



Greetings!!

First we would like to welcome our three new members to our Grand Council, they are: Charles Crosby (former Mayor of Yarmouth), Charles served for 20 years. Charles is our "Negotiator"; Blair McCauley, Blair is our "Captain of the Hunt"; Charlene Dulong, Charlene is our Secretary. We would also like to welcome our new Circles: "Spirit of the Buffalo" (Halifax) with Chief Barry Marchand; "Spirit of the Hawk" (Sydney/Cape Breton) with Chief Denny David; and the "Bear Circle" (Truro/Central Nova Scotia) with Chief Sandy Little.

In 1999, the late Harry Daniels, his son Gabriel Daniels, Lee Gardner and Terry Joudrey and the Congress of Aboriginal People asked the Federal Court of Canada to declare (a) that Métis-Non Status Indians are Indians within the meaning of the expression "Indians & Lands reserved for Indians" that is stated in section 91 (24) of the Constitution Act 1867.

After 12 years of legal wrangling, Mr. Justice Michael Phalan focused the principal issue in this action "whether the Federal government has jurisdiction to make laws in respect of Métis and non-status Indians (MNSI) under section 91 (24) of the Constitution Act 1867 because they are "Indians".

On December 8, 2012, the third highest level of courts in Canada declared what our founders and continuing members of Eastern Woodland Métis Nation have always voiced to the Councils of Government. We are Indian!

We must think of our founding members who have since passed that our organizing is a voice to the Government was a good decision and the cause to go "Hands Up" not "Hands Out" was and continues to be the goal of the non-status Indians of Atlantic Canada.

I ask each member to each Circle to reaffirm their solidarity to go forward united. We will call on both levels of Government to begin to Honour the crown and declaration of the Court in working with Eastern Woodland Métis Nation.

Daniels and the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples went to Federal Court asserting Ottawa "does have" the jurisdiction for dealing with the Métis and off-reserve Natives under section 35 of the Canadian Constitution Act 1982, said a news release from a national Métis organization.

Since Canada's expansion westward, the Métis Peoples have not been treated right and have struggled against both Provincial and Federal Governments on their Constitutional responsibilities and duties owing to us as a distinct Aboriginal Peoples.

We, the Eastern Woodland Métis Nation Nova Scotia, attended the meeting in Ottawa on December 5, 2012 by invitation, to attend and represent the collective Métis population of Atlantic. We have been offered several places to hold our Annual General Meeting/AGM and Pow-Wows and we thank those who offered. Stay tuned.

THE METIS FLAG



The flag was first used by Métis resistance fighters prior to the Battle of Seven Oaks in 1816. It is the oldest Canadian patriotic flag indigenous to Canada. The Union Jack and the Royal Standard of New France bearing the fleur-de-lis are older, but these flags were first flown in Europe. As a symbol of nationhood, the Métis flag predates Canada's Maple Leaf flag by about 150 years! The flag bears a horizontal figure eight, or infinity symbol. The infinity symbol represents the coming together of two distinct and vibrant cultures, those of European and indigenous North America, to produce a distinctly new culture, the Métis. The flag symbolizes the creation of a new society with roots in both Aboriginal and European cultures and traditions. The sky blue background of the flag emphasizes the infinity symbol and suggests that the Métis people will exist forever.

The Métis flag has two variants: the more popular blue flag, and the red flag. Nobody knows why the early Métis chose these two colour patterns for their flags. However, conjecture seems to indicate that the Métis created the blue and white infinity flag because these were the colours of the North West Company, the fur trading firm which employed most of the French Michif speaking Métis.

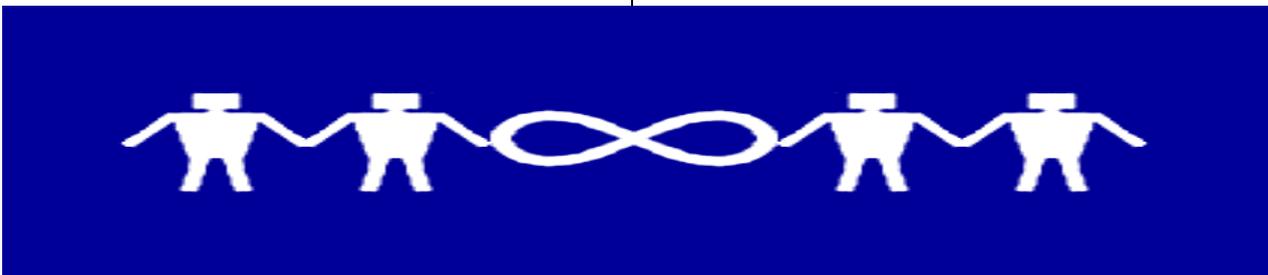
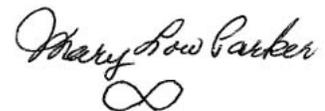
The blue Métis infinity flag bears a striking resemblance to the blue and white flag of St. Andrew, the national flag of Scotland. The blue and white colours of the Métis flag are also the traditional colours of French Canada, as seen on the provincial of Quebec. That the creators of the infinity flag may have had some Scottish and French Canadian input when creating their flag is not surprising, because these two groups dominated the North West Company and had the most Métis descendants.

The red Métis flag may have been created by Métis employees of the Hudson's Bay Company. The traditional colours of the fur trade giant were red and white. Neither the blue and white, nor the red and white flag was used by the Métis during the two great resistance movements of 1869-70 and 1885. During this period the Métis used flags which contained French Canadian and Catholic religious symbols. The Métis infinity flag was temporarily forgotten, and remembered only in oral tradition. With the rebirth of Métis pride and consciousness the flag was brought back. Today the flag remains a potent symbol of Métis heritage.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Please remember, annual membership fees are \$20.00 for existing members of EWMNNS. If you have any questions call the office at 1-902-742-3304.

***Chi Miiguich
(Grand Chief) Mary Lou Parker***



Minutes of Meeting – March 26, 2013

Location: Knights of Columbus on Collins Street in Yarmouth, Yarmouth Co., Nova Scotia

Meeting opened with prayer at 7pm by Grand Chief Mary Lou Parker.

There were 77 members in attendance.

Correspondence was read and passed by floor.

Those members present were brought up-to-date on the Federal Government and where we stand. Liaison report from Jerome Downey was read by Grand Chief Parker and was accepted by the floor. Our long range plans were discussed and it was decided that we must “plan our work” and “work our plan”.

Members were informed about our new Circles: “Spirit of the Buffalo” (Halifax) with Chief Barry Marchand; “Spirit of the Hawk” (Sydney) with Chief Denny David; and the “Bear” Circle (Truro/Central Nova Scotia) with Chief Sandy Little.

New phone numbers were given for Education; call toll free to 1-855-463-7747

We now have a “Negotiator”, Mr. Charles Crosby, the former Mayor of Yarmouth. He will be working with the government on all levels.

At this meeting we were offered FREE advertising from Larry Miller, the owner of the Flying Cow news sheet, which reaches over 6,000 businesses. Thanks a million Larry!!

We were offered a hall and space to hold Pow-Wow’s by Sheridan Lawrence Sr. This hall is in Greensville, Yarmouth Co., and is very acceptable for all.

We also discussed at this meeting that we will focus on us (Eastern Woodland Métis Nation Nova Scotia) and not worry about other Métis organizations. We must show our cards wherever we shop. Eventually they will be recognized.

Our strategy is not to worry about First Nations. They, in the long run, will come to us.

We are working for the good of the organization and will NOT interfere with any council member nor will they interfere with any council member in their respective position within the Nation.

A question period was held and info was passed between council and members. It was passed that we have a financial report ready for the next meeting. The next meeting will take place at 7 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus in Yarmouth on Tuesday, May 28th. at 7p.m. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm by Grand Chief Parker.

Minutes submitted by Grand Chief Mary Lou Parker.