



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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Back to Batoche News Release

May 25th 2010 (Saskatoon,SK)- 2010 Will be a year of commemoration, a year of celebration, a year of reconciliation and honour for the Métis Nation. Thousands of people are expected to travel to Back to Batoche Celebrations July 18 to 25th 2010. This anniversary defines the history of the Métis Nation not only in Saskatchewan but the rest of Canada and the United States.

This year we are seeking those who are descendants of the fallen during the Battle of Batoche in 1885. We would like the Métis, Canadian Soldiers and First Nations descendants to come forward, identify themselves and participate in a ceremony to honour those who fought and died at Batoche during the North West Resistance.

“Of course we remember the sacrifice of Louis Riel, and Gabriel Dumont, but we cannot forget the others who fought for their homes and land.” says Robert Doucette, President of the Métis Nation- Saskatchewan. “It’s their blood that was shed here. It’s the

memories of all who fought that we must remember. So this sort of tragedy never happens again, and our children and grandchildren can work together in peace for generations to follow.”

During the Festival, the night of Friday, July 23rd an attempt to break a Guinness World Record will take place as award winning singer/songwriter Donny Parenteau will play the music we click our wooden spoons to. The current record holder for largest spoons ensemble is a group from the United Kingdom. They set the Guinness Record with a total of 345 spoon players. A record we are hoping to smash out of the books this year at Batoche. You can purchase your wooden spoons for the record breaking attempt in advance by going to www.backtobatoche.ca.

A new addition will be the Artisan’s Village which includes a Métis Film Festival and Theatre productions such as The Trial of Louis Riel, and the Batoche Musical. Métis produced films and documentaries, arts and crafts and cultural workshops including

language classes that will teach Michif, the traditional Métis language will also be included.

New buildings on the site will host Provincial Pavilions of all the Métis National Council Provinces, including BC, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and an International Tent, where our American Métis cousins will set up displays and call home for the week.

Passes for the week are \$50 for adults and \$35 for youth and include eight (8) days of live entertainment, culture and arts. Go to www.backtobatoche for information on purchasing passes for this historical weeklong celebration. Day passes will be available at the site.

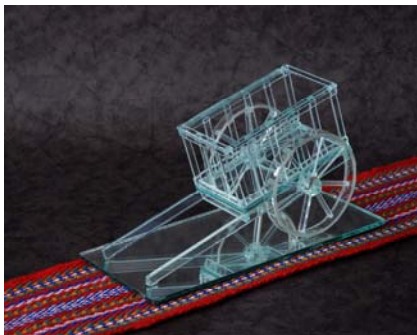
We look forward to seeing you at Batoche!

(Source: May 25, 2010 News Release from Back to Batoche 125th Anniversary Celebrations Committee c/o CNT Management Group Inc. For more information contact Gaylene Poulin, Manager of Communications, CNT Management Group Inc, at (306) 290-6228.



Electronic Travel Claim Forms

By Gareth Griffiths



In order to reduce printing costs and to ease the travel claim process there is now an electronic version of the travel and expense claim forms. The forms are now available on the GDI intranet and can be filled out in one of two ways—either by printing a pdf copy of the front of the form, filling it in and submitting it as usual (the back of the form, with the mileage, is available as well), OR by downloading the form as an Excel

spreadsheet that calculates the expenses. The Excel sheet can be printed and submitted as usual.

It is important that this version be used now, as due to the expense there is no intention to order a reprint when paper copies run out. Hard copies of the forms are being phased out and will no longer be available.

The document can be accessed from <https://www.gdins.org/extranet/>. This is a secure

website, and controlled by a username and password (there may be an Internet Explorer bug where this asks to open the file. In this case, try <https://www.gdins.org/extranet/default.htm>). If you do not know your username and password these will need to be set/reset by IT. Please email support@gdins.org if you require login set up. (Contact4 and GP Users should have access through their normal login details).



Karon Shmon Receives Awasis Award

By Lorraine Amiotte



The Gabriel Dumont Institute is pleased to congratulate Karon Shmon upon her receipt of a recognition award at the annual Awasis Conference for her contribution to education and the work of the Awasis Special Subject Council. The Council chose to honour Métis educators in 2010, the “Year of the Métis”.

Karon’s work-related interests include: education, Aboriginal health and education, representative workforce, and leadership development. She became interested in these fields through her diverse background as a teacher, Aboriginal education consultant, senior manager at the Institute, advisor for

Employee Development and Planning at SIAST, and as manager of Leadership Saskatchewan.

Karon was involved with the Awasis Special Subject Council for over twenty-five years.



Sheila Pocha and Elder Dorothy Aubuchon congratulate Karon Shmon (centre).



Bente Huntley Retires from SUNTEP PA

By Sandra Sherwin-Shields

We are honoured to have this opportunity to say "THANK YOU" to Bente Huntley who will be retiring this June, 2010 after eighteen years of service to the Gabriel Dumont Institute and specifically to SUNTEP, Prince Albert. Bente has been a most valuable and inspiring faculty member and we, faculty and students, will miss her wisdom, her commitment to excellence, and her dedication to the education of Métis and First Nation students.

Bente graduated from SUNTEP, Prince Albert in 1991 with her Bachelor of Education Degree and completed her Master's of Education Degree through the University of Saskatchewan in 1998. Bente's contributions have been numerous not only in our centre. She has been a member of many committees (locally and provincially) and presented many, many workshops. She has sat as a member of the Board of Directors for CASTS, Indigenous Circle and Ranch Ehrlo to name a few. With much expertise in the area of Aboriginal science and

medicines, Bente has worked closely with Dr. Glen Aikenhead in developing traditional environmental knowledge for the science curriculum and presented with him at an international conference. Bente's other interests include nature, sports, canoeing, camping, hiking, travelling, gardening, reading, and painting. Bente, we will sadly miss you, but wish you the most joyful and rewarding retirement. Those of us who know you well are confident you will certainly continue to be busy and continue to give service to your community. You have touched all of our lives with your kindness and your sincere ability to listen and to care. We will remember "circle up" and "listen people"! We will remember the hours you spent ensuring that all of our cultural camps ran smoothly. You will continue to be our inspiration to have the highest of expectations. (Did you know we called you our sergeant major?! But we meant this in the nicest possible way!) You will continue to inspire us

to believe in our students and to truly connect with our environment, our planet. You have been our "Earth Mother". You leave us with our hearts and spirits full. Our wish for you in your retirement is great: That you continue your journey of learning and inspiring others with your wisdom. We wish you hours of happiness with your family, grandchildren, and friends. May you grow older and wiser with the same spirit you have shared with us. Our SUNTEP family will feel an emptiness with the "space" you will no longer fill. For many of us we have shared more than the bond of co-workers. You have been our friend and a confidant. You listen with your heart, and you have an inner beauty that will continue to dance in our souls and make our spirits rise. We wish you peace, joy and love – good health, laughter and much, much fun in your retirement. Thank you for all of your gifts and all of the special moments we have shared together.



Above, Sandra Sherwin-Shields (L) poses for a photo with Bente Huntley (R) to mark the completion of their Master's Degrees in 1998

Save These Dates!

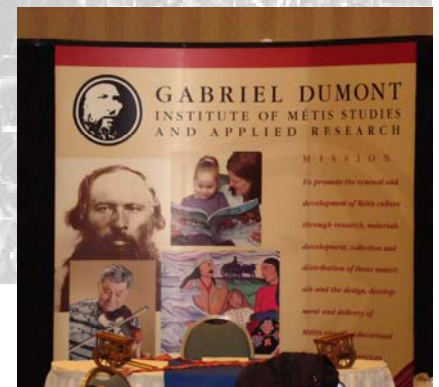
By Lisa Wilson

Mark your calendars and save the dates of **November 18-20, 2010** for GDI's 30th Anniversary and Culture Conference in Saskatoon. The Conference planning committee is working to

finalize the schedule of events for this celebration of 30 years of Métis-specific education and cultural programming. The preliminary schedule indicates events will kick off on the evening of November 18th with the conference set to wrap

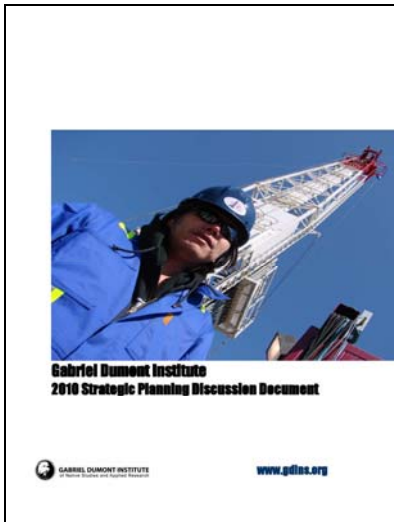
up on the evening of November 19th. November 20th has been set aside for the Institute's AGM.

Details will be published in the Communicator and on the GDI website as they become available.



Strategic Plan Discussion Document Circulated

By Lisa Wilson



In April 2010 GDI held strategic planning sessions with Board members, an Elder, students, and senior managers to begin the process of reviewing and updating the Institute's strategic direction. In May 2010 a strategic planning discussion document was developed and is currently being circulated amongst the Métis community and other Institute stakeholders for input and suggestions.

The discussion document contains broad information about GDI, our mandate, mission, and history. Time at the planning session was devoted to articulating the Institute's values, which proved to be a worthwhile exercise and resulted in five key value statements about the work we do. In short, the values articulated affirm how we already operate and very much reflect the values on which the Institute is founded. The values highlighted in the discussion document are quality, accountability, culture, responsiveness, and respect.

The document outlines the strategic planning process the Institute has undertaken and summarizes the results of our latest planning session. Six broad goals are identified to guide our work over the next three years. The six broad (draft) goals for GDI include providing a suitable mix of programming and services

to the Métis community; maintaining and establishing our physical infrastructure; improving the branding and marketing of GDI; strengthening our legal and contractual position in the province; growing and expanding partnerships with other organizations; and promoting and retaining Métis culture as a cornerstone of all Institute activities.

In addition, the document summarizes the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT analysis) facing the Institute over the next several years. Highlights of the SWOT analysis include the strengths of having highly qualified staff, a solid track-record, strong relationships, and unique service and product offerings. Weaknesses include being inequitably resourced, infrastructure challenges, marketing, communications challenges, and technology. Opportunities for GDI include the chance to become enshrined as an act of legislation, provincial demographics, and strong labour market opportunities. Finally, threats include competition for students, reliance on government contracts, an underfunded and under-resourced Métis government, and a lack of knowledge and awareness about GDI and Métis education aspirations by our funders and stakeholders.

The Institute's three-year cycle of strategic planning represents GDI's commitment to leadership and on-going governance development. The GDI Board and management have committed to doing an intensive review of the Institute's long-term strategic plan with the assistance of an outside professional service provider on a three year basis; annual review of strategic planning goals and outcomes at the board and management levels as identified in the strategic plan; and annual review and approval of the Institute's programs and operating budgets prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year. These commitments help ensure long-term success in the delivery of education, culture and training services to Métis citizens of Saskatchewan.

Community and stakeholder input is being collected until June 18 2010 after which time feedback will be reviewed by the GDI Board and incorporated as appropriate. A final strategic plan document is expected to be complete in late summer or early fall with the presentation of the strategic plan to Institute staff in November 2010.



SUNTEP Prince Albert Grads

SUNTEP Prince Albert graduates, Class of 2010, are pictured to the right. Graduates in the picture are as follows:

Back row: (left to right) Maureen McKenzie, Rose Morin, Heather McAuley

Middle Row: Trisha Gowen, Ashley Bruneau,

Crystal Ross, Allison Tait, Carlene Fosseneuve

Front Row: Edward Benonie, Cindy Grambo, Kerri-Lynn Gareau, Leanne Gunderson (Missing: Suzanne DePeel).

Congratulations to this fine looking group!



Security Officer Graduates Well Prepared

By Jessica Sandell

We are all familiar with the quote, "Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will have food for a lifetime". The ten students who completed the Saskatoon Health Region and DTI's Security Officer Program on Friday, May 14, 2010 experienced this first hand. Program Coordinator, Tracy LaPrise, Administrative Coordinator, Chantelle Gagnon, and all the instructors involved with the 12 week Security Officer Program taught each one of the students not only the practical skills needed to be successful in the program, but actively removed barriers for the students, allowing them to focus on the tasks at hand.

At the beginning of the program, students were taken to purchase running shoes and workout clothes and were given gym memberships to train for

their upcoming Physical Abilities Requirement Evaluation (PARE) test. They were also taken to visit a variety of learning and training centers, such as Mecca Fitness, Harry Bailey Fitness Centre, hospitals, university of Saskatchewan, DO-JO, and rock climbing walls. There were a variety of courses offered during the Security Officer program, for example; verbal judo, first aid and CPR, PPCT, Firearm certificate, Fireman certificate, and a Saskatchewan Justice course. As graduate Marley Corrigan said, "The best part was all the support."

Armed with a new skills set, confidence, and a new outfit suitable for an interview, the students now head out to tackle to job market. Sandra Cardinal, one of the ten graduates, said, "I gained so many skills and now have the knowledge in

other areas to take with me when applying for employment." Since their graduation on May 14th four of the Security Officer grads have obtained employment and we look forward to hearing about all the exciting opportunities that unfold for each one of these students.

It is clear that the completers have gained valuable training, certification, and experience from the course. One of the graduates, Arthur Underwood, had this to say: "GDI provided me the tools I needed to succeed. I am pursuing a career in law enforcement and this security guard course is a stepping stone to achieving my dream. Thank-you to GDI instructors and staff, who helped me to complete this course and to secure employment!"



Security Officer Program completers (from left to right) Mike Roberts, Ian Morin, Sandra Cardinal, Mike Palmer, Justin Scott, Marley Corrigan, Arthur Underwood and Eric Kennedy (front). Missing: Kara Alnajjar and Walter Kehijekonaham



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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



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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