



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:

- Continuing Care Assistants Graduate
- GDI Books Shortlisted for Sask Book Awards
- Métis theme adopted for Sask Book Awards

Highlights:

- Increment Clarification 2
- Board Training 2
- Louis Riel Day 3

Ile-à-la-Crosse Continuing Care Graduates

By Jessica Sandell

On October 10, 2008, at 6:00 PM, the small village of Ile-à-la-Crosse was gearing up for an exciting graduation ceremony and dinner being held at the Sakitawak Entertainment Centre. Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) was proud to be celebrating the completion of the Continuing Care Assistant (CCA) Program, and its thirteen graduates who worked hard to complete it. Family and friends watched as Tracy LaPrise, DTI Program Coordinator, Doreen Docken, CCA Instructor, and Ursula Osteneck, Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology Program Head for CCA, presented each graduate with a certificate, pin, Métis Sash, and desk ornament.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following graduates:

Cynthia Alcrow
Andrea Aubichon
Laurie Burnouf
Candace Caisse
Jorina Coullonneur
Beatrice Daigneault
Vanessa Daigneault
Cheyanne Desjarlais
Jessica Durocher
Tara Laliberte
Tina Laliberte

Tanya Morin
Theresa Roy

During the course of the nine-month program, students were busy learning from a whole host of community and training experts. Students had the opportunity to study a variety of topics including body systems, communication skills and techniques, nutrition, food safety, special needs, CPR and First Aid, dementia and family care. A special thanks to the Ile-à-la-Crosse's Métis Nation—Saskatchewan local for allowing DTI to use the Jonas Favel building as our classroom.

Thanks also to Margaret Kissick from St. Joseph's Hospital Health Centre in Ile-à-la-Crosse, Diana Daigneault from Ile-à-la-Crosse Home Care, and Linda Maurice from Beauval Home Care. Because of the participation of these organizations, the CCA students were able to participate in two work placements. These organizations were key in helping facilitate and introduce hands-on

experience to the learners. Students also had the opportunity to meet industry professionals, and network in hopes of securing employment after graduation. As of October 15, 2008, five of the thirteen graduates have secured employment in their communities, and the other eight graduates are motivated to find employment in the home care field.

DTI looks forward to offering many more training programs, and hopes to introduce new opportunities to enrich the lives of other Métis people. For now, best wishes to all the CCA graduates in Ile-à-la-Crosse. DTI staff wish the graduates nothing but happiness and success in their new lives as trained professionals.



Clarification of Annual Increment Dates

By Jim Edmondson



In order to avoid any confusion about annual increment dates, please take note of **Article 10.5 Annual Increments** in the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), April 1, 2007—March 31, 2010.

Article **10.5.1** states: “All probationary and permanent employees shall receive annual within-grade step increments effective on the established increment dates, provided that the employee has been authorized and has reported for work a minimum of one hundred and eighty (180) occasions since her/his last increment adjustment. New employees will be assigned one (1) increment date as per Article 10.5.1.1.”

Article 10.5.1.1 reads: “Increment dates will be January 1st, April 1st, July 1st, October 1st of each year.”

The effect of these articles is that any employee with an anniversary date other than one of the prescribed four (as per article 10.5.1.1) will not receive the annual increment until the next prescribed increment date occurs. For example, an employee’s anniversary date is February 9. This employee will not receive his/her increment until the next prescribed increment date which, in this case, is April 1.

The increment dates outlined in the current CBA do not allow for any

retro-activity of increment amounts.

Please note that the information and reference to specific sections of the CBA provided here are for information only. Please refer directly to the CBA for further information. If you have questions, please contact Jim Edmondson, Director of Human Resources at 306-657-2272.



Board Orientation and Training



On October 22 and 23, 2008 Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) board members met in Saskatoon for board orientation and training. Both current and new board members were present for the session which included a full agenda for the two days. Some of the topics covered included information about the different types of boards, the role of a board, and the legal and ethical responsibilities of board members. Ideas about creating a good board culture, managing problems, and working for continuous improvement were

presented by the Saskatoon-based facilitator for the session, Irene Seiferling of Board Dynamics.

The GDI Board of Governors particular roles, which are clearly outlined in Institute bylaws, were also reviewed. These roles include adopting policies, conducting strategic planning, approving budgets, audits and programs, communicating with the Métis and larger communities, serving as GDI ambassadors, owners, stakeholders and

spokespersons, and finally, appointing and overseeing the Executive Director.

The GDI Board is made up of twelve members (one from each MN—S Region), and a chair who is the MN—S Education Minister. There are currently six board positions to be filled. Vacancies include those caused by expired terms or vacant seats.



GDI Does Well in the Saskatchewan Book Awards Shortlist

GDI's Publishing Department fared well in the shortlist for the Saskatchewan Book Awards (SBA), which was released on October 15, 2008. Four GDI books have been shortlisted in six categories. The shortlisted books are *The Story of the Rabbit Dance* by Jeanne Pelletier; *Medicines to Help Us: Traditional Métis Plant Use* by Christi Belcourt; *Stories of Our People/Lii zistwayr di la naasyoon di Michif: A Métis Graphic Novel Anthology*; and *Better That Way*, by Rita Bouvier.

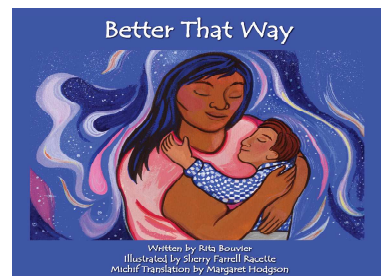
The SBA received a record breaking number of nominations with 113 titles totalling 261 entries. These were pared down to a Shortlist of 54 titles and 80 nominations in 14 categories. In total, there are 60 authors and editors and 29 publishers

nominated for the 56 titles in the running.

The Saskatchewan Book Awards, established in 1993 by the Saskatchewan Writers Guild, Saskatchewan Publishers Group and Saskatchewan Library Association, is mandated to recognize and celebrate the achievements of Saskatchewan authors and publishers and help promote their books. Over the years, awards have been added or changed according to demand and when sponsors can be found. Leading up to the awards, shortlist readings help promote nominated books. The awards gala, held toward the end of November, positions winning books for the Christmas market... (SBA website October, 2008).

The SBA press release notes that the diverse experience of Saskatchewan residents is evident in many of the books on this year's list. "The Gabriel Dumont Institute has published several titles that beautifully illustrate and explain Métis traditions, including *The Story of the Rabbit Dance* by Jeanne Pelletier and *Medicines to Help Us: Traditional Métis Plant Use* by Christi Belcourt."

The 16th Annual Awards Gala will take place on Saturday, November 29, 2008 at Regina's Conexus Arts Centre, when the winners of all 14 awards will be announced. This year's guest speaker will be Maria Campbell, award-winning author and activist. 🌐



"The Gabriel Dumont Institute has published several titles that beautifully illustrate and explain Métis traditions."

Louis Riel Day and Métis Veterans Honour Day

GDI, Parks Canada and Friends of Batoche are hosting a family day to honour our Métis heroes, Louis Riel and all Métis veterans. The event, called "Honouring Our Métis Heroes: Louis Riel Day and Métis Veterans Honour Day," will take place on Sunday, November 16, 2008 at Batoche National Historic Site. During this event, we will continue to celebrate the Métis Nation to which they brought honour.

The schedule for the day is as follows:

10:00 AM: Dallas Fiddler & Phil Boyer—fiddle music
11:00 AM: Métis National Anthem, Opening Ceremony and Procession to 1885 Memorial to lay Wreath of Remembrance
12:00 PM: Lunch
1:00—1:45 PM: Lawrie Barkwell, *Women of the Resistance*
1:45—2:30 PM: John and Vicki Arcand—Master of the Métis Fiddle
2:30 PM: Mass at St. Antoine de Padoue Church

An ongoing video presentation by GDI honouring Louis Riel will be playing in the theatre throughout the day.

Stop by, relax and enjoy bannock and coffee at the gift shop.

Gift shop & Concession hours are 9:30—4:00PM

Free Admission 🌐

"Honouring Our Métis Heroes: Louis Riel Day and Métis Veterans Honour Day" will take place on Sunday, November 16, 2008 at Batoche National Historic Site."



Saskatchewan Book Awards Incorporate Métis Theme

(Announcement by Saskatchewan Book Awards)

*Jeanne Pelletier (**The Story of the Rabbit Dance**)... will be providing a unique treat, a demonstration of the Rabbit Dance.*



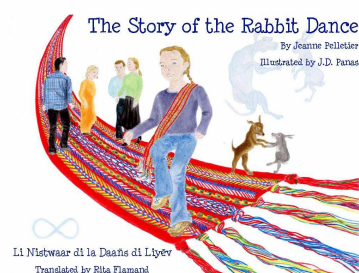
The Saskatchewan Book Awards is pleased to welcome Maria Campbell as their Guest Speaker at the 2008 Gala on Saturday, November 29th.

The *Saskatchewan Book Awards* are pleased to invite you to attend two events that are of interest to Métis people.

Please join us on November 7 for the first **Regina Shortlist Literary Saloon**. The inaugural **Literary Saloon** will highlight readings from some of Regina's shortlisted authors in a festive, literary event with a South-Western flavour, as well as an auction, cowboys, cowgirls, tasty home-on-the-range finger food and beverages. The **Saloon** will be held on Friday, November 7, 2008, from 7:30—11:30 PM at The Exchange, 2431 8th Avenue, Regina. Tickets are \$15, and are available at the door, Book & Brier Patch, 4065 Albert St Regina (306) 586-5814, or by email at tickets@bookawards.sk.ca. Readers will be Gerry Hill (**My Human Comedy**), Dan Macdonald (**MacGregor's Hard Ice Cream and Gas**), Alison Lohans (**This Land We Call Home**), and of special interest,

Jeanne Pelletier (**The Story of the Rabbit Dance**). Jeanne will be providing a unique treat, a demonstration of the Rabbit Dance.

On Saturday, November 29, the 16th Annual **Saskatchewan Book Awards Gala** will be held at the Conexus Art Centre in Regina. The guest speaker will be the renowned Métis writer and activist **Maria Campbell**. In keeping with the Gala's Métis theme, "Master of the Métis Fiddle" John Arcand, will provide musical entertainment. Special meal selections and table decorations (including centerpieces that will be auctioned) complete the theme. The Saskatchewan Book Awards gratefully acknowledge the Gabriel Dumont Institute for their donations. Tickets are \$65.00 and are available from Book & Brier Patch or by email at tickets@bookawards.sk.ca. For more information about these and other SBA events, please visit our website at <http://www.bookawards.sk.ca>, or contact Glenda James at (306) 569-1585.



Li Nisbwaar di la Daañs di Liyev
Translated by Rita Flanagan



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e/index.php/833)

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.gdins.org



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GDI's mission:

To promote the renewal and the development of Métis culture through research, materials development, collection and the distribution of those materials and the development and delivery of Métis-specific educational programs and services.



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research