



# Kespu'kwitk Métis Council (KMC)

## NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2023

### A PEEK INSIDE!

- President's Message
- Executive Members
- Peer Support Phone Service
- Upcoming Event
- Summer Student Position
- Bursaries & Scholarships
- Disability Issues
- Dues Reminder
- Notice re: E-transfer Payments
- Current Members – Ideas
- Donations Paid
- Did you Know ?
- Free Heat Pumps-Low Income Homeowners in Nova Scotia
- VON Tri-County Adult Prog.
- Programs & Services
- Indigenous Programs-Youth
- KMC Office Hours & Contact

### EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Ron Surette – *President & Director of Economic Development*

George Smith – *Treasurer & Captain of the Hunt*

Jo-Anne Muisse-Lawless  
*Indigenous & Constitutional Rights*

John Paul Babin – *Head Elder*

Liz Smith-Doucette – *Secretary*

Special Events – *the Executive Brd.*

### PEER SUPPORT PHONE SERV.

If you are age 18 & up, & struggling with mental health, or substance use, etc., please call 1-800-307-1686 toll-free from Wednesday to Friday 5 pm-11 pm and Saturdays & Sundays 11 am-11 pm.

### KMC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Govt. has introduced Bill C-21 (the Firearms Bill) which will affect all Acadian Métis gun owners and hunters. If the proposed amendments to this bill become law, many of Canada's 2.2 million licensed firearms owners could be criminalized.

This new legislation harkens back to a time when the British were attempting to gain control of Nova Scotia in the 1700s. Acadian Métis were looked upon then as a threat to the British, and their firearms were confiscated. In my opinion, history is repeating itself.

Bill C-21 does impact First Nations' firearms. Métis people are also Indigenous people whose rights should be considered under the same section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

As Acadian Métis, we must stand united and keep our memberships in good standing.

We would encourage you to familiarize yourself with the following treaties: 1) the RATIFICATION OF THE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY signed by Mathieu Mius in 1726; and 2) Père Jean-Mandé SIGOGNE'S 1812 COPY OF THE 1761 PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY, signed by François Mius as Chief of "the Tribe of La Hève Indians". Copies of these treaties will be available through the KMC Office.

Let us hope this will help us Métis.

Ron Surette

**UPCOMING EVENT:****SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATIONS :**

National Indigenous Day is on Wed. June 21, 2023. We will be having celebrations at the Yarmouth Library for the local schools. There will be indigenous artifacts, drumming, music, and traditional foods will be served. You will learn about the culture & history of the Acadian Métis people. Time will be advertised at a later date.

**SUMMER STUDENT POSITION 2023:**

We will be applying for funding from "Canada Summer Jobs" for a summer student to work as Assistant Office Administrator at the KMC Office for the months of July and August. If successful with the application, this position will be advertised at a later date, at schools, our Facebook page, and our website.

**BURSARIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS:**

There are bursaries & scholarships offered by the Government of Canada to Indigenous/Metis students. Please check our website at: [kespukwitkmetisCouncil.com](http://kespukwitkmetisCouncil.com) and click on "Education Assistance" for a listing that is available.

**DISABILITY ISSUES:**

For our members who have issues walking up the stairs to our office, and would like to pay their dues in person, we have a locked box at bottom of stairs. Place payment through the slot & a receipt will be sent in the mail.

**Are your 2023 DUES paid yet?**

(\$20 Dues are now owing for the current year)

**Payment Options Available:****Cash in person at KMC Office:**

342 Main St., Yarmouth, NS B5A 1E6

**Cheque or Money Order: Payable to:**

Kespu'kwitk Métis Council  
P.O.Box 424, Yarmouth, NS B5A 4B3

**E-Transfers:**

Email: [kespu\\_kwitk@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:kespu_kwitk@ns.aliantzinc.ca)

*No password required - we now have auto deposit*

**Thank you to all members who have already paid past and current dues!**

**NOTICE RE: E-TRANSFER PAYMENTS**

It is very important for members making e-transfer payments to provide either the KMC number or the person/s you are paying for, in the "message" section. We presently have payments but do not know whose acct. to post to.

**CURRENT MEMBERS:**

If you have ideas or events for us to consider, please contact the KMC Office by email, or phone the office at (902) 742-6591.

**DONATIONS PAID:**

- KMC supports the Sou-West Shriners' Club and Early Childhood Development.
- KMC sponsors 3 youths annually who are registered in an organized sports program for an amount up to \$100 each.
- KMC also supports financially the closing ceremonies at Ecole Secondaire de P.E.B.



**DID YOU KNOW ?**

-**Executive Meetings of KMC** are held monthly (except July & August) to deal with regular council business.

-**Quarterly Meetings of KMC** are held normally in March, June, September and December. In 2022, there were no quarterly meetings due to the pandemic, but will be having them in 2023. Meetings will be advertised. Meetings v Everyone is welcomed!

**-The Annual General Meeting(AGM)**

The AGM Meeting was held on Sept. 20, 2022 at Ecole Secondaire PEB Library, Tusket, NS. The 2023 AGM will be held in Sept. and advertised at a later date. Everyone is welcomed!

-**Items for Sale:** We have Métis-branded products for sale at the KMC Office; including sashes, flags, pins, vehicle licenses plates, walking sticks & logos.

-**Memberships:** There are over 3,000 members registered with KMC. Only half of these members have a valid email. Please provide the KMC Office with a proper email, if you have one. Thank you!

**FREE HEAT PUMPS IN NS-YR.1 OF 4**

For low-income homeowners in Nova Scotia only. Call 1-877-434-2136 OR you may apply online at: [www.homewarmingapply.ca](http://www.homewarmingapply.ca) OR pick up application at KMC or MLA Office.

**VON TRI-COUNTY ADULT DAY PROG.**

Adult Day Program is available at the VON Office on Starrs Rd, Yarmouth NS. This program provides a safe environment for seniors & respite for care-takers on Thursdays. For more info, call 902-742-4512 or 1-800-928-3414

**PROGRAMS AND SERVICES:**

- Housing N.S. offers various grants available for low-income seniors for homeowners. Call toll free 1-844-424-5110 to see what programs are offered and if you qualify.

- Heating Assistance Rebate Program is offered by the Province of N.S.

Forms may be picked up at the KMC Office. Deadline to apply March 31, 2023

**INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS - YOUTHS:**

The Canadian Armed Forces offers various programs for Indigenous people; including Summer Training Programs; Can. Forces Aboriginal Entry Program; and Aboriginal Leadership Opportunity Year. Youths starting at age 16 can apply. This also includes programs to join the RCMP. For more info on these programs, contact the Recruit Centre in Halifax at 1-800-856-8488 toll free - Tim Keith

**KMC OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT INFO:**

The KMC Office is opened as follows:

- Tuesdays 9:00 to 1:00 pm
- Wednesdays 9:00 to 4:00 pm
- Thursdays 9:00 to 1:00 pm

Telephone Number: (902) 742-6591

Fax Number: (902) 742-7989

Email: [kespu\\_kwitk@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:kespu_kwitk@ns.aliantzinc.ca)

Website: [kespukwitkmetisCouncil.com](http://kespukwitkmetisCouncil.com)

Facebook: Kespu'kwitk Metis Council

Office Address:

342 Main Street  
Yarmouth, NS B5A 1E6

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 424  
Yarmouth, NS B5A 4B3

Office Administrator: Patsy Scoville