



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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Number of SUNTEP Graduates Exceeds 1000

By James Oloo

GDI is pleased to report that with this year's SUNTEP graduation, GDI will exceed 1000 graduates from its SUNTEP program, thus marking another milestone in teacher education. Since 1980, Gabriel Dumont Institute, in cooperation with the Government of Saskatchewan and the Universities of Regina and Saskatchewan, has prepared Métis men and women to become SUNTEP graduates with splendid reputations as teachers and role models in schools across Saskatchewan and Canada.

The program, which emphasizes academic rigor, extensive classroom experience and lived experience of students, builds upon and strengthens the personal and cultural resources shared by people of Métis ancestry to prepare them for teaching profession in Saskatchewan and beyond.

We are pleased to present 37 SUNTEP graduates for the Class of 2011 from Prince Albert, Regina, and Saskatoon. Over 80 percent of this year's graduates are female.

SUNTEP Prince Albert graduates, Class of 2011 are: Glenda Abbott, Brittany Boisson, Cody Burns, Tristan Crawford Morley, Kristina Gardipy, Patricia Gardipy, Lauriane Hudon, Natasha Isaac, Mary Ann Kkailther, Vicki Laliberte, Margaret Larocque, Melissa Morin-Dubrulle, Erin Nicolas, Lorna Regan, Jordan Reynaud, Glenda Scrimshaw, Carlea Stonestand-Checkosis, and Holly Wiberg.

SUNTEP Regina graduates 2011 are: Delee Charette, Alison Kimbley, Vanessa Pelletier, Tiu Rettman, Ashley Sunderland, Laura Toth, and Kaitlen Yee.

SUNTEP Saskatoon graduates for 2011 are: Jesse Baptist, Cara

Bradbury, Bradley Brown, Katherine Clements, Marcy Davies-Both, Lisa Kasko, Tressa Kirstein, Rhonda Miller, Jana Ross, Ashley Sakowski, Lori Skjeie, and Kendall Trotchie.

The SUNTEP Regina graduation ceremony will be held on the evening of Friday May 6th in Regina. SUNTEP Saskatoon graduation is on the evening of Saturday April 30th at the TCU Place. Prince Albert SUNTEP will celebrate their graduation on Friday May 20th in the afternoon.

Congratulations and best wishes!



GDC Graduate Student Update

By Lisa Wilson



GDC Graduate Student Bursary Recipient Travis Inkster

Since 2006, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) has taken a proactive role to encourage and support Métis graduate studies. Based on the Institute's strategic direction to develop capacity for more Métis people to enter and complete graduate-level programs, GDI launched the *Gabriel Dumont College Graduate Student Bursary Program* in 2006. The program provides financial assistance to encourage Saskatchewan Métis people to pursue full-time graduate studies, to conduct research in fields related to Métis people, and to increase Métis employment in Saskatchewan and within the Institute.

The Graduate Student Bursary Program is independently funded by the Institute with a \$50,000 annual contribution from GDC.

Métis graduate students who undertake a major research thesis or project that relates to Métis people are eligible for the program. A review of available graduate bursaries shows that there are very few scholarships/bursaries specifically for Métis students at the graduate level in Canada and no others in Saskatchewan (Catherine Littlejohn, *Review of GDC Graduate Student Bursary Program*, 2009).

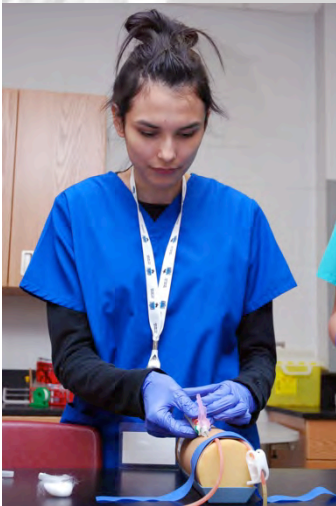
What follows is the profile of one of the graduate students and his research. GDI is proud of the Métis graduate students and pleased to have helped facilitate their studies and research.

Travis Inkster received a GDC Graduate Student Bursary in April 2010 in support of his Master of

Business Administration program at the Edwards School of Business, University of Saskatchewan. Mr. Inkster's graduate research project involves conducting a research project with Gabriel Dumont Institute to examine the needs and demographics of the Métis people of Saskatchewan related to Adult Basic Education (ABE). The following is a summary of his research:

"The goal of my research is to provide a demographic study to develop a better understanding of Saskatchewan's Métis population and population trends, where the population is concentrated, and the Adult Basic Education (ABE) needs of Saskatchewan's Métis people.

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Health Scholarship Discussions Underway

By Lisa Wilson

GDI Training and Employment (GDIT&E) and the Saskatoon Health Region (SHR) have been working toward an agreement for a new scholarship program that will support Métis people in health science studies. The proposed scholarship will help to build a representative workforce in the Saskatoon Health Region and will place priority on hard to recruit areas, management, therapies, science and technology, nursing, social

and community, and applicants interested in working in SHR rural communities.

Each partner will contribute equally to a \$20,000 a year budget, which will cover the cost of awards and administration. The proposed agreement is for a four-year period after which the partnership will be reviewed.

Seventeen awards of \$1,000 each will be made

annually to Métis students enrolled in accredited post-secondary courses. Courses may be at the certificate, diploma or degree level and must be related to career opportunities in the SHR with emphasis on the priority areas as listed above.

Pending successful conclusion to the discussions and GDI Board approval, the first awards are expected to be made in October 2011.



GDIT&E Aboriginal Awareness Training

By Lisa Wilson

Over the past year GDIT&E has developed an Aboriginal Awareness workshop for use with employers who are interested in preparing their workplaces for Aboriginal employees. Former GDI faculty member Nicole Amiotte, under contract with GDIT&E, developed the course. More recently, Nicole delivered a train the trainer program to staff of Dumont Technical Institute and of GDI

Training and Employment, which will allow Institute staff to deliver the training to interested employers.

In addition, an unexpected outcome of the training is that many of the Instructors immediately recognized the applicability of the training to their students. As a result, the training is being adapted for students who are training for industries that might not be particularly culturally sensitive. Instructors'

intentions are to help students identify some of the issues that may arise on the job and methods for addressing them.

The workshop for employers and businesses can be adapted in length up to a full-day workshop. Any employers or businesses that are interested in having the workshop delivered should be directed to contact GDI Training and Employment central office.



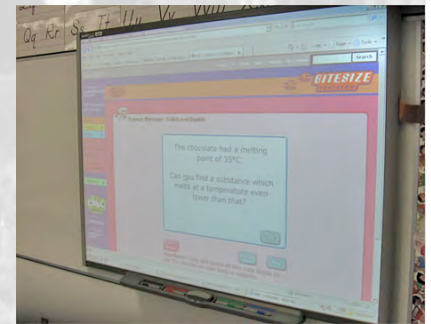
DTI Explores New Technologies

By Lisa Wilson

Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) is investigating the possibility of incorporating some new technologies into its Saskatoon site. One of the technologies being investigated is the Smartboard for DTI Saskatoon classrooms. Smartboards are currently being used in Prince Albert classrooms with much success.

The other technology being explored is video conferencing. A variety of video conferencing tools are available on the market and it is thought that the technology could help to connect the learning centres in La Loche, Prince Albert, and Saskatoon. Such tools will assist with the practicalities of staff meeting and interaction

between staff in the Northern program centre and supervisors based in the Saskatoon office. It is seen as a means of increasing communication between the centres and may play a role in enhancing program planning, curriculum implementation, and overall communication.



Heavy Equipment Operator Program Starts in Beauval

By Dylan Pelletier

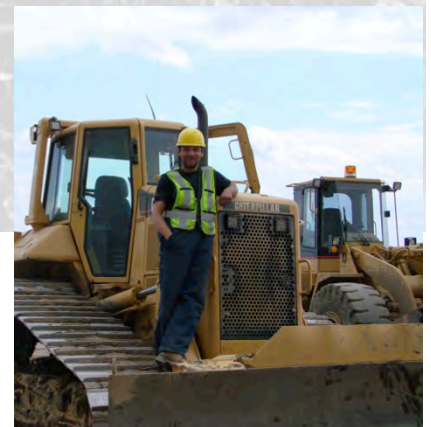
DTI is pleased to announce it has started a Heavy Equipment Operator Program in Beauval, SK. There are twelve Métis people in the program—ten men and two women. The program started April 26, 2011 and will run for the next 11 weeks. Each student will

become SIAST certified on three pieces of heavy equipment.

While training, the students will help the Village of Beauval with several projects including improving water drainage, replacing culverts, building up roads, and repairing

the town's boat launch.

A big thanks goes out to GDI Training and Employment for helping with the students' funding. We at GDI would like to wish the students good luck in this new program and in all future endeavors.



GDC Graduate Student Update

(continued from page 2)

The next application deadline for the GDC Graduate Student Bursary Program is **October 6, 2011.**

The Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) offers Saskatchewan's Métis an ABE, skills training, technical training, and vocational and cultural programs throughout the province. One of the greatest challenges facing any organization serving Métis people is determining where their services are most needed. The Métis community is largely dispersed throughout the province

with varying needs. As such, the purpose of this project is to provide DTI with the following information:

- An examination of the current Métis population in Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan communities with the largest Métis populations
- Identification of the current need for Adult Basic Education within the province's Métis population
- Identification of trends in both the population rates

and the need for Adult Basic Education among Saskatchewan's Métis people

This information is designed to offer DTI recommendations to assist in determining the most effective delivery of ABE services throughout Saskatchewan.

Thank you so much for GDI support in my MBA program."



Celebrating Successes of the ASTSIF Programs

By Kimberly Parent



Service Canada Representative Karen Indzeoski speaking at the GDI ASTSIF windup luncheon

On Wednesday March 30th GDI held a luncheon celebrating the successes of the Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund (ASTSIF) programs. The luncheon was held at the Indian and Métis Friendship Centre and included delicious traditional food such as bison roast, moose meat stew, roasted root vegetables, and of course, bannock. Guests from Service Canada and Ministry of Highways, along with graduates of ASTSIF programs, spoke at the celebration. All of the speakers expressed gratitude for the opportunity to take part in the ASTSIF programming. The two major projects funded through ASTSIF were the GDI Health Sector Aboriginal Human Resource Initiative and the GDI Strategic Partnership Initiative. Both of the projects achieved much

success. Within the Partnership Initiative, over 100 clients were employed, 62 partnerships were developed, a three-year scholarship agreement with Cameco was signed, 10 student work experiences were secured, and 16 wage subsidies linked clients with industry employers. The GDI Health Sector Aboriginal Human Resource Initiative had two types of training interventions: Certificate Level Skills Training (job specific training for Aboriginal people to become employed in the Health Regions), and Entry Level Training (specific, short-term skills training and upgrading for clients and youth with multiple barriers). All together, 24 programs were delivered in Regina, Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Canwood, LaRonge,

Buffalo Narrows, Meadow Lake, Nipawin, North Battleford, Lloydminster, Moose Jaw, and Yorkton. Programs and training varied and included projects such as Security Officer Training, Continuing Care Assistant, Medical Lab Assistant, Food Services, and House Keeping. Overall, both of the training interventions have provided GDI with the ability to help support over 450 clients with services designed to increase knowledge and skills with the goal of helping the Aboriginal community gain meaningful employment and build a brighter future for themselves and their families. The successes of the Gabriel Dumont Institute ASTSIF programs are truly something worth celebrating.



Partnership Results in Successful Employment

By Denis Renaud, Director, Northern Air Operations

Northern Air Operations is very pleased to announce that effective January 30, 2011 we have hired Steve Proulx as a Permanent Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (AME) I. Steve was originally hired by Northern Air Operations (NAO) in March 2006 as an Apprentice Aircraft Maintenance Engineer under a partnership agreement between the Province of Saskatchewan and Gabriel Dumont Institute Training and Employment (GDIT&E). Through this successful partnership candidates like Steve, who possess the base line skills, are screened from a number of applicants, put through a grueling interview, and if successful, then indentured into the Apprentice AME program. The apprenticeship program consists of 7200

hours of practical experience with Northern Air Operations and nine weeks of schooling annually at Stevenson Aviation College in Southport MB. The NAO Apprentice AME program was started in 2001 and sees the maximum of 8 (now reduced to 6) apprentices enrolled at any given time. This four-year program requires full commitment of the apprentice to overcome the hard work and steep learning curve needed to be successful. Support from the apprentice's family and the partnership (GDI and NAO) is instrumental to the candidate's success, to assist with the challenges they face whether financial, learning or personal. The partnership focus is to develop the Metis apprentice to become the best Trades

Person to fill future employment opportunities.

Steve Proulx attained his license as an AME in March 2010. At that time, NAO had no ability to provide permanent employment to Steve but we were able to hire Steve as a Term AME I. Recently, a permanent position was posted with NAO and Steve attained permanent status as a Government of Saskatchewan Public Sector employee as an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer.

With partners like the GDIT&E we increase the likelihood of finding the right candidate, we share responsibility for the success of the candidate, and generally we work together to develop the future employee that every company seeks to attract and retain.



GDIT&E client, Steve Proulx, at work as a Permanent Aircraft Maintenance Engineer I

GDI Finalizes Building Purchase

By Lisa Wilson

This month GDI finalized the purchase of a new building at 1001 22nd Street West in Saskatoon. The new building is in close proximity to the existing DTI/GDI building at 917 22nd Street West, being just across the street. Both buildings sit on different corners of 22nd and Avenue J.

The 1001 building will primarily house DTI programs and staff and

GDIT&E front line offices. The purchase of the building represents a good move for GDI/DTI, which has been under space constraints in its Saskatoon building for some time.

The building represents an increase in the growing property asset base of the Institute. GDI now owns the two Saskatoon buildings on 22nd Street West; the Prince Albert building which houses the

PA library, SUNTEP and DTI programs; the CTR building in the north end of Saskatoon; and the building in La Loche that houses our Northern Campus. GDI is working toward a future Métis Centre of Excellence for the province and the Institute's growing asset base will help ensure the success of this long-term objective.



Pictured above, the new building at 1001 22nd Street West in Saskatoon. (photo credit Daniel Downs).



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e/index.php/833)

We're on the Web!

See us at:

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