



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

In this issue:

- GDI Hosts Annual General Meeting
- GDI Training & Employment Hosts Beauval Open House
- DTI Training Profile NRIII

Highlights:

GDC Bursary Recipients	2
Evaluation Update	5
GDI Locations	6

GDI Hosts Annual General Meeting

On Saturday December 1, 2007, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) hosted its Annual General Meeting (AGM). The event was an opportunity to share information with the Métis membership and to highlight some of the Institute's successes over the past year. No bylaw changes or major decisions were taken at this meeting.

The day's events were blessed with an opening prayer by Elder Mike Maurice. One of the successes highlighted at the AGM was the signing of a new five-year Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) agreement between GDI, the University of Saskatchewan, and the University of Regina. An official signing ceremony, which celebrated this accomplishment, preceded the AGM's business portion. Speaking on behalf of the merits of the new agreement were Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN—S) President and recently appointed Minister of Education, Robert Doucette, followed by Dr. Cecilia Reynolds,

Dean of Education, University of Saskatchewan, and then by Dr. Michael Tymchak, Dean of Education, University of Regina. The Master of Ceremonies for the SUNTEP signing ceremony was Murray Hamilton, SUNTEP Saskatoon Coordinator. Following the speeches, all three dignitaries ceremoniously signed the agreement, providing an excellent photo opportunity for both the media and the Institute to promote the occasion.

The business portion of the AGM was called to order by Doyle Vermette, Vice Chair of the GDI Board of Governors. Opening remarks were given by MN—S President Robert Doucette. President Doucette's opening message focussed on the Institute's many accomplishments and the "world of opportunity for GDI" in the future. Some of the specific opportunities that President Doucette referred to were for the Department of Canadian Heritage's *Aboriginal Languages Initiative*, and the development of a Métis-specific archives

and cultural centre. The President's message was followed by the appointment of a Speaker to lead the proceedings. Only one nomination for speaker was put forward. When nominations ceased, Mr. Jimmy Durocher was appointed as Speaker for the duration.

Following a review and an approval of the agenda and minutes, the delegates and attendees were presented with the Institute Activity Report, delivered by GDI Executive Director, Geordy McCaffrey. Highlights of the Institute Activity Report included reference to GDI's unprecedented growth experienced in 2006-2007. For instance, the Institute acquired the Saskatchewan Métis Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement (AHRDA) in 2006, and incorporated the new Training and Employment entity under the GDI umbrella; GDI signed a contract for the development and delivery of the *Métis Health and Wellness Scholarship and Bursary Program*; the GDC (Gabriel Dumont College) Graduate Studies program was launched in 2006;

(Continued on page 3)



Highlighting GDC Bursary Recipients



Stacey Debray, GDC Graduate Student Bursary Recipient, 2007

In 2006, GDI established the *Gabriel Dumont College Graduate Student Bursary Program* as a three-year pilot project. 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 and Keith Goulet. In the second selection process, which took place in early May 2007, three applicants received bursary awards. The three recipients were Stacey Debray, Monica Goulet, and Shawna Larocque-Desjarlais.

Stacey Debray was awarded \$6,150 to support her studies to obtain a Master of Science (MSc) in Special Education at Minot State University. Stacey's research is on strategies to help teachers teach children with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. The following is a description of her research:

My thesis proposal is 'What strategies can teachers use to combat impulsive and aggressive behaviours in children with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS)?' It is my intention to use this information ... to gather important information for teachers to help them teach children with FAS.

As a teacher, I see children who are affected by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Unfortunately, those affected include our Métis children. Through my research, it is my hope that I will educate teachers and other professionals about how to deal and cope with children who are affected by FASD. By giving teachers hands-on material and strategies, hopefully that will reduce the frustration felt in dealing with these children with organic brain damage. Using strategies like: incorporating a strict routine, having a place for time-outs for the student when he/she needs a break, encouraging non-stimulating environments, such as the classroom, and having reminder cards for the student are some ways to deal with a student with FAS.

I believe that educating ourselves on the effects of FASD will help us understand, and therefore, better deal with the students.

I also wanted to take this time to thank each and every member who gave me the opportunity to receive this bursary. This bursary has ensured that I can continue on with my studies through Minot State University. My family is so grateful.

Monica Goulet received a GDC Graduate Student Bursary in the amount of \$10,000 to help support her research and studies in the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program at the University of Saskatchewan.

Monica's research focuses on the efficacy of addressing the racism experienced by Saskatchewan's Métis and First Nations people through using an educational display such as the travelling Anne Frank Exhibit that was held in Saskatoon a few years ago. Monica describes her research as follows:

My MBA project explores and evaluates the feasibility of the development and promotion of a travelling exhibit honouring the First Nation and Métis peoples of Saskatchewan. It will chronicle the struggles that Aboriginal people historically and currently face, particularly racism. Among other things, the exhibit will also profile the success stories of members of the First Nations and Métis communities and organizations from Saskatchewan.

The City of Saskatoon Community Services Branch has agreed to be the official sponsor of the project. They are particularly interested in this project, as the City administered and released the results of a telephone perception survey in December of 2005, where "more than two-thirds

(Continued on page 3)



Monica Goulet, GDC Graduate Student Bursary Recipient, 2007



GDI Hosts Annual General Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

GDI's Publishing Department won a *Saskatchewan Book Award* in 2006 for *The Métis Alphabet Book* by Joseph Fauchon; and the Institute boasted a 71% Métis workforce— making it the largest Métis employer in the province. It was clear to all in attendance that GDI has much to be proud about.

Following a break for lunch, Geordy McCaffrey presented GDI's Financial Report. Highlights of the financial report included a reminder that there are six entities in the GDI family that require annual

financial audits. These are GDI, GDC, DTI, Community Training Residence (CTR), GDI Scholarship Foundation II, and GDI Training & Employment. Approximately 70% of the Institute's funding comes from the province with the rest being made up of small third-party contracts, many from various federal government departments. Overall, financial statements indicate a positive picture for GDI. Official audited statements for all GDI entities for the 2006-07 fiscal year will be available in the Annual Report, which is due to be released early in the New year.

Following some general questions and comments from the floor, Speaker Durocher asked Elder Mike Maurice to deliver the closing prayer and then called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Many GDI staff volunteered at the event to ensure that the day ran smoothly; jobs included running the registration table, decorating, providing technical support, hosting dignitaries, taking minutes, and manning displays. Thank you to all who helped out. 🌐



Métis Nation – Saskatchewan President and recently appointed Minister of Education Robert Doucette speaking at the AGM

Highlighting GDC Bursary Recipients

(Continued from page 2)

(70%) of Saskatoon residents say they have observed Aboriginals experiencing acts of racism" (p. 16) (Fast Consulting 2006). The project will facilitate capacity building for partners who may wish to get involved.

The methodology that I will use to build a rationale for this project will include focus groups, interviews with key people, and research on exhibits. I wish to determine how effective exhibits are in reducing racism, and if so, what pre and post evaluation tools will effectively measure the attitudes of viewers. The

previous success with the "Anne Frank in the World: 1029-1945" exhibit and also lessons learned will greatly assist the potential partners who may wish to become involved in the development and management of the new exhibit.

It is the hope of the author and sponsors that this traveling exhibit will play a significant role in the education of school children and all viewers, so that they have a better understanding and appreciation for Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan, thereby reducing racism.

~ ~ ~

The GDC Graduate Student Bursary Program

operates under a Terms of Reference, and a Selection Committee meets twice a year to review applications. Application deadlines are **April 6** and **October 6** annually. Funding for this program is provided by Gabriel Dumont College.

You can read more about the *GDC Graduate Student Bursary Program* and current and former recipients on the GDI website at www.gdins.org.



"I wish to determine how effective exhibits are in reducing racism, and if so, what pre and post evaluation tools will effectively measure attitudes of viewers."



GDI T&E Hosts Open House in Beauval

By Simone Laliberte, Freelance Reporter

(This article originally appeared in the Beauval local newspaper—submitted by Donna Ross)

“GDI is helping to prepare students in their career choices through sponsorships, mentoring and assisting students with the transition from home to city life.”



The Open House held Tuesday, November 6, 2007 at the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Training & Employment office in Beauval went over quite well. Donna Ross, Program Coordinator for the region, was on hand to explain the programs available through GDI Training & Employment.

The GDI T&E central office is located in Saskatoon, while ten communities across the Province deliver employment and training information and services. The Beauval office is staffed by a competent and knowledgeable lady by the name of Marina Morin. If you need information on your eligibility to obtain sponsorship for programs, or if you need help to prepare for a job interview, or effective resume and cover letter writing, all you have to do is contact her at 288-2304. You are always welcome to stop in at Marina's office located upstairs in the Sister Simard Building. She will gladly answer any questions you may have

with regard to training and employment opportunities.

There is an interesting trend in the variety of post-secondary training that students are entering into these days in the NRIII. Some programs are Power Engineering, Business, Licensed Practical Nursing, Process Operator, Health Career Access, Information Tech, and Outdoor Power Equipment Tech to name a few. GDI is helping to prepare students in their career choices through sponsorships, mentoring and assisting students with the transition from home to city life. The job market today is varied and the North needs skilled labour to fill the many positions created by the provincial economic boom. These students will be the ones filling these positions instead of bringing in people from the South or other provinces.

The Dumont Technical Institute is currently looking for applicants for the Continuing Care Aide Program to be held in Ile-a-la-Croix starting in January of 2008 for 7

months ending in August.

Students completing this program will be able to work in home care and/or special care homes. The deadline to apply is November 23, 2007 and Marina will be able to assist you if this program happens to catch your interest.

Thanks to Donna Ross and Marina Morin for taking the time to host such an important and educational session. If anyone is planning a Career Day soon, it will be beneficial to invite these two people to do a presentation. It would certainly assist the high school students in learning more about career choices and funding requirements. 🌐



DTI Training Profile—Northern Region III

Northern Region III represents approximately 9% of the Métis population in Saskatchewan (2001 Census data). The Northern Region III area is made up of the communities of Ile-a-la-Crosse, Pinehouse, Green Lake, Beauval, Jans Bay, Cole Bay, Dore/Sled Lake, Patunak, Canoe River, and Sapawgamik.

The Dumont Technical Institute (DTI)'s seven-year history shows that a total of 349 training seats have been offered in the region, representing 10% of DTI's training seats. DTI contributed a total of \$782,236 over the seven-year period toward training initiatives in the

region. This total does not include money received from a DTI proposal funded by the Northern Development Board to run the Management Studies course in Ile-a-la-Crosse. It also does not include the funds that DTI has secured from partnerships in the area for running training programs. The total expenditure for the region for the past seven years represents 5% of DTI's training funds over that period.

Highlights of DTI training for the region include a partnership in Ile-a-la-Crosse for provision of Basic Education, including Storefront, ABE 10 and

Adult 12 programs. Partners in the Ile-a-la-Crosse programs include Northlands College, Rossignol School/Ile-a-la-Crosse School Division, METSI, and the Métis Local. Over the past four years, DTI has offered a variety of Basic Education programming in Pinehouse, as well as a Welding program in 2007-08. In 2007-08, DTI is partnering with Northlands to deliver BE programming in Jans Bay. Between 2004 and 2008, DTI has been involved in delivering programming for approximately 19 education and training programs in various communities in Northern Region III.



DTI carpentry students at work on a building

GDI Evaluation Update

In operation for twenty-seven years, the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research (GDI) was established in Saskatchewan with a mandate to promote Métis culture through the development and distribution of relevant materials and collections, and to deliver Métis-specific educational programs and services. In order to examine the rationale, design and delivery, and program and cultural outcomes of GDI, Saskatchewan Advanced Education, Employment and Labour (AEEL) (formerly Saskatchewan Advanced Education and

Employment) and GDI have commissioned an evaluation of the Institute. This evaluation will focus on a sub-set of GDI activities—specifically, the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP), the Publishing Department, and the Dumont Technical Institute (DTI).

The objective of this research is to review GDI for purposes of assessing the rationale, design and delivery, effectiveness and impacts for the period between September 1, 2004 and June 1, 2007.

The core methodological approach to the study

involves six components: documents/literature review; administrative file review; key informant interviews; staff surveys; participants' surveys; and integrated analysis and reporting.

The evaluation process is currently at the survey instrument design and approval stage. It is anticipated that staff surveys, participant surveys and key informant interviews will commence prior to the end of the calendar year. (Source: *Draft Work Plan and Research Design Report*, J. Remai, Ekos Research Associates Inc).



"...staff surveys, participant surveys and key informant interviews will commence prior to the end of the calendar year."



Gabriel Dumont Institute/Dumont Technical Institute

917 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK
S7M 0R9

PHONE:
(306) 242-6070

FAX:
(306) 242-0002

E-MAIL:
general@gdi.gdins.org

Back issues of this newsletter
can be obtained at:

[www.metismuseum.ca/brows
e/index.php/833](http://www.metismuseum.ca/brows
e/index.php/833)

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.gdins.org



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research

**GABRIEL DUMONT
INSTITUTE**
917 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK
S7M 0R9

GDI Locations

GDI/DTI Saskatoon
917 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9
Phone: (306) 242-6070
Fax: (306) 242-0002

**GDI Publishing
Saskatoon**
2 – 604 22nd Street West
Saskatoon SK S7M 5W1
Phone: (306) 934-4941
Fax: (306) 244-0252

**GDI Finance and
Operations**
104-219 Robin Crescent
Saskatoon, SK S7L 6M8
Phone: (306) 683-3634
Fax: (306) 683-3508

SUNTEP Prince Albert
48 12th Street East
Prince Albert, SK
S6V 1B2
Phone: (306) 764-1797
Fax: (306) 764-3995

SUNTEP Saskatoon
Room 7 McLean Hall
University of
Saskatchewan
106 Wiggins Road
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5E6
Phone: (306) 975-7095
Fax: (306) 975-1108

SUNTEP Regina
Room 227 College West
University of Regina
3737 Wascana Parkway
Regina, SK S4S 0A2
Phone: (306) 347-4110
Fax: (306) 347-4119

DTI Saskatoon
917 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9
Phone: (306) 242-6070
Fax: (306) 242-0002

Toll Free:
1-877-488-6888

**GDI Training and
Employment
Head Office**
104 – 219 Robin Crescent
Saskatoon, SK S7L 6M8
Phone 683-3634
Fax 683-3508

**NAME
STREET ADDRESS
CITY, SK
S**



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research