



Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research (306) 242-6070

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DTI Pilots On-Line Delivery of Métis Studies Course

The Dumont Technical Institute is starting the school year off on a high note, with plans to pilot Métis Studies in its new on-line delivery format. The course will be piloted to eight students in DTI centres across the province, including Ile a la Crosse, LaLoche, Prince Albert, Meadow Lake, Saskatoon, and Regina. The Instructor for the course, Janice Depeel, anticipates both an exciting and challenging semester. The delivery of an on-line course is a first for the Institute—it will be a learning process for all involved. It is anticipated that changes will be made to the program and to the delivery strategy based on the results of this year's pilot delivery. Plans are underway to deliver the course on a larger scale in the 2008-09 program year.

DTI received funding from the province's Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) department in order to develop the course and

offer it as on-line delivery. IT Officer, Edwin Morin worked closely with the content developer, Claudette Moran, to build the delivery platform in Moodle software.


The course includes five thematic modules that cover content related to Métis Identity, Leadership, Governance, Land, and Resistance. The course content has been revised to ensure that all objectives from the provincial curriculum for ABE 10 Social Sciences are met. As such, students who are successful in the DTI Métis Studies course will receive provincially recognized credit for ABE grade 10 Social Sciences. During the content revision phase of the project, one of the significant changes that was made includes the development of a genealogy unit. The on-line course now includes templates, family trees, and access to resources necessary for students to

conduct basic genealogical research.

The course will be made available to other students and instructors of DTI following the pilot phase and any revisions that occur. In the interim, instructors are able to see a preview of the on-line delivery site at <http://www.gdins.org/metis10/>.

Course content can be accessed at the following website:

<http://metisstudies.dev.kcd.c.ca/>

Questions or comments regarding the project can be directed to Claudette Moran, Program Coordinator, DTI Saskatoon. 



GDI Evaluation Planned



Photograph of the Grotto near the beach in Ile a la Crosse, taken May 2007 by Jessica Rorison

GDI is currently in a five year contract (December 1, 2003 – November 30, 2008) with the Province for the provision of educational, research, and resource services to Métis people in Saskatchewan. This contract is the first longer-term contract that the Institute has held with the province – former contracts having been on a year-to-year basis. One of the stipulations of this contract calls for evaluation of GDI activities funded by provincial grants. As such, the Institute has established an Evaluation Working Group. An equal number of representatives from both the Institute and the Department of Advanced Education and Employment (AEE) sit on the Working Group. AEE in partnership with GDI is undertaking this evaluation to assess the effectiveness and impacts

of GDI's governance and administration, the cultural impacts, and program outcomes. The final report will articulate the findings and conclusions derived through the evaluation. It will note successes and shortcomings.

The Working Group's tasks will include 1) The development of an evaluation framework that clearly stipulates the parameters of the evaluation and categories to be evaluated; 2) The tendering and selection of a professional evaluation company or consultant; 3) The day-to-day review of documents, reports, and information; and 4) Communication and information sharing regarding the evaluation process with other managers in the organization. Members of the GDI Evaluation Working Group are Lisa

Wilson, Karon Shmon, Michael Relland, and Darren Prefontaine (for GDI) and Jan Gray, Collette Robertson, Audrey Robertson, and Darcy Cherney (for AEE).

The GDI Board of Governors remains informed, provides general over-all direction for the evaluation, and approves the evaluation framework prior to proceeding. The Department, in conjunction with the Board of the GDI, will determine follow-up to the review. Together, they will derive recommendations from the review's conclusions, and identify future directions or actions and implications in the findings. It is anticipated that the evaluation process will take approximately 18 months.



Lorne Calvert,
Premier of Saskatchewan

DTI to Receive Premier's Award

The Dumont Technical Institute has recently learned that they will share in a *Premier's Award for Excellence in Public Service* for 2007 in the Leadership category. "The recipients of the Premier's Award for Excellence in the Public Service are remarkable individuals who demonstrate a personal interest in the welfare of Saskatchewan people," Premier Lorne Calvert

said. "I am pleased we are able to show our sincere appreciation for their contributions and achievements."

The award is based on DTI's membership in the **Adult Basic Education Redesign Task Team**, which has been on-going for the past seven years. The work of the Task Team has been significant in developing and implementing innovative

new curricula for the ABE 10 level.

Members of the Task Team representing DTI have included Lisa Wilson, Tavia Inkster, and Claudette Moran. A formal presentation ceremony at which the Premier will present the award, will take place in Regina on October 3, 2007 at the Hotel Saskatchewan. 



Staff Updates—Meet & Greet Prince Albert and LaRonge GDIT&E Staff

by Cecile O'Neil

Cecile O'Neil— Coordinator

Cecile coordinates these two dynamic offices from her central office in Prince Albert, traveling to La Ronge on a regular basis. Prince Albert and La Ronge are two of ten GDIT&E delivery offices serving Saskatchewan's Métis. Before joining the T&E staff, Cecile was employed with GDI under the DTI umbrella since 1998.

LaRonge Office

207 La Ronge Avenue

Irene Charles—Clerk Steno

Irene capably handles all of the clerk steno duties for the La Ronge office. Irene is fluent in English & Cree which is a huge asset to the clients and the Institute. Irene hails from Stanley Mission and enjoys going out on the lake to go fishing.

Charlene Lavalée— Employment Counsellor

Charlene works with the clients in the La Ronge office and also travels to Pinehouse to serve Métis clients in their home

community. Charlene recently received a bouquet of flowers from a happy client whose training plans were facilitated by Charlene. Congratulations Charlene!

Prince Albert office

1308B 1st Ave. E

Muriel Luther—Clerk Steno

Muriel manages the clerk steno activities of our busy Prince Albert office and still has time for the little extras and making sure the employment counselors and coordinator are eating healthy!! The employment counselors have agreed that Muriel can not take any more holidays as the office was just not the same with out her. What are your thoughts on that Muriel?

Debbie Stavelly— Employment Counselor

Debbie came to GDIT&E with a wealth of experience & knowledge of the ARHDA; it seemed that she had a language all of her own—CPN, TDF, WSP, SWE—that no one else seemed understand!

From all of us in the PA office: Thank you for your patience, understanding, and all of your help!

Tammy Cummins— Employment Counselor

Tammy joined our PA team March 1st bringing her valuable counseling skills to GDIT&E. I think *exasperation* would be the correct terminology over the mounds and mounds of paper work that Tammy thought was in Cree!! It's amazing how quickly things slip into place and how you are now able to explain the process in English, right Tammy!

Beverly Boe-Seegerts— Employment Counselor

The newest member of our Prince Albert office team joined us July 9th. Beverly is adapting well to the world of Training & Employment and I am sure has valued the knowledge and experience the other employment counselors are readily sharing with her. Muriel now has a partner to share her recycling plans. Welcome Beverly to GDIT&E.



Lac LaRonge, May 2007.
Photo by Jessica Rorison

Institute Summary—Students

SUNTEP

-180 students attend SUNTEP programs each year
-55 students graduated from SUNTEP in 2007
-837 students have graduated from SUNTEP in total

Dumont Technical Institute (DTI)

-600 students enrolled in the 2006-07 program year
-559 training seats are

planned for 2007-08

GDI Training & Employment (GDIT&E)

-354 clients approved for funding since April 1, 2007
**Métis Health
Scholarship Program**
-63 students have received scholarships since program inception in 2007

Napoleon Lafontaine Scholarship Program

-43 students have

received scholarships in 2007

Gabriel Dumont College (GDC)

-8 students were enrolled in GDC classes in 06-07
**GDC Graduate Student
Bursary Program**
-3 graduate students received bursaries in 2007
-5 Graduate students have received bursaries since program inception in 2006.

"837 students have graduated from SUNTEP in total!"



GDC Graduate Student Bursary Recipients

“While historical and anthropological research has been done in Québec and Ontario over the past century, little or no work has been done in Western Canada.”



Keith Goulet, GDC Graduate Student Bursary recipient, 2006

In 2006, GDI established the *Gabriel Dumont College Graduate Student Bursary Program*. The objectives of this program are: (1) to provide financial assistance and encourage Saskatchewan Métis to pursue full time graduate studies and conduct research in fields related to Métis people; and (2) to increase Métis employment in Saskatchewan and within GDI.

In the first selection process, two applicants were awarded bursaries. Louise Legare received a \$10,000 bursary for one academic year of study at the University of Saskatchewan. Louise is pursuing her doctorate in Education Administration. Her research builds on her many years of experience in Aboriginal Teacher Education Programs (TEPs). Louise notes that

“The focus of my doctoral dissertation is to describe the nature of personal and professional support required in TEPs in order for Métis and First Nations adult students to achieve their aspirations. In my research...I intend to use storytelling and conversation as my primary method of inquiry.”

Keith Goulet received a bursary in the amount of \$5,000 for one academic year of study at the University of Regina. Keith is pursuing his doctorate in History, conducting research on the Cumberland Cree concept of land.

Keith sees his research as “a response to the need for establishing basic research on the central issues of Métis, First Nations and Inuit peoples in the field of

history...While historical and anthropological research has been done in Québec and Ontario over the past century, little or no work has been done in Western Canada.” Keith’s research seeks to fill this gap.

You can read more about Louise and Keith’s respective research on the GDI website at

www.gdins.org.



Louise Legare, GDC Graduate Student Bursary recipient, 2006

DTI Hosts All- Staff Meeting

On August 27th and 28th, Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) successfully hosted their second annual All-Staff meeting for DTI staff. As many as 35 DTI staff were in attendance at the two-day meetings, which were held at the Jackfish Lake Lodge. Most attendees were from the Institute’s Basic Education programs, but staff from the Institute’s Skills training programs were also in attendance. Resource people from a variety of organizations

were available to make presentations and answer questions.

The two-day agenda included an update on the Institute’s new Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) policy, a demonstration of on-line delivery of Métis Studies (to be piloted this fall), cultural events, and a drug awareness training session for Instructors and Coordinators. The DTI All-Staff meeting has proven to be an excellent

opportunity for Instructors and staff from across the province to connect with one another, share teaching ideas and resources, and remain up-to-date about innovations and changes to curriculum and programming at DTI.

Planning for the event was accomplished by a planning committee. Members of the planning committee were Claudette Moran, Elaine Crocker, Trona Guenther, Rhonda Nicolas, and Shirley Gardiner.

“As many as 35 DTI staff were in attendance at the two-day meetings.”



Student Profile—Virginia Morin

Virginia Morin attended the DTI ABE 10 program in Prince Albert. Virginia is from Sandy Bay, which is approximately 5 hours northeast of Prince Albert by car. Sandy Bay is located on the banks of the Churchill River, just a few miles away from the Island Falls hydroelectric project. The nearest community is Pelican Narrows, and the nearest shopping centre/hospital is in Flin Flon, MB.

Virginia comes from a large family, with one brother, four sisters and

several half-siblings. She herself has seven children, three of which are girls and four boys. She is also a very young grandmother to one girl and two boys. Speaking with Virginia, it is very clear that family is extremely important to her. What she does and where she goes when she is finished her education and training will be dependent, to a degree, on where her children and grandchildren are living. Her goal when she finishes her Grade 12 is to take training to become an

addictions or youth counselor.

Virginia is a natural leader within the classroom. She is the Grade 5-10 SRC President, and that role has helped her develop her leadership skills and qualities in a very short time. Staff and students alike respect her and appreciate what she offers our school community. She is an enthusiastic student, ready and eager to learn, and she credits DTI for accepting who she is and for providing staff who understand.



Virginia Morin, DTI Adult Basic Education student, Prince Albert.

GDI Finance Department Move--Update

The GDI Finance Department, headed by Finance Director Stacey Bucsis, has been busy over the summer with a planned move from Regina to Saskatoon. The relocation of the Finance department to Saskatoon ensures that services and functions of the department can be coordinated with the Saskatoon head office of GDI.

Moving the Finance Department has been a massive undertaking, and is not without its glitches—the patience and understanding of all Institute staff is appreciated. To-date the transfer of payroll to the new location has been a


smooth process with no major problems. All other functions are expected to be completely transferred by month's end.

One staff member of the Finance Department made the move to Saskatoon—welcome Blanche Morrissette. Staff who did not relocate include Audrey Barnaby, Aaron Desjarlais, and Barb Kozack. The Institute would like to thank those staff who are not moving and wish them all the best in their future endeavours. Please note that Gareth Griffiths, IT Coordinator, will remain in Regina. Gareth's contact information remains the same until October 31st, after which time an update

will be published.

The new location for the Finance Department is effective August 28, 2007 and the contact information is as follows:

Gabriel Dumont Institute
Department of Finance & Operations
#104 - 219 Robin Crescent
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7L 6M8
Tel: (306) 683.3634
Fax: (306) 683.3508
stacey.bucsis@gdi.gdins.org

The Finance Department is in the process of hiring three new accounting clerks—watch for staff updates in an upcoming edition of the GDI Communicator. 

The relocation of the Finance department to Saskatoon ensures that services and functions of the department can be coordinated with the Saskatoon head office of GDI.



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We're on the Web!

See us at:

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GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research

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