



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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## Federal Budget Disappointing to Métis

The Federal Budget was announced on January 27, 2009 and response from the Métis National Council (MNC) was swift. In a press release issued January 30, 2009 the MNC indicates their deep misgivings about the 2009 Federal Budget and that they will be seeking assurances from Prime Minister Stephen Harper that Métis Nation citizens will benefit from Canada's economic action plan.

A distressing absence of Métis-specific initiatives and opportunities was also noted by GDI Executive Director Geordy McCaffrey. He notes that despite the economic stimulus spending included in the budget there did not appear to be a single reference to "Métis" in the document. At the same time, the terms First Nations, Inuit and Aboriginal can all be found in the budget document. Of the \$1.4 Billion in new spending for Aboriginal peoples in the 2009 Federal Budget, \$1.2 Billion is set aside exclusively for First Nations and Inuit. The Métis are eligible to participate in the \$200 million committed to Aboriginal skills and employment training. None of these dollars have been committed

specifically for Métis.

Items of significance to the Institute include the investment of \$100 million over three years into Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP); \$75 million in a new two year Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund; and \$25 million to maintain current Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy (AHRDS) funding until the new overall strategy is put in place in April 2010.

The ASEP initiative relies on a partnership model between provincial and territorial governments, Aboriginal organizations, and the private sector to provide valuable skills and employment training for Aboriginal people. The 2009 Federal Budget investment will support partnership-based projects that are expected to support the creation of up to 6,000 jobs for Aboriginal people.

The Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund will support short-term focused training initiatives that are responsive to market needs and are partnership-and results-based, to help Aboriginal

Canadians get the specific training they require to benefit from employment opportunities, including those generated by the stimulus package. "This fund will be an important step toward implementing a partnership and results based successor to the AHRDS" (2009 Federal Budget).

The \$25 million set aside to maintain the AHRDS until 2010 covers the one year extension announced late last year. The AHRDS was initially set to expire March 31, 2009 but that expiry date has been extended for one year. GDI T&E operates under the AHRDS.

The MNC has reaffirmed the desire of the Métis Nation to work with the federal government to strengthen economic prospects for Métis citizens and has received some assurance that Métis-specific concerns can be addressed.

GDI looks forward to participating in the new initiatives where possible and to further developments in the AHRDS successor strategy. To-date, SK has 1 of 16 ASEP agreements in Canada and GDI has had limited involvement.



## Métis Education Represented at CMEC Conference



On February 25, 2009 Saskatchewan hosted the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) for their first Summit on Aboriginal Education. The Summit, attended by Minister of Education from across Canada, National Aboriginal Leaders, and Aboriginal Affairs ministers, provided an opportunity for the Métis National Council (MNC) to present its Métis Education Report. The Métis Education Report examines the current state of Métis education in Canada, and was the

basis for MNC discussions and participation at the CMEC Summit.

“Despite some gains in addressing education concerns, this report shows the Métis Nation still faces many significant challenges,” said Robert Doucette, President of the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN—S) and MNC representative to the CMEC Summit. “It should provide the education ministers a clear picture of what needs to be done to achieve real and meaningful progress in Métis Education.”

In closing the summit, CMEC committed to forging an ongoing relationship with national Aboriginal leaders and Ministers of Education agreed to strengthen their existing relationships with regional representatives.

The Métis Education Report was compiled by the Gabriel Dumont Institute in collaboration with the Métis National Council and its provincial Governing Members. The complete report is available on the MNC website at [www.metisnation.ca](http://www.metisnation.ca).



Council of Education Ministers, Canada with National Aboriginal Organization representatives

## GDI Act Update

GDI is in a position to begin working with the province on a *GDI Act* that will see the Institute operate on par with other institutions as a legislated act of government rather than a discretionary contract.

A joint committee will be formed with Advanced Education, Employment and Labour (AEEL) to create a draft act. GDI

representatives on the committee include Gabe Lafond, GDI Chairperson and MN—S Minister of Education; Sheila Pocha, GDI Vice Chair; Daryl Hawman, GDI Board of Governor; and members of GDI senior management.

It is expected that the draft will go through several levels of consultation and approval before being finalized. Work to get the

draft completed, approved and through government channels is expected to take a couple of years.

The achievement of a GDI Act is a top priority for the Institute and will provide both a measure of security as well as recognition for the Institute’s successful history.





## SaskTel and GDIT&E Enter into Joint Scholarship

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 terms of reference have been agreed upon to the satisfaction of both parties.

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

An annual donation of \$9,000 from SaskTel will be matched by GDI T&E Bursary under the GDI Scholarship Foundation II. Funds will be received at the Gabriel Dumont Institute Scholarship Foundation II by May 1 of each year. A 15% administrative fee will be deducted for expenses such as postage, copying and related office supplies;

finance and audit; and selection committee meetings.

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

The Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation II will administer the awards at regular meetings of the Trustees. Selection will be based on education and career focus, academic ability, financial need, and the submitted statement, as determined by the Gabriel Dumont Institute Scholarship Foundation II Trustee Committee.

The terms of reference has set a target of 8 awards of \$2000 or other disbursement as agreed to by the Trustee Committee commencing in May 2009.

The scholarship is open to Entrance and Undergraduate students enrolled in an accredited post-secondary institution pursuing a degree, diploma or certificate program directly related to telecommunications. Candidates must self declare as Métis; be a Saskatchewan resident; demonstrate academic ability to be successful in

their course of study; be enrolled as a full-time student in the current year; demonstrate financial need; submit a statement of no more than one page attesting to leadership skills and community involvement, which includes a 50-word biography.

Candidates must grant permission for the Gabriel Dumont Institute Scholarship Foundation II to provide their name, photo, course of study and submitted statement for publication purposes, should they receive the award.

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

A press release announcing the partnership is targeted for April 2009. Applications will be available through both SaskTel & GDI websites and at GDI locations throughout the province. For more information please contact Cecile O'Neil, A/Director, GDIT&E, at 242-6070. 



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## DTI 2009-2010 Program Plan

Basic Education
Business
Trades/Industrial
Health
Other

Location	Program	Dates	Seats
La Loche	Level 1 &2	Aug. 24, 2009 - Jun. 29, 2010	12
La Loche	Level 3	Aug. 24, 2009 - Jun. 29, 2010	20
La Loche	Level 4 (GED)	Jan. 4, 2010 - Mar. 26, 2010	20
Saskatoon	Level 1 &2	Aug. 24, 2009 - Jun. 29, 2010	12
Saskatoon	Level 3	Aug. 24, 2009 - Jun. 29, 2010	20
Saskatoon	Level 4	Aug. 24, 2009 - Jun. 29, 2010	20
Saskatoon	Part time Evening Level 4	TBD	15
Prince Albert	Level 1 &2	Aug. 24, 2009 - Jun. 29, 2010	12
Prince Albert	Level 3	Aug. 24, 2009 - Jun. 29, 2010	22
Prince Albert	Level 4	Aug. 24, 2009 - Jun. 29, 2010	22
Meadow Lake	Level 1 - 3 Independent Learning	Aug. 24, 2009 - Jun. 29, 2010	12
Cumberland House	BE Programming*	Aug. 24, 2009 - Jun. 29, 2010	15
North Battleford	BE Programming*	Aug. 24, 2009 - Jun. 29, 2010	15
Ile-a-la Crosse	Level 3	Aug. 24, 2009 - Jun. 29, 2010	15
Ile-a-la Crosse	Level 4	Aug. 24, 2009 - Jun. 29, 2010	15
Yorkton	Health Careers Access Phase 1 and 2	To be determined	15
Province	Level 3 - Soc. Science - Metis Studies On - Line	Aug. 24, 2009 - Jun. 29, 2010	20
Ile-a-la Crosse	Construction Readiness	To be determined	12
Pinehouse	Office Education	Sep. 8/09 - Jun. 4/10	15
Province-Distance	Information Technology Essentials	Aug. 31/09 - Dec. 18/09	12
Prince Albert	Medical Lab Assistant	Sep. 2/09 - Apr. 30/10	12
Prince Albert	Hvy Duty Truck and Trans. Me		12
Prince Albert	Practical Nursing	Aug. 10/09 - May 28/10	14
Saskatoon	Practical Nursing	Aug. 10, 2009 - May 28, 2010	14
Saskatoon	Sask Energy Readiness	Feb. 1/10 - Mar. 26/10	15
Regina	Primary Care Paramedic	Aug. 28/09 - Apr. 30/10	12
Regina	Management Studies/Office Education	Sep. 8/09 - Jun. 4/10	20
Cumberland House	Industrial Mechanic*	To be determined	12
Meadow Lake	CCA	Feb. 16/09 - Sept. 18/09	12
North Battleford	Office Education*	Sep. 8/09 - Jun. 4/10	15
Saskatoon	Educational Assistant	Sep. 8/09 - Jun. 4/10	15
Yorkton	Construction Readiness	May 1/10 - Aug. 31/10	12
Yokton	Health Careers Access - Phase 3	Sep. 2/09 - Jun. 9/10	15
Moose Jaw	Multi Sector Safety	Proj. Start Date Oct. 2009	12
Nipawin	Plumbing/Pipefitting	Dec. 1/09 - Apr. 30/10	12
Buffalo Narrows	Fireline Cooking	Apr. 12/10 - May 13/10	12
Ft. Qu'Appelle	Construction Readiness	Jan. 4/10 - May 28/10	12





## GDI Partners to Bring Leadership Conference to SK


The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) has partnered with the Saskatchewan Labour Market Commission, FNUC, and SIIT to host an Aboriginal leadership, governance, and economic policy conference in Saskatoon. The conference is based on the Harvard Project in the US 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 in Saskatoon.

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. 



## DTI Professional Development Meetings


By Jessica Sandell

On Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 DTI Instructors and Program Coordinators from across the province gathered to take part in the two day Professional Development geared towards team building, celebrating our Métis roots, and our philosophies surrounding evaluation methods. The festivities were generously hosted at Shelley Bellanger's acreage, just outside of Meadow Lake.

The first day was dedicated to the First Annual *DTI Winter Olympics*, where teams were challenged to many tasks while braving the cold winter conditions. Some of the challenges included making a fire, boiling water for tea, making bannock from scratch and then cooking it over the flames, the bannock was then judged for taste, and appearance.

Another challenge was a mock mushing race where two team mates ran around a track while the third team mate hung on for dear life in a toboggan. Spectators yelled and cheered as toboggans flipped and team mates were trampled by the energetic "dogs." No one was injured and a lot of fun was had by all. Another challenge was the Biathlon. Teams raced around a snowy track in snow shoes, and then shot at the singing beaver that was stuck in the snow, the first team to make the beaver be quiet was the winner. Sound strange? It was; but very funny. The last competition was the dung toss, where teams were challenged to shoot frozen horse dung, using a hockey stick, into tin cans for varying points. There were several snack breaks, a horse drawn sleigh ride, a fabulous lunch, and gourmet

celebration turkey dinner as a grand finale to the day.

After a hot shower and a good night sleep, DTI staff reconvened the following day at DTI in Meadow Lake. The formal portion of the Professional Development was spent discussing our current and proposed evaluation processes and methods, the notion of having a specific month dedicated to Métis history, and a question and answer period. All were wished safe travels and the 2009 DTI Winter Professional Development came to a close. Thank you to all of the Instructors and Program Coordinator who came out to participate and assisted with coordinating such a successful event!! And a big thank-you to Shelley and her family for all of the meals and event preparations!! 



*"The two day Professional Development [was] geared towards team building, celebrating our Métis roots, and our philosophies surrounding evaluation methods."*



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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](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.*

