

Association des Acadiens-Métis Souriquois (AAMS)

Winter 2025
Volume 1 - Issue 1.



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"We live in Acadia, so we been told and that means we're Acadians. So that's what we put down under Nationality: Acadian. Because if there's one thing we know for sure, there ain't nobody else with that name. But the censors [census takers], they didn't want to write that on their list, because they said there's no such country as Acadia, and so Acadian can't be a nationality. There's no such place in their jogger-free [geography] books.

"So, after that we didn't know what else to tell them, so we just told them to give us whatever nationality they wanted. In the end I think they lumped us in with the Natives."

– Maillet, Antonine; Wayne Grady. *La Sagouine* (Eng. trans ed.). Fredericton: Goose Lane Editions, 2007

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Salut | Kwé | Greetings

August 2024 began a new chapter of my journey as AAMS President. Taking over this position from Joseph Jacquard was not easy, but with the help of our Board of Directors we will move forward. I am grateful to Joseph for his leadership and pleased with our progress.

We have met with our Member of Parliament Chris D'Entremont to discuss the Eastern Metis and AAMS. It is important to continue these discussions and move forward. AAMS also considers partnering with the Oceanographic Environmental Research Society (OERS). Visit the OERS website (<https://oers.ca>) for more information about OERS and the work they do.

If anyone is looking to be a member of AAMS or would like to be a member of our Board of Directors, we would be happy to have you join us. For information on how to be a member of AAMS please visit <https://www.acadiens-metis-souriquois.ca/index.html> and we would be happy to help you.

Members: I would like to thank you very much for being a part of AAMS and I am looking forward to the upcoming season. I hope that you will all stay safe and enjoy your newsletter.

AAMS President, Carl Deveau



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VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: AAMS 2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Dear AAMS members,

The Association des Acadiens-Métis Souriquois (AAMS) provides the following 2024 financial summary for AAMS members. The full year-end financial report, presented at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), is available to any AAMS member on request. For information about the 2024 AGM, visit <https://acadiens-metis-souriquois.ca/aams-blog/news-and-reflections-scenes-from-the-aams-2024-agm-and-a-bursary-challenge>

- The annual dues and donations collected in 2024 were just over sixteen thousand dollars while the business expenses were over one thousand dollars greater; thus, in 2024, AAMS was in a deficit financial position.
- The entire AAMS board of directors, the President, First and Second Vice are volunteers and take no monetary payments or in-kind compensation. Only the AAMS office administrator, who works part-time, is a paid employee. Office rent, office administrator wages, insurance, bursaries, paper, envelopes, printer ink and accounting fees account for AAMS greatest expenditures in 2024.
- The board of directors implements cost cutting measures while prices climb at an alarming rate. For example, The AAMS treasurer recently purchased two rolls of postage stamps days before the price of a postage stamp rose by *twenty-five cents* for a cost savings of fifty dollars (<https://www.canadapost-postescanada.ca/cpc/en/our-company/news-and-media/corporate-news/news-release/2025-01-13-price-of-a-domestic-stamp-increases-by-25-cents>). This cost-cutting measure is only one example for the penny pinching that goes on behind the scenes to keep your Métis organisation in a financially stable position.
- AAMS is self-sustaining and therefore receives no operational government funding. AAMS relies solely on yearly dues and goodwill donations of our members to function.

AAMS First Vice President, Joseph Jacquard

AAMS MEMBER PETER THERIAULT'S BURSARY CHALLENGE

During the 2024 AGM, AAMS member Peter Theriault announced his own, personal, \$500.00 contribution to the 2025 AAMS bursary fund. Peter challenged every AAMS member to contribute \$100.00 to the AAMS bursary. Tuition costs are on the rise, as Peter noted in his presentation, and Peter Theriault's contribution to the AAMS bursary and his challenge to our members are both greatly appreciated. Peter Theriault's, and the contributions of AAMS directors and members, benefit future AAMS bursary winners for years to come!



See: AAMS bursary challenge announcement: <https://acadiens-metis-souriquois.ca/aams-blog/news-and-reflections-scenes-from-the-aams-2024-agm-and-a-bursary-challenge>

To apply for the AAMS Bursary, visit: <https://acadiens-metis-souriquois.ca/aams-bursary.html>

AAMS BURSARY WINNER, MATHIEU BLINN

Congratulations, Mathieu Blinn, the AAMS Bursary Award Winner for 2024!



AAMS wishes you the greatest success in reaching your technical education and career goals! Mathieu Blinn is from the Meteghan River area. Mathieu graduated from high school last year and at the time of his award, he had just finished his first year of a two-year course in the heavy equipment and transport program at NSCC in New Minas N.S. For more information about the AAMS Bursary, visit <https://acadiens-metis-souriquois.ca/aams-bursary.html>



Image Source: <https://acadiens-metis-souriquois.ca/aams-logo.html>

AAMS BENEFITS BY AAMS PAST PRESIDENT, PAUL TUFTS

AAMS often gets questions as to “what is in it for me?” and “What benefits me in being a card-carrying Métis?” AAMS Past President, Paul Tufts has put together the following comprehensive answer:

In April 2016 in the Harry Daniels’ Case, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that Metis in Canada, who self-identify as Metis and show a link to Aboriginal ancestry, are considered as “Indians” under section 91(24) of the Constitution Act of 1867. This does not mean that Metis now have “Indian Status”, but rather that in a similar manner as has existed for Indians, the Federal Government now has the same fiduciary duty and responsibility towards the Metis in relation to providing access to benefits such as education, housing, health and other government services. The Federal Government, rather than the Provincial Governments, now has a duty to consult and negotiate in good faith with the Metis in Canada in relation to recognition and entitlement to identified benefits under Section 91(24) of the Constitution Act of 1867. These particular benefits are different than the “community hunting rights” that are identified under Section 35 of the Constitution Act of 1982.

However, the Federal Government has been tardy and reluctant in fulfilling its duty and responsibility due to past and present objections to this ruling. This Harry Daniels’ case began in 1999 and only went to trial in 2011. In 2013, the Federal Court of Canada announced its decision and the Federal



Government objected by launching two separate appeals. This resulted in the case being sent to the Supreme Court of Canada where the decision was upheld in 2016 against the wishes of the Federal Government, which is now being challenged in relation to this delay.

With all this having happened, when recognition and benefits are properly extended to Acadian Métis, the benefits will be community based and not individual. Thus, it is extremely important to be part of a well-structured and viable Métis organisation. It should also be considered that, being an AAMS member in good standing, is an expression of pride and self-identity as to “who you are,” and an expression of support for your Metis organization that is fighting for your recognition and benefits.

AAMS has members who know full well that because of their age or other circumstances, any forthcoming benefits will never personally affect them. They take great pride in supporting AAMS with a sense of belonging to an organization based on common mixed ancestry, heritage, and culture. AAMS members working in western Canada get preferential treatment for jobs and work benefits. Recently a member was applying for his diesel mechanic red seal ticket in Nova Scotia and was told there was a two-year waiting list. But because of his Métis membership he was placed in the next class that started two weeks hence.

Métis University students seeking graduate studies in fields such as medicine, Pharmacy or engineering will get placement ahead of non-Indigenous at some, but not all Universities.

AAMS Past President, Paul Tufts

AAMS Office

Contact Janelle Robichaud at aams.office@gmail.com or by phone (902) 746-3652. You can also drop in at the Clare “Cultural Hub Building”, Civic 795 highway1, Comeauville, N.S. Please call ahead of your visit to the office.

AAMS Dues Reminder

Thank you to those who paid their 2025 dues and thank you to all those who included generous donations. The twenty-five-dollar dues can be paid all year by check or money order to: AAMS Treasurer, PO Box 25 Mavillette, N.S. B0W 2H0. Payments by e-transfer: aams.office@gmail.com

JOIN US

Get involved! For information about how to apply to be a member of AAMS, visit <https://acadiens-metis-souriquois.ca/join-aams.html>. To learn about AAMS goals, mission, and vision, visit <https://acadiens-metis-souriquois.ca/aams-goals.html>

Connect with AAMS

On the web: <https://www.acadiens-metis-souriquois.ca/index.html>

On Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/acadiens_metis_souriquois/

On LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/association-des-acadiens-metis-souriquois-aams/?viewAsMember=true>

