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GDI Communicator

In this issue:

- GDI Annual General Meeting
- SUNTEP Signing Ceremony
- GDI Evaluation

Highlights:

Louis Riel Day 2	
SUNTEP Regina Update	3
P&P Update	4
Student Profile	5
DTI Apprenticeship Update	5

The GDI Communicator is an internal newsletter intended to increase communication between management and staff of the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research

GDI Annual General Meeting Announced

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE OF NATIVE STUDIES AND APPLIED RESEARCH, INC.

Notice is hereby given that the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Board of Governors has called for an annual meeting of the membership. The Annual General Assembly (AGM)'s date and location are as follows:

Date: Saturday December 1, 2007

Location: Saskatoon Inn Hotel & Conference Centre
2002 Airport Drive, Saskatoon, SK

Time: Registration: 9:00 – 10:00 AM
AGM: 10:00 AM – Noon (lunch provided)

There are no bylaw changes for consideration by the membership at this meeting.

Please note that travel, accommodation, or other allowances will not be available for delegates or other participants.

Any questions regarding the Annual General Meeting of the Gabriel Dumont Institute can be directed to:

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GDI Evaluation



Photograph during a potluck meal at one of the DTI classrooms

Gabriel Dumont Institute Program Evaluation Underway

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) and Saskatchewan Advanced Education and Employment have hired EKOS Research Associates Inc. to conduct an evaluation of Institute programs – Dumont Technical Institute (DTI), the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) and the Publishing Department. The purpose of the study is to examine how well GDI programs are working, what its graduates are doing now, and suggestions for changes. Part of the study includes surveys and interviews with former

students, GDI staff and partners. Your cooperation and participation would be greatly appreciated.

GDI has provided names of students, staff and partners to EKOS to be used only for this evaluation. A representative from the EKOS Research team may be contacting you within the next few weeks to ask you to participate in the study. The decision to participate is entirely up to you. All your responses will be kept confidential by EKOS and your name and your views will never be provided to GDI or reported individually.

If you were a student at GDI between Sept. 2004 and June 2007 and your telephone number has changed since you attended GDI, please phone EKOS Research at 1-866-755-3567 to update your information.

If you have any questions or concerns about the evaluation, please do not hesitate to contact GDI Program Coordinator Lisa Wilson by telephone at 306-657-2249 or by email at:

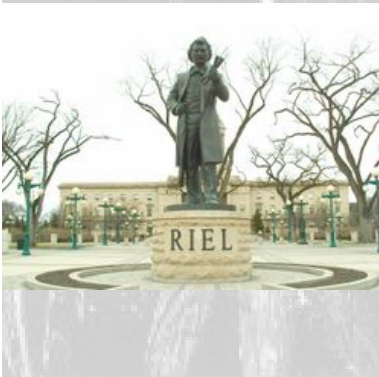
lisa.wilson@gdi.gdins.org

Thank you,

The GDI Evaluation Team



Louis Riel Day Celebration, November 17, 2007, Batoche National Historic Site



The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), the Friends of Batoche and Parks Canada invite you to a celebration to honour Louis Riel, Gabriel Dumont and all Métis veterans.

Entertainment will be provided by John Arcand, Krystle Pederson, Dallas and Phil Boyer, and Len Dumont.

The ceremonies start at **11:00 AM** with a procession to the graveyard and the laying of a Wreath of Remembrance and will conclude at **3:00 PM**.

Other events will include an update on Tourond's Coulee (**1:00 PM**), children's activities, a fingerweaving and jigging demonstration by Scott Duffee, and an ongoing video presentation by GDI honouring Louis Riel.

Relax and enjoy a **free** bannock and a hot apple cider or coffee (while quantities last), enter the draw for door prizes, enjoy the lunch and gift shop specials.

Admission is Free 



SUNTEP Regina Update

By Joanne Pelletier

Scholarships/Awards/Bursaries

The Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) in Regina is proud to announce the following scholarship/award/bursary numbers for the 2006 fall and 2007 winter semesters:

- 15 *Crown Investments Corporation Scholarships*
- 1 *National Aboriginal Achievement Scholarship*
- 13 *Dean's List*, University of Regina (U of R)
- 4 *Academic Gold*, U of R
- 10 *Academic Silver*, U of R
- 1 *Coca-cola Student Award*
- 1 *Bernadine Melanson Scholarship*
- 1 *Saskatchewan Teachers Federation Scholarship*

Congratulations to all of the winners!

Dance

Allison Parr and Candace Gratton, fourth-year students, have maintained a Métis dance group of little dancers called "Apsishiwak." The students meet once per week to practice and have danced at various events around the city over the past year. They currently practice on Monday evenings in the SUNTEP classroom.

Off-Campus Residential Experience (OCRE)

From September 5-7, 2007, SUNTEP Regina third-year students went on an excursion of discovery to south-central Saskatchewan. The six students experienced Métis and First Nations culture in an area of the province which is rich in Aboriginal history. The students were impressed

by the sites visited, which included Grasslands National Park, the Rodeo Ranch Museum, Sitting Bull Monument, St. Victor's Petroglyphs, the Willow Bunch Museum, and the Big Muddy.

Some of the highlights included a visit to Travis Ogle's Ranch, one of only two Prairie Dog Towns in North America, and several Boulder Monuments or effigies that have significant spiritual and ethno-cultural significance. Among the effigies visited were a buffalo, a turtle and a salamander and ceremonial circles.

We strongly encourage anyone interested in exploring lesser known aspects of Métis history to take the trip down to this unique part of the province. The dramatic geography, hospitality and fascinating stories of the region will not disappoint.



Members of Apsishiwak dance group

SUNTEP Signing Ceremony

On Saturday December 1, 2007, in conjunction with the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI)'s Annual General Meeting, the Institute will host an official signing ceremony of the new Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) agreement.

Under the agreement, GDI will continue to operate three SUNTEP delivery sites in the province – Saskatoon, Regina, and Prince Albert – to provide teacher education

programs to Saskatchewan's Métis. This agreement replaces a twenty-seven year-old agreement and renews a partnership between GDI and the universities for delivery of the four-year Bachelor of Education degree program.

The new five-year agreement recognizes the Institute's successful twenty-seven year history in delivering its teacher education program. The language of the new

agreement reflects a more equal partnership. Highlights of the agreement include a less complicated administrative structure than in the past, greater cost predictability for the Institute, and renewable research funding for each SUNTEP centre. Funding for this agreement will be provided through Saskatchewan Advanced Education and Employment as part of a contract between the Department and the Institute.



"The new five-year agreement recognizes the Institute's successful twenty-seven year history in delivering its teacher education program..."



Health & Wellness Scholarship & Bursary Program

“...a total of 142 Métis students were provided with scholarship and bursary support toward their educational endeavours in health-related careers.”

In December 2006, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), along with the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and the Métis National Council (MNC), signed an agreement for the provision of scholarship and bursary funds for Saskatchewan Métis in pursuit of health-related careers. The funding is being provided under a multi-year (2007-2010) contribution agreement from Health Canada to the MNC.

The GDI Health and Wellness Program provides scholarship and bursary support to encourage Saskatchewan Métis to enter into health-related careers associated with the advancement of Métis people.

The first awards were administered at the end of March, 2007, with a total of **66** Métis students receiving funding support. The second awards under this program were given in September 2007. Scholarship and bursary recipients included applicants for: Nursing Education Program of SK (16), University (16), Regional College (17), Licensed Practical Nursing (25), and Masters/Doctorate (2). In total, **76** students were awarded scholarships or bursaries in the program's second administrative round.

Examples of University courses include: Advanced Nursing, Pharmacy, Nutrition, Pre-

Medicine, Medicine, Social Work, and Dentistry. Examples of Regional College courses include: Therapeutic Recreation, Dental Hygienist, Addictions Counsellor, X-Ray Technician, Radiation Therapy, Advanced Massage Therapy, Respiratory Therapy, Medical Administrative Assistant, Licensed Practical Nursing, Pre-Dentistry, and Northern Health Science Program.

Over the course of two administrative rounds (March and September, 2007), a total of **142** Métis students were provided with scholarship and bursary support to be used towards their educational endeavours in health-related careers.




Policy and Procedure Consolidation Project Update

In July 2007, the *GDI Communicator* reported on the Institute's plans to issue a Call for Proposals for a Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Policy and Procedures project. A call was issued, proposals were received, and a consultant was selected. The Institute is pleased to announce that RAMP Consulting Inc. has been contracted to produce a comprehensive GDI Policy and Procedure Manual that will encompass all aspects of GDI's governance and its operational policies.

Under the project, the Institute and the consultant will engage in a three-phase process to develop its policies and procedures into a user-friendly accessible manual.

The project's main objective is to produce a comprehensive policies and procedures manual that will encompass all aspects of the Institute's governance and operational policies, including, but not limited to Board Governance, Human Resources, Student Affairs and Services,

Finance/Administration, and Programming. Further goals of the project are to present the Institute's policies and procedures in a user-friendly format that will be digitally-based and print ready, and will follow a standardized formatting scheme.

The project involves three broad tasks: consolidation, analysis, and development of a maintenance plan. RAMP Consulting Inc. plans to work closely with the Institute's Senior Management Team and Board of Governors on this project. 

“Under the project, the Institute and the consultant will be engaging in a three-phase process to develop its policies and procedures into a user-friendly accessible manual.”



Student Profile

Valerie heard about the Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) through her son, David (DTI Gr.12 2006 graduate). "He would come home and tell me how learning was so much easier at DTI rather than in high school. He attributed his success to DTI being adult-based and that the teachers really care about the students being successful. I had to find out for myself. And he is right!"

From her own experience, Val knows that DTI has a family environment which helps people to face and conquer adversity, both academically and in their personal lives. Being able

to work through experiences that challenge a person not only builds character, it also helps a person focus more fully on their dreams and makes them want to succeed that much harder. For Val, that means completing Grade 12 in June 2007. She plans to apply to SUNTEP Prince Albert in April 2008. "I believe in achieving a goal." She says with a smile, "education was given to me and I really appreciate all of the things I have been able to accomplish because of having my education. So I want to give back to the community in anyway I can."

Volunteering has played a major role in Val's success as well. She is a member of the choir in her church, is an active member of several clubs in St. Louis and Prince Albert and she a DTI Grade 12 SRC President. For students currently enrolled in an educational program, Val advises they should not "ever let fear stop you from trying to achieve anything. If you believe in yourself, you will achieve it. If you don't believe in yourself the things that you want to happen won't happen." Val's message to those who are thinking of furthering their education is part of her own personal motto: "When you look good, you feel good. When you feel good, you look great! – DTI has given me that."



Valerie Petit, DTI Adult 12 student, Prince Albert

DTI Receives Joint Training Committee Status

In July 2007, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) – in partnership with the Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) and GDI Training & Employment (T&E) – received recognition as a Joint Training Committee under the provincial act which regulates and governs apprenticeship. Following discussions with officials at DTI and T&E, the Commission was satisfied that GDI meets the requirements for Joint Training Committee status. Bob Guthrie, Chief Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission, said "I am pleased to inform you that the Commission will, from this date, recognize GDI as a joint training committee as defined in the

Apprenticeship Act and Regulations of Saskatchewan."

Ordinarily, Joint Training Committees are set up by employer groups, for instance plumbers. However, in DTI's case, the initiative was spearheaded because of the Institute's special interest in ensuring Métis apprentices in all designated trades are able to effectively track their hours and register for training.

The functions of GDI's Joint Training Committee will include registering Métis apprentices and tracking eligible hours toward each level of apprenticeship training leading to Journeyman status. Most designated

apprenticeship trades in Saskatchewan include four levels of apprenticeship followed by a Journeyman exam to achieve Journeyman status. The establishment of a Métis-specific Joint Training Committee means effective registration and tracking of Métis apprentices and may lead to more Métis people receiving recognition for their job-related skills and experience. Further, the Joint Training Committee will be in a position to identify training needs and work in partnership toward filling those needs. The structure and details of the committee are expected to be determined in the New Year. 🌐

"The functions of GDI's training committee will include registering Métis apprentices and tracking eligible hours toward each level of apprenticeship training leading to Journeyman status."



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