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GDI 30th Anniversary
1980-2010



GDI Communicator

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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Apprenticeship Subsidy Program Introduced

By James Oloo

GDI Training & Employment (GDIT&E) is pleased to announce the implementation of a new Apprenticeship Subsidy Program (ASP). GDI policy on employment-based programs has until now been implemented through its Wage Subsidy Program (WSP) and Summer Work Experience program (SWE). Both WSP and SWE assist Métis individuals in their transition into career related employment and development of marketable skills and experience. In line with Saskatchewan changing labour market trends, as well as Institute training priorities, GDI is launching its Apprenticeship Subsidy Program, an initiative that will provide Métis apprentices with opportunity to gain hands-on experience to successfully progress through their training to become a certified journeyman in their chosen trade.

Apprenticeship programs combine paid practical on-the-job training, work experience, and in-school educational component designed to provide the apprentice with the skills necessary to be competent in a trade. Most apprenticeships involve

about 80 percent work-based training and 20 percent classroom or shop technical training. Generally, apprenticeship programs take four years to complete, however, they can range from one to five years in length depending on the trade. Having successfully finished the apprenticeship program and passing the certification exams, the apprentice receives a Certificate of Completion of Apprenticeship and a Journeyman Certificate of Qualification. Journeyman certification with a seal is recognized across Canada through the Interprovincial Standards 'Red Seal' program.

Together with its industry partners, GDI helps Métis apprentices find apprenticeship work placements with employers. The Apprenticeship Subsidy Program will provide financial incentives to employers by offsetting salary costs of hiring and training apprentices. The Apprenticeship Subsidy Program is tailored to the needs of apprentices in that wage subsidies may be supported for up to 52 weeks and are renewable. Such criteria recognize the unique nature of apprenticeship training.

A 2010 survey of apprentice

and employer satisfaction by the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission found that 82 percent of employers agree or strongly agree they are satisfied with the quality of the journeyman following completion of apprenticeship. Among the apprentices, 84 percent are satisfied with the quality of their on-the-job training while 77 percent are also satisfied with the quality of their in-school technical training. The GDI Apprenticeship Subsidy Program aims to make the apprenticeship experience more satisfactory to both Métis apprentices and the employer.

ASP will help increase the number of Métis individuals entering and completing apprenticeship programs, as well as provide long term meaningful employment opportunities in the trades sector. It links Saskatchewan's economic development and labour shortage in skilled trades with the need to address the relatively low Métis participation rates in the labour market. ASP will offer support to Métis apprentices during their training and encourage industry partners to hire Métis apprentices at the end of the program.



DTI Hosts Provincial SABEA Conference

By Jennifer Waldner and Angie Yew



Angie Yew and Tammy Aubichon

On May 13-15, 2011 the Saskatchewan Adult Basic Education Association (SABEA) Student Conference was held at the Arlington Beach Camp and Conference Centre located in Cymric, Saskatchewan. This year DTI was pleased to host the event with the awareness that we have a lot to offer from our unique cultural perspective.

For the event, DTI brought in Métis Hypnotist Scott Ward as the Keynote Speaker and Workshop Facilitator. Scott Ward has a background in education and Professional Hypnotherapy Certification. Through his education and experience he always brings a dynamic and motivational experience for all participants.

The event got underway on Friday, May 13th as approximately thirty instructors and students arrived at the Conference Centre, overlooking the

beautiful Last Mountain Lake. Tony Blacklock, DTI Coordinator, kicked off the event with a warm welcoming on behalf of Dumont Technical Institute. Elder Michael Maurice gave the opening prayer and was on hand for the weekend. Bobbie McLeod of GDI Training & Employment did an Aboriginal Awareness Presentation, which was well received by all.

On Saturday, Scott Ward spent the day facilitating two sessions focused on team building, Métis culture, and goal setting. His third and final session, brought the participants together for a very entertaining hypnotist show. Following the hypnotist show, Scott Ward, read many participants' palms and spent time getting to know them around the campfire.

Sunday included a traditional Métis lunch of Beef Stew, Saskatoon Berry tarts, and bannock.

Phil and Dallas Boyer came out for lunch to play guitar and fiddle. The participants enjoyed the guitar and fiddle playing and many ended up two stepping and jigging. During the weekend the students had some free time, which was spent playing board games, cards, sports, canoeing, getting to know each other and enjoying walks surrounded by beautiful scenery.

Overall, the event was a success that Dumont Technical Institute should be proud of. Behind the success was a hard working committee formed of Michelle Suteau, Jennifer Waldner, Jim Edmondson, Janelle Duplessis, Dylan Pelletier, Ashley Matheson, and Angie Yew. Special thanks goes out to Angie Yew, Ashley Matheson, and Jim Edmondson, who not only helped prepare for the event, but also represented DTI, GDI, and GDIT&E for the weekend.



Elder Michael Maurice

Increases to the Out-of-Scope Salary Grid

By Geordy McCaffrey

Out-of-scope managers will notice an increase in their monthly remuneration on the May 30th, 2011 pay run. The out-of-scope salary grid was increased by the GDI Board of Governors at their May 12th, 2011 meeting. The increases will be implemented at the following rates:

April 01, 2010 - 1.5%;
April 01, 2011 - 2.0%; and
April 01, 2012 - 2.0%.
Remuneration for the first two installments will be retroactively paid to the effective date of the increase. The human resources department has been busy calculating the increases and retroactive

pay for the May 30th pay cycle. The classifications that will be subject to this increase are Program Coordinators, Administrative Coordinators and Program Directors. If you have questions concerning these increases please contact the GDI human resources department.



Practical Nurses Graduate

By Rachel Durocher

Dumont Technical Institute is proud to announce our 2011 Saskatoon Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) graduates, which include Jenna Clark, Kylie Desjarlais, Ramona Hamilton, Lauren Helstrom, Christina Morin and Renee Parenteau. Their hard work and dedication to the two-year program has allowed them to achieve their dream of becoming a practical nurse and all have secured employment.

They graduated on April 27, 2011 with graduation ceremonies at the Saskatoon Inn where they were joined by family & friends to celebrate their accomplishments.

The Saskatoon LPN program was held from May 2009 to April 2011. Tracy LaPrise coordinated this program and Candy Scheile & Niki Manseau were the two main instructors for the course. At the graduation, instructors read some inspirational quotes, including the advice to "Always be a first-rate

version of yourself, instead of a second-rate version of somebody else." Other casual and part-time instructors included Robyn Beitel, Cathy Wirth, John Dyck, Helen Cote, and Sarah, Sokoluk.

Since 2000, DTI has graduated almost 200 Practical Nurses, LPN's are in demand in the provincial health system and DTI works closely with the various health regions to ensure our students are connected to employers.



Saskatoon LPN Graduating Class 2011

Welcome Prince Albert Student Intern

By Tammy Cummins

Gabriel Dumont Institute Employment & Training in the Prince Albert office would like to introduce a new member to the office for the next four months, an intern from the FNUC.

Anna Stene is a third year student at the Northern Campus in Prince Albert studying her Bachelor of Indian Social Work. Anna is Métis and calls Prince Albert her home. She is

recently married and has two young children; Anna is also the foster parent of two children and considers giving back to be a big part of who she is as a person.

Anna decided to intern at GDI T&E when she was told of all the positive aspects of all the programs that are offered. She is looking forward to finding out more about the organization and

becoming involved in the successes of our clients.

She feels the placement will be beneficial to her studies and will offer an experience she can take into her career. She also believes that GDI Training & Employment will benefit from her placement. She is very pleased to be working in the Prince Albert office and looks forward to a summer of great experiences.



Anna Stene, GDIT&E intern

Facility Management Plan

By Lisa Wilson

GDI has recently contracted with Round Prairie Ventures to manage all GDI/DTI facilities. GDI/DTI owns buildings in Prince Albert, La Loche, and Saskatoon, with its most recent purchase being the new building at 1001 22nd

Street West. Round Prairie Ventures will take on a facility maintenance/management role for all Institute properties. They are looking at renovations and improvements to the Prince Albert building and to the new Saskatoon

building. Round Prairie Ventures is a Métis owned and operated company. While Round Prairie Ventures is taking on the facility management role the janitorial/custodial staff in each facility remain as usual.



New Client Management System

By Lisa Wilson

The system will allow for better reports and better statistical information including reports that can be broken down by Métis Nation—Saskatchewan Region.

GDI Training and Employment (GDIT&E) is moving to a new client management system called Keto under a partnership with Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), who is the owner of the system. The Keto system is being phased in over the next few months and was officially on-line as of April 29, 2011. It is expected that by August 1, 2011 the Keto system will be fully phased in.

Keto replaces the long-used Contact 4 system that GDIT&E inherited from the former Saskatchewan Métis Aboriginal Human Resources Development (AHRDA) holder. The Contact 4 system did not meet the needs of GDIT&E in that it did not allow the level of client

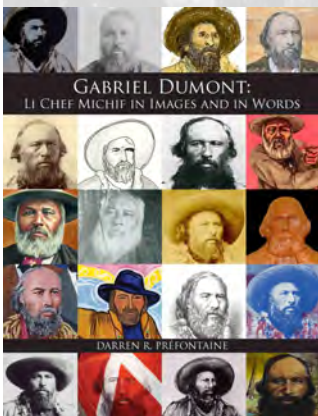
confidentiality that was required, it was not supported, and did not offer any training. The system had been supplied to the AHRDA holders by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) but was never supported by HRSDC. Contact 4 is essentially an old system that was past its prime.

“The new Keto system aligns with the new Aboriginal Skills, Employment and Training Strategy (ASETS) agreement and will provide better accountability for the work we do,” said GDIT&E Director Tavia Inkster. The superiority of the system is reflected in the MNA assertion that “Since the introduction of KETO Client Data System [in2006], error-free data

uploads have consistently been produced, thereby greatly increasing accountability reporting.”

The new system is internally funded by GDIT&E. Staff training on the new system took place in March. The system will allow for better reports and better statistical information including reports that can be broken down by Métis Nation—Saskatchewan Region. This is information that could not be accessed on the old system.

Eleven other Métis, First Nation, and Inuit ASETS Agreement holders across the country use the Keto system.



Gabriel Dumont Book Ready for Publication

By Lisa Wilson

GDI Publishing is about to publish a new book called *Gabriel Dumont: Li Chef Michif in Images and In Words* by Darren Préfontaine. This coffee table-style book focuses on images of Gabriel Dumont from the 1870s onward. It is not structured as a standard biography, but instead presents various images of Dumont including historical photographs, illustrated

images, artistic representations, and images of Gabriel Dumont in books, graphic novels, blogs, and magazines. The book also includes hundreds of newspaper articles about Dumont from the 1860s until the recent past.

“Many of the book’s images have never before been published,” said author Darren Préfontaine. “Gabriel Dumont is an iconic figure to the Métis people. The

vignettes will greatly enhance our knowledge about him while contributing to his legend.”

The book required several years to complete, and includes many new insights into the life and work of the renowned Métis leader. It promises to be a compelling read as well as a visually engaging resource. A launch for the book is planned for sometime this summer.



The Good Medicine Show

By Lisa Wilson

Between the dates of April 29-June 12, 2011, GDI is pleased to have an exhibition at the Affinity Gallery in Saskatoon. The exhibition, curated by Leslie Potter and Karon Shmon, displays artifacts and contemporary works from the collection of the Gabriel Dumont Institute, honouring the culture and history of the Métis.

The Affinity Gallery is located on the main floor of the Saskatchewan Craft Council office building, at 813 Broadway Avenue, Saskatoon. The gallery is open from 1-5 pm daily. GDI staff in Saskatoon are invited and encouraged to attend the show's reception on Friday May 27th from 7-9 pm at the Affinity Gallery.

Visitors to the exhibition also have the opportunity to participate in the "Container of wisdom with a grain of truth" project, which invites contributions from viewers. People who have been inspired by the show, who have learned a piece of wisdom, and who want to record and share a grain of truth are invited to submit a photo and a description of their creation to an online exhibition gallery. The deadline to submit is June 6, 2011.

This impressive exhibition, which comprises only a portion of the GDI collection, gives a sense of what it might be like for GDI to have the space to

display our collection on a permanent basis. Hopes for a proper permanent home for the collection are wrapped up in the Métis Centre of Excellence project, a long-term infrastructure plan for GDI.



GDI Opens New Apprenticeship Office

By Colleen Palmer

In partnership with Dumont Technical Institute, Ministry of Highways and the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trades Certification Commission and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, GDIT&E is proud to announce the opening of our Apprenticeship Office located at 917 22nd Street West.

The Apprenticeship Office goals are:

- ∞ To increase Aboriginal peoples participation in apprenticeship and trade related employment
- ∞ Initiate and develop

partnerships within the industry

- ∞ Support both the employer and apprentice through to journey person status.

We Offer:

- ∞ Apprenticeship Subsidy Program
- ∞ Job Coaching and Follow up
- ∞ Access to the Aboriginal employment pool

Expected Results:

- ∞ A minimum of 120 Aboriginal persons to be registered in apprenticeship programs and are expected to secure long term

employment

- ∞ 60 of the clients will be registered at the second level or higher in apprenticeship programs
- ∞ Develop 60 employer partnerships in 17 different trades
- ∞ 100% employment will be maintained throughout the apprenticeship process as required

For more information, please contact the Apprenticeship Office via telephone at 306-242-6070, toll free 1-877-488-6888 or via email at apprenticeship@gdite.gdins.org



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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



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research



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3737 Wascana Parkway
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<http://gdi.voyager.uregina.ca/>

GDI Library Prince Albert

48 12th Street East
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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