

Kespu'kwitk Métis Council

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Being Acadian Métis

By Jo-Anne Muisse Lawless

One of the questions we're asked most frequently here at the Kespu'kwitk Métis Council office is "What do I get for being a member?" People become members of the Council for many different reasons: pride in identity, loyalty to family, interest in genealogy, hope for rights and benefits, and the list goes on.

In your newsletter, which we'll be sending out to you four times a year, we will provide up-to-date information and resources about where we stand as Métis people in Canada, and what's on the horizon. Many people are concerned that not enough is being done to get federal recognition for the Acadian Métis (and other Métis people in over half the provinces and territories in the country who do not yet have recognition). We encourage you to get involved in this effort: there's a lot going on!

There is much to be proud of in our Acadian Métis heritage today. We are rich in culture as the descendants of Acadian-First Nations intermarriages that began in the 1500s. We have a distinct language influenced by the Mi'kmaq, Acadians, and the British. Many of our members hunt and fish using the tools and practices of our ancestors. Our music, art, and literature is coloured by our Acadian Métis identity.

Watch this space for quarterly updates on what's new in the world of the Acadian Métis through the eyes of the Kespu'kwitk Métis Council!

Our Changing Team

The KMC Board of Directors has recently experienced some significant changes. We'd like to introduce you to our new team:

President: *Jo-Anne Muise Lawless.* Jo-Anne has served on the Board since 2010, as the chair of KMC's Indigenous and Constitutional Right's Committee and the organization's genealogist. She lives in a tiny house north of Quinan, on land that has been in the Muise family since their return from exile in the 1700s. A graduate of Carleton University's Legal Studies doctoral program, Jo-Anne was recently appointed KMC's Interim President.

Treasurer: *Caleb d'Entremont.* An aspiring medical student currently attending university in Newfoundland, Caleb's boundless enthusiasm and knowledge of economic development are stellar qualities that he offers as our new treasurer. In addition, with an extensive background in grant acquisitions, Caleb is taking on the role of KMC's Social and Economic Development Officer.

Secretary: *Shelley Bodge.* Our new secretary is an avid reader and world traveller who began her working life in the private sector and transitioned to working for the federal government in Customs and at Service Canada. Curious about life even in semi-retirement, Shelley is a welcome addition to the KMC executive.

Head Elder: *John Paul Babin*. A dedicated member of the KMC, John Paul has served the organization for over 10 years, and has gone above and beyond his expected duties through his involvement in a court challenge asserting his right to fish as an Indigenous person under section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982.

Office Administrator: *Patsy Scoville*. With over 30 years' experience working in high-level positions for the Municipality of Argyle, Patsy brings valuable professionalism and expertise to the day-to-day workings of our office at 368 Main St. in Yarmouth. Her warm personality and infectious laugh greet visitors during our office hours on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.



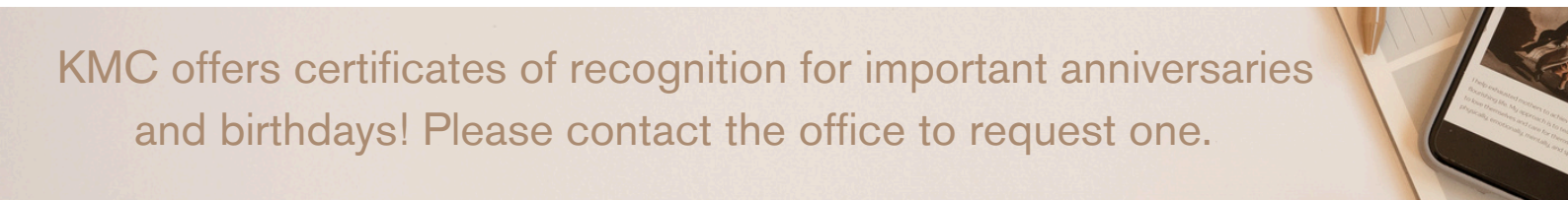
Where the Magic Happens

A reminder that \$20 annual membership fees are due in January of each year.
Contact Patsy at the office to find out if you are up to date!

Upcoming Events

Our Annual General Meeting takes place on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 7 pm, at Ecole Secondaire de Par-en-Bas in Tuskent NS. A Zoom link is available by contacting our office.

KMC offers certificates of recognition for important anniversaries and birthdays! Please contact the office to request one.



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