



March 21<sup>st</sup> 2018

This is an open letter in response to accusations, false information and abusive generalizations currently circulating on social media concerning Eastern Canada Métis.

L'Association des Acadiens-Métis Souriquois (AAMS) has never advocated or promoted any tax benefits from the issuing of membership cards. Members have consistently been advised that such tax benefits are the rights of the Mi'kmaw and others that come under the auspices and control of the *Indian Act*. Acadian Métis are not controlled by the *Indian Act* nor is it desired.

What is desired is peaceful co-existence with our First Nations friends and the recognition of the inherent Sovereignty of the Mi'kmaw Nation. We also seek respect for our people, traditions and customs. We believe that Indigenous peoples and traditions can better prosper together. However, we refuse all forms of intimidation towards our members and the denigration of our culture and history.

The following is a quote from the AAMS constitution which the AAMS board of directors and the executive consistently and strictly adhere to the letter.

Quote:

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.

Unquote.

Sincerely,

Joseph Jacquard  
AAMS President