



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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Aboriginal Police Prep Successful Program

By Lisa Burry

On Friday August 12, eleven students gathered in Meadow Lake together with their family, friends, and a few local dignitaries, including Member of Parliament Rob Clarke, MLA and Cabinet Minister Jeremy Harrison, and MNS Regional Director Mavis Taylor, to celebrate the completion of all of their hard work. These students were part of the Aboriginal Police Preparation Program - a program offered through DTI with accreditation brokered from SIAST.

If you live in Meadow Lake, you may have seen these students around town dressed in their gear: black hoody, gray sweat pants with the Aboriginal Police Preparation insignia, and orange safety vest.

During the six month program the students learned team building skills, gained confidence, participated in drill & marching, and completed 21 course modules which covered topics such as the Criminal Code and diversity. Program credits are transferrable and can be applied toward the first year of Corrections Studies at SIAST.

The students were able to participate in many extra-

curricular activities. They completed 25 km of garbage clean up to pay for their class jackets. They toured the Saskatchewan Penitentiary in Prince Albert, as well as the Prince Albert Correctional Centre and the Pinegrove women's correctional facility. They were given the opportunity to spend four days in Regina at the RCMP Depot—the police-training academy. During this time the students were considered to be RCMP cadets. Locally, the students were the Parade Marshalls for the Meadow Lake Parade and then proceeded to march behind the Meadow Lake RCMP members.

In her remarks, Mavis Taylor stated, "I'm very proud of the hard work and dedication the students displayed in completing this program. These are our future leaders."

Students in the program were Métis and First Nations and came from communities such as Beauval, Buffalo Narrows, La Loche, Waterhen, Makwa, Rapid View, and of course Meadow Lake.

These individuals came together on January 31, 2011 not knowing what to expect from the program

and they were able to walk away as a team with clear goals in their minds. During this program the students were able to make the proper connections and gain training in specific areas such as a Saskatchewan Security Licensing, ASIST training, and First Aid/CPR. Many of them want to go into RCMP, Corrections, and Security. The Canadian Forces are also another option as Alyssa Gladue, a successful graduate from the 2010 Aboriginal Police Preparation program, is now attending the Royal Military College (RMC) in Kingston, ON for the next five years. The RMC only accepts 20 applications per year (out of 400+). She is in the process of making her dreams come true and is an inspiration to those that know her.

Congratulations to the Aboriginal Police Preparation Class of 2011:

Lorraine Cardinal, Akeera Fiddler, Kelly-Dawn Gardiner, Dayna Hanson, Brenda Klassen, Renee Lasas, Jerica Lemaigre, Cal Murray, Ray Ross, Kelcey Roy, Angie Weeseekase.



SUNTEP Student Success

By Anna Stene



GDIT&E client and SUNTEP graduate Lauriane Hudon

Lauriane Hudon is a Métis woman from Prince Albert. She received funding through Gabriel Dumont Institute Training & Employment for her last two years at SUNTEP. She convocated with distinction and received a teaching contract prior to her graduation. Lauriane is currently employed with Sask Rivers School Division and her place of employment is at Ecole Vickers School in Prince Albert focusing on French immersion. She was offered a contract with Sask Rivers in her third

year of studies, which she accepted.

Lauriane comes from a family of education graduates. Her sister is currently enrolled in SUNTEP for her bachelor of education. Lauriane feels she is a role model and her most important duties are to her students. She feels she is making a difference in the community by teaching. Being a teacher for her is a rewarding career and she will see many successes. The most important things she learned in the SUNTEP

program were patience as well as organization. She feels that without the practicum and in-class experience she would not have succeeded. Her family has been very supportive throughout her four years of university, and being from a family of teachers helped Lauriane be successful. Lauriane would like to thank Gabriel Dumont Institute Training & Employment for the support, financially and educationally. She would also like to thank the staff and professors at SUNTEP.



IT Update

By Gareth Griffiths

Website

As announced in previous Communicators, we have a new website. This is a much cleaner design than previously, with a multitude of obsolete and unnecessary content removed. This design is significantly easier to maintain, and many future enhancements are planned. Please take a look and let us know what you think. The address is <http://www.gdins.org>

Since its launch at the beginning of March, the home page has received just over 33,000 hits. 44 job applications for 15 posts have been received and 53 DTI student applications. We have recently added The Métis Veterans Memorial project, and an Apprenticeships Office page. The content for this website

will be continually revised, so please check back often for new updates

Intranet

Next to launch will be an intranet site. This will mirror the GDI website, but will display corporate data such as Policies and Procedures, HR Forms, Internal Employment Opportunities and much more. We are also working on streamlining the Asset Disposal process using this. This part of the website is protected by a username and password. Shortly, an email will be sent to all staff with their account details and instructions on how to access this intranet.

Shop

The new website also gave us the opportunity to modernize the online store using the same

technologies as the website. This has been undergoing extensive testing and design work. The first phase of implementation is nearing completion. There are some final modifications to be made, and staff training needs to be delivered to Publishing Staff. This first version will allow orders to be placed, and will automatically notify Publishing of new orders. For later releases, we are working on an automated postage calculation, and automatic credit card and possibly PayPal payments.

Sophos Anti Virus

We have just undertaken a major upgrade to Sophos, the anti virus solution we use. In order to perform this upgrade, we had to deploy a new server in Head Office and migrate the database from the old one.

(continued on page 5)



Healthy Lifestyle = Happy Students

By Delaney Tait

The DTI Regina staff and students at the Winnipeg Street location have been busy the past few months with their involvement in the new healthy initiative that has taken the building by storm. The Health Canada sponsored DTI in its progressive idea called the Wellness Club, which encourages healthy and active living among the staff and students. Previously, the program had fifteen participants all of whom were introduced to the program that challenges students to take on a new and positive life style choice by eating healthy, engaging in physical activity, and setting new goals.

This fall the program will have over forty participants, all of whom will be able to reap the benefits of what the program has to offer. The program has such enticing offers as:
-“You make it, You take it café,” Where students and staff can make healthy

lunches while at school. The Regina food bank partnered with DTI for this initiative.
-A YMCA instructor who comes to the school four days a week for the staff & students to utilize
-Guest speakers who foster new types of learning for the students to try when exercising and in their everyday personal lives
-Class cooking for monthly events
-Activities such as jogging, yoga, swimming, stair climbing, spin, and much more!!!

The Wellness club was created to increase knowledge of physical activity, as well as to provide the information and tools necessary for people to make healthier lifestyle choices. This goal seems to be reflected in what the students have to say about the program. One student explained, “It is a great way to combat

stress. It gives you a positive outlook on life.” Another stated that, “It has given me a lot of access to better opportunities. The exercises and workouts have given me more confidence in myself. It has added more positives in my life overall”.

With the continuation of the program in the fall, the Wellness Club is continuing to grow in both student participation and its positive effect on the Métis community. The program started in February of 2011 and will end on January 31st, 2012.

“There are really only two requirements when it comes to exercise. One is that you do it. The other is that you continue to do it” (From *The New Glucose Revolution for Diabetes* by Jennie Brand-Miller, Kaye Foster-Powell, Stephen Colagiuri, & Alan W. Barclay).



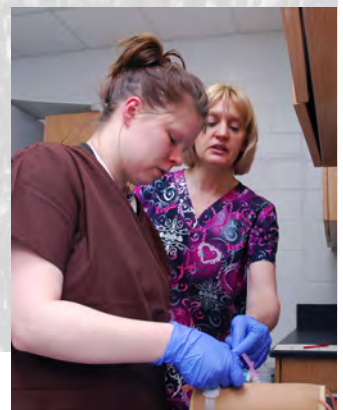
Correction Notice

By Lisa Wilson

The July 2011 GDI Communicator included the headline “DTI Celebrates First MLA Grad.” This was an editorial mistake. In fact, DTI’s first Medical Lab Assistant (MLA) program happened in Prince Albert in 2009 with the graduation in June 2010. At that time, DTI, GDIT&E,

and the Parkland Health Region worked for over a year and a half to be able to bring the program to the community. The PA program was brokered from Thompson Rivers University in BC because SIAST had never brokered the program and a suitable brokerage agreement could not be reached between DTI and

SIAST. The Saskatoon MLA program, on the other hand, represented a unique partnership between DTI and SIAST where SIAST took the lead in program delivery and DTI managed student recruitment and selection, and provided enhanced student supports.





Saskatoon Health Scholarships

By Lisa Wilson

GDI and the Saskatoon Health Region have partnered to provide scholarships to Métis students studying in fields relevant to the health region including hard to recruit areas (as posted on the SHR website), management, therapies, science and technology, and nursing, as well as those interested in working in rural communities.

Scholarships are up to \$1,000 each (or other amount designated by the Trustees) and are administered by the Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation. The scholarship is open to **full-time** university or technical students enrolled in accredited post-secondary institutions pursuing a degree, diploma, or certificate

related to the priority areas of the SHR.

The next **deadline** for applications is **October 1, 2011**. Application forms and full scholarship information are available on the GDI website at www.gdins.org. Inquiries can be directed to scholarships@gdi.gdins.org.



Jennifer Villeneuve-Lab Technician

By Anna Stene



Jennifer Villeneuve is a Métis woman who calls Prince Albert her home. Jennifer successfully completed her Medical Lab Assistant program, which was offered at Dumont Technical Institute, in partnership with Prince Albert Parkland Health Region and funded through Gabriel Dumont Institute Training and Employment. The Medical Lab Assistant program was eight months in length. In finishing the program, Jennifer gained employment with Prince Albert Health Region, service lab centre which is affiliated with the Victoria Hospital in Prince Albert. Jennifer is also employed casual with the cooperative health centre in Prince Albert.

Before learning of the Medical Lab Assistant course, Jennifer was enrolled in the NEPS program offered through First Nations University of Canada. She found it to be a

struggle to continue her studies while working, raising four children, and dealing with her mother being diagnosed with cancer. After leaving the NEPS program due to her struggles, Jennifer continued to pursue a health career. Shortly after Jennifer started the Medical Lab Assistant program at Dumont Technical Institute she was faced with two untimely deaths in the family, one of which was her mother who had struggled with cancer up until her death. This only tested Jennifer's strength and determination. Jennifer stayed in the program with the support of her colleagues and Instructors. Jennifer finished the program at the top of her class and continues her employment with the Prince Albert Parkland Health Region as a Medical Lab Technician.

Getting to where she is now was a hard journey for Jennifer. She asks herself "How did I do it?" She explains that you have to bounce back from all the negative things life throws at you and move on. One of her biggest reasons to continue on was her children and their futures. She wants to share her story so that others know of how everything can fall to pieces, but determination and hard work will pay off in the end. Jennifer wants everyone to know that success is the greatest gift and blessing that anyone could ever want. In closing Jennifer would like to thank Dumont Technical Institute, Gabriel Dumont Training & Employment, Prince Albert Parkland Region and staff that had supported her though the program and helped her achieve her goal.



LPN Success Stories

Submitted by Tim Metz and written by Lisa Wilson

Three graduates of Practical Nursing who were sponsored by GDIT&E have found success in their field. Carla Villeneuve graduated in April 2011 with a diploma with distinction. While she found the program “grueling” she also managed to find the drive and determination to finish. Carla is a mother and wife and found keeping up with her school workload and the strain of finances to be a challenge. She indicates that without the support of GDIT&E for the second half of her program, she likely would not have been able to continue in her studies. She is now happily employed with the Prairie North Regional Health Authority as a casual LPN at the Meadow Lake Hospital. She loves her job and says “Thank you to Angela and the rest of the GDI sponsoring agency. Without you my dream could not have been achieved.”

Donna Graham also uses the word “dream” to describe her educational ambitions. Ever since she was a little girl she dreamed of being a nurse but never thought it would be a reality. After dropping out in grade 11 and becoming a single parent, Donna’s dream seemed even further away. But she persisted and finished her grade 12 and became a Special Care Aid in the Prairie North Health Region. Through a “career pathing” workshop she became aware that Practical Nurse was a possibility. She was accepted into the Meadow Lake program but struggled to put together financing for the program. GDIT&E sponsored Donna for tuition, books, and living costs and today Donna is employed at the Meadow Lake Hospital as a Licensed Practical Nurse. She says, “There are no words to express my gratitude toward Gabriel Dumont Institute for the funding and support.”

Bailey Moore graduated from the Meadow Lake LPN program in April 2011 after being sponsored by GDIT&E for her second year of the program. She says, “Without [GDIT&E] funding I would not have been able to complete.” Bailey is currently employed with the Prairie North Health Region in a casual LPN position at the Meadow Lake hospital. Her goal is to obtain a full-time position in the health region. She credits the funding and support she received from GDIT&E with enabling her to successfully fulfill her dreams of becoming a nurse.

Congratulations to these three Licensed Practical Nurses.



Bailey Moore



Carla Villeneuve



Donna Graham

IT Update *(continued from page 2)*

By Gareth Griffiths

This has been performed, and the update rolled out to most machines automatically. There have been some issues with a small number of machines that we had to upgrade manually. If you are still getting an upgrade warning message, please let IT know and we will

look into it

IT Support System

Support requests continue to be received by the IT Support System. In 2011, we have received 347 new requests (this is an average of just under 50 calls per month). In this period, 355 calls have been closed

The last few months have

been a really busy time for IT, with the website and other challenges. We may not have been able to respond to calls as efficiently as we would have liked. This will be addressed in the coming months, and the backlog will be cleared.



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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