



Association des Acadiens Métis-Souriquois

AAMS NEWS

August 2014

President's Report

Since last February's newsletter, much has taken place within AAMS. The March 22nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) at Evelena's in Little Brook was a resounding success with five new directors elected.

I welcome Nichole Hardick (Abram's River) who was elected as director and 1st vice, Tina Robicheau (Yarmouth), Donald LeBlanc (Sainte Anne du Ruisseau), Alyre Theriault (Saulnierville) and Donna Comeau (Meteghan) as directors. Tina has also graciously accepted the position of Secretary replacing Betty Thibault who remains on board as director. These new elections give AAMS a full array of new and needed skill sets and brings the total number of directors to the maximum number of fifteen. Don and Alyre are old hands as returning directors after a brief hiatus.

Also at the AGM, members were awed and amazed at the oyster ceremony performance by AAMS member, Gaétan Dugas. Gaétan travelled from Caraquet N.B. to attend the AGM and he tells me he plans to return to Clare this summer for a vacation.

Huge steps have been taken for our association regarding a national affiliation. On Aboriginal Day, June 21st, a treaty of affiliation and friendship was signed between AAMS and the Métis Federation of Canada (MFC). The actual signing was the culmination of months of hard work as Acadians are inherently wary of signing any Oath of Allegiance. This treaty has already paid huge dividends when the MFC intervened and had Indspire bursaries restored to AAMS student members.

AAMS directors continue to keep a close eye and ear on all Métis / government court cases, especially at the federal and possibly soon at the Supreme Court level. I have been told the Manitoba Métis have now won over two hundred court cases against their provincial government.

For personal reasons, I have decided to take an indefinite leave of absence as President of AAMS. Donald LeBlanc takes over as interim President until further notice. Donald brings with him a wealth of knowledge in Métis affairs and years of dedicated experience on the AAMS board of directors. I do remain on board as a director and expect a seamless transition to Don's tenure as President.

I trust this message finds you well and in good spirits.

Yours in Métis Fellowship

Joseph Jacquard



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/acadiens.metis.souriquois/>

<http://www.acadiens-metis-souriquois.ca/index.html>



Metis Federation of Canada

Joining with our Eastern family

The Métis Federation of Canada is very proud to announce the signing of a treaty with the Association des Acadiens-Métis Souriquois (AAMS). With roots running deep from the first French explorers who arrived in Mi'kmaw territory in the very early 1600's, the AAMS is constituted to represent the interest and well-being of the Acadian Métis people, ensuring the continuity of their culture and identity.

Over the past couple months we have had numerous conversations with representatives of the AAMS, finding that we have very similar objectives, with both organizations committed towards pursuing the interests and rights of Métis communities. We were therefore very pleased, and humbled, when we heard from Joseph Jacquard, the President of the AAMS, that he would be coming to Oshawa on June 21st to sign a treaty with the MFC on behalf of his organization.

After spending the day meeting with many Métis from in and around Oshawa, we gathered to share a meal together, share stories, and is often the case, look for family connections. After a smudging ceremony, the evening continued with comments from myself and other members of the MFC – Helene Savard and Archie Martin – and finally from Joseph Jacquard who spoke of how important this treaty was to his community. Finally we signed the treaty and a new partnership was formed between the Association des Acadiens-Métis Souriquois and the Métis Federation of Canada.

This was a particularly momentous occasion as we now have established partnerships from coast to coast. With treaties signed with the Communauté Métis Autochtone de Maniwaki from Quebec, and now the Association des Acadiens-Métis Souriquois, as well as a Memorandum of Understanding with the BC Métis Federation, the MFC is building strong bridges with organizations that have shared interests and a common commitment towards ensuring Métis from all parts of Canada are properly recognized and represented.

As happy as we are with the alliances now in place, the work has just begun. By continuing to focus on building partnerships with Métis organizations all across this country, we will only grow stronger and more effective in representing and supporting Métis culture, identity and rights. As stated before, I would personally like to speak to anyone – whether from a Métis organization or community, or an individual - who has questions, would like to discuss mutual priorities, and is interested in finding a way to work together towards our common goals. There is much work to be done, but together I believe we can be successful in progressing Métis priorities – from coast to coast to coast.

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AAMS Meets with Nova Scotia Aboriginal Affairs

On June 17, 2014, AAMS President, Joseph Jacquard and Paul Tufts (Past President), met with Julie Towers, CEO of Nova Scotia Aboriginal Affairs, and Executive Director, Justin Huston, who requested a meeting with AAMS in order to gather information about our Metis organization.

The one hour and forty five minute meeting was amicable and very informative. This first contact was a meet and greet with no fixed agenda. Thus a full range of topics were discussed including identity, culture, recognition, AAMS, First Nations, government, Acadian communities and aboriginal rights. The meeting flowed very smoothly and ended as new found friends with the promise of keeping in touch.

Thank you very much to Joan and Victor for hosting a potluck for AAMS members on June 8, 2014. A great time was had by all!



Out and About In the Community

AAMS was invited to take part in a Multicultural Festival at the Bear River Reserve. Nichole Hardick and Paul Tufts attended on behalf of AAMS with a table display that depicted the historical friendship between the Mi'kmaq and the Acadians, and also expressed the gratitude owed to the Mi'kmaq for the survival of the Acadians in the past.



Remembering the Battle of the Atlantic



AAMS Directors and members in attendance were James LeBlanc, Joseph Jacquard, Paul Tufts, Nichole Hardick, Howard Nickerson, Devyn & Eryn Hardick, Donna Comeau

<http://www.rcinet.ca/en/2013/05/03/remembering-the-battle-of-the-atlantic/>

CANADA DAY

AAMS was invited to take part in the Canada Day Celebrations hosted by the Knights of Columbus

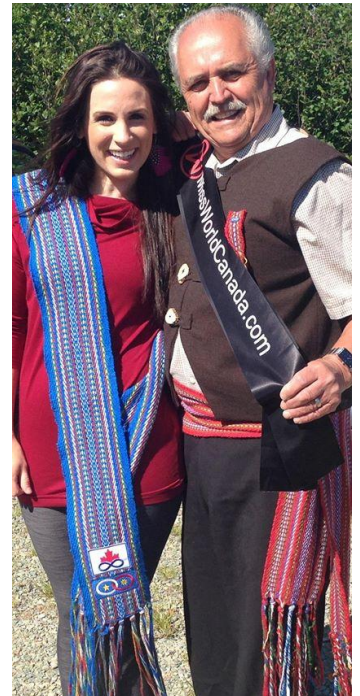




Celebrating National
Aboriginal Day
AAMS Sunrise Ceremony
Rocco Point - June 21, 2014



A wonderful turn out for this special event.
Many thanks to the ladies of the Knights of Columbus for providing a delicious brunch compliments of AAMS.



 **APRIL 22, 2014 EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS** 

The AAMS held two tree planting ceremonies

The first at NSCC Burrige Campus

(Joseph Jacquard, Paul Tufts, Nichole Hardick, Alan Comeau, Donna Comeau, Robert Muise, Don Leblanc, Michael Deveau, James Leblanc, John Deveau, Joan Comeau, Victor Comeau)

Please see Vanguard link:

<http://www.thevanguard.ca/News/2014-04-22/article-3697572/Earth-Day-celebrated-with-tree-planting-at-NSCC-Burridge/1>



The second at Ecole Par En Bas

(Front: Robert Muise, Don Leblanc, Nichole Hardick, Eryn Hardick, Donna Comeau, Al Comeau.
Back: Laurie Melanson, John Deveau). Photo courtesy of Norbert LeBlanc



2014 Bursary Recipients

We are pleased to announce this year's bursary recipients are:

Nadia Titus



Amanda Thibodeau



Rachelle Comeau



- ∞ Nadia Titus studies to be an RN (in 4th year of degree program)
- ∞ Amanda Thibodeau studies to be an RN (in 4th year of degree program)
- ∞ Rachelle Comeau studies to be a speech therapist (in 5th year, post-graduate program)

Congratulations & Good Luck with your studies!!

For more information on our winners or our bursaries please visit our AAMS Website @
<http://www.acadiens-metis-souriquois.ca/aams-bursary.html>

PLEASE JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP TO KEEP UP TO DATE ON EVENTS AND GOINGS ON IN
AND AROUND YOUR COMMUNITIES AS WELL AS PHOTOS AND OTHER INFORMATION
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/acadiens.metis.souriquois>

Engaging our Youth

Several presentations have been taking place in local schools, preschools and other organizations.

We hope you enjoy this short clip and photos to provide a sample of what we do in local schools and for other organizations as requested.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4PA5sx7dCg>



Notre Jardin D'Enfance, Meteghan



Brownies/Guides, Plymouth