



**To:** Elected Representatives and Metis Citizens of Métis Nation - Saskatchewan

**From:** Gwen LaFond, Chief Electoral Officer

**Re:** Elections Adjudicator

**Date:** April 23, 2025

**Purpose:** To provide members of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) and citizens with information about how the election will proceed without an MNLA appointed Elections Adjudicator.

**Timeline of Events:**

- At the Fall MNLA November 2024, the agenda had included setting the Election Date and Appointments of the Adjudicator and Complaints Officer. At this Assembly, the MNLA did not address the agenda items related to the election which resulted in the calling of the January 2025 MNLA (Special Assembly).
- At the January 2025 MNLA (Special Assembly), the election date was set, and the Chief Electoral Officer provided recommendations to appoint the Complaints Officer and Adjudicator for the MN-S Election in a one resolution, consistent with past practice. However, the MNLA chose to separate the appointment of the Complaints Officer and Adjudicator into two resolutions. The resolution for the Complaints Officer was ratified but not the Adjudicator.
- In accordance with the *Election Act, 2007* section 92 point (5) states *The Chief Electoral Officer is an independent officer of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and is therefore arm's length from MN-S staff and elected officials. The Chief Electoral Officer is mandated to ensure that the MN-S election is conducted fairly, impartially, and in accordance with MN-S laws and legislation.*
- Consistent with past practice the Chief Electoral Officer generally provides the names of individuals that can fulfill the duties of the Complaints Officer and Adjudicator. As such these names were provided to the MNLA in November 2024 and again in January 2025 for MNLA's consideration. Unfortunately, the adjudicator was not appointed, and the MNLA recommended the job be posted for open competition. Therefore, the Clerk of the MNLA posted on the MN-S website a 'Call of Interest' that was open for 30 days to encourage applicants to apply for the job.
- At the March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting, Provincial Metis Council (PMC) rendered a decision to have the recruitment and selection of the Adjudicator be handled by the Chief Electoral Officer.
- When the 'Call for Interest' closed on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, all applications were collected and sent directly to the Chief Electoral Officer for vetting and a recommendation was prepared for consideration for the April 17, 2025 Virtual MNLA.
- The scheduled April 17<sup>th</sup> MNLA did not achieve quorum (75 members required) and it was not possible to conduct any business; as a result, no Adjudicator was appointed. The MNLA had 63 delegates in attendance.

The Chief Electoral Officer will continue to provide independent oversight of the MN-S election with the appointed Complaints Officer. As set out at section 116(4) of the *Election Act, 2007*, the Complaints Officer is also an independent officer of the MN-S.

Any complaints received during the election period in accordance with section 117 of the *Election Act, 2007* will be submitted to the Complaints Officer to be investigated. A decision will be provided by the Complaints Officer to the Complainant in accordance with MN-S laws and legislation. As no Adjudicator has been appointed under the *Election Act, 2007*, a Complainant who wishes to take their complaint further will need to apply to the Court of King's Bench for Saskatchewan. The application to the Court and any expenses thereof will be at the Complainant's expense.

I trust this clarifies any questions relating to the Adjudicator and the MN-S elections.

Regards,



Gwen LaFond

Chief Electoral Officer