



The 2017 AAMS Annual General Meeting (AGM) was another resounding success. It was held March 5, 2017 (at Evelina's in Petit Ruisseau, Digby County, N.S.) with a total of eighty-two proud Acadian-Métis souls in attendance.



Photos at March 5, 2017 AGM

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The new Board of Directors represents a welcome reduction in board members. This is a vibrant group, willing, and able to volunteer a significant amount of time and energy for a great and noble cause.

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WERE ELECTED AS DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS:

- President:** Joseph Jacquard
1st Vice President: James LeBlanc
2nd Vice President: Alyre Theriault
Treasurer: Michael Deveau
Directors:
 Paul Tufts
 Carl Deveau
 Brian Doucet
 Robert Muisse
 James Surette
 Gilbert Chandler

OFFICE & ADMINISTRATOR

AAMS has secured office space at civic 795 Highway 1, Comeauville, N.S. The building is owned by the Municipality of Clare and currently houses the studios of radio station CIFA. Substantial renovations will take place this spring that will result in low rental office spaces for culturally based non-profit organizations creating a "Cultural Hub" at this location. Tenders for the renovations are now being sought and it is anticipated that AAMS will be able to occupy the office in June or July of 2017.

Alice Comeau has been hired full-time as Office Administrator for AAMS. A grant called "START PROGRAM" has been awarded to AAMS. The "START" grant pays seventy-five percent of the Office Administrator's salary for the first six months of full-time employment. Alice comes to AAMS with years of organizational and administrative assistant experience and has already started working from her home while waiting for the AAMS Office to be ready for occupancy. The new AAMS office phone number is 902-746-3652. The office can also be reached at aams.office@gmail.com. Alice's joining the AAMS team has been a "God Send" for over-worked volunteer Directors.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

JOSEPH JACQUARD

For reasons of brevity and with a promise of more newsletters to come in 2017, I will keep this report short and only as it pertains to a symposium that took place in Ottawa on March 21st and 22nd, 2017. Called the "Daniels Symposium" it was facilitated by the Congress of Aboriginal People and attended by Alyre Theriault (2nd Vice) and myself (Joseph Jacquard-President). Federal Minister of Indigenous Affairs, Carolyn Bennett made a brief speech promising to put into serious consideration the report generated by the symposium. The Federal government is working towards a comprehensive plan for all indigenous people in Canada and asked for continued patience because "these things take time to get it right" and she is not quite ready to divulge details.

The overall message of the symposium was positive for Acadian-Métis. Many speakers spoke of "let us be all inclusive from Coast to Coast and leave no Métis behind". Another strong and recurring theme was "stop the infighting".

Often the real negotiations take place in the halls and behind closed doors. This symposium was no exception. Alyre and myself had breakfast twice with the President of the Métis Federation of Canada, the Vice President of The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, and continued networking with people from across Canada. Our struggles with governments are not unique only to the Maritimes.

The most surprising event in Ottawa was an impromptu meeting with Jason Deveau and Colin Fraser (Member of Parliament Southwest Nova). The one hour meeting left us pleasantly surprised about of their knowledge of AAMS, Métis affairs, and their offer of assistance and support.

Joseph Jacquard
President of AAMS

BURSARIES

ATTENTION STUDENT MEMBERS

This year, AAMS is proud to announce, that two \$500.00 bursaries are being offered to AAMS student members enrolled in University or Community College.

Deadline for next application is May 1, 2017.

**For more information and application forms, please visit our Website at:
acadiens-metis-souriquois.ca/aams-bursary.html**



ASSOCIATION DES ACADIENS-MÉTIS SOURIQUOIS

UPCOMING EVENTS:

July 22, 2017 West Pubnico Village Acadien

AAMS has been invited by the Kespu'kwitk Métis Council to participate and help them celebrate Canada's 150th Anniversary at "le Village Acadien" in West Pubnico, July 22, 2017 at 1:30 pm. There will be music, dancing, drumming, along with traditional foods and Métis memorabilia.

Aug 11, 12, 13, 2017 Grand-Pré

Regional Mi'kmaw Chief, Morley Googoo, has invited all AAMS members to participate in a four-day "Peace and Unity Gathering" of renewed Acadian and Mi'kmaw friendship commencing at 5 pm on August 10th and continuing on the 11th, 12th, and 13th at Grand-Pré, N.S. Plans include a cultural village with 15 teepees, a vendor market, culinary demonstrations, entertainment, and a dance circle. LINK: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/grand-pre-to-host-big-celebration-of-mi-kmaq-acadian-bond-this-summer-1.4031013>

August 20, 2017 Port Royal National Historic Site - Habitation

An invitation has been received for AAMS Directors and members to have demonstrations of drumming, singing and traditional Métis prayers (e.g. Seven Directions Prayer) performed at Port Royal National Historic Site (Habitation) for the tourists and visitors.

NOTE: Other events are being planned. AAMS members will be notified when location and dates are confirmed.

Members wishing to volunteer for AAMS events or committees such as fundraising should contact the AAMS office

FRIENDLY REMINDER:

Please remember to pay your yearly dues

The AAMS Board of Directors is working hard to keep costs down while representing almost 1500 members. There is strength in numbers, but everything has a cost

Join us on:



Note: to find us fast on Facebook type "Souriquois" in Search

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AAMS always welcomes new members