



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 Cultural Conference and AGM November 18-20, 2010

By Lisa Wilson

The schedule for the GDI 30th Anniversary Celebration Cultural Conference and Annual General Meeting has been approved and will be posted on the website within the next few days, along with the Registration Package. GDI Staff are encouraged to register early to avoid disappointment in session choices with limited participant numbers.

The event will take place November 18-20, 2010. Beginning on Thursday November 18th there will be a series of pre-conference forums including staff events for DTI and T&E, concurrent with a special SUNTEP alumni event that includes a networking and Métis resource session followed by a SUNTEP session that takes off on the theme of the conference, *Rooted in Culture, Seeding the Future*. This is a special opportunity to reflect on SUNTEP's 30 years of success and to look ahead to the future of the Institute's flagship program.

The evening of Thursday November 18th will include a special awards ceremony and banquet to

celebrate the Order of Gabriel Dumont Bronze medal recipients. The Bronze award has been specifically designated as a student award and will honour those GDI students who have distinguished themselves through their perseverance, centre and community involvement, and overall student performance. Following the award presentations, Métis hypnotist Scott Ward will provide the evening's entertainment.

Friday November 19th is the official kick off to the Cultural Conference with keynote speaker Maria Campbell (see article on page 2). Concurrent conference sessions will make up the majority of the day on Friday November 19th. Sessions include *Métis Clothing and Art* with Sherry Farrell-Racette; *Métis Jigging* with Scott Duffee; Métis Researchers presenting their recent research; *Learn to Bead* with Gregory Scofield and Sherry Farrell-Racette; *Métis Genealogy* with Rose Fleury and Ron Jobin; *Great Métis of My Time* with Christi Belcourt; and many more interesting and informative sessions. The Order of Gabriel Dumont Silver medals will be awarded at

a special luncheon to honour the recipients. Ending the afternoon on Friday, GDI will host a special ceremony to mark the signing of the new five-year Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy Agreement between GDI and the federal government.

The 30th Anniversary Gala celebration will take place on Friday evening with musical entertainment by John and Vicki Arcand, special performances by Andrea Menard and Donny Parenteau the introduction and performance of the new Métis Anthem, and the awarding of the Order of Gabriel Dumont Gold medals. The evening will conclude with a silent auction and special door prize draw.

Saturday November 20th has been set aside for the GDI Annual General Meeting from 9 am to noon (see announcement on page 4). The AGM will include a special signing ceremony with Cameco Corporation for a new scholarship partnership.

The conference is a great opportunity to celebrate GDI and its people! Hope to see you there!



DTI Welcomes ABE Students

By Jessica Sandell



September reminds us of new beginnings, warm meals and preparing for the long winter ahead. But more importantly fall reminds us of back to school. Instructors are eager to get back into the classroom and students are excited to get into class and begin or continue their educational journey. Cindy LaPlante, Instructor in Saskatoon says, "September to me means that there are new faces, fresh starts, and renewed energy".

DTI continues to offer Adult Basic Education in Saskatoon, Prince Albert, La Loche, and Ile-a-la-Crosse. We currently have 20 students in Level 3 and 12 students in the Level 1,2 class in La

Loche; there are currently 12 students in the Ile-a-la-Cross Level 3 class; we have 22 students in Level 4 and 20 students in the Level 3 class in Prince Albert; and we currently have 11 students in Level 3 and 33 students in the Level 4 program in Saskatoon. In addition, DTI is hoping to run a GED program in Regina January 2011 and has programs in partnership with other education institutions on its program plan. We have full classrooms across the province and long wait lists of individuals hoping to be part of DTI soon.

Classes are now back in full swing. Prince Albert Instructor, Angela Letendre says, "We have

an enthusiastic group of students who are very motivated in their classes. The Level 4 students are already fundraising for graduation with a Thanksgiving basket raffle. We are getting ready for November as Métis Month in our themes and look forward to another fun project. Last year's project was a Métis home that the students built out of old lumber and recycled materials. It was a blast but now we're striving for something to top that!"

DTI looks forward to fall and the new beginnings for each student. We understand that our students are unique, and we celebrate each day they come to class ready to learn. 🌐



(Photo credit Peter Beszterda)

GDI Conference Keynote Speaker Maria Campbell

By Karon Shmon

GDI is pleased to announce Maria Campbell will give the keynote address at the 30th Anniversary Cultural Conference November 19, 2010.

Artist Christi Belcourt portrays Maria Campbell as one of the "Great Métis of Our Time", a title befitting one of Canada's most accomplished Métis literary artists. She is best-known for her memoir, *Half-Breed*, a story which awoke the world to the conditions of a forgotten people while

revitalizing cultural pride in many Métis.

Ms. Campbell's subsequent accomplishments are equally as rich and deep. Her work brings the story of the Métis to life with pride and compassion, with humour and with sorrow, yet always with the enduring spirit that have kept Métis history and culture alive to this day.

Maria Campbell has made an enormous contribution through her books for children and

adults, her plays, her film productions and her work as a community activist. With too many awards to mention, but all richly deserved, the most recent is her appointment as a Trudeau mentor, a prestigious position through which she will share her knowledge and skills with a Trudeau Scholarship recipient. Maria has also been recognized with the *Molson Prize for Literary Achievement*, a *National Aboriginal Achievement Award*, and her appointment as an Officer of the Order of Canada. 🌐



There's a Lot to be Proud of at GDI

By Lisa Wilson

As the GDI 30th Anniversary celebration draws near it provides the opportunity and excuse to reflect on GDI and to count the many ways that we can celebrate this institution. Below are a few of the things that make GDI an exceptional organization:

-At its core GDI is a cultural organization. Culture is intrinsically bound to our educational endeavours and sense of self-determination.

-GDI has graduated almost 1,000 Bachelor of Education students through its teacher education program, SUNTEP, changing the lives and futures of many Métis families (both economically and socially).

-GDI offers community-based programming in over 20 different locations in the province.

-GDI operates the only Métis-specific publishing house in Canada. GDI Publishing is recognized for its award-winning Métis-specific books and

learning resources. These resources are used in classrooms and by educators in Saskatchewan and across Canada. They provide Métis content that would otherwise be largely absent from learning environments.

-GDI holds the largest Métis-specific library and archival collection owned by a Métis institution or organization.

-GDI is recognized as a national leader in Michif initiatives.

-Provincial funding for GDI has helped leverage significant Federal funds for the Institute, including almost \$11M per year in Training and Employment funding, as well as Federal Economic Stimulus funding that allows GDI to provide many additional training seats for Saskatchewan Métis students.

-GDI is the only post-secondary institution in Saskatchewan to receive Federal Economic Stimulus funds to provide Aboriginal training

programs linked to jobs. Our unique position as a Métis education institute in the province, along with the confidence of our federal partners, helped GDI to secure well-over \$5M to be spent in Saskatchewan on training programs.

-GDI serves approximately 2,000 Métis clients and students each year (DTI, SUNTEP, and T&E combined).

-GDI is a conservator of Métis history and culture and a trusted source for those seeking Métis-specific information around the world.

-GDI is the only organization in Saskatchewan providing anything close to this level and range of service to Métis people. As a Métis cultural and educational institution, GDI serves as a model for other provinces wishing to establish similar Métis post-secondary institutions. GDI students, faculty and staff find it easy to be proud of their association with this unique and successful Institution. 🌐



Send US Your Pictures for the Conference!

The GDI conference planning committee has put out a call for any pictures from all GDI programs from the past 5 years. We are making a photo-show for the 30th Anniversary Celebration to be shown at the event on November 18-20. The

last time the collection of photos was updated was for the GDI 25th anniversary. We need to fill in the past 5 years in pictures!

Don't miss this opportunity for your program or department to

be represented in the photo-show!

Pictures can be sent electronically to Brandy Laronde at brandy.laronde@gdite.gdi.ns.org or you can call her for more information at 657-2247. 🌐





GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE

of Native Studies and Applied Research

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE OF NATIVE STUDIES AND APPLIED RESEARCH, INC.



Notice is hereby given that the Gabriel Dumont Institute Board of Governors has called for an annual meeting of the membership. The following information applies:

Date: Saturday, November 20, 2010

Location: Saskatoon Inn Hotel & Conference Centre
2002 Airport Drive, Saskatoon, SK

Time: Registration 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
AGM 9:00 a.m. – Noon (lunch provided)

There are no Bylaw changes for consideration by the membership at this meeting.

Please note: the GDI Board of Governors has passed a resolution to provide some travel and accommodation assistance to each Métis Local for voting delegates. Details are available on the GDI website and have been sent by mail to each Local.

Any questions regarding the Annual General Meeting of the Gabriel Dumont Institute can be directed to:

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MCDF to Return to GDI

By Lisa Wilson

GDI senior management is pleased to report they have had a couple of meetings with Sask Culture representatives to discuss the return of the Métis Cultural Development Fund (MCDF) to the Institute. In 2008 government underwent a policy change that saw all third-party grants moved in-

house, effectively resulting in shutting GDI out of the MCDF process. Until 2008, GDI had operated the program effectively and efficiently, marketing the program to Métis communities and overseeing the adjudication process. When the program moved under the administration of Sask Culture they soon found that it was not

meeting the needs of the Métis community. In 2010 Sask culture approached GDI to ask the Institute to get involved again. A new arrangement will include more administrative duties performed by Sask Culture with GDI's role to make sure the grants reach the communities and that high quality community members are in place to adjudicate the grants. 🌐



Saskatchewan Métis Services Day

By Lisa Wilson

On September 8, 2010 members of the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MNS) affiliates gathered at the Travel Lodge in Saskatoon for the first “Saskatchewan Métis Services Day.” The event was initiated and organized by the Clarence Campeau Development Fund as a means to bring all of the Métis service providers together for an information sharing and networking opportunity. Each Métis affiliate had the opportunity to make a presentation and share information about their organization and its programs. Even though we all work under the MNS umbrella, we can get caught up in our own business and lose sight of the programs and services being offered by the other Métis affiliates. We have many clients in common and it's important that we each know about the programs and services offered across sectors.

GDI participated in the event with representation from Dumont Technical Institute (DTI), Gabriel Dumont Institute Training and Employment (GDIT&E), GDI central office, GDI Publishing, and the GDIT&E Partnership Office. GDI also participated in cost-sharing the event with the other affiliates in attendance. GDI presented an overview of the Institute with some broad information about how we are structured and the full range of career, education, training, and cultural services we provide. DTI had the opportunity to present information about Skills and Upgrading programs offered province-wide. GDI T&E was able to present information about the three main programs offered under its mandate, which are wage subsidy, student sponsorship, and the summer student program. As the main cultural conservator and resource

producer, GDI Publishing presented information about the many cultural resources and services provided by the Institute.

Affiliate presentations were made by Provincial Métis Housing Corporation, Métis Family and Community Justice Services, Clarence Campeau Development Fund and Saskatchewan Métis Economic Development Corporation. In addition, there was a presentation on the MNS Registry. Each affiliate was invited to bring brochures and hand outs and tables were set up for displays and information. Feedback from the event indicates that the opportunity to network with other service providers and to receive their information was highly valuable. Most of the participants suggested this would be a useful event to have annually. 🌐



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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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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