

Association des Acadiens-Métis Souriquois (AAMS)

Spring 2023
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AAMS, PO Box 25, Mavillette NS B0W 2H0
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. President's Report
2. 2023 AAMS AGM
3. Employment Opportunity
4. Indigenous Events
5. AAMS Bursary
6. Dues Reminder
7. Sweetgrass Project
8. Quote
9. Bernie Robicheau
10. AAMS Office
11. Did you know?
12. CMA 2024
13. Mitacs: Database Project

"There are only two things you have to remember about being an Indian. One is that everything is alive, and the second is that we are all related."

Dr. Joseph Couture, Cree elder.

President's Report

By Marcel Jean d'Entremont - President

Salut | Kwé | Greetings

AAMS has been busy after we emerged from COVID. We recently had a membership vote on amendments to our constitution. The vote was unanimous to accept a change of language around auditors and our AGM date. We are planning events around sweetgrass awareness and our upcoming 2023 AAMS AGM. While we were not able to do many face-to-face events recently, we kept the Board of Directors meetings by going online. We now use Skype to videoconference all our directors' meetings so participation from our out of region representatives, as well as those cases where directors can't travel, is possible.

Recently, a British Columbia provincial court ruling sided with Eastern Métis. Professor Sebastien Mallette wrote; *"Now that Canadian justice recognizes the right of the Eastern Métis to identify and defend their culture outside of the Powley interpretive framework that is limited to some, but not all, Aboriginal rights, it is time to demand apologies and reparations from some institutions and the media, which, under the guise of public policy issues, have been openly conducting smear campaigns against a segment of the Aboriginal population that the Commission of Inquiry on Aboriginal Peoples already in 1996 referred to as vulnerable minorities: the Eastern Métis."* See [Provincial Court of BC Judgments](#)

Please engage with us as we continue working towards goals and mission...
Merci | Welálin | Thank you

Marcel Jean d'Entremont, AAMS President



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AAMS 2023 AGM Saturday 24 June 2023 at NSCC Burrigade Campus in Yarmouth NS **BBQ, music, videos, meet and chat with AAMS members and executive.**

The Opportunity: Office Administrator - Association des Acadiens-Métis Souriquois (AAMS) Comeauville,
Administrative | Experienced | Part-Time: flexible hours | Competition #: 2023-01 | Commencing 11 April 2023 | **Apply ASAP**

Responsibilities: • Serving members, directors, and public in French / English by greeting, welcoming, answering incoming phone calls. If extra information is required, then contact the personnel responsible to discuss potential answers/solutions. • Update spreadsheets in relation to the organization using up-to-date computer software • Transferring and entering data from a Database, Excel, Word, or paper formats into various digital formats • Assist in organizing, promoting, and advertising activities and events with the directors and the members of AAMS or public • Manage correspondence: membership dues, letters, emails, webpage inquiries, packages • Track office supplies and place orders when necessary • Submit reports and prepare presentations/proposals as assigned • Attend & participate in events, workshops, and seminars to learn more about the history, cultural traditions, ancestry of AAMS • Find/print documents for meetings. Participate in AAMS meetings taking minutes and attendance including typing up minutes and emailing to executive in a timely manner. • Job training, onboarding, and ongoing support and guidance will be provided

Qualifications • You are a team player. • You have experience coordinating office activities and operations to assure efficiency and compliance to policies, procedures, constitution, and by-laws • Have knowledge and experience dealing with computers, phones, and office electronics, including how to keep systems and private information safe and secure • Work efficiently, effectively, and competent in prioritizing work with little supervision • Ensure smooth running of the organization and contribute to driving sustainable growth • You have good customer service skills and respect all people/cultures • Create a safe place to do business and demonstrate a commitment to diversity and inclusion • You will have to be available some evenings and weekends for meetings and events

National Indigenous Peoples Day 2023

AAMS will be active for National Indigenous Peoples Day 21 June 2023

June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day. This is a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. The Canadian Constitution recognizes these three groups as Aboriginal peoples, also known as Indigenous peoples. Although these groups share many similarities, they each have their own distinct heritage, language, cultural practices, and spiritual beliefs. In cooperation with Indigenous organizations, the Government of Canada chose June 21, the summer solstice, for National Aboriginal Day, now known as **National Indigenous Peoples Day**. For generations, many Indigenous peoples and communities have celebrated their culture and heritage on or near this day due to the significance of the summer solstice as the longest day of the year.

North American Indigenous Games 2023: Halifax NS

JULY 15 – 23, 2023 | naig2023.com

LOCATION: Kijipuktuk (Halifax), Dartmouth, Millbrook First Nation

Pjila'si - The 10th North American Indigenous Games will host competitions in 16 sports within 21 venues across Kijipuktuk (Halifax), Dartmouth and Millbrook First Nation. The North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) 2023 will bring together more than 5,000 athletes, coaches, and team staff from 756+ Indigenous Nations celebrating, sharing, and reconnecting through sport and culture with the help of 3,000 volunteers. NAIG's mission is to improve the quality of life for Indigenous Peoples by supporting self-determined sports and cultural activities which encourage equal access to participation in the social / cultural / spiritual fabric of the community in which they reside, and which respects Indigenous distinctiveness.

AAMS Bursaries

We will be offering **one** \$500 education bursary in 2023!

To apply and see the AAMS honor roll:

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

"As the swallow rebuilds his nest after the storm, so has the Acadian rebuilt his home after exile."

<< Comme l'hirondelle rebâtit son nid après la tempête, ainsi l'Acadien a rebâtit sa demeure après l'exile.>>

Author unknown

AAMS Dues Reminder

Thank you to all those who have paid their 2023 dues and a special thank you to all those who included generous donations. Our ever-growing total membership is now over 1960 proud Acadian Métis.

The twenty-dollar yearly dues can be paid by check or money order to: AAMS Treasurer, PO Box 25 Mavillette, N.S. B0W 2H0.

Dues payments can also be made by e-transfer:

aams.office@gmail.com

No Password Required.

NOTE: The AAMS Board of Directors is comprised of volunteers. Only the office administrator and accountant are paid.

NSCC Sweetgrass Project

Your president, and by association AAMS, have been involved in a project with Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) Applied Research (AR). The **Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (CMM)** and NSCC AR are participating in a Sweetgrass project. Sweetgrass is one of the four sacred plants of the Mi'kmaq. They are looking to find, catalog, grow, preserve, and bring awareness to the plight of sweetgrass. It is losing habitat (the land between salt water marshes and freshwater land) and has been overharvested and is now a near endangered species. We have found Sweetgrass on my personal property and the **Conseil Scholaire Acadien Provincial (CSAP)** property next door. I have been working with the CSAP, NSCC and CMM on a Sweetgrass & Mi'kmaq awareness workshop for the students of École de Pubnico-Ouest.

Quote

"When a flower doesn't bloom you fix the environment in which it grows, not the flower."

Alexander den Heijer

From his book *"Nothing you don't already know."*

Bernie Robicheau: AAMS Member



On January 6, 2023 our AAMS organization suffered an irreplaceable loss with the passing of **Bernie Robicheau**. Bernie was 97 years old and our oldest member, nevertheless he would attend almost all annual meetings and other various AAMS functions. Bernie was old in years but young at heart; a true Acadian Metis devoted to the organization. He took pride in his ancestry and spent his retirement years weaving baskets, dream catchers and snowshoes. He was also quite skilful at making knives and carving walking sticks. I personally knew Bernie and I know he would not want us to grieve his passing but instead, he'd want us to gather together, raise a glass high and share stories to remember him as the man he truly was; completely devoted to his family and friends and loving life. Bernie was a good man and will surely be missed.

Alyre Theriault, AAMS Vice President

AAMS Office

Office administrator - email aams.office@gmail.com or phone (902) 746-3652. You can also drop in at the **Clare Cultural Hub Building**, Civic 795 highway1, Comeauville, N.S.

Open: Tuesday 9 am to 12 pm
Please call ahead of your visit to the office.

Did you know?

Eastern Woodlands: Indigenous Peoples in Canada

The Eastern Woodlands is one of six cultural areas of Indigenous peoples in Canada. The region stretches from the northeastern coast of present-day United States and the Maritimes to west of the Great Lakes. The Eastern Woodlands includes, among others, the Haudenosaunee, Mi'kmaq, Ojibwe and Wendat (Huron) peoples.

Bishop, C. (2017). Eastern Woodlands Indigenous Peoples in Canada. In *The Canadian Encyclopedia*. Retrieved from <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/aboriginal-people-eastern-woodlands>

Congress Mondial Acadien 2024

AUGUST 10 TO 18, 2024 | Southwest Nova Scotia

The Acadian region of Southwest Nova Scotia is opening its doors to more than 400 years of history. It started right here! The region's terrain is proof of the strength, resilience and determination of the Acadian people. Listen to the words of its inhabitants to discover all the colours of a rich history and the flavours of an Acadie that is unquestionably contemporary.

AAMS Database Project: Update

We have been **approved** for a \$10,000 grant from Mitacs for the AAMS Database Project, which includes \$2500 of your money to support this initiative. All the money goes to pay an Intern we have hired to build the database developed by AAMS and the Database Management System designer.

At present, we are waiting for the invoice and for the work to start potentially sometime in the Spring. Please stay tuned as we push forward with this very important initiative. This project will move us from using a paper system to a digital process to register and maintain contact with our membership.

This is your membership money at work, providing a secure, efficient, and up-to-date system of tracking members, dues, addresses, and contact information. If we want to be treated with equity, dignity, and respect, we need to be professional and organized... stay tuned for more details...

For more info on Mitacs, see: <https://www.mitacs.ca/en>



Association des Acadiens-Souriquois. (2018). *Large Basket*. [Online Photo Gallery]. Retrieved from <http://acadiens-metis-souriquois.ca/aams-photos.html>

