

April 4, 2024

Regional Chief Brendan Mitchell
Assembly of First Nations Newfoundland
3 Church Street
Corner Brook, NL A2H 2Z4

Re: AFN Executive Committee Portfolios

Dear Regional Chief Mitchell:

Thank you for accepting the responsibility of overseeing the Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure portfolio, which includes the Chiefs' Committee on Housing and Infrastructure. In addition to this portfolio, you have also accepted the role of Chair to the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Management Committee.

In accepting this mandate, you are entrusted with the responsibility to act in accordance with the principles and objectives of the AFN, advocating for the rights and interests of all First Nations. Your commitment to promoting unity, fostering collaboration, and ensuring the principles and ideals of the AFN Charter are maintained is of the utmost importance. In accordance with the AFN Charter, Article 18(9),

“The National Chief shall assign portfolios in a collaborative process with the Executive Committee and/or re-assign portfolio topics to Regional Chiefs serving on the Executive Committee to lead specific topics of work as required. Upon assignment, the Regional Chief shall report quarterly to the Executive Committee and the First Nations-in-Assembly as well as to their own Regions. If the Regional Chief fails to report quarterly, the National Chief may consider re-assigning the portfolio.

- a) The portfolio holder shall be responsible for leading the work of the portfolio as directed by resolutions from the First Nations-in-Assembly;
- b) The portfolio holder shall chair all Chiefs' Committee meetings that are associated with their portfolio and oversee the work of the Chiefs' Committee to ensure that all procedures and processes are being followed and maintained under the Terms of Reference, By-Laws and the AFN Charter.”

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Additionally, for your portfolio area, I ask you to take on the following activities, supported by the AFN Secretariat:

- **Advocacy:** Actively engage with federal, provincial, and territorial governments to advocate for policies and initiatives that align with the interests and needs of the First Nations. Represent the concerns and aspirations of First Nations in various forums.
- **Unity and Collaboration:** Foster unity among First Nations and promote collaboration on matters of common interest. Work closely with other Regional Chiefs to strengthen the collective voice of the AFN.
- **Engagement:** Regularly engage with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, women, youth, veterans, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples through our Advisory Councils and other forums to understand their perspectives, needs, and concerns. Bring forward these insights to inform decision-making.
- **Capacity Building:** Work towards the empowerment and capacity building of First Nations. Collaborate with relevant partners to secure resources and support programs that enhance First Nations' well-being.
- **Accountability and Transparency:** Maintain a high standard of accountability and transparency in your actions and decisions. Keep the Executive Committee informed about relevant developments, challenges, and opportunities.

As the lead portfolio holder, you will be supported by the AFN Secretariat and your work will be guided by resolutions approved by First Nations-in-Assembly that provide you with your mandate. Resolutions relevant to your portfolio include but are not limited to:

- *66/2023 – Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Funds Management in Breach of the UN Declaration*
- *75/2023 – Approval and Implementation of a National First Nations Homelessness Action Plan*
- *59/2022 – Transformative Federal Investment Needed in First Nations Housing*
- *60/2022 – First Nations Involvement in the Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy*
- *26/2021 – Support for Closing the Infrastructure Gap by 2023*
- *28/2021 – Support of First Nations Decentralized Infrastructure*
- *31/2021 – Cost to Address Decades of Federal Housing Neglect*
- *22/2020 – Infrastructure Stimulus Funding for First Nations.*

In addition to the resolutions noted above, there is also a Terms of Reference for the Management Committee that has been approved by the Executive Committee to help guide you in your work.

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Financial support for travel will be supported by the AFN Secretariat, where funding is available and in accordance with AFN Finance policies.

Thank you for accepting your role as the Portfolio holder for these areas. I look forward to working with you to advance the work of the Assembly of First Nations.

Megwetch,

Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak
National Chief