



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

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Métis Set to Participate in Aboriginal Education Summit

The Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) will be hosting a Summit on Aboriginal Education on February 24 and 25, 2009 in Saskatoon. The Summit will be a high-level national political meeting of leaders in Aboriginal education policy and will include provincial Education Ministers, the federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development/Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, National Aboriginal Organizations (NAOs), and Regional Aboriginal Organizations (RAOs).

The overall goal of the CMEC Summit on Aboriginal Education is to establish a new relationship among leaders in Aboriginal education that respects jurisdiction and develops consensus on shared opportunities. Leaders will discuss strategies to move forward on eliminating the gap between the educational achievements of Canada's Métis, First Nations, and Inuit students and non-Aboriginal students.

Métis Nation—
Saskatchewan (MN—S)

President Robert Doucette will represent the Métis National Council (MNC) at the CMEC Summit in Saskatoon. President Doucette will present a special report prepared by the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) outlining the national Métis perspective on Métis education. The report was prepared in consultation with the MNC which, in turn, consulted with its governing members. The result is a comprehensive document outlining both the challenges in Métis education in Canada as well as the successes to date.

The special report on Métis education, entitled *Ka tipaymishoyak: Tapitow aen notay kishkaytamuk!* (We are owners of our own destiny: We are always wanting to learn!), examines many of the challenges facing Métis education in Canada today. Challenges identified are: Jurisdiction and Control, Economic and Social Disparity, Access and Integration, and Sustainability and Capacity Building. These issues are examined in the context of lifelong

learning and education from early childhood through school age as well as the transitions to post-secondary education, the labour market, and on-going skills development.

The report asserts that the unresolved issue of jurisdiction and control is at the heart of the breakdown in Métis education. The MNC recognizes that the jurisdictional issue has been the single greatest impediment to progress in developing a modern set of institutions, programs and services to meet the needs of the Métis. It has been and remains the longstanding position of the MNC that the federal government has jurisdiction and responsibility with respect to the Métis Nation by virtue of section 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867*. However, years of jurisdictional wrangling has meant that Métis concerns have not been dealt with effectively by either level of government.

It is hoped that the Summit will provide a starting point to address some of these pressing issues in Métis education.



IT Update

By Gareth Griffith

Welcome to the February IT section. Things are still as busy here as ever. Edwin is settling in to his new IT support role and does not seem to be getting any greyer yet. Included are updates regarding the website, intranet, anti-virus applications and some Windows shortcuts to possibly make your life easier.

Website Update

As discussed previously, GDI's website redevelopment continues at pace. We have revamped the news/events section to a latest news section, showing the latest four items, and a news archive is scheduled to be launched very soon with all other news items. This website will evolve into a more streamlined design that will be easier to use for returning and new visitors. The next changes coming will include:

- * A revised "About GDI" section to separate pages, including a Reporting section with Financial/Annual Reports;
- * A revised Employment Posting section will appear on both the intranet and the website, dependent upon internal or external advertising; and
- * A revised Program list, especially for the Dumont Technical Institute (DTI), will show current programs delivered and where they are delivered.

Intranet













Alongside website development, work continues on the intranet, which will be made available to all staff, and will include Policies and Procedures (once approved), internal job postings, Asset Disposal list, and some standard personnel forms available to download. Two sections of the Policies and Procedures are scheduled to be ready by the end of March and will be available on the intranet. Watch this space for further details

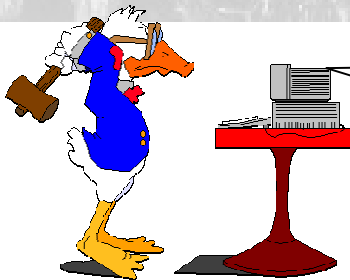
Anti-Virus

We have recently evaluated a new corporate anti-virus solution for the Institute. After shortlisting three products, we have decided upon Sophos Endpoint Security and Control. It will allow us to have a consistent program on every machine we use, and it will also go a long way towards blocking PUPS (Potentially Unwanted Programs and Software) and Spyware. There is a central control element as well that can alert IT of any virus attacks automatically. This program is used successfully by both the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan. The order has just been placed, and after a testing phase will be rolled out to all machines on our networks.

Hints and Tips

Have you ever wondered if there is an easier way to do things? Well there is. This section will be a regular column that will impart little tricks to help you in your everyday computing. This month: **The Windows Key**. See that little key in between alt and Ctrl on the keyboard with the Windows logo on it. This is called the Windows Key. There are a host of shortcuts assigned to this very key. Some of the popular ones are listed below:

1.  Windows Key + E: Opens a new **Explorer Window**.
2.  Windows Key: Displays the **Start Menu**.
3.  Windows Key + D: **Minimizes** all windows and shows the **Desktop**.
4.  Windows Key + F: Displays the **Find** all files dialog box.
5.  Windows Key + L: Lock your Windows XP computer.
6.  Windows Key + M: **Minimizes** all open windows.
7.  Windows Key + Shift + M: **Restores** all previously open windows
8.  Windows Key + R: Displays the **Run** command.
9.  Windows Key + F1: Displays the **Windows Help** menu.
10.  Windows Key + Pause/Break: Displays the **Systems Properties** dialog box.
11.  Windows Key + Tab: Cycle through the buttons on the **Task Bar**.
12. Alt + Tab: **Toggle** (switch) between open windows. 



This Computer has performed an Illegal Operation!!!

PRESS ANY KEY TO CONTINUE



Annual Report Ready for Distribution

The 2007-2008 GDI Annual Report is hot off the press and ready for distribution. The Annual Report has maintained its updated format of the past three years and has also expanded its content. This year's Annual Report includes extended information on Board governance as well as a more detailed description of the Institute's structure.

For the 2007-2008 year, GDI marked a number of milestones. The Institute was pleased to report on the positive evaluation results from the EKOS Evaluation, which affirms the Institute's cultural mandate as a critical feature impacting student success. The 2007-2008 year also represents the first full year of program delivery for GDI Training & Employment (GDI T&E). Highlights from the GDI T&E section include service to over 1,200

clients and the establishment of a GDI T&E Scholarship Fund. The Financial Highlights section has been expanded to provide a more comprehensive synopsis of the Institute's finances. The actual Audited Financial Statements are included with the Annual Report on an enclosed CD. The CD also includes detailed operations reports from DTI, GDI T&E, and the three Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) centres.

As in the past three years, the 2007-2008 Annual Report highlights individual student and staff success stories. This year's report includes a feature on Nicole Amiotte, SUNTEP Saskatoon alumna and faculty. Nicole is a former GDI student, a former DTI staff member, and is currently

a faculty member at SUNTEP Saskatoon. Two Gabriel Dumont College Graduate Student Bursary recipients are highlighted—Jody Burnett and Natasha Beeds. DTI student stories are also included in the printed report and DTI's operations report is included on the enclosed CD. A comprehensive listing of all graduates and all scholarship recipients is included in the printed Annual Report as well.

Copies of the Annual Report are being prepared for distribution to communities, programs, funding agents, and other stakeholders. To request copies of the report please contact April Tarrington at 242-6070 or april.tarrington@dti.gdins.org.



Nicole Amiotte, SUNTEP Saskatoon, is featured in this year's report.

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New Monthly Reporting Forms

Please note that on December 22, 2008 and again on January 16, 2009, Jim Edmondson, Director of Human Resources sent an email to all Institute staff regarding new Monthly Time Reporting Sheets and new Hourly Timesheets. The new Monthly Time Reporting Sheet is to replace all existing versions of this form used by all entities of GDI—GDI T&E, DTI, and

SUNTEP, and is effective January 1, 2009. Please refer to Jim's February 2, 2009 email for an attached copy of the form. Please use only the new version from this point forward.

For employees who report via timesheets, the version attached to the December 22nd email is the one that needs to be filled out and submitted from January 1, 2009 onwards.

Original forms signed by both the employee and his or her direct supervisor must be submitted to Payroll.

If you have any questions regarding these two new forms please contact your immediate supervisor, the Payroll department, or Jim Edmondson.



Please only use the new version of these forms from this point forward.



The science of confidence

Students gain self-esteem and confidence through participation in science fairs

KRISTINA JARVIS

Herald Staff

This article originally appeared January 16, 2009 in the Prince Albert Daily Herald and reprinted here with permission.

The science fair gives students a chance to build their confidence and to learn about a particular idea in a hands-on way.



Laura Tinker, a Gabriel Dumont Institute student, shows her prize winning science fair project about conditions to popping popcorn. Herald photo by Kristina Jarvis.

Laura Tinker picks up the test tube from her science fair project and points to the bottom of it, where a popped corn kernel sits.

"The last one didn't have a hole in (the tinfoil), and that's the one that popped the best," she said. "It was exciting to watch it."

Tinker's project was one of more than 20 projects presented at Gabriel Dumont Institute's annual science fair, held on Thursday. The students come from three levels of adult education at the school, and present projects in the category that matches their level at the school.

Elizabeth Majocho, a science instructor at the institute, said the science fair gives students a chance to build their confidence and to learn about a particular idea in a hands-on way.

"They learn something they never thought they would even imagine," she said. "It does a world of wonders for them."

Majocho said that one of the keys to making the science fair, and the school, a success are the staff that she works

with, who she said work as a team and are both friend and teacher to their students.

Majocho admits she is incredibly passionate about her job, and feels that the students are what make her job so meaningful.

"We have a motto here - the students' success is our success," she said. "When we see a face lit up, and say 'I got it'... it's a wonderful working relationship."

For Tinker, her project surprised her and allowed her to understand a bit more about the science of popping popcorn, and to realize that she could do the project herself and go on to win for the levels one and two division.

One of the things Tinker will remember most about her science fair experience is the commentary she received from one of the judges.

"For a judge to come in, and somebody else to tell you ... I won't forget what he told me, he touched my heart."



Métis Literature and Culture Night a Success

On January 29 2009, GDI and McNally Robinson jointly hosted a Métis Literature and Culture Night at the Prairie Ink Restaurant in the McNally Robinson bookstore in Saskatoon. The evening featured readings, storytelling, and Métis entertainment. The evening's events were introduced and led by emcee Darren Préfontaine from GDI Publishing.

Rita Bouvier introduced and then read her latest book, *Better That Way*. *Better That Way* is a children's book that is beautifully illustrated by Sherry Farrell Racette. The book takes one of Rita's poems and tells it as a children's story. Rita credits Karon Shmon from GDI Publishing with the vision to transform the poem into a children's book.

Following Rita's reading, Darren introduced *Stories of Our People/Lii zistway*

di la naasyoon di Michif: A Métis Graphic Novel Anthology. *Stories of Our People* is a unique collection of Elder stories about the three Métis tricksters (*Wiisakaychak*, *Nanabush*, and *Chi-Jean*), werewolves (*Roogaroos*), cannibal spirits (*Whitigos*), flying skeletons (*Paakuks*), and the Devil (*li Jiyaab*). The Elders' stories have been turned into full narratives by author Janice DePeel and then into graphic stories illustrated by Carrie Saganace. Contributing Elders and storytellers Norman Fleury and Jeanne Pelletier each told stories at the event. Other contributing storytellers for the collection are Gilbert Pelletier, Joe Welsh, and Norma Welsh.

Also part of the presentation of *Stories of Our People*, there was a reading of the amusing story about *Chi-Jean* and the red willows, read by

David Morin from GDI Publishing. The collection has the distinction of being the first Métis-themed graphic novel produced in Saskatchewan by the Métis. It is part of the Institute's mandate to produce innovative and culturally-affirming Métis resources.

Entertainment was also provided at the event, and between readings and storytelling, the audience was treated to the fiddle and guitar music of Dallas Fiddler-Boyer and Phil Boyer. At one point during the music, onlookers in the packed restaurant were fortunate enough to see Métis jigger Scott Duffee along with his son Noah, dance in front of the stage.

Following the readings and entertainment, the authors were available in the bookstore proper for signing. All-in-all, the evening represented a successful Métis literary event.



Noah Duffee getting his book signed by Jeanne Pelletier and Norman Fleury
Photo credit: Lori Perkins


GDI Annual General Meeting Update

A tentative date has been put forward for the 2009 GDI Annual General Meeting (AGM). The date proposed is April 25, 2009 and the location of the AGM will be Saskatoon.

The plan is to host a smaller-scale AGM in 2009 in order to gear up to host a larger event in 2010. 2010 is both the

125th anniversary of the 1885 Resistance and GDI's 30th anniversary. The Institute plans to celebrate the historical 125th anniversary of the Resistance by hosting an AGM that includes a cultural conference.

As details emerge about the April 2009 AGM, information will be made

available through the GDI Communicator, internal email, etc. 



Noah and Scott Duffee
Photo credit: Lori Perkins



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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
e/index.php/833)

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.gdins.org



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
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GDI 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.



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