



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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## GDI Represented on K-12 Committees

Several committees and panels have been struck by the Ministry of Education as part of the k-12 continuous improvement process. Gabriel Dumont Institute is represented on a number of the provincial committees, including the Provincial Panel on Student Achievement and the Learning Program Advisory Committee. These important committees will make recommendations to the Minister of Education on provincial education policy and direction. Even though these committees are structured and operate separately, the work they are doing is linked.

The Learning Program Advisory Committee meets approximately six times per year and includes senior representatives from various organizations with a stake in K-12 education. The purpose of the committee is to provide advice to the Ministry of Education regarding broad policy, program, and transition issues in the K-12 education system.

Tasks of the committee include reviewing the Goals of Education for

Saskatchewan and reviewing Core Curriculum, in general, and recent developments related to Core Curriculum, in particular. An example of a recent development related to Core Curriculum is the implementation of mandatory Treaty education for k-12. Members of the Committee are responsible for formally sharing information, policy directions, issues and proposed actions on behalf of the organizations that members represent.

The Provincial Panel on Student Achievement was struck to address the challenges raised by the 2008 Saskatchewan Education Indicators Report. The 2008 Saskatchewan Education Indicators Report presents a number of important indicators which the Province must address to achieve both equity and excellence in Saskatchewan schools.

The mandate of the Provincial Panel on Student Achievement is to provide the Minister of Education with 10-20 recommendations for improving preK-12 student

achievement. The Panel on Student Achievement consists of the Ministry of Education, academics, teachers, administrators, Métis and First Nations education authorities, school board members, and educational leaders. The panel has commissioned a literature review and a research paper on student achievement in Saskatchewan to support and inform their work. Research questions include examination of the major influences, factors, variables, or predictors of student achievement for Métis and First Nations students. The panel will use the research to start to narrow the range of potential actions for recommendations to the Minister.

Within the terms of reference of both groups it is expected that consultation with the broader community will take place prior to recommendations going forward to the Minister.



## DTI Recognized at Provincial Roundtable



*"The Ministry has recognized both the challenges faced by DTI to implement the new ABE curricula, and also the leadership role demonstrated by the Institute in this area."*

A Roundtable on ABE Curriculum Renewal was hosted April 8, 2009 in Saskatoon by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour (AEEL). The purpose of the Roundtable was two-fold. The first was to bring together senior administrators from the Regional Colleges, SIAST, DTI, and SIIT to discuss the roles and responsibilities of the Ministry and post-secondary institutions within the ABE Curriculum Renewal process. The second reason was to encourage post-secondary institutions to develop processes by which they can ensure their administrators, counsellors, and instructors follow provincial ABE policies.

DTI was invited to present at the Roundtable based on its approach to

delivering contextualized programs provincially. With its unique provincial mandate, the Ministry has recognized both the challenges faced by DTI to implement the new ABE curricula, and also the leadership role demonstrated by the Institute in this area. Pat Duggleby, Manager of ABE Curriculum Renewal for AEEL notes, "DTI came on board the redesign/renewal process early and insisted, right from the beginning, that this was the way things would be done. DTI has been, and continues to be, proactive in its approach to delivering effective Adult Basic Education programs throughout the province. We think others can learn from DTI's experiences."

The Roundtable was interested to hear how the Institute is able to work

with geographically separated programs and culturally unique learners, maintaining the integrity of the organization, while following the provincial mandate.

Claudette Moran, DTI Coordinator, organized a panel format presentation. Deborah Mihalicz presented information on the business plan and how it connects to ABE redesign; Claudette Moran presented a segment on internal leadership in the ABE redesign; and Janice Thompson presented a section on DTI's learner-centred approach in relation to the new curricula. The presentation received positive feedback and many questions. Administrators were particularly interested in the "Evaluation at a Glance" document produced by DTI for use with the new curricula. 🌐

## AGM Update

The GDI Annual General Meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2009 in Saskatoon, at the Saskatoon Inn, Canadian Room. Registration is between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. with the formal meeting scheduled to commence at 9 a.m.

The agenda for the AGM includes a special partnership recognition and scholarship signing event to celebrate the partnerships between GDI and Sask Energy, and between GDI T&E and SaskTel. A media

release regarding this event will be released prior to the date.

Other items on the agenda include GDI operations report, Strategic Plan overview, Financial Report, and introduction of the GDI Board of Governors. There are no Bylaw changes for consideration by the membership at this meeting.

Volunteers have been recruited from across the

Institute to ensure the event is executed smoothly. For 2010, the Institute plans to host a larger-scale AGM and culture conference to coincide with the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1885 Resistance and to celebrate the Institute's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Questions regarding the AGM can be directed to Geordy McCaffrey at 242-6070.



## School Board Partners with DTI for TA Training

The Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSCS) Board of Education and Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) have agreed to partner on delivery of an Educational Assistant (EA) certificate program (formerly known as the Teacher Assistant Program).


The EA program is a ten-month certificate program that will be delivered via DTI's Federation Agreement with SIAST. The program will be able to accommodate 15 students and is slated to start in September 2009, pending adequate student applications. Admission criteria for the program include a grade 12 or Adult 12. Mature admission is also available. In some cases, GED combined with experience may be considered. Candidates will also be required to have a criminal record check.

Within the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools system there is a high demand for EAs. The GSCS Board of Education is prepared to guarantee to employ a certain number of the graduates (that number is to be determined). The turn-over rate for EAs is quite high. EAs earn between \$15.09 and \$17.85 per hour and are unionized under CUPE. According to the SCS Board, union understanding for the training has been secured.

The program will be located in Saskatoon and likely will have space in ED Feehan High School, which is an in-kind program contribution by the Catholic School Board. Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools serves approximately 15,000 students in six high

schools, 37 elementary schools and two associate schools. SCS schools are located in Saskatoon, Humboldt, Biggar and Viscount. The system employs 1,900 teaching, service and support staff.

The EA program provides EAs with the knowledge and skill development needed to assist the classroom teacher in inclusive educational settings with children and youth who have diverse learning needs. It combines theory and practical application for elementary and secondary age students in the K-12 school system.

For more information contact Elaine Crocker, DTI Program Coordinator, at 242-6070. 



## SaskTel Métis Scholarship: Deadline May 1

The Gabriel Dumont Institute Training & Employment (GDIT&E) has recently concluded discussions with SaskTel representatives to come to a common agreement on a joint scholarship program.

The purpose of the SaskTel Métis Scholarship is to recognize leadership, academic achievement, financial need and community involvement of Métis students pursuing post secondary accreditation in one of the

following:  
 -Engineering (electrical, electronic or telecommunications)  
 -Business Administration/Commerce  
 -Computer Science  
 -Other field of study related to SaskTel  
 The award will initially exist as a three year pilot to be reviewed at the end of those three years.

Eight awards of \$2000 (or other disbursement as agreed to by the Selection Committee) will be available annually

commencing in May, 2009.

SaskTel has agreed to provide career mentorship for award recipients. SaskTel will also inform all award recipients of summer employment opportunities with SaskTel.

Applications and scholarship information and criteria are available at GDI locations throughout the province and on the GDI website at [www.gdins.org](http://www.gdins.org). 



*"The award will initially exist as a three year pilot to be reviewed at the end of those three years."*



## Leadership Conference

*“The two-day seminar is explicitly designed to equip leaders and future leaders with knowledge and tools for nation building”*



The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) has partnered with the Saskatchewan Labour Market Commission, FNUC, SIIT, and the U of S Indigenous Land Management Institute to host an Aboriginal leadership, governance, and economic policy conference in Saskatoon. The conference is based on the Harvard Project in the United States and the research that has been done on Aboriginal leadership, community success, and nation building.

The two-day seminar is explicitly designed to equip leaders and future leaders with knowledge and tools for nation building: enhancing the capacity of Métis and First Nations to determine their own futures, to exercise self-governing powers effectively, and to build sustainable economies. The program is designed for leaders wrestling with the challenges unique to Métis and First Nations community and economic development.

The conference will take place April 29 and 30 at TCU Place in Saskatoon.

Seminar topics include:

- Nation Building and Economic Development
- Why Are Some Communities More Successful Than Others?
- Creating Healthy, Vibrant Communities
- Managing Social Programs
- Making Local Economies Work
- Self-Governance
- Roles and Responsibilities of Community Leaders

Created and presented by faculty of the Native Nations Institute (NNI), these sessions address core research findings of what works and what doesn't work, as well as constitutions, economic policy, program management, the role of council members, strategic planning, and next steps, to name a few. Several case studies will be presented at the conference in order to illustrate the theory of nation-building that is at the heart of the NNI approach. Discussions with Faculty of the NNI have ensured the inclusion of case studies relevant to Métis and urban situations.

A banquet, including Métis and First Nations entertainment, will take place on the evening of the 29<sup>th</sup>.

There will be a limited number of sponsored seats available at the conference and interested GDI students, staff, and members of the Métis community are encouraged to apply. There is also space for GDI, DTI, SUNTEP, GDIT&E, and other Métis displays.

For more information or to register, contact Amy Gallagher at 657-5719.



## ***New Breed* Moves to MN—S**

For several years now the Gabriel Dumont Institute has been publishing *New Breed Magazine* out of its Publishing Department in Saskatoon. *New Breed* is a quarterly magazine that has been in publication since the early 1970's. Considered the "voice of the Métis in Saskatchewan," *New Breed* is an important media source for Métis and other Aboriginal people throughout Saskatchewan.

In 2004, GDI agreed to take over publication of *New Breed* from Métis Communications Saskatchewan, Inc., Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN—S). The service was provided by GDI at a time when political issues prevented the MN—S

from publishing and distributing the magazine.

For the past five years, GDI Publishing has been a good steward of the magazine, providing feature articles, editorials and submissions to bring forth a strong sense of identity, history and pride among the Métis people. The magazine has also served an important communication outlet to highlight important information, current events and issues within our communities relating to economic, social and political development, employment, training, education, and cultural preservation. The magazine has also focused on many Métis accomplishments and future endeavours, and

included profiles of successful Métis individuals, programs and businesses.

The Gabriel Dumont Institute has drafted a transfer agreement for the magazine, effective April 1, 2009. Current subscribers will be refunded and suppliers will be notified of the change.

GDI wishes the MN—S and *New Breed Magazine* all the best with the on-going operation of the magazine.



## **SUNTEP Students Recognized**

By Skip Kutz

On March 22, 2009 the Saskatoon SUNTEP Students' Representative Council received the Vera Pezer Award for Student Enhancement- Group of the Year from the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union. This award recognizes student volunteers who have given their time and energy to

ensure that non-academic facets of the student experience are enhanced.



Kate Clements, Bradley Brown and Jennifer Altenberg from the SUNTEP SRC are congratulated by UofS President Peter MacKinnon.



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Back issues of this newsletter  
can be obtained at:

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

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.gdins.org](http://www.gdins.org)



**GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE**  
of Native Studies and Applied Research



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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.*



**GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE**  
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