



Kespu'kwitk Métis Council(KMC)

NEWSLETTER - WINTER 2024

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EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Ron Surette - *President & Director of Economic Development*
George Smith - *Treasurer & Captain of the Hunt*
Jo-Anne Muise Lawless - *Genealogist & Indigenous & Constitutional Rights*
John Paul Babin - *Head Elder*
Liz Smith-Doucette - *Secretary*
Special Events - the Executive Board

PEER SUPPORT PHONE SERVICE

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 to 11 pm & Saturdays & Sundays 11 am to 11 pm.

KMC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the past year, our Council has been quite active. We are always reminding members to keep up with the yearly dues.

This year, we received funding from the Town of Yarmouth, which went towards the repairs of our computer. A grant was received for Indigenous Peoples' Day on June 21st. Also, a grant for Canada Summer Job (CSJ) was received to hire a youth aged 15-30 for the months of July and August.

KMC had a display at the Western Exhibition on Multicultural Day.

It is the responsibility of the Executive to work diligently to take every opportunity in order to achieve recognition. The Executive and myself are always doing our utmost in keeping up to date on what is going on in the Métis world.

The Landmark Supreme Court ruling extended rights to 600,000 Métis, "non-status Indians" back in April, 2016. The Courts did not give the Government of Canada a time limit, therefore, we are still waiting and hoping the Government will bring in the Legislation for Recognition of Acadian Métis".

In closing, our office has moved to: Lovitt Plaza, 368 Main St., Suite 221, Yarmouth, NS B5A 1E9.

We also have a new email address:

kmcmétis@gmail.com.

Ron Surette

UPCOMING EVENT:

SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATIONS :

National Indigenous Day is on Fri. June 21, 2024. 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 10 am to 12 noon.

SUMMER STUDENT POSITION 2024

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.

FREE HEAT PUMPS IN NS-YR.2 OF 4

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

CONGRÈS MONDIAL ACADIEN 2024

KMC's genealogist & chair of the Indigenous & Constitutional Rights Committee, Dr. Jo-Anne Muise Lawless will be giving a presentation, hosted by Le Musée Acadien in W. Pubnico, during the Congrès Mondial Acadien 2024, which is being held from Aug. 10-18. Topic to be announced!

Are your 2024 DUES paid yet?

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

Payment Options Available:

Cash in person at KMC Office:
Lovitt Plaza, 368 Main St., Yar.NS B5A 1E9

Cheque or Money Order: Payable to:
Kespu'kwitk Métis Council
P.O.Box 424, Yarmouth, NS B5A 4B3

E-Transfers:

NEW EMAIL: kmcmctis@gmail.com

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.

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

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.

-The Annual General Meeting(AGM)

The AGM Meeting is held in Sept. at Ecole Secondaire PEB Library, Tusket, NS Date advertised at a later day. 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 3,100 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!

KMC IS OFFERING BURSARIES:

This year, KMC will offer two (2) \$100 bursaries to Grade 12 graduating students. The bursaries will be granted based on the submission of an up to 400-word essay on the topic of "Why I am Proud to be Acadian Métis".

Eligibility Criteria: A student or their parent(s) or guardian, must be a member in good standing of KMC. Students must be graduating in 2024 from Grade 12. This competition is open to those in high schools in the region as well as homeschooled students. Deadline to apply is April 30, 2024 at 12 pm. Typed submissions should be emailed at KMC at: kmcmctis@gmail.com or brought to the KMC Office at 368 Main Street, Lovitt Plaza, Suite 221.

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, 2024

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

NEW EMAIL: kmcmctis@gmail.com

Website: kspukwitkmetisCouncil.com

Facebook: Kespu'kwitk Metis Council

Office Address:

Lovitt Plaza, 368 Main St., Suite 221
Yarmouth, NS B5A 1E9

Mailing Address:

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

Office Administrator: Patsy Scoville

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE INDIGENOUS & CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS COMMITTEE:

Over the past year of two, there have been several initiatives set in motion that directly or indirectly impact us as Acadian Métis. Of particular interest to us is the 2022 case of *British Columbia (Child, Family and Community Service) v. W. and H.* which addressed the issue of an Acadian Métis child born to parents in BC; the child's mother is from a First Nation in BC and the father, now deceased, belonged to the Eastern Woodlands Métis in NS. The child entered into the care of BC Child and Family Services, and this case deals with whether or not the child is entitled to Métis-specific services because of their Acadian Métis ancestry.

The judge in this case, Justice Susan Mengerling, recognizes the child's self-identification and ancestral connections (things we've been arguing for, as an organization) and, importantly, she also does away with the need for the Powley conditions in attributing cultural rights for a child going into care (These legal conditions of Métisness in Canada require, among other things, an uninterrupted occupation of a geographic area; a condition we have been unable to meet because of the Acadian Deportation of 1755).

The child's mother's First Nations community believes that the child is not entitled to Métis-specific services and argue that there have never been Métis in the Maritimes, but the judge ignores this argument and focuses on the child's actual Acadian Métis background and the father's cultural practices. Justice Mengerling, in her findings, states that, "I am satisfied that the child's paternal family's claim to be Métis is made in good faith, and that there is a reliable and credible evidentiary basis to believe that the child's paternal family is Métis".