

June, 2007

Volume 1, Issue 2



# GDI Communicator

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

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## Métis Centre of Excellence

In 2004, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) adopted a five-year Strategic Plan that included a vision to develop a centrally-located, Métis-specific facility for Saskatchewan. Such a centralized facility – a **Métis Centre of Excellence** – would increase both the Métis' presence and profile in Saskatchewan, while housing various programs. Support for this idea has been forthcoming from federal, provincial, and Métis governments.

In 2005, a facility plan was developed that included vision sessions, spatial needs assessments, and preliminary drawings. Currently, the GDI Board of Governors has identified a preliminary drawing for the building that meets these identified needs. A concept paper is being prepared for the early part of June with the full business plan to follow. A **Métis Centre of Excellence** would ideally be located in Saskatoon. It would provide space for students, visitors, Métis

artifacts, and research activities.

An example of the value of such a facility is illustrated by the Institute's Museum and Archives. GDI houses what is perhaps the largest Métis artifact collection held by a Métis organization. The collection includes a wide array of artifacts relating to **material culture** (mittens, gauntlets, sashes, bags, pouches, jackets, and moccasins etc); **lifeways** (snow shoes, fur presses, traps, a canoe, a stove, and a sewing machine); **resistance** (artifacts from the 1885 Resistance); and commissioned artwork, including paintings, sculptures, and beaded panels. Regarding the size of the Institute's collection, it is estimated that the Museum/ Publishing Department office has about **700** artifacts, which will require a curatorial room at least three times the size of the present one to house all current and future acquisitions. In addition, the Institute holds an archival collection that has hundreds of audiovisual

materials, and several large filing cabinets full of documents. The **Métis Centre of Excellence** would allow GDI to display its entire archival and artifact collection to the benefit of both the Métis and larger communities. The Publishing Department has also been actively digitizing the Institute's archival and artifact collections, and uploading them on *The Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture* ([www.metismuseum.ca](http://www.metismuseum.ca)).

The **Métis Centre of Excellence** will instill pride in the Métis community, while providing all Saskatchewanians with further insights into Métis history and culture. GDI continues to work toward achieving this exciting strategic initiative.



*Below: Carpentry students at work on the DTI building in Saskatoon (2000). DTI has quickly outgrown this space.*

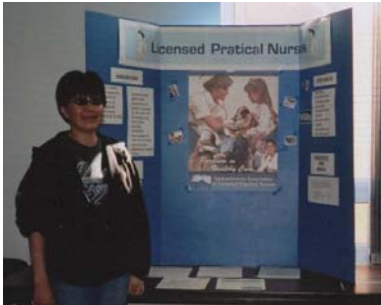


## Dumont Technical Institute Update



A DTI student receives her diploma.

*“DTI provides services to well over 500 students annually and employs more than forty people.”*



DTI Prince Albert ABE Career Fair

### Dumont Technical Institute Update:

The Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) was incorporated in 1992 as GDI's Adult Basic Upgrading and Skills Training program. DTI provides Basic Education courses in Métis communities across the province including Literacy, ABE 10, and Adult 12, as well as preparation programs for students entering Skills Training. Furthermore, DTI offers Certificate and Diploma programs via a federation agreement with the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology. DTI provides services to well over **500** students annually, and employs more than **40** people.

### Basic Education:

Currently, DTI is delivering **17** Basic Education programs throughout the province. For 2006-2007,

there are **315** training seats in DTI Basic Education programs. The overall enrollment for DTI Basic Education programs in 2006-2007 is projected to be between **370** and **400**.

### Skills Training:

DTI has had an exciting and challenging year delivering Skills Training programs. Trades, oilfield-related programs, health-related programs, and business-related programs have been our focus for 2006-2007.

### Plans for 2007-2008 Program Year:

Plans are shaping up for some exciting new DTI programs. Some of the possible program offerings include Practical Nursing in both Prince Albert and Saskatoon. Initial discussions are underway with the Department of Highways in Prince Albert to deliver a Heavy Duty

Truck and Transport Mechanics program. DTI is anticipating another partnership with SaskEnergy for Induction Training, and plans to mirror the success that this program achieved this past year. DTI is also having very preliminary discussions regarding the delivery of an Oil Rig Technician program in northwestern Saskatchewan, as well as Medical Sonography (Ultrasound technicians) in Saskatoon. These types of initiatives are expensive, and will take a large amount of resources; however, they may be achievable through some creative partnerships. Be on the look out for DTI's exciting new programs.




## DTI Signs Apprenticeship Agreement

DTI has just entered into an agreement with the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship Training and Certification Commission (SATCC). SATCC will now provide financial resources to help support a joint DTI/GDI Training and Employment Apprenticeship

Coordinator position. The contract with SATCC is effective from January to June 2007. It is expected that this contract will be renewed for the 2007-2008 training year.

If you would like more information about this agreement, please contact

Brett Vandale, DTI Director, at (306) 657-2236. 



## Staff Updates – Meet and Greet: The Finance Department\*

By Stacey Bucsis

Our department handles all of the Institute's payables, receivables, and everything else that is money related. These duties range from daily accounting inputting to auditing, to yearend procedures. Our staff complement consists of the Director of Finance, one Program Coordinator (Accounting), and four Accounting Clerks. We are located in College West at the University of Regina.

### Stacey Bucsis – Director of Finance and Operations

I oversee all of GDI/DTI's finances and operations. My time is spent between Regina and Saskatoon. I am the person who will be after you when you overspend!

### Gareth Griffiths – IT Coordinator

Gareth's various duties include planning an IT Strategy, and anything IT related. Lookout for future IT developments. Once, Gareth almost reported his car stolen after buying a new one. He spent an hour walking around the parking lot looking for his old red car instead of the new green one!

### Sheryl Durocher – Program Coordinator

Sheryl oversees the daily activities of the

department, and provides financial information. She also is a really good bannock maker – except when she forgets one ingredient – THE LARD!

### Barb Kozack – Payroll Clerk

Barb is a diligent worker, and can often be found at work during the wee morning hours. She also has the most important job in the Institute – SENDING OUT OUR PAY CHEQUES!

### Aaron Desjarlais – Payables Clerk

Aaron always asks all the right questions to ensure that all payments are processed in good order. He is also a really good speller: he spelled his name on his employment application as "DEEJARLAIS"

### Audrey Barnaby – Payables Clerk

Audrey is methodical, and draws upon past practices to move forward into the future. She is dedicated to her job, and is often here after everyone else has gone home. True to form, she is usually the last one finished eating at our staff LUNCHES!

### Blanche Morrisette – Receivables Clerk

Blanche is new to this

position, joining our team from the Publishing Department. This fall, Blanche is planning to attend classes at the U of R. She enjoys traveling, and is an avid garage sale connoisseur. She recently acquired a van to travel around in, and bring home her GREAT DEALS!



Send your "Meet and Greet" department update to [lisa.wilson@gdi.gdins.org](mailto:lisa.wilson@gdi.gdins.org)



Former GDI Building in Regina

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*"Our department handles all of the Institute's payables, receivables, and everything else that is money related."*

## Announcement

It is with sadness that we share the news of the passing of a long-time GDI employee. Arnold Grimard passed away suddenly on May 25, 2007. Arnold was employed with GDI for the past eight years as a Custodian at the Prince Albert building. Arnold is fondly remembered by those who worked with him as not only a co-worker but also a friend. A more complete write-up will appear in a future issue of this newsletter.

River Park Memorial Chapel is entrusted with the care of the funeral arrangements (764-2727).



## Saskatchewan Métis Demographics

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*“The number of Métis people in Saskatchewan is projected to more than double over the next 30 years.”*

The Métis are Canada's fastest growing Aboriginal population. The following demographic information has been compiled based on 2001 census data, and other sources. Some facts about Saskatchewan's Métis population:

- According to the 2001 Census, the **Métis** comprised **33.6%** of the province's Aboriginal population.
  - Saskatchewan **Métis** make up **4.5%** of the province's overall population. (2001 Census)
  - The provincial Métis population is expected to rise again in the 2006 Census Reports
- (Aboriginal reports are to be released in January 2008).
- The **Métis** are the fastest growing Aboriginal group in Canada, with a **43%** growth rate between the 1996 and 2001 Censuses.
  - This growth rate is due to both demographic growth (about 10%), and reporting changes (about 33%). Even with these reporting changes, no other Aboriginal group experienced this level of growth.
  - The number of Métis people in Saskatchewan is projected to more than double over the next 30 years,

based on current demographic trends (population projections - First Nations and Métis Relations, Saskatchewan).

Given the demographics, both current and projected, the need for Métis-controlled education remains high. While social justice issues for the Métis have come to the fore in the past couple of decades, there is still a disparity between the Métis and the non-Aboriginal population, in terms of education, employment, housing, health, and other social indicators.



## SUNTEP Graduation Ceremonies

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*“SUNTEP graduation ceremonies honour the achievement of students who have completed the requirements for their Bachelor of Education degree.”*

May is graduation month for the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP). SUNTEP graduation ceremonies honour the achievement of students who have completed the requirements for their Bachelor of Education degree. Since 1980, more than **830** students have graduated with a Bachelor of Education Degree.

On Friday, May 25, 2007  
SUNTEP Regina

celebrated its 24th annual graduation with 14 students receiving their degrees. On May 18, 2007 SUNTEP Prince Albert celebrated the graduation of 23 students. SUNTEP Saskatoon held their graduation on April 28, 2007 to honour 18 grads. Congratulations to all the graduates!

### Class of 2007 SUNTEP Regina

*Melvina Asapace  
Janelle Bellegarde  
Angela Daschuk – with*

*Distinction  
Neal Hughes  
Andrea Lafontaine  
Megan McKay  
Daniel Mullens  
Amanda Norton  
Sandra Pelletier  
Jennifer Reid – with Great Distinction  
Laura Schill  
Brad Sinclair – with Distinction  
Dawn Villeneuve  
Shala Vollman – with Distinction*

**(Continued on page 5)**



## Academic Achievement for SUNTEP Regina Students

By Janice R. Thompson

On March 22, 2007, the Faculty of Education, University of Regina, hosted the "Celebrating Outstanding Academic Achievement" event. At this time, a variety of Education students were recognized, and celebrated for their outstanding contributions to academic excellence. Among the list of 191 renowned students, the following 9 SUNTEP Regina students were recognized:

### Year One

**Jed Huntley** – *Dean's List*, 2006; *Academic Gold Scholarship*, Winter 2007

**Nicole Morrow** – *Dean's List*, 2006; *Academic Silver Scholarship*, Winter 2007

**Jessica Wesaquate** – *CIC Aboriginal Bursary Award*, Winter 2007

### Year Two

**Jessica Parr** – *Dean's List (2x)*, 2006; *CIC Aboriginal Bursary*, Winter 2007; *Academic Gold Scholarship*, Winter 2007

### Year Three

**Brenna LaPlante** – *Dean's List*, 2006; *Academic Gold Scholarship*, Winter 2007

**Patricia Pritchard** – *Dean's List (2x)*, 2006; *CIC Aboriginal Bursary*, Winter 2007; *Academic Silver Scholarship*, Winter 2007

**Sylvie Roy** – *Dean's List (2x)*, 2006; *CIC Aboriginal Bursary*, Winter 2007; *Academic Gold Scholarship*, Winter 2007

**Deana Seida** – *Dean's List (2x)*, 2006; *Academic Silver Scholarship*, Winter 2007

### Year Four

**Jennifer Reid** – *Dean's List (2x)*, 2006; *CIC Aboriginal Bursary*, Winter, 2007; *Academic Silver Scholarship*, Winter 2007.

Congratulations to each of our award winners. I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all those who joined us in this celebration. We look forward to future SUNTEP Regina students being recognized for academic achievement.



SUNTEP Regina students pose with awards

## SUNTEP Graduation Ceremonies (Cont'd from Page 4)

### SUNTEP Prince Albert

Liza Bird  
Sharon Bouvier  
Robin Bray  
Alesha Bruce  
Leslie Clarkson  
Ramona Cook  
Madelaine Custer  
Jodie Durston  
Theresa Dussion  
Lacy Fidler  
Dianne Haydukewich  
Rachel Horan  
Cynthia Jobb  
Deanna Lucier  
Tanya McCallum  
Sandra Morley  
Jennifer Painchaud

Laura Reilkoff  
Celine Robillard  
Lacey Ruznisky-Primeau  
Jean Sutherland  
Ashley Walker  
Lori Young

### SUNTEP Saskatoon

Lynda Bailey  
Chad Basaraba  
Lindsay Belanger  
Danielle Ethier  
Lisa Evanchuk  
Cameron Foulds  
Michelle Hammer  
Noelle Hudon  
Danene King  
Janelle Levesque

Ashley Ross Lundgren  
Dawn McDougall  
Erin Morin  
Callum Olver  
Melissa Parent  
Colin Parenteau  
Meagan Roy  
Lindsey Tetarenko

Best wishes to the graduates, and their families, all the best in their future endeavours. Well done!



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**We're on the Web!**

See us at:  
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