



MANITOBA ORDER IN COUNCIL

DATE: **March 18, 2026**

ORDER IN COUNCIL NO.: **43/2026**

RECOMMENDED BY: **Minister of Justice and Attorney General**

ORDER

1. The following persons are appointed as staff justice of the peace in and for the Province of Manitoba:

Gena May Francisco, of Mitchell
Cheryl Koss, of Winnipeg
Chantell Vaillancourt-Ducharme, of The Pas
2. The appointment of Oluwagbemisola Onigbogi as staff justice of the peace in and for the Province of Manitoba is revoked.
3. This Order comes into effect the day it is made.

AUTHORITY

The Provincial Court Act, C.C.S.M. c. C275, states:

Appointing justices of the peace

40(1) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may appoint justices of the peace in accordance with this Part.

Types of justices of the peace

40(2) A person appointed as a justice of the peace may be appointed as

- (a) a judicial justice of the peace;
- (b) a staff justice of the peace; or
- (c) a community justice of the peace.

Eligibility — staff and community justices of the peace

41(1) A person must be a Manitoba resident who is at least 18 years old to be eligible to be appointed as a staff justice of the peace or a community justice of the peace.

Ineligible persons

41(2) The following persons may not be appointed and may not act as a staff justice of the peace or a community justice of the peace:

- (a) a sheriff or bailiff or any other person employed for the service or execution of documents in a civil process;
- (b) a police officer or any other person employed to preserve and maintain the public peace;
- (c) a lawyer who holds a practicing certificate under *The Legal Profession Act*;
- (d) a person who acts as a prosecutor for an offence under a provincial or federal Act, unless it is a private prosecution;
- (e) a person who works in a penitentiary or correctional institution;
- (f) a member of

- (i) the Legislative Assembly,
 - (ii) a council under *The Municipal Act* or *The City of Winnipeg Charter*,
 - (iii) a local committee, community council or incorporated community council under *The Northern Affairs Act*, or
 - (iv) a local committee of a local government district under *The Local Government Districts Act*;
- (g) a person who is employed as an administrative support person to a person referred to in clauses (a) to (f).

Appointing staff justices of the peace

50 When appointing a staff justice of the peace, the Lieutenant Governor in Council may appoint only an employee of the government.

Salary and benefits

52 As an employee of the government, a staff justice of the peace is entitled to the salary, leaves of absence and other benefits and expenses that are provided to employees of the government under Part 3 of *The Public Service Act* in accordance with the applicable collective agreement.

Revoking an appointment

53 The appointment of a staff justice of the peace must be revoked if

- (a) the person ceases to be an employee of the government or to perform the duties of a staff justice of the peace; or
- (b) the deputy minister, after consulting with the Chief Judge, recommends to the minister that the appointment be revoked.

BACKGROUND

1. Staff justices of the peace are required to provide judicial services in Court Offices in Manitoba.
2. Gena May Francisco was selected through a competitive process to fill an existing staff justice of the peace position in Winnipeg. Gena May Francisco meets the eligibility criteria for a justice of the peace and is an employee of the government.
3. Cheryl Koss was selected through a competitive process to fill an existing staff justice of the peace position in Winnipeg. Cheryl Koss meets the eligibility criteria for a justice of the peace and is an employee of the government.
4. Chantell Vaillancourt-Ducharme was selected through a competitive process to fill an existing staff justice of the peace position in The Pas. Chantell Vaillancourt-Ducharme meets the eligibility criteria for a justice of the peace and is an employee of the government.
5. Oluwagbemisola Onigbogi was appointed a staff justice of the peace by Order in Council No. 258/2024 and has resigned.