



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
OF NATIVE STUDIES AND APPLIED RESEARCH

"EDUCATION AND THE FAMILY"

The Gabriel Dumont Institute
Annual Cultural Conference
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
January 31 - February 2, 1991



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AN INTRODUCTION TO THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE

The Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research is a non-profit corporation which serves the educational and cultural needs of Saskatchewan's Metis and Non-Status Indian community.

Beginning in 1980 with a student population of 40, the Institute now delivers programs all across the province to more than 900 students a year.

In response to the diverse needs of the Aboriginal Community, the Institute offers programs at the preparatory, technical and university levels. All training and professional education offered through the Institute is fully accredited and recognized, generally by S.I.A.S.T. or the Universities of Saskatchewan or Regina. Over the past year, program offerings have included Teacher Education, Business Management, Pre-Nursing, Pre-RCMP Training, Forestry Technology, Human Justice and Local Government Administration.

In addition to the direct delivery of Programs, the Institute is also involved in Curriculum Development, Research activities, Resource and Information Services, and oversees the Native Services Division of the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology.

Most recently, the Institute has entered the Justice field. In addition to supplying Native Elder and liaison services in correctional facilities in Saskatchewan, Gabriel Dumont has opened the first Community Training Residence for female offenders in the province.

FUNDING REQUESTED FOR THE 1991 CULTURAL CONFERENCE

On January 31 through February 2, 1991, the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research will host its eleventh Annual Cultural Conference. The purpose of this letter is to request funding from your organization to assist in covering the costs of this conference.

1991 CULTURAL CONFERENCE
January 31 - February 2, 1991

Since its inception in 1980, the Gabriel Dumont Institute has held an Annual Cultural Conference. Participation is encouraged for all Metis and Non-Status Indian people from across the province. The Conference provides an efficient means for the Institute to consult with the Native community and to regularly review its performance, mandate and objectives. As well, representatives from outside agencies including Canadian universities and technical institutions, government education-related agencies, Friendship Centres and other Native cultural and educational organizations are encouraged to attend.

Well over 800 people are expected to attend the 1991 Cultural Conference. The theme of this Conference is "Education and the Family".

On January 31, 1991 the Conference will open at the Bessborough Hotel, Saskatoon, with a lively evening of traditional songs, fiddling, hoop dancing and jigging. Students of the Institute, professionals and audience volunteers from the Metis community work together to provide a full evening for the cultural pleasure of both old and young.

The second day of the Conference will open with a pipe ceremony and keynote speaker.

The morning and afternoon of this day, February 1, 1991, will be reserved for a series of concurrent two-hour cultural and educational workshop presentations. The following list of workshop topics is indicative of the variety of topics to be covered.

1. Aboriginal Writing & Storey Telling
2. With Beads and Silk: An Exhibit and History of Metis Artifacts
3. Healing and the Family: A Traditional Approach
4. SUNTEP Theatre Workshop: Expressing Ourselves Through Drama
5. Indian Health Care
6. Fiddling Workshop: Its History and Place in the Metis Culture

A youth program of traditional Metis games and crafts will provide an alternative for children ages 8 to 15 years who do not wish to attend the main workshops. A babysitting service will also be provided.

The final activity of the conference itself is the banquet and awards ceremony. These activities will be held the evening of February 1, 1991. In 1990 the Banquet Speaker was Associate Chief Justice Sinclair of the Public Inquiry into the Administration of Justice and Aboriginal People, Manitoba.

Our Request

Organizations and corporations are being asked to sponsor various parts of the Conference. Choices available include the six workshops, the banquet, key note speakers, childcare, and child craft activities.

Another alternative would be to make a general contribution toward the Conference or to sponsor a student of the Institute, a delegate, a Metis family elder or northerner to the Conference.

If you are interested in talking further or in sending a donation for sponsorship or contributions to the conference please contact:

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(306)522-5691 or Toll-free 1-800-667-9851

Thank you for your time and consideration.