



A.A.M.S. NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2016

AAMS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Paul D. Tufts

Please be advised that, for the sake of space, this report will be mostly confined to a listing of AAMS activities during the 2015 calendar year. A team of 15 Directors held 10 Board meetings to serve 1130 registered members and 450 Facebook participants. Other than regular business expenses, our greatest financial contribution has been to support our Treaty affiliation with MFC (Metis Federation of Canada) in the amount of \$ 10,000.00, plus fundraiser auction items, for its efforts as Intervener in the Daniel's Case to seek recognition for the Acadian-Metis and other Metis across Canada. Other contributions have been to offer three \$ 500.00 bursaries to AAMS students and to sponsor a female member who entered the Miss Canada competition. Although AAMS Directors function without remuneration, some business trips required financial assistance.

These projects and business expenses are entirely dependent on membership annual dues, and unfortunately too many members do not or rarely contribute, while some provide extra donations. Delinquent members will be contacted in the near future. A significant effort in kind involved convincing Indspire administrators (for the fourth time since 2011) that AAMS students qualify as legitimate Metis for the possible receipt of scholarships for the 2015 / 2016 school year.

AAMS participated, performed and/or made presentations at many community events and ceremonies that include: FRAP (spring equinox); Aboriginal day (summer solstice); Canada day; Earth day (3 times); Diversity day; Save the Acadian Language day; Acadian festival; Acadian Odyssey monument; Clare Acadian society; Rendez-vous de la Baie; Tourism promotion; Information booths; Library talks; School presentations; Community College presentations; Caraquet conference in N.B.; Parade float; Culture and Heritage workshop; Pot-luck event; Battle of the Atlantic; Drumming workshops and circles; Accessories availability; Thomas Metis venue; and Funeral wakes. Important meetings were attended with the local Member of Parliament; with a Nova Scotia delegation of Mi'kmaw school-board councillors; with First Nations at Eel River Bar, N.B.; and with the Metis Federation of Canada in Quebec City.

In an effort to maintain or improve the internal function of AAMS, several actions have been undertaken in relation to: Constitutional and Policy changes; Registry of Joint Stock approval; Identification of expectations and responsibilities of directors; Oath of confidentiality; RCMP checks; Liability insurance; Logo registration; Data Base completion; Website improvements; Website inquiries; Facebook changes; Conference calls; Communications (phone, email, mail); Board decisions; Minutes recording; Financial accounting, auditing and banking; Membership registration and filing; Genealogy certification; Events coordination; Assets inventory; Newsletter production; Portfolio delivery and even an attempt at producing a blend of Acadian / Amerindian music.

In conclusion, I would especially like to thank the AAMS Directors and Regular Members who have worked without remuneration for the functioning of AAMS. Since funds are required for the operation and growth of our association, I would like to thank those members who provide annual dues and donations.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

Saturday March 19, 2016

2 to 7 p.m.

EVELINA'S RAPURE

1008 Highway # 1, Little Brook, Digby Co., NS

More Details to follow when they are available

THE DANIELS' CASE UPDATE

The all-important Supreme Court hearing, popularly known as the “Daniels Case” came to its conclusion in October 2015 with the Métis Federation of Canada (M.F.C.) taking part as an intervener. Intervener status was a large and expensive endeavor without which our collective voices would not have been heard.

The much anticipated Supreme Court's decision is expected sometime in 2016 with the aim of solidly defining and recognizing métis in Canada once and for all. The least that can be hoped for is clarity in the decision, so that no government lawyers can impose their own interpretations such as blood quantum, regionalism, or meaningless pseudo historical dates. The AAMS board of directors remains on high alert for any forthcoming news on this front.



UPDATE

Eleven métis associations now have treaties with the MFC making the sum of twenty two thousand proud métis souls a strong voice and a force to be reckoned with. The federal government realized this when members of the federal department of Indigenous Affairs and Northern Development met for an hour and a half with the MFC executive in November 2015. Much of the discussion centered around diverse métis associations and the Acadian Métis in particular.

The M.F.C. is the Acadian Métis' biggest ally and strongest advocate at the federal level; constantly fighting for eastern Canadian Métis recognition. AAMS remains strongly committed to upholding the spirit and intent of its treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation with the M.F.C.

AAMS 2016 Bursaries

In 2016, three bursaries in the amount of \$500 each will be awarded

Applications may be submitted as of March 1, 2016. The applicant must be a member of AAMS

Applicants must be enrolled in a post-secondary institution, either community college or university. Proof of financial need is not required.

Applicants are asked to answer the following question: How do you see yourself as an Acadian Métis?

Deadline for application: May 1, 2016

For more information and application forms, please visit our website at:

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



Indspire, previously named The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, issues bursaries to First Nation, Inuit and Métis students. In June 2015 bursaries to students of thirty nine métis organisations were halted pending comprehensive eligibility reviews. AAMS has undergone the review and its students will receive bursaries for the 2015/2016 school year. Continued eligibility hinges on a decision from the Supreme Court regarding the “Daniels Case” expected in 2016. AAMS students having difficulty with the online Indspire application or anyone with further questions are asked to contact the AAMS Second Vice-President, Joseph Jacquard, at: moutounne@hotmail.com.

Historical Note:

According to Andrew Hill Clark, 1968, in *Acadia; The Geography of Early Nova Scotia to 1760*, the good relations between the Mi’kmaq and the Acadians were unparalleled in America for 150 years from 1604 until the Deportation of 1755. However, the Deportation and Expulsion of the Acadians and the almost total decimation of the Mi’kmaq in Acadia have broken this amicable relationship.

Hereditary features and traces of this great relationship still exist in the language, the genes, the physical features, and the social and cultural traditions of today’s Acadians. This distinctiveness is inherent to the present day Acadians, and some choose to identify themselves as Acadian Métis.

SOME OF THE THINGS AAMS DID IN 2015



Earth Day, Ecole Belleville 1



Earth Day, Clare High School 1



Sunrise Ceremony 2



Sunrise Ceremony Brunch 1



Festival de Clare Parade 1



Festival de Clare Parade 2

Canada Day, Knights of Columbus 1

