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*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*

## Métis 2006 Census Data

New data from the 2006 Census indicates that the number of people in Canada who self-identified as Aboriginal—North American Indian (First Nations), Métis and Inuit—has surpassed 1,000,000. In 2006, the number of people in Saskatchewan who identified as Aboriginal reached 141,890, which accounts for more than one in ten of the province's total population (14.9%). This was the second highest proportion of Canada's provinces after Manitoba (15.5%). Nationally, 3.8% of the population identified as being Aboriginal in 2006.

Of those persons from Saskatchewan reporting an Aboriginal identity in the 2006 Census, 64% were First Nations, 34% Métis, and 0.2% Inuit.

12% of Canada's population who identified as Métis in 2006 lived in Saskatchewan. 5% of Saskatchewan's total population identified as Métis in the 2006 Census. Slightly more than one third (34%) of Saskatchewan's Aboriginal population identified as Métis in the 2006 Census.

In the decade between 1996 and 2006, the number of Métis living in Saskatchewan increased by 34% to reach 48,115. This was higher than the 25% increase in the province's First Nations population during this same period. Between 2001 and 2006, Saskatchewan's Métis population grew by 10%.

The majority of Saskatchewan's Métis (58%) lived in one of the province's major urban centres in 2006. The Saskatoon Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) was home to 9,610 Métis in 2006, representing 4% of the total population, about the same proportion as in the Regina CMA which had 7,185 Métis residents.

Métis people made up a considerable share of the total population in several smaller urban centres in Saskatchewan in 2006, most notably in Prince Albert where 18% of the city's total population was Métis. Lloydminster and North Battleford also had Métis populations greater than the provincial rate, at almost 9% and 7%.

Saskatchewan's Métis population is much younger than the non-Aboriginal population, but older than the total Aboriginal population. The median age for Saskatchewan Métis in 2006 was 26 years, compared with 41 years for non-Aboriginal people, and 22 years for the province's total Aboriginal population. Nationally, the median age of a Métis person was 30 years in 2006.

Almost half (49%) of Saskatchewan's Métis population is made up of children and youth aged 24 and under, considerably higher than the percentage of children in the same age group in the non-Aboriginal population (31%). 29% of the province's total Métis population is aged 0 to 14, while 20% is aged 15 to 24.

36% of Métis children aged 14 and under lived with a lone parent in 2006, compared with 16% of non-Aboriginal children.

Saskatchewan's Métis were six times more likely than non-Aboriginal people to live in a crowded dwelling in 2006,

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## GDI Library Report

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Library operates three branches in Regina, Prince Albert, and Saskatoon. The GDI Library supports the information and research needs of GDI and Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) programs. Its unique collection focuses on Métis and First Nations communities, culture and history. The Library's staff works in partnership with other library and information service providers to offer free and unrestricted access to information for all library patrons. The Library also works to develop the information literacy skills (research, critical thinking, and computer skills) of its patrons, which is an important step towards ensuring that Aboriginal people have full access to library services in Saskatchewan.

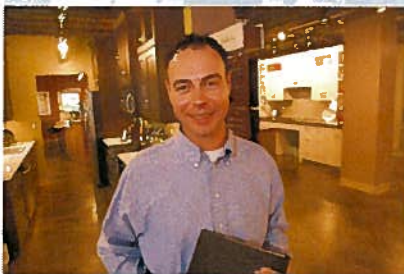
The Regina and Prince Albert Libraries each have a librarian on staff, plus a library technician. In Regina, Marilyn Belhumeur is the Librarian, and Kim Kovacs is the Library Technician. In Prince Albert, the Librarian is Sharon Wood, and Melissa Hurl is the Library Technician. In Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program Faculty member Linda Lysyk looks after the Library with assistance from Student Librarian Kelsey Riel.

*Awards*, and attends student and community functions such as potlucks and celebrations. In Prince Albert, Librarian Sharon Wood participates each year as a judge in the annual DTI Science Fair (see article p.4). In addition, Sharon regularly teaches a class to DTI students called Library Skills.

Both the Regina and Prince Albert Libraries have similar ongoing functions like weeding dated or inappropriate materials, doing presentations, providing information to GDI and DTI students, and conducting general maintenance and upkeep of library materials and information.

Each branch of the GDI Library participates in a number of activities, projects, and community events. For instance, the GDI Regina Library participates in the Library Services for Saskatchewan Aboriginal People (LSSAP), attends the *Saskatchewan Book*

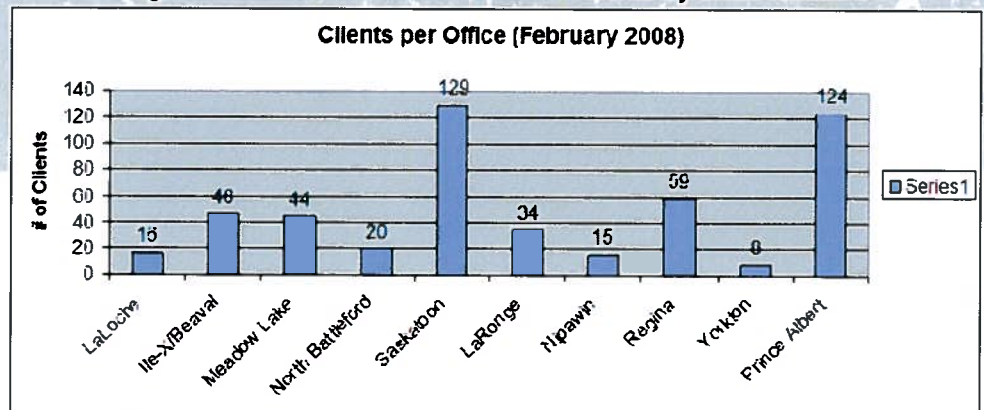
Students, staff and library patrons can access the GDI Library Catalogue at <http://gdi.voyager.uregina.ca>.



The Gabriel Dumont Institute Training and Employment Program (GDI T & E)'s objective is to assist and prepare Métis people for rewarding careers. GDI T & E provides Métis people with training and employment opportunities necessary to be fully competitive in the labour force.

## GDI Training & Employment Client Update

The following chart indicates GDI's T&E's active clients by office location.



## Métis Education Act Proposed for GDI

In 2004, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) developed a Strategic Plan that placed the goal of achieving a Métis Education Act as a top priority. At GDI's Annual General Meeting in 2005, the concept of a Métis Education Act was presented to the membership. Such legislation is standard for all other post-secondary training institutions in the province. For instance, the Regional Colleges are governed by the *Regional Colleges Act*, the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies is governed under the *Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies Act*, and SIAST operates under the *Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology Act*. GDI, on the other hand, operates under a contract with the provincial government. With its

successful twenty-seven year history of providing quality education and training programs to Métis people and communities across the province, the Institute is in a strong position to have a similar governing act. Legislation recognizing the Institute as the province's Métis post-secondary education provider would positively impact GDI in terms of long-term stability, security, while recognizing our successful history.

While the provincial government at the time supported the concept of a Métis Education Act, the concept was put on hold because of the political upheaval emerging from the 2004 Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN—S) election. While the 2004 MN—S election was in dispute, the Métis' political voice was largely absent, making this objective

unrealistic in the political climate at the time. In light of the new MN—S election in 2007 and renewed confidence in Métis governance, a member of the present provincial government has expressed an interest to establish legislation that would provide GDI with its own legislative act. The member is willing to bring the issue forward as a private members bill. A meeting in early March will begin the process of drafting legislation. While there will be many steps involved in what is expected to be a complex and cumbersome process, the Institute looks forward to the day when Métis post-secondary education in Saskatchewan will operate on par with other institutions as a legislative act of government.



## Métis Cultural Development Fund

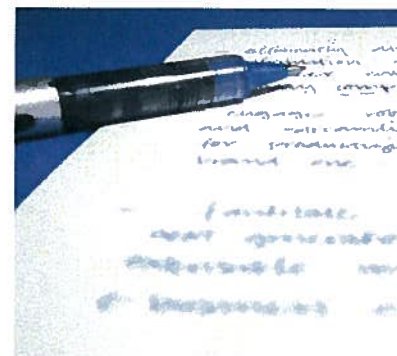
The *Métis Cultural Development Fund* (MCDF) was developed by GDI in partnership with SaskCulture Inc. The program is designed to preserve, strengthen, and transmit Métis culture and traditions in Saskatchewan. The MCDF places emphasis on children, building cultural leadership skills, transferring knowledge between generations, skills development,

mentorship, and having fun. The activities funded through this program encourage gathering, sharing, learning, celebrating, and developing Métis culture in Métis communities.

The MCDF Selection Committee, made up of members of the Métis community, meets twice a year, following the May and October grant deadlines.

Some of the fall 2007 recipients included the Lloydminster Native Friendship Centre for their project *Pass it On, Our Story, Our Pride*; and the Western Region Métis Women's Association for Louis Riel Day Celebrations.

For more information about the MCDF please visit the GDI website at [www.gdins.org](http://www.gdins.org).



*"The program is designed to preserve, strengthen, and transmit Métis culture and traditions in Saskatchewan"*



## Prince Albert ABE Hosts Annual Science Fair

*"With many impressive displays the judging was a difficult job."*



Science Fair judge Sharon Wood presents first place in the ABE 10 category to Timothy Henry.



Sharon Wood presents first prize in the Literacy category to Cyril Pelly.

On Thursday, January 17, 2008, the Dumont Technical Institute (DTI)'s Prince Albert ABE programs hosted their annual science fair. Each year, the ABE faculty and staff run a well-organized and well-attended science fair as part of the ABE 10 and the Literacy programs' science curriculum. This year, twelve Grade 10 and seven Literacy students had the opportunity to present their science projects. Judging for the event took place in the morning while public presentations of the exhibits took place in the afternoon. Judges for this year's event were Sharon Wood, Gabriel Dumont Institute Librarian, Bente Huntley, Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Prince Albert Faculty, and Ron Fouquette, DTI substitute teacher. With many impressive displays the judging was difficult. Sharon Wood notes that "the students all presented very interesting and well thought out experiments. This science fair improves each year."

The projects that the Literacy group presented included a lemon-powered

battery, a solar-powered cell, and a rocket demonstration. In the ABE 10 group, students exhibited the workings of a snow scooter, the effects of a tornado, the development of a rainbow, osteoporosis concerns, and natural Aboriginal medicinal remedies.

In the afternoon, the public was invited to view the exhibits. The afternoon exhibit was well attended by members of the public including the Mayor of Prince Albert, His Worship, Jim Scarrow, who left a lasting impression on the students by speaking to each and every one of them about their respective projects. In addition, people from the SUNTEP and Licensed Practical Nursing programs came to support and encourage the science fair exhibitors. All the students were uplifted from their positive Science Fair experience. 🌍



Prince Albert Mayor, His Worship, Jim Scarrow, shakes hands with Kyle Vandale, who won third place in the DTI Science Fair (ABE 10 category).



Ron Fouquette with second place winner Laura Tinker (Literacy category).



Celina McCullum receives her third place prize from Sharon Wood (Literacy category).



Doris Merasty presents her display that won second prize in the ABE 10 category.



## National Michif Language Conference 2008

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) is pleased to host the 2008 National Michif Language Conference in Saskatoon, March 14, 15, 2008. The conference, themed *Michif is a Beautiful Language*, is an opportunity for Michif speakers from across the Métis Homeland to come together to speak the Michif languages, and share strategies for their preservation and promotion. Support from the Department of Canadian Heritage (DCH)'s *Aboriginal Languages Initiative (ALI)* and Métis provincial organizations, whose

Michif initiatives are funded by DCH, are making the conference possible.

GDI is pleased to support over half of the anticipated 140 delegates with ALI funding, which will ensure that Saskatchewan's Michif speakers are well represented. The remainder of the delegates will come from across Canada.

The conference will also provide an opportunity for the Institute to launch three new resources which promote the three Michif languages—*The*

*Michif Resource Guide: Lii Michif Niiyanaan, The Story of the Rabbit Dance, and Better That Way.*

Prior to the conference, GDI will host a Michif Storytellers' Workshop. The workshop will be an ideal opportunity for 12 Michif storytellers to share their stories, while preserving their language and culture. The workshop will form the basis of future Michif-language resources. The gathering will be video-recorded and segments will be posted on *The Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture* ([www.metismuseum.ca](http://www.metismuseum.ca)).

Needless to say, both these events will keep the Publishing Department happily engaged. 🌐

## Métis 2006 Census Data

*Continued from page 1*

but more than four times less likely than the province's First Nations people to live in dwellings with more than one person per room. 6% of Métis people in Saskatchewan lived in a crowded dwelling in 2006, compared to 1% of non-Aboriginal people, and 25% of First Nations people.

The past decade saw a large reduction in crowded accommodations for Métis living in rural Saskatchewan. In 2006, 11% of rural Métis in Saskatchewan lived in crowded conditions, down from 21% in 1996. This compares with 1% for rural non-Aboriginal people. 3% of Métis living in urban

areas lived in crowded conditions, down from 5% in 1996, compared to 1% of the non-Aboriginal population.

18% of Saskatchewan's Métis population lived in dwellings requiring major repairs in 2006, compared to 9% of the non-Aboriginal population. In 2006, Métis who lived in rural areas of the Prairie Provinces were most likely to be living in housing in need of major repairs. More than one in four (27%) of Métis in rural Saskatchewan and one in ten (13%) in urban centres lived in housing in need of major repairs in both 1996 and 2006. The rural Métis were more than twice as

likely to live in homes needing major repairs compared with the non-Aboriginal rural population in 2006 (12%).

Métis in Saskatchewan are more likely than those in other regions to speak an Aboriginal language. In 2006, 12% of Saskatchewan Métis spoke an Aboriginal language, compared with 4% of Métis in Canada overall.

Source:

Statistics Canada, 2008. *Aboriginal Peoples in Canada in 2006: Inuit, Métis and First Nations: SASKATCHEWAN QUICK FACTS.*




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*Aboriginal people accounted for 14.9% of the total population of Saskatchewan in 2006. This is the second highest proportion of Aboriginal people within Canada's provinces, after Manitoba at 15.5%.*



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Back issues of this newsletter  
can be obtained at:

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

**We're on the Web!**

See us at:  
[www.qdins.org](http://www.qdins.org)



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