

April 4, 2024

Regional Chief Andrea Paul  
Assembly of First Nations Nova Scotia  
12 Stanley Johnson Street, Unit 4  
Millbrook, NS B6L 5B4

**Re: AFN Executive Committee Portfolios**

Dear Regional Chief Paul:

Thank you for accepting the responsibility of overseeing the Languages portfolio, the Health portfolio (including Mental Health and Wellness) and the Fisheries-East portfolio (shared with Regional Chief Teegee). Also encompassed in your portfolios is the National Fisheries Committee, Chiefs' Committee on Health, and Chiefs' Committee on Languages. In addition to your portfolios, you have agreed to continue participating as a member of 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'

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Committee to ensure that all procedures and processes are being followed and maintained under the Terms of Reference, By-Laws and the AFN Charter.”

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 portfolios include but are not limited to:

#### Languages

- 76/023 – *Support for Urgent First Nations Languages Funding*
- 10/2023 – *Support for the First Nations National Action Plan for the United Nations International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-32)*
- 47/2022 – *First Nations Languages – A Defined and Enforceable Right*

#### Health

- 16/2023 – *Distinctions-Based Indigenous Health Legislation*
- 40/2022 – *Co-development of Policy Options with Indigenous Services Canada for a Memorandum to Cabinet on the Wholistic Long-term and Continuing Care Framework*
- 61/2022 – *Reforming Non-Insured Health Benefits*

Fisheries

- 73/2023 – *First Nation Rights-Based Inland Fisheries Framework*
- 26/2023 – *Transition from Open Net-Pen Fish Farming*
- 08/2020 – *Systemic Racism in all federal agencies including Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Response to Sipekne'katik First Nation's Inherent Rights-based Fishery*
- 69/2019 – *To Fully Implement the First Nations Priority Right to Food, Social, and Ceremonial Fisheries*

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.

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