

MÉTIS NATION - SASKATCHEWAN CABINET SHUFFLE: Q+A

Q: Why shuffle the cabinet now, less than a year before the next election?

A: Our government needs to be working effectively to design and deliver programs and services that meet the needs of our citizens. The President wants to make sure our government is doing exactly that. Métis Nation–Saskatchewan has experienced a lot of growth these past three years. By changing the cabinet, we are reorganizing and focusing our ministries to ensure we are streamlined and efficient. This will help to better engage with citizens and design and deliver programming and services. In addition, the new structure will ensure Ministers have a complete perspective of an entire policy area so they can make decisions that consider all needs. Having a cabinet and government structure that is sustainable and can address long-term challenges is critical to good governance.

Q: Why remove some portfolios? What is the benefit of this distribution of portfolios?

A: Several of the previous portfolios dealt with similar issues and realignment of core functional areas allows for effective delivery of services and programs to citizens. For example, the Métis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan falls within the health sphere, as did the Ministry of Health. In this new structure, the Minister of Health will be responsible for all health-related matters, enabling the Minister to make decisions on programs and services that affect the health of our Citizens and work collaboratively with other Ministers where health is a factor. This will make our government more streamlined, efficient and responsive. More importantly, we will be able to serve our people better. Streamlining and making our ministries more effective will allow us to better meet the needs in these areas, support good governance and get results for citizens.

Q: What happened to the Ministry of Tourism?

A: The Ministry of Tourism is included as part of the Ministry of Economic Development and Tourism.

Q: What happened to the Ministry of Batoche?

A: The Ministry of Batoche is now a responsibility of the Minister of Language, Heritage and Culture.

Q: What happened to the Métis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan?

A: The Métis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan is now a responsibility of the Minister of Health.

Q: What happened to the Ministry of Métis Rights, Harvesting, Land and Métis Farms?

A: Métis Rights, Harvesting, Land and Métis Farms is now a responsibility of the Minister of Justice. All legal issues will be under one portfolio. When the Minister of Justice is negotiating, they will have a comprehensive view of all these matters, and they will be able to better serve the interests of our Métis citizens. This will ensure we continue to be a strong advocate and defender of Métis Rights across the province.

Q: What happened to the Ministry of Reconciliation and Residential Schools?

A: Reconciliation and Residential Schools is also now a responsibility of the Minister of Justice. All legal issues will be under one portfolio. When the Minister of Justice is negotiating, they will have a comprehensive view of all these matters, and they will be able to better serve the interests of our Métis citizens.

Q: What happened to the Minister of the Citizenship Registry?

A: The Citizenship Registry should be arms-length from political control to ensure it maintains an objectively verifiable and secure process without political influence or interference. This change reflects good governance practices and protects the privacy rights of Métis citizens.

Q: Why is it important to release mandate letters?

A: Communicating expectations, responsibilities and priorities to Ministers, and having those instructions made public to citizens, are cornerstones of good governance. The Government must be accountable to its citizens and transparent about what it is doing.

Q: What will be included in the mandate letters?

A: Each mandate letter will be tailored to each specific Minister. It will include progress to date under each portfolio, expectations, and long-term priorities.

Q: When will the mandate letters be released? Where will they be released?

A: Letters will be released within the next two weeks on the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan website. <https://metisnation.sk.com/>