



## A New Mandate

The Cultural Conference of 1976 held by the Association of Metis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan (AMNSIS) resolved to pursue the goal of a New Education System, and it was with this purpose in mind that the Gabriel Dumont Institute was founded in 1980. Under agreement with the Department of Continuing Education, the Institute was mandated to deliver cultural programming.

The Institute has since developed a range of Native cultural services, including a library with outreach services, a curriculum development unit, a number of cultural courses for the enrichment of technical school and college-level training programs, and a Native languages resource.

The realization of the goal of a new Education System that was determined as early as 1976 will require a new mandate that will include instructional programming and a far-reaching support service for students, in addition to the Gabriel Dumont Institute's current mandate for cultural programming.

The plan for implementing this AMNSIS objective of a New Education System will involve two phases:

- (i) an Interim Strategy designed to meet the short-term need; this will give way during 1988 to
- (ii) a Five-Year Plan (1988-1993), during which term a comprehensive Native education system will be established.

## The Interim Strategy: 1986-1988

The Interim Strategy that Gabriel Dumont Institute proposes relies on the cooperation of governments for funding and of mainstream institutions for their training capacity, and the success of the strategy will depend on the cooperation that the Institute receives from these agencies.

The Interim Strategy will seek, first of all, to maintain agreements for current programming, including the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP), and the existing Saskatchewan Training for Employment Program (STEP) training centres.

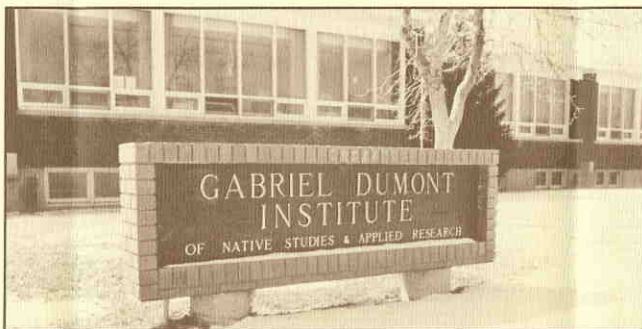
The Interim Strategy also includes development by the Gabriel Dumont Institute of an education network including the human resources, institutional capacity, and support services necessary to meet the total continuum of Native education needs during the term of the Five-Year Plan.

More specifically, then, the Interim Strategy in each part of the continuum: K-12: Gabriel Dumont Institute will seek agreement with school boards in those districts where the retention rate for Native children is especially low to develop pilot schools.

**Community Colleges:** The Gabriel Dumont Institute seeks to enter into agreements with existing community colleges to mount Native student programs in adult basic education, and in Native culture courses preparatory to other accredited programs.

**Technical Institutes:** Agreement is sought with the province's four technical institutes for a cooperative arrangement in which the Dumont Institute will be responsible for providing staff, recruitment, Native cultural programming, course content and counselling. The responsibility of the participating technical institute will be core curriculum and instruction, facilities and certification.

**University:** Gabriel Dumont Institute will seek to expand SUNTEP in 1987 to 180 students by including, in addition to Elementary Education, other College of Education options.



Gabriel Dumont Institute will also seek agreement to develop and deliver a student support and learning enhancement program, similar to what SUNTEP provides to College of Education students, in other professional colleges, and in the arts and sciences.

**Other Interim Measures:** Gabriel Dumont Institute will seek agreement for a Native cooperative work/study program at both the University of Regina and at the University of Saskatchewan.

Gabriel Dumont Institute also proposes further development of its off-campus program in preparatory and first-year level college courses. Currently the Institute offers these and other courses leading to a degree or certificate, by arrangement with the university.

## The Five Year Plan (1988-1993)

Gabriel Dumont Institute seeks a mandate to establish during the five-year period beginning in 1988 the following educational network:

**K-12:** Where numbers warrant Gabriel Dumont Institute seeks powers similar to those of existing separate school jurisdictions in order to establish educational delivery capacity for Native people within the K-12 level, under a system of local boards.

**Community Colleges:** The Institute seeks to establish Native community colleges, under a system of local boards and a provincial board.

**Technical Institute:** Development will continue toward a Native-controlled technical institute under a provincial technical school board.

**Universities:** Gabriel Dumont Institute will seek federated college status with the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan, each college to be directed by its own board.

## The Future Role of the Gabriel Dumont Institute

As the plans for this education network are realized, the role of Gabriel Dumont Institute will itself need to change.

Currently, the Institute operates a core services function (comprising cultural research, library, and the planning and policy development unit) which supports its instructional delivery. The realization of the Five-Year Plan will mean, however, that Gabriel Dumont Institute's programs in K-12, community colleges, technical institutes, and universities will become institutions, each with its own support services and governing mechanism — and name. One of the chief aims of the Institute in this phase will be, as now, a vigorous cultural function, including the preparation of Native curriculum materials, research in Native studies and in Aboriginal languages, and the services of a central Native library with outreach facilities. The Gabriel Dumont Institute, it is contemplated, will retain other functions in such a network, not unlike those of a provincial ministry of education, providing coordination and support services to the line institutions.

Finally, in seeking for itself a function similar to that of a provincial ministry of education, the Gabriel Dumont Institute neither seeks to intrude on the prerogatives of Saskatchewan Government Departments responsible for education, nor does it seek a legislated system parallel to the Department of Education. Although the implications of the Gabriel Dumont Institute's education plans have not been researched exhaustively, virtually all of the new mandate sought can be accommodated under existing legislation.