



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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2010 Named Year of the Métis

The Year of the Métis was announced in the Throne Speech on October 21 as an opportunity to acknowledge Métis history, celebrate Métis accomplishments, and commemorate the 125th anniversary of the 1885 Northwest Resistance. There has never been a dedication of this magnitude made to Métis Citizens by the province on record. The year 2010 marks a milestone anniversary for the Métis citizens of Canada as the 125th Anniversary of the North West Resistance.

"This is a historic proclamation," Métis Nation - Saskatchewan President Robert Doucette said. "Never before has there been recognition like this given to the Métis citizens of Saskatchewan."

In an official ceremony on November 4, 2009 at the Saskatchewan Legislature, Premier Brad Wall, accompanied by MNS President Robert Doucette, officially proclaimed 2010 as the Year of the Métis in Saskatchewan.

"Long before we were a province, there were Métis here," Wall said. "They have formed a significant,

vibrant and distinct culture across Western Canada. The coming year will be a chance to celebrate that past, as well as being an opportunity to look towards the future."

2010 will be a year of commemoration, celebrations and reconciliation for all Métis citizens and non Métis across North America. We are expecting thousands of Métis citizens from across the country to join us as we turn a new historic chapter in the lives of Métis Citizens, Canadians, and Citizens of the great province of Saskatchewan. Reconciliation is important to this chapter in history, says President Doucette. The designation of 2010 being The Year of the Métis by the Province of Saskatchewan marks a great chapter in moving forward for the Métis Nation as well as The Province.+

Prior to Canada's configuration as a nation in west central North America, the Métis people emerged out of the relations of First Nations women and European men. While the initial offspring of these First Nation and European

unions were individuals who possessed mixed ancestry, the gradual establishment Métis communities distinct from First Nation and European cultures and settlements, and subsequent intermarriages between Métis women and Métis men, resulted in the genesis of a new Aboriginal people - the Métis Nation.

The Métis Nation, as a distinct Aboriginal people, fundamentally shaped Canada's expansion westward through on-going declaration of our collective identity and rights. From the Red River Resistance to the Battle of Batoche to other notable collective actions undertaken throughout the Métis Nation Homeland, the history and identity of Métis citizens will forever be a part of Canada's existence.

Today, Métis citizens are alive and well within Canada. Each year thousands return to Saskatchewan to pay respects to those who fought for us 124 years ago, and celebrate the rich culture that has made Saskatchewan the heart of the Nation and home to all.



SUNTEP Grad Honoured as Outstanding Alumnus

By Lisa Wilson



Corey Matthews, SUNTEP graduate (2003), receives Outstanding Young Alumnus Award from the U of R (photo credit U of R Photography)

SUNTEP alumnus Corey Matthews has been named University of Regina's Outstanding Young Alumnus for 2009 and will receive an Alumni Crowning Achievement Award in a ceremony this month in Regina.

Corey received his Bachelor of Education degree from SUNTEP Regina in 2003 and has been making his mark as a community leader ever since. He is the founder and Executive Director of the North Central Lakers Club, an organization dedicated to creating highly successful Aboriginal youth. The club runs elite sports programs, a successful youth group, and is developing a modern day manhood training program based on traditional Aboriginal teachings.

Corey's achievements have previously been recognized with two nominations for the Métis National Role Model awards, a 2006 Regina Crime Prevention award, and a Centennial Medal for Service to Saskatchewan in 2006. In 2008, Corey was named Aboriginal Apprentice Coach for the 2009

Canada Summer Games Saskatchewan basketball team. Corey has also been selected as a Métis representative Olympic torch bearer for the 2010 Olympics and will carry the torch on January 12th.

During his tenure as a teacher at Scott Collegiate in Regina Corey revived a 15-year-dormant basketball team to win City Championships twice. This year, Corey began working at Winston Knoll Collegiate as a Core Leader in Student Support Services.

As a young student, Corey did not experience typical success in the classroom and he entered SUNTEP not really believing that university was for him. Through his four years in the SUNTEP program, Corey not only succeeded in his studies, he excelled to achieve at a high level.

"To go from thinking that I did not belong there to being recognized by the University shows the power of an expanded world view and a great educational setting," says Corey.

The Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards

were established by the U of R in 2005 to celebrate alumni who have realized extraordinary achievements and made remarkable contributions to the University of Regina and their communities. One award is presented annually in each of the following five categories: Lifetime Achievement Award; Award for Professional Achievement; Award for Humanitarian and Community Service; Award for Outstanding Service to the University and the University of Regina Alumni Association; and Outstanding Young Alumnus Award.

Corey says of his award, "This ranks as one of my highest honours that I have achieved." With over 50,000 alumni of the U of R, Corey has good reason to be proud of his achievement.

The fourth annual Crowning Achievement Awards Gala will be held November 20, 2009 at the Hotel Saskatchewan in Regina. For more information contact U of R Alumni Association at 306-585-4503.



"With over 50,000 alumni of the U of R, Corey has good reason to be proud of his achievement."

GDI Staff Member Métis Protocol Officer for 2010 Olympics

By Lisa Wilson

GDIT&E staff member Brandy Laronde will be spending a month in Vancouver this winter as a Volunteer Protocol Officer for the Four Host First Nations (FHFN) for the 2010 Winter Games. Brandy was selected out of hundreds of applicants through a competitive process and is one of only 12 FHFN Protocol Officers selected from across Canada. Brandy's responsibilities will include assisting in the production of cultural, hospitality and

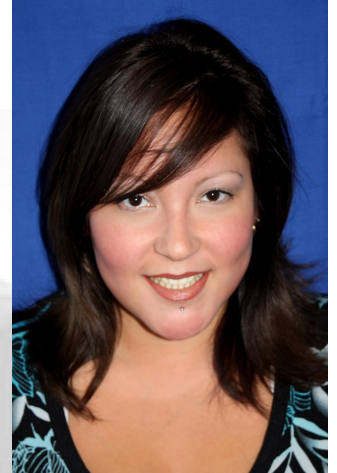
ceremonial events; official visits and travel; corporate professional courtesies; and event-related formalities.

This is the first time that First Nations protocols are being integrated in such a way. At the time of the games, the protocol team will provide leadership in areas of Aboriginal protocols and will help ensure that international and domestic dignitaries are aware of the Four Host First Nations and their Aboriginal partners. As the only Métis Protocol

Officer selected, Brandy sees her role, in part, as a Métis representative for the protocol office. Brandy plans to bring a Métis perspective to her role and also to wear as much Métis garb as she is allowed!

GDI is proud to support Brandy in this important role and has granted her an unpaid leave of absence as per Institute policy.

Congratulations to Brandy on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.



GDIT&E staff member, Brandy Laronde, will attend the 2010 Games as a Protocol Officer

SUNTEP Student Huskies Prized Recruit

By Lisa Wilson

First year SUNTEP Saskatoon student, Alwyn Piche, stands 6-foot-2 and considers himself tiny+ compared to his colleagues and rivals on the volleyball court. He makes up for his size on the court by his quickness and leaping ability. Alwyn is the prized recruit this season for the University of Saskatchewan Huskies volleyball team.

Alwyn has been playing volleyball since his school days in his home community of La Loche. His La Loche high school team took two provincial titles, in 2001 and 2003. Alwyn finished high school at St. Mary's in Prince Albert where he played on the high school team as well as playing club and provincial volleyball.

Following high school, Alwyn chose to attend Keyano College in Fort McMurray to be closer to his home community, despite being recruited by the U of S Huskies. He spent three years playing for the Keyano College Huskies and during that time was named the Men's Volleyball Player of the Year (08-09) for both the Canadian Colleges Athletic Association and the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC).

He was also named an Academic All-Canadian in that year. In all three seasons at Keyano he was named an ACAC All-Star and was voted Keyano College Athlete of the Year in 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Alwyn also has provincial and national experience, having played with Team Saskatchewan at the Canada Summer Games and with the Junior National team in the National Team Challenge Cup and under-19 world championship in Algiers, Algeria.

Huskies coach, Brian Gavlas notes that Alwyn has a lot going for him right now, he's in SUNTEP and looking at getting an education degree. Hopefully we have him for two years. We've talked about him heading off to play pro (in Europe) and trying that sort of thing. Hopefully that happens, maybe after he gets his degree.+



Alwyn Piche, SUNTEP Saskatoon student (photo credit Richard Marjan, The StarPhoenix)

"Alwyn is the prized recruit this season for the University of Saskatchewan Huskies volleyball team."

H1N1 Pandemic Planning

By Jim Edmondson

Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) management is currently working toward a short term pandemic plan, with a health focus, to ensure business continuity. The intent of such a plan is to ensure that critical parts of GDI continue operating in the event of a pandemic. The plan may include succession planning to assign temporary duties in the event key staff members are unable to report for work for a considerable period of time. Emergency management and overall recovery is greatly improved if critical services are available without significant interruption.

Pandemic planning includes identification of core people and core skills, for instance, identifying critical functions of all departments and programs and if there are sufficient back-ups of staff and skills to keep operations running. Planning for absence includes determining at what level of absence the Institute would be in jeopardy and ensure contingency plans are in place.

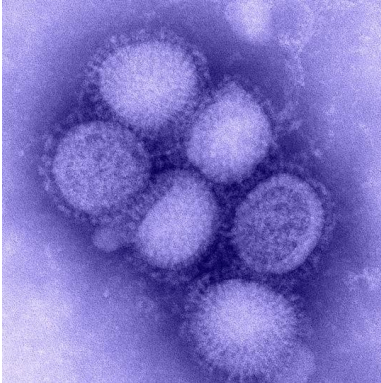
Although it is not possible to predict the severity of a pandemic or how long a pandemic may last, information that can be used to guide the planning process includes understanding the course of an influenza pandemic, the likely extent and severity of illness, and employee protection measures. In an influenza pandemic there is little

lead time between the declaration of a pandemic and its spread to the population. An influenza pandemic usually spreads in two or more waves, either in the same year or in successive influenza seasons (i.e. October to April). A second wave may occur within three to nine months of the initial outbreak wave and may cause more serious illnesses and potential fatalities. Each wave could typically last about 8 weeks, building to a peak in week 4 before abating. There is currently no accurate way of predicting the severity or length of outbreak because the Influenza that hits could be a more or less virulent strain dependant on the community it strikes. The current H1N1 pandemic is in its second wave, the first having occurred last spring/summer.

The likely extent and severity of illness, and the potential impact on the workforce, need to be considered. Because the population will have limited prior exposure to the virus, dependant on the strain, most people will be susceptible. As much as 15% of the workforce could be absent for significant periods due to illness, school closures, etc. This assumption should lead to planning for operation at 85% of normal staff availability and 50% during the peak three weeks. The workplace attack wave is expected to follow a pattern similar to that expected in the general population.

Measures to protect employees include promotion of vigilant hand sanitization procedures, such as washing hands before eating and after coughing, sneezing or using the washroom; using soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds; and using alcohol-based hand sanitizers available in all GDI locations. Cover your mouth and nose when you cough and sneeze: sneeze into a tissue or into your upper sleeve rather than your hand. If you use a tissue, deposit it in a trash receptacle and wash your hands immediately. Keep shared surface areas clean: doorknobs, light switches, telephones, keyboards and other surfaces can become contaminated with all kinds of bacteria and viruses. Regular cleaning and disinfecting of these surfaces can help. Stay at home when sick. If you go out when you're sick, you may spread your illness to co-workers, neighbors or others. It may take you longer to get better if you are not well rested. Wait until you no longer have a fever and your cough is improving.

It is imperative that a staff member who has been diagnosed with H1N1 Influenza, or has been exposed to H1N1 Influenza because a member of their household has been diagnosed with H1N1 Influenza, stay at home rather than come to work and potentially infect other staff members.



(photo credit cdc)



"The workplace attack wave is expected to follow a pattern similar to that expected in the general population."



GDIT&E Partners on Buffalo Narrows Project

By Lisa Wilson

GDIT&E has contributed to a partnership with the Buffalo Narrows Economic Development Corporation (BNEDC), Clarence Campeau Development Fund (CCDF), and Western Economic Diversification (WED) that will stimulate economic development and strengthen Métis employment opportunities in Buffalo Narrows and surrounding area. BNEDC will build a 30,000 square-foot Town Centre with 20,000 square feet devoted to commercial rental space and 10,000 square feet for retail space. The facility will fill a need for floor space in the area's crowded commercial rental market.

Administrative and retail positions will be created along with about 30 immediate construction jobs.

The Gabriel Dumont Institute is built on a tradition of partnerships much like this one, said GDI Board Chairperson, Gabe Lafond. The smaller size of the Institute lends itself well to providing a rapid and flexible response to employer needs and to current economic stimulus activities. We have the capacity to capitalize on these circumstances to foster partnerships and create new opportunities.

Federal funding of \$750,000 is being

provided through the Community Adjustment Fund (CAF) as part of Canada's Economic Action Plan. Clarence Campeau Development Fund is providing \$1 million through its Community Business Development Program and its Large Scale Projects Program. GDIT&E is providing funding for Métis employees via its wage subsidy program.

BNEDC will own and operate the multi-purpose commercial building. All revenues from the Town Centre will be re-invested into economic development activities in the community.



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 1st. 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

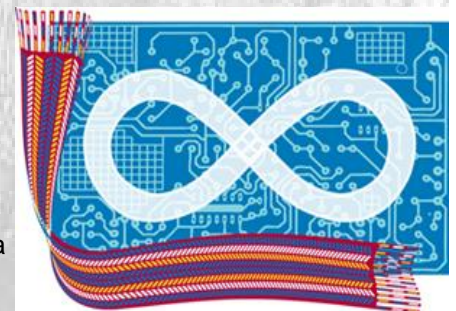
for the Gabriel Dumont Institute to provide their name, photo, course of study and submitted statement for publication purposes. Profiles for some of the *SaskTel Métis Scholarship* recipients are as follows:

Trudy Laliberte was born in Saskatoon and raised by her adoptive parents in Ile-a-la-Croix, where she lived for most of her life. Trudy has four children and is taking post-secondary classes to improve her future and support her children.

Kayla Morrison from Saskatoon is 19 years old

and aiming to obtain her Bachelor's Degree in Commerce and pursuing a career in Management. She is a second year student at the Edwards School of Business, currently enrolled at the Gabriel Dumont Institute.

Stevie Nicole Kimberley Kowblich was born in Saskatoon and has lived there ever since. She has one son named Lincoln who helped her decide to enroll in a post-secondary diploma program. Stevie will graduate in July 2009 with confidence, wisdom, and a Business Administration Diploma in hand.



"Seventeen students received scholarships in the amount of \$500 each."

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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.