



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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## AHRDA Successor Strategy Announced

By Lisa Wilson

The Government of Canada announced its successor strategy to the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy (AHRDS) last month. The Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, made the announcement about the new strategy, the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS). Minister Finley notes, "The Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy will increase participation in the Canadian economy, ensuring that First Nations, Métis and Inuit people are engaged in sustainable, meaningful employment."

ASETS will replace the AHRDS and will be put in place April 2010.

Gabriel Dumont Institute Training & Employment (GDIT&E) has been the Saskatchewan Métis AHRDA holder since 2006 and is well prepared to make the transition to the new ASETS strategy. In fact, the Institute recently announced over \$3.75

million in new federal contracts for training and employment initiatives, under Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund (ASTSIF), which are in-line with the focus of the ASETS. The ASTSIF projects, currently underway, function under the same premises as the ASETS, which are: 1. demand-driven skills development; 2. fostering partnerships with the private sector and the provinces and territories; and 3. putting emphasis on accountability and results. The delivery of the ASTSIF projects provides the Institute with a solid foundation and experience for future work under the ASETS.

The Government of Canada is holding informal meetings with partners across the country this fall to continue a dialogue about how ASETS will build a strong and vibrant Aboriginal workforce as a key component of the Framework for Aboriginal Economic Development.

More information regarding the ASETS is available on the Human Resources and Skills Development Canada Web site at [www.hrsdc.gc.ca](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca).



## GDI Acquires 1885 Willow Bunch Coin

By Lisa Wilson



1885 Willow Bunch Coin



A unique counter stamped coin used in the Willow Bunch area in 1885 has been purchased at auction. The coin is a 1797 British cartwheel penny which has been counter stamped on one side with the words **GAUDRY WILLOWBUNCH** around the edge of the rim and the date **1885** stamped in the centre. On the other side, the counter stamp **50 CENTS** appears near the centre of the coin.

Willow Bunch was originally settled by three groups of Métis hunters from Manitoba (about 75 families in total) who wintered in the area. Willow Bunch is one of the oldest settlements in Saskatchewan. By 1885 when the coin was struck, Willow Bunch had become a boundary post for the North West Mounted

Police. The name stamped on the coin, **GAUDRY**, refers to Andre Gaudry, born in 1851 in Manitoba.

According to an article by George Manz in Canadian Coin News (August 2009), there were very few coins in circulation in Canada, and particularly in the North West, at the time the coin was counter stamped for use by Andre Gaudry. While Gaudry did not run a store or business that would require the use of currency, it appears he was an entrepreneur, with contracts to build stables for the NWMP, deliver mail to Willow Bunch, act as hunter, interpreter, and scout, and he helped build the telegraph system across that part of Saskatchewan.

According to Manz, Andre Gaudry probably counter stamped the coin to

commemorate his building of the telegraph line in 1885 and then used it as currency in Willow Bunch. But, as Manz notes, no one really knows for sure why the coin was counter stamped by Gaudry, although Manz speculates that it is quite likely that the token was spent at Jean Louis Legare's store in Willow Bunch, the only store in the village at the time.

The coin was acquired at auction last month by Robert Doucette, Métis Nation Saskatchewan President, on behalf of the Institute. The coin is now in possession of the Gabriel Dumont Institute and will be added to the Institute's growing collection of Métis artifacts. The acquisition of the coin coincides nicely with the upcoming anniversary of the 1885 Resistance in 2010.



## University Enrolment Numbers

By Lisa Wilson

The University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina enrolment statistics reveal trends in student enrolment in Saskatchewan. At the U of S, the Aboriginal student enrolment is down, the new international and out of province enrolment is down, and the total and new Saskatchewan student numbers are down, all of which are concerns to the University. With an aging population and declining numbers of students in high school, the University is

looking toward international and out-of-province enrolments. Although new international and out-of-province enrolments are down, total enrolment numbers for this group remain stable.

At the University of Regina, the preliminary 2009 numbers show slight growth over 2008, the first year in a number of years that enrolments have increased. The U of R considers this change an indication that enrolments are stabilizing. The increase is likely a

reflection of shifts in the economy and the labour market. Also at the U of R, students are taking an average of 3.8 courses in fall 2009, a slight decrease from 2008. This increased trend to part-time studies suggests many students are working while pursuing their studies.

Both Universities are re-positioning themselves by increasing their focus on research in order to be more attractive to international and out-of-province students.



## Profile of *SaskTel Métis Scholarship* Recipients

By Lisa Wilson

In the spring of 2009, Gabriel Dumont Institute Training & Employment (GDIT&E) and SaskTel entered into a joint partnership agreement to provide the *SaskTel Métis Scholarship*. The first deadline for applications to the scholarship was May 1<sup>st</sup>. The *SaskTel Métis Scholarship* had 34 applications. On May 26, 2009 the GDI Scholarship Selection Committee convened to review applications. Seventeen students received scholarships in the amount of \$500 each. Recipients have granted permission for the Gabriel Dumont Institute to provide their name, photo, course of study and submitted statement for publication purposes. Profiles for

some of the *SaskTel Métis Scholarship* recipients are as follows:

**Ashley Holinaty** is a Métis student enrolled in Management Studies at the Dumont Technical Institute. Ashley graduated with honors from Winston Knoll Collegiate. At 15, she began a ten year career with the Sherwood Coop, developing leadership skills, as proven by her promotion to supervisor. To strengthen her skills, she is furthering her education in order to obtain a new, rewarding career.

**Meagan Lois DuMont** is a young Métis woman who grew up in a multi-cultural environment. Meagan believes in pursuing life goals and to never stop learning. She

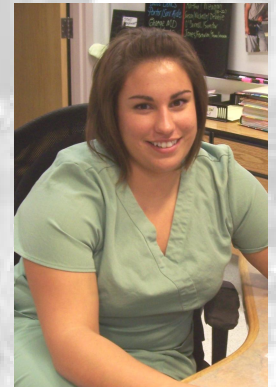
grew up with well-rounding experiences which formed her into the intellectual individual she has become today. Thanks to Dumont Technical Institute, Meagan can pursue a business career to come in her future.

**Melissa Allary** moved to Regina from Esterhazy and completed her GED in 2000 at the Dumont Technical Institute. Melissa then worked for a few years, most recently as a bar manager for five years. She is currently enrolled in the Management Studies Program at DTI, and looks forward to graduating in June 2009 and putting her education to work as she starts a new journey.

The next adjudication for the scholarship is November 2009. There are 42 applicants.



Ashley Holinaty, SaskTel Métis Scholarship Recipient, 2009 (above)



Meagan DuMont, SaskTel Métis Scholarship Recipient, 2009 (above)

## Louis Riel Day November 16

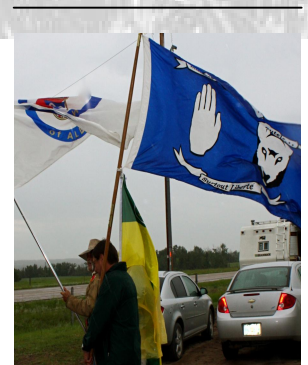
By Lisa Wilson

The Gabriel Dumont Institute commemorates November 16 as Louis Riel Day. All Institute offices will be closed on this day to observe the 124<sup>th</sup> anniversary since Louis Riel was executed.

Louis Riel was an advocate of justice for the Métis people, and is recognized as the leader of the North-West resistance, and a pioneer in the campaign for the rights of the Métis in western Canada.

Louis Riel was instrumental in negotiations that led to the establishment of Manitoba as Canada's fifth province in 1870. In 1885, during his trial, Louis Riel stated, "I know that through the grace of God I am the founder of Manitoba." As the Métis leader of the Red River Resistance of 1869-70, he was instrumental in drafting the List of Rights that formed the basis of the *Manitoba Act*, passed by the Parliament of Canada in the spring of 1870, which brought Manitoba into Confederation.

GDI, in partnership with Batoche, will host Louis Riel Day celebrations at the Batoche National Historic Site on Sunday November 15<sup>th</sup>. Highlights of the day will include fiddle and guitar music by Dallas and Phil Boyer; Lawrie Barkwell and Margaret Touround-Townson will be speaking; and there will be a procession to lay a wreath at the 1885 Resistance Memorial in the Batoche Cemetery. More information will soon be available on the GDI website.



## GDC Graduate Students -- Update

By Lisa Wilson



José Pruden-Nyathi, GDC Graduate Student Bursary Recipient (above)

**José Pruden-Nyathi** is pursuing her Masters in Applied Psychology with a concentration in Art Therapy through the University of Athabasca. Ms. Pruden-Nyathi received a GDC Graduate Student Bursary in 2008 to support her research on Métis women living with HIV/AIDS. She describes her research as follows:

My research for my Masters takes a qualitative look at Métis women living with HIV/AIDS. The incident of HIV/AIDS in the Aboriginal community continues to increase particularly for women. After researching and publishing a Meta-Analysis of Aboriginal women living with HIV/AIDS I discovered the voice of Métis women has not yet been heard. This gap in research needs some attention and it is my hope that this smaller piece of research will begin to fill this gap. My thesis

will focus on a hermeneutic research study employing narrative and photographic techniques to explore ways in which the experience of living with HIV/AIDS has affected Métis women. I would like to utilize the results of this study for the betterment of Métis women and to begin influencing community programming and policies for Métis women living with HIV/AIDS in Canada.

**Mildred Goulet** received a GDC Graduate Student Bursary in 2009 for completion of her Master's degree in Education Psychology at the University of Regina. While Ms. Goulet's program does not require a research component, she is actively researching theories and practices that support her counselling practice and is interested in research on intergenerational effects of

residential schools and colonization on the psychology of Aboriginal people.

The GDC Graduate Student Bursary Program was a three year pilot program based on an annual contribution of \$50,000 from Gabriel Dumont College. In September 2009 the GDI Board of Governors approved an extension of the program for the October 2009 intake, pending a review of the program. Adjudication for the October awards is scheduled for November 2009. The program review was recently completed by Cathy Littlejohn and the results of that review are pending.

For more information about the GDC Graduate Student Bursary Program, please visit the GDI website at [www.gdins.org](http://www.gdins.org).



## Donations Policy

By Karon Shmon

The Gabriel Dumont Institute is pleased to be recognized as a resource for the community. As such, we are frequently asked for donations for various causes. Unfortunately, as a non-profit organization, we do not have the capacity to make donations. It is awkward to convey the Board motion to deny all

donation requests but it is a message we must pass along. Please do so verbally when appropriate. Should you receive a formal request by mail or email, please direct it to Lorraine Amiotte at GDI Publishing who will ensure a response is made on behalf of the Institute. 🌐



## Métis Centre of Excellence Update

By Lisa Wilson

Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) is preparing to move ahead with a second phase in the planning for the Métis Centre of Excellence. In May 2008 a business proposal for the Métis Centre of Excellence project was completed. The proposal made the case for a centrally located, Métis-specific facility for Saskatchewan - a Métis Centre of Excellence. Such a centralized facility would serve to increase the Métis presence and profile, and house various programs.

Over the past year and a half the Institute has presented the business proposal to several stakeholders in the province. The Institute applied to the Knowledge Infrastructure program but

was unsuccessful in that bid because the project did not meet the criteria of being shovel-ready in ninety days and complete within eighteen months. GDI applied through to the Métis National Council (MNC) in their efforts to develop a Métis infrastructure program but this initiative did not proceed. Institute management also met with City Hall officials to identify available land for development. More recently, a proposal is being developed to the provincial government for the drawing stage of the project.

Presently, GDI serves over 1,900 students and clients in Métis communities throughout Saskatchewan.

GDI also has significant cultural assets and Métis-

specific projects. For instance, GDI's museum has over 700 artifacts representing Métis history and culture.

GDI has outgrown its current facilities and is finding it difficult to administer programs and funds from many different locations in Saskatoon. The Métis Centre of Excellence facility is projected to be approximately 36,000 ft<sup>2</sup> and will include six classrooms, two computer labs, a 2,000 ft<sup>2</sup> trades training area, a daycare, a museum and archives, a library, and office spaces. The Centre, to be located in Saskatoon, is projected to cost \$21 million.

A Métis Centre of Excellence would serve as a point of pride for the Métis community and Saskatchewan residents. GDI continues to work toward achieving this exciting strategic initiative.




## *Dancing in My Bones* nominated for five Saskatchewan Book Awards!

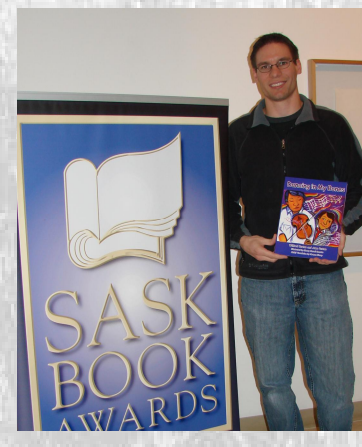
By David Morin

The Announcement of the Shortlist for the 2009 Saskatchewan Book Awards was held on October 14<sup>th</sup> at the Frances Morrison Library in downtown Saskatoon. A total of 70 titles were submitted for 176 entries across the 14 categories.

GDI's latest children's book, *Dancing in My Bones*, by Wilfred Burton

and Anne Patton, illustrated by Sherry Farrell Racette, and translated into Michif by Norman Fleury, picked up nominations in five categories, including *First Peoples Publishing, Award for Publishing, Publishing in Education, Reader's Choice*, and the new category, *First Peoples Writing*.

The awards will be taking place in Regina at the Conexus Arts Centre on November 28, 2009. 



Above, David Morin from the GDI Publishing department holds *Dancing in My Bones*, which is nominated for 5 Saskatchewan Book Awards.



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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)

Wege 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**  
of Native Studies and Applied Research