Otipemisiwak Métis Government

2025 Late Fall Election – Provincial Women's Representative By-Election

Public Notice

*By Notice of the Chief Electoral Officer on this day, October 8, 2025; the candidates in the **2025 Provincial Women's Representative By-Election** for the Otipemisiwak Métis Government have been determined in accordance with Part V of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Elections and Referenda Act.*

CANDIDATE DETAILS

DECLARATION OF CERTIFIED CANDIDATES

Notice is hereby given that the following individuals have successfully submitted their nomination packages and have satisfied the requirements set out in the *Otipemisiwak Métis Government Elections and Referenda Act (the Election Law).* As such, the Chief Electoral Officer has deemed the following individuals as candidates in the **2025 Late Fall Election – Provincial Women's Representative By-Election** for the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.

WOMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE (1 position)

- **Karen Acuna**
- **Rhonda Baglot**
- **Gabrielle Blatz**
- **Jody L'Hirondelle Swanson**
- **Carol Ridsdale**
- **Laura Waniandy**

IMPORTANT DECISION REGARDING VOTING PERIOD AND METHODS OF VOTING

On September 2, 2025, the Otipemisiwak Métis Government's Chief Electoral Officer issued Notices of Vote for District Council elections in the Red Deer, Calgary Nose Hill, St. Paul-Cold Lake, and Wabasca-Demarais Métis Districts, as well as for a province-wide by-election for the office of the Women's Representative of Citizens' Council. (collectively the "2025 Late Fall Elections"), which set the elections' voting periods as November 16 to 22, 2025 and established mail-in voting as an available voting method in each election.

However, on September 25, 2025, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) initiated a nationwide strike, halting all Canada Post services. As a result, mail can no longer be sent or received, rendering mail-in voting unfeasible.

In response, Cabinet convened a virtual meeting on October 7, 2025. Acting on the recommendation of the Chief Electoral Officer, Cabinet passed a motion to delay the Voting Period for the 2025 Late Fall Elections until such time as mail-in voting becomes a possible option for voters.

Section 15 of the Elections and Referenda Act authorizes Cabinet, in extraordinary circumstances, to make changes to the date of an election, provided voting has not yet begun. Cabinet has determined that the postal strike constitutes such an extraordinary circumstance, warranting a change under this provision of the Act.

Given this resolution, the voting period for the 2025 Late Fall Election will be delayed. Confirmed Candidates in contested elections will be able to campaign and access the preliminary voters list for the purpose of campaigning. The requirements of the Campaign Finance Regulation will remain in place for the 2025 Late Fall Election.

When all three methods of voting are available, the Chief Electoral Officer will announce a new Voting Period for the election to proceed.

VOTING DETAILS

Voters must be Métis Nation within Alberta Citizens and (16) years of age or older to be entitled to vote for Provincial Women's Representative.

The exact addresses for each polling location are to be determined, along with any additional locations that may be deemed necessary and approved by the Chief Electoral Officer in consultation with District Leadership.

All polling station hours will operate from **8am** to **8pm**.

IN-PERSON VOTING – POLLING VOTING STATIONS

There will be **22 polling locations** in the following communities for **Provincial Women's Representative By-Election:**

All Major Locations (Dates to be Determined)

Métis District	Community
1 – Foothills	Lethbridge
2 – Medicine Hat	Medicine Hat
3 – Red Deer	Red Deer
4 – Rocky View	Airdrie
5 – Calgary Nose Hill	Calgary North
6 – Calgary Elbow	Calgary South
7 – Jasper House	Hinton
8 – Lac Ste. Anne	Spruce Grove
9 – Fort Edmonton	Edmonton North
10 – Edmonton Whitemud	Edmonton South

Métis District	Community
11 – St. Albert	St. Albert
12 – St. Paul – Cold Lake	Cold Lake
13 – Grande Prairie	Grande Prairie
14 – Peace River	Peace River
15 – Fort Vermilion	Fort Vermilion
16 – Fort Chipewyan	Fort Chipewyan
17 – Fort McMurray	Fort McMurray
18 – Conklin	Conklin
19 – Lac La Biche	Lac La Biche
20 – Athabasca Landing	Athabasca
21 – Lesser Slave Lake	Slave Lake
22 – Wabasca – Desmarais	Wabasca

MAIL-IN VOTING

- A mail-in ballot package will be sent via mail to each Citizen that is eligible to vote when dates for the voting period have been determined.
- Mail-in ballot packages will be sent to the address on file with the MNA.
- If a mail-in ballot is not received, or a replacement mail-in ballot package is required, Citizens should make this request no later than 10 days prior to the final day of the vote.

ELECTRONIC VOTING

Electronic voting will be open for the entire duration of the voting period when dates have been determined**.**

VOTER SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE

Voter support and assistance will be made available for Citizens during the voting period. Citizens requiring support and/or assistance should contact Elections@metis.org.

NAME/MAILING ADDRESS OPT-OUT

The list of voters will be distributed to each candidate. *Note that a candidate is entitled to receive a list of only the voters that are ordinarily resident in the District in which the candidate is running.

Citizens may opt-out of having their name and/or mailing address included on the list of voters that will be circulated to candidates.

- To opt-out, please email: Elections@metis.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office of the Chief Electoral Officer:
12304 111 Ave NW
Edmonton, Alberta
T5M 2N4

For general inquiries please reach out to: Elections@metis.org or call 1-877-576-4250

Del Graff
Chief Electoral Officer
Métis Nation of Alberta

October 8, 2025
Date