aid organizations, law enforcement agencies, and provincial/federal justice departments to improve access to justice.
9. **Advocate for Policy Reforms** at all government levels to address the overrepresentation of Métis in the criminal justice system.
10. **Support the Implementation of Youth Justice Initiatives** by Administration and external bodies, which focus on prevention, diversion, and rehabilitation through culturally-relevant programming, including the Youth Diversion Program Framework, based on available funding.
11. **Advance Justice Infrastructure** by supporting Administration developed programs including dedicated Métis court workers, Justice System Navigators, and the provision of culturally-grounded, trauma-informed supports and services to help Métis people have access to fair treatment and understand their legal rights, based on available funding.

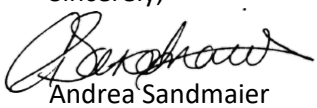
In your role, you will have support from and primarily liaise with the Office of the President, and the Intergovernmental Relations, Consultation, Health, and Justice Departments through their associated Directors and/or Department heads.

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