



Conseil du Premier Peuple Métis du Canada Council of the First Métis People of Canada

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March 11, 2018

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau, Minister Bennett, and Minister Philpott,

I wish to bring to your attention that a young and very talented East Coast Indigenous musician was stripped of his ECMA Indigenous Artist of the Year nomination this week, following a twitter post by Prof. Darryl Leroux stating: "Since when does @EastCoastMusic awards recognize Acadians as Indigenous. Are you aware that the "Acadian Metis" are unrecognized as Aboriginal by all levels of government, by the courts, and by the Mi'kmaq? What do you think @Mikmaq_star?"

On behalf of Maxim, I humbly seek your help in this matter by either confirming Mr. Leroux's claim that "Acadian Metis" are unrecognized as Aboriginal by all levels of government, by the courts" or by intervening with the ECMA to reverse their decision.

Maxim Cormier is a direct descendant (twice) of a very well known and well document Aboriginal Mius families. Many registered members of Mi'kmaq and Qalipu tribes also descend from the very same Mius ancestors, one of whom, by the way, was signatory of the 1761 "Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Jonathon Belcher and Francis Muis". As a genealogist and historian (with 40+ years of research under my belt), elected chief of the Council of the First Metis People of Canada Inc, (CFMPC) and former registrar of the Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO), I personally implemented a strict registry process that verifies an applicant's Metis ancestry with legal and valid records for every generation, before issuing membership cards. Maxim Cormier meets all the requirements, twice. Of all the people the ECMA could choose to disqualify, Maxim is the worse case scenario because he is not only Indigenous, but a descendant of very important Mius families that played an integral role in the history of Acadia and Atlantic Canada.

In the Daniels case, the Supreme Court of Canada confirmed that the Metis and non-Status Indians were "Indians". The Metis are one of Canada's three Aboriginal peoples under s.35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. In this particular case, it does not matter if Maxim identifies as Metis, Indigenous, Aboriginal, or non-status. The fact is that he is Indigenous and should not have been disqualified without being asked to prove his ancestry. Had the ECMA done that, this very unfortunate situation would have been avoided.

Thank you in advance for your attention in this matter,

Karole Dumont
Elected Chief, Council of the First Metis People of Canada (CFMPC)
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News article:

<http://www.capebretonpost.com/living/cheticamp-musician-stripped-of-ecma-indigenous-artist-of-the-year-nomination-192380/#.WqNYcoJh6g4.facebook>

East Coast Music Awards.

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6:19 PM 22%

Tweet

East Coast Music @Ea... · 2018-01-29
 Indigenous Artist of the Year: @Beatz, @CarolinaEast17, @CityNatives, @donrossmusic, @MaximCormier #ECMA2018

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Darryl Leroux @DarrylLeroux

Replying to @EastCoastMusic @MaximCormier and 4 others

Since when do the @EastCoastMusic awards recognize Acadians as Indigenous? Are you aware that the "Acadian-Metis" are unrecognized as Aboriginal by all levels of government, by the courts, and by the Mi'kmaq? What do you think @Mikmaq_star?

2018-02-09, 11:40 AM

Tweet your reply

6:25 PM 20%

Darryl Leroux
6,025 Tweets

Tweets Tweets & replies Media Likes

Cheryl Maloney @Mikmaq_star · 6h
 I think the music industry needs to have life long mikmaq on their panel and stuff like this wouldn't happen. I have been Mikmaq since birth....shame, shame and too bad for our indigenous musicians and artist. Misappropriation at its finest in NS.

Darryl Leroux @DarrylLeroux
 Replying to @EastCoastMusic @Beatz and 4 others
 Since when do the @EastCoastMusic awards recognize Acadians as Indigenous? Are you aware that the "Acadian-Metis" are unrecognized as Aboriginal by all I...

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Darryl Leroux @DarrylLeroux · 9h
 The East Coast Music Awards have nominated a musician who self-identifies as "Acadian-Metis" as Indigenous Artist of the Year. He's a member of the Mi'kmaq Nation