

Eastern Metis chief calls agreement between Mi'kmaq, council 'fear mongering'

Mi'kmaq chiefs and the Metis National Council said they will work together to educate the public about what they call the 'legitimate Metis Nation and Mi'kmaq issues'

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The Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs and the Metis National Council are pledging to work together on the growing number of people self-identifying as Metis, a trend both groups say is a concern. Glooscap First Nation Chief Sidney Peters, co-chairman of the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs, and Clement Chartier, president of the Metis National Council, right, shake hands after signing a memorandum of understanding, in Halifax in a Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2018, handout photo. The groups have agreed to co-operate on the issue of individuals

HALIFAX — The chief of one of the largest groups of eastern Metis is condemning an agreement between the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs and the Metis National Council, saying it creates "unnecessary harm and anguish."

Karole Dumont of the Council of the First Metis People of Canada says the memorandum of understanding between the two groups is "fear mongering" and an attempt to "raise the Mi'kmaq against the Metis" — many of whom she says share the same ancestors.

She says the allegations questioning the eastern Metis' claims are "misleading and unfounded," and paint all the Metis in Nova Scotia with the same negative brush.

In a memorandum of understanding released Wednesday, the Mi'kmaq chiefs and the Metis National Council said they will work together to educate the public about what they call the "legitimate Metis Nation and Mi'kmaq issues."

They expressed concern with what they called a growing number of people "misrepresenting" themselves as Metis.

Dumont argues that the origin of the eastern Metis dates back hundreds of years, and that the agreement is about division not unity and is "a sad manipulation of eastern Canada's Indigenous peoples."