



October 4, 2018

## **PRESS RELEASE- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE AND CIRCULATION**

This press release is in response to the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Chiefs of the Mi'kmaw Nation and the Metis National Council on October 3, 2018 in Nova Scotia and allegations that these same groups are attempting to usurp or otherwise undermine the rights, identity and sovereignty of the Mi'kmaw Nation and MNC.

The Association Acadien-Metis Souriquois (AAMS) and all Acadien-Metis that we work with fully acknowledge and support the identity, Treaty rights and sovereignty of the Mi'kmaw Nation. However, it should be understood that the Acadien-Metis have their own distinct identity, history, and culture and are also rights-bearing peoples as descendants of the Mi'kmaw who signed the Peace and Friendship Treaty of 1725/26 and all subsequent ratifications. These treaties did not delineate based on matrilineal or patrilineal descent, blood quantum, generations, band membership or registration, geographic location, or otherwise. Simply put, this means that all descendants of signatory Nations are de facto beneficiaries of those Treaties, whether or not this has been acknowledged by other rights-bearing groups or governments to date.

Therefore, any rights that the Acadien-Metis may eventually acquire through future efforts do not, and will not, derogate from the rights of others but only reinforce that such rights exist and that the full spirit and extent of those Treaties should be honored. Rather than compete with other rights-bearing groups, AAMS wishes to work collaboratively in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect, as evidenced by Articles 4 and 5 of the AAMS bylaws, which state their objectives, in part, as:

4. *To revive and promote relationships of mutual respect, friendship and support between the Acadian Métis People and the Mi'kmaw People, as they once were prior to effective British control of governance in mainland Nova Scotia;*
5. *To enter into agreements with the Mi'kmaw People in order to negate any perceived or actual threat, conflict or competition associated with the objects of this Society. The Society does not wish to apportion the benefits and rights that belong to the Mi'kmaw People.*

We believe that Aboriginal people are stronger united, As such we ask no more than respect for our people, identity, traditions and custom and, further, that all forms of intimidation towards our people, imputation of malicious and racist motivations, and the denigration of our culture and history cease and invite our Mi'kmaw cousins to meet with us in a spirit of peace, kinship and reconciliation as was the way of our mutual ancestors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Jacquard', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joseph Jacquard  
AAMS President