

KESPU'KWITH METIS COUNCIL

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

March 2025

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On Monday, February 10, a member of the KMC executive, along with representatives from other Métis organizations in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, met with Jamie Schmale, Shadow Minister for Crown-Indigenous Relations and Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs. The meeting, hosted by our Member of Parliament, Chris d'Entremont, offered Minister Schmale the opportunity to learn more about the challenges facing Métis peoples in Eastern Canada, the main issue, of course, being our lack of official recognition despite abundant evidence of our credibility as Indigenous people under section 35(1) of the Constitution Act, 1982.



News From the Office



Magnets, Licence Plates, and More for Sale!

Please note that our office will be closing on March 11th at 1 pm and will re-open at 9 am on March 27th.

Hosting Opportunity

The Kespu'kwitk Métis Council has been offered the opportunity to work with a sociology student from France who will be here for two weeks in June to conduct a sociological inquiry on an Acadian Métis community. We are hoping that some of our member families would be willing to host this student, Thierry, for two or three days. The aim of this project is to increase awareness of our history and our current challenges, both here in Canada and in France. Please contact the KMC office (kmcmétis@gmail.com or 902 742 6591) if you're interested in being a host family for two or three days. THANK YOU!

- Members are updated regularly on news and upcoming events on our Facebook page: look for **Kespu'kwitk Métis Council**.

DNA testing has now determined that **some Acadian families**, who used to be accepted by KMC as having Indigenous ancestry, **do not, in fact, have an Indigenous ancestor**. These include some (but not all) of the Lejeune families and those descending from Jeanne Radegonde Lambert. After lengthy discussion, our board has decided that the children of any members who were accepted on the strength of these genealogies **will** be accepted as members. However, the grandchildren of those existing

members will not. KMC makes every effort to find alternative Indigenous lines within a prospective member's genealogy for applicants faced with this issue.

Some KMC members may be skeptical of the accuracy of DNA testing; while it's true that some of the in-home DNA test kits may not be entirely reliable, we based our decision on the many scientifically accurate tests done on the descendants of these particular families, for the specific purpose of determining their indigeneity. The reason for this overabundance of caution in regard to ancestry is simple: if we ever hope to achieve recognition from the government, it is important for us to be as careful and open about our membership policies as we can be.

KMC Annual Membership Fees of \$20 are due each January! Dues may be paid easily by e-transfer to kmcmmetis@gmail.com.

Recent and Upcoming Events

- Each year, KMC hires a **summer student** (aged 15-30) who does not have to be returning to school in the fall. The student will be required to oversee the Yarmouth office and to take on special projects assigned by the executive. This position runs for eight weeks in July and August. If you, or someone you know, might be **interested in applying, please contact Patsy, our office administrator**, at kmcmmetis@gmail.com.
- The Kespu'kwitk Métis Council has been approached by the **Métis Alliance of Canada Cooperative**, an organization focused on the cultural, economic, and social unity of all Métis councils across Canada through land acquisition, business development, health and wellness programs, and harvesting. The Alliance would like to gauge the interest of KMC members in also belonging to this group. A **virtual information event** will be held on April 10th, 2025, via Zoom. Please contact our office for the link to this event (and note that the office will be closed from March 12-March 26).
- Once again this year, KMC will offer **(2) \$100 bursaries to Grade 12 graduating students**. The bursaries will be granted based on the submission of a 400-word essay on the topic of "Why I am Proud to be Acadian Metis".

Eligibility Criteria:

A student or their parent(s) or guardian must be a member in good standing of the Kespu'kwitk Métis Council. Students must be graduating in 2025 from Grade 12. This competition is open to students in high schools in the region as well as homeschooled students. The **deadline to apply is April 30, 2025**.

Typed submissions should be **emailed** to KMC at: kmcmctis@gmail.com or **delivered** to the KMC office at 368 Main Street, Lovitt Plaza Suite 221, Yarmouth, NS.

Contact Info

Office Administrator

Patsy Scoville

Phone

902 742 6591

Email

kmcmctis@gmail.com