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DTI 20th Anniversary
1992-2012



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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Many SUNTEP Grads Going for Further Education

By James Oloo

Since its inception in 1980, the SUNTEP program has graduated a total of 1,044 Aboriginal teachers with Bachelor of Education degrees at its three centres in Prince Albert, Regina, and Saskatoon. Of these graduates, 106 (or 10%) have proceeded to further education and earned a total of 118 post-SUNTEP university credentials including postgraduate certificates, masters and PhDs.

75% of all higher educational credential earned by SUNTEP graduates is Master of Education. The next most popular program among SUNTEP graduates is PhD (6%) and Bachelor of Laws (4%). Other programs, in the order of popularity, include Postgraduate Diploma, Special Education Certificate, Master of Business Administration, Master of Library Science and Information, Master of Arts (Indigenous Governance), Doctorate in Dental Surgery, Bachelor of Social Work, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Science (Engineering), and Bachelor of Arts.

SUNTEP Regina

To date, SUNTEP Regina has graduated 233 Aboriginal teachers. Of these, 21 (or about 9%) have gone on to further their studies in such diverse areas

as law, Indigenous governance, business, education, and library science. Of those who went for further studies, 67% took Master of Education, 14% took Bachelor of Laws, and 5% each took a Master of Business Administration, Master of Library Sciences and Information, Master of Arts (Indigenous Governance), and Postgraduate Diploma.

SUNTEP Prince Albert

As of 2012, 440 Aboriginal students have graduated with a Bachelor of Education degree from the SUNTEP Prince Albert Centre. Of these, 38 (or 8%) have completed post-SUNTEP studies in 43 different fields including Master of Education (72%), PhD (9%), Special Education Certificate (7%), as well as Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Social Work, Doctorate in Dental Surgery, and Master of Library Science and Information.

SUNTEP Saskatoon

SUNTEP Saskatoon graduated its inaugural class in 1984 when it awarded three Bachelor of Education degrees (and four non-degree credentials). As of 2012, SUNTEP Saskatoon has awarded 371 Bachelor of Education degrees to Aboriginal students. Of the 371

graduates, 47 (or 12%) have proceeded to further education and earned a total of 54 post-SUNTEP credentials including Master of Education (81%), PhD (5%), Postgraduate Diploma (5%), and Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Science (Engineering), and Master of Business Administration.

In a 2011 report on bridging the Aboriginal education gap in Saskatchewan, Dr. Eric Howe noted that the economic benefit per individual SUNTEP graduate who took up a teaching job was between \$8 billion and \$22 billion by 2011. If we consider the over 100 SUNTEP graduates who have gone on for further studies, then it is clear that Dr. Howe's calculations of the benefits per SUNTEP graduate, though huge by any standard, underestimates the true economic benefit of SUNTEP.

SUNTEP is a four-year, Bachelor of Education program, offered by GDI in cooperation with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration, University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan. The program is offered in Prince Albert, Saskatoon, and Regina. 



Maria Campbell Speech Inspires Hope and Pride

By Darren Prefontaine



Maria Campbell
Photo by Envoguephotography.ca

On November 9, 2012, as part of DTI's 20th anniversary celebrations, Maria Campbell - Métis author, playwright, mentor, and icon - delivered a keynote address to the Institute's students, staff, and board members. A blizzard, an extended layover in the Calgary airport, and a lack of sleep, did not deter Maria from delivering an inspiring and memorable address. Several hundred sat enraptured as Maria discussed the importance of honouring Métis culture and of remembering the long and difficult struggle to create GDI and other Métis institutions.

In her 25-minute address, she discussed her love of the Métis with great humility. She began by acknowledging all the elders and veterans present, and touched upon the importance of remembering and honouring our veterans since Remembrance Day was only two days away. She indicated that six of her uncles and one great-uncle were in the Second World War. Later that evening, DTI held a gala honouring Métis veterans, which included performances by Jess Lee, Ray St. Germain, Donny Parenteau, Andrea Menard, Mike Gouchie, and Krystle Pederson.

In her speech to the attentive audience, Maria noted that she was honoured to share her weekend with DTI. "The Métis are crazy, loving, and kind as long as we don't get political." She added, "Cultural gatherings bring out the best in us," and by attending this event, "We are honouring our ancestors who weren't as privileged as we are.... when we're vulnerable, we're poor. Gatherings like this give us collective strength."

Maria stated that the Métis are rich in stories, art, music, dance, and history. She described GDI's Museum as a treasure chest of gold, silver, and gemstones. To her, it is an "orgasm of the spirit, soul, and heart" - to which the audience erupted in laughter and applause with Maria saying, "I am too old to blush."

She told the audience "Whenever I am lost, I come to the GDI Museum, open the door and look at our things." She concluded this segment by stating that visiting the DTI classroom building and the GDI Museum are culturally affirming things, which taken together, "Blow your mind when you think of where we were 20 or 30 years ago."

Maria described the grinding poverty and racism that the Métis faced, but returned to highlight the enduring strength of the Old People, the elders, the spiritual and cultural keepers, as well as the political leaders who fought against racism and societal indifference. What followed was a summation of the long and hard journey to create the Institute. She paid homage to those who struggled to build the community following the 1885 Resistance, including Patrice Fleury, the dizaine captain of the 1885 Resistance, who shared stories of that struggle with Leonard Pambrun who in turn shared them with Maria. Later, many of those who struggled to build GDI, through community organization, were mentioned, as was the first generation of GDI employees, many of whom were young and newly educated.

Maria added poignant vignettes from her personal life to show how far the Métis had come in just a few generations. Discussing her time spent as a Métis Society of Alberta fieldworker in the mid 1960s, she told of Métis people living in ramshackle shacks with dirt floors, and racism that made the Métis were "utterly invisible in the consciousness of the larger society." Whole families disintegrated and fell apart despite the work of the Métis society to keep them together.

She then shared a poignant and sad story about her visit with a dying mother and four young children. The woman, who was stricken with tuberculosis, lived in a small one-room poplar log cabin furnished with only one table and an old metal bed. The elders and community looked after her and her children, providing them with food and game. The mother's wish was to live with her children before she died. A month after the visit, the woman died and her children were taken Social Services. Decades later, Maria met up with one of the little boys who, despite his sad past, had made a life for himself. He still remembered Maria and her visit. Maria concluded that the sad story shows that "Our people looked after one another."

Despite these sad stories and decades of colonization, Maria is optimistic about the future. "Some accuse me about being overly romantic about Métis people." *Continued on page 3.*



Maria Campbell
Photo by Envoguephotography.ca



Maria Campbell Speech ... continued from page 2

When I see Métis people, I see kindness, gentleness and love.” Maria read lyrics from a song written about the Métis by her late husband, Shannon Two Feathers, “Our soul is an old shack, an old weathered photograph.”

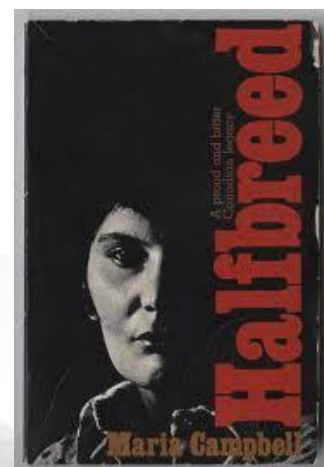
The song paid tribute to all the cultural keepers who are “Keeping our stories alive.” She said, “Our way is a good way.” She mentioned the necessity of maintaining the Cree/Métis concept of wahkootowin or gently taking care of each other and the land and its resources.

She concluded her speech with a metaphor-“the Métis and our stories and culture are a Red River Cart. GDI and DTI are a Red River Cart, which is loaded down with our culture, our knowledge. We’re going to go into that cart and go into a proud future.”

Later that day, Maria held an entertaining and informative storytelling circle involving a number of traditional Métis stories such as li Jiable (the Devil),

Whitago, Paakuk (a flying skeleton), and rougaroos. Elders Dorothy Aubichon and Joanna Potyondi shared some very scary stories with a group of very entertained listeners.

Ms. Campbell is presently the University of Ottawa’s Trudeau Foundation’s Visiting Fellow for 2012-2013. She came back home to Saskatchewan to deliver the keynote address for DTI’s milestone 20th anniversary. 🌐



Payroll Cutoff Calendar, January 2013

By Carmala Thiessen and Veronica Buschnyski

January 2013						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 New Year Stat Holiday	2 Cutoff @ 4:30 for Jan 11 Student Payroll	3 Accounts Payable Cheque Run	4 Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	5
6	7	8 Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Jan 11 Direct Deposits	9 Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheet & Payroll Revisions for Jan 15 Payday	10 Accounts Payable Cheque Run	11 Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	12
13	14 Cutoff @ 4:30 for Jan 25 Student Payroll	15 Staff Payday	16	17 Accounts Payable Cheque Run	18 Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	19
20	21	22 Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Jan 25 Direct Deposits	23	24 Accounts Payable Cheque Run	25 Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/P Invs - Timesheets & Payroll Revisions for Jan 31 Payday	26
27	28 Cutoff @ 4:30 for Feb 8 Student Payroll	29	30	31 Staff Payday Accounts Payable Cheque Run		

Please note: 1) Employee contracts due at payroll upon job acceptance, 2) payroll must receive contracts prior to payroll cutoff date, 3) if received after the cutoff date, the employee will be paid on the following pay period, and 4) MRTS due by the 15th of every month. 🌐



Construction Worker Preparation Program Update

By Dylan Pelletier

DTI proudly offered the Construction Worker Preparation Program in Pinehouse Lake from February to June 2012. This program had many partners including SIIT, the Northern Village of Pinehouse, Saskatchewan Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration, and Northern Career Quest. Instructors were Chester Herman and Darren Deschambeault.

All 15 of the students graduated from the program and 9 of them are now

employed mostly with Cameco or Areva. I personally received a lot of positive feedback from community members about the program, students, and instructors.

The students learned many valuable construction skills and worked on several projects to benefit the community. They built cabins for an Elders' retreat, garbage enclosures, picnic tables, sheds, and book shelves for the community to use or auction off for fundraisers. They also demolished an old

home on land owned by the village so a new home for the elderly could be built.

I am very proud to have been a part of such a successful program, a program that contributed to the community of Pinehouse and aided several Métis people in finding good jobs.

For more information please contact Dylan at 306.659.1071 or dylan.pelletier@dti.gdins.org.



GDI in 2012... Looking Back Looking Forward

By James Oloo

2012 has been good year at GDI. Every month since January, we featured each of the 12 Métis Nation regions in Saskatchewan highlighting the Métis demographic characteristics, labour market participation, and educational attainment for the Métis population in each region. We also published our first Community Progress Report.

The institute made a number of acquisitions including a new building in Regina (located at 1235 2nd Avenue North), and a 90-year old priceless white doo-skin suit with Métis-style flower embroidery.

GDI and SGEU signed a new Collective Agreement for unionized Institute employees covering the period April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2013. This included wage increases of 1.5%, 2%, and 2% over the three years and matching pension increase of 0.5%.

SUNTEP faculty Skip Kutz co-authored a paper 'Ranking and

Sorting and Labeling: Driving Aboriginal students out of schools' (with Joanie Crandall).

T&E and DTI held their 5th and 20th anniversary and awards banquet respectively where staff were recognized for their services to the Institute and the Métis people; and we looked back as we move forward.

T&E and DTI had leadership changes. T&E Director Tavia Laliberte is away on leave. DTI Director, Brett Vandale, is now the Acting T&E Director and Tony Blacklock is the Acting Director of DTI. The acting positions will be in effect until March 2013.

GDI has partnered with the University of Regina to offer a community-based Master of Education program in Prince Albert from July 2013.

SPF Apprenticeship held open houses in Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Nipawin, and Regina. The apprenticeship initiative aims to have at least 120 registered Aboriginal clients by

end of 2013. To date, we have passed the 50% mark.

GDI Publishing and its authors won a number of awards including *Award for Publishing* and *Book of the Year Award* for Darren Prefontaine's *Gabriel Dumont: Li Chef Michif in Images and in Words*.

The agreement between T&E and SaskTel for the 3-year SaskTel Métis Scholarship Award for 2009-2012 was renewed for another three years. SaskTel donates \$9,000 annually towards the scholarship, an amount that is matched by T&E bursary under the GDI Scholarship Foundation II.

GDI hosted our inaugural golf tournament at the Moonlake Golf and Country Club, Saskatoon. Nearly \$21,000 was raised for scholarships. Merry Christmas and Happy 2013 🌐



Construction Worker Preparation Program students in action Pinehouse Lake, June 2012
Photo by Dylan Pelletier



Community Profile: Eastern Region III

By James Oloo

Since January 2012, we have been featuring each of the 12 Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) regions in this monthly column. In our final article in this column, we discuss the socioeconomic and demographic profile for Eastern Region III (ERIII). The article uses 2006 Canada Census data.

The ERIII Region Office is in Fort Qu'Appelle with local offices at Arcola, Bienfait, Kelliher, Lebret, Lestock, Rocanville, Sinteluta, and Weyburn. Guy Blondeau represents ERIII at the GDI Board of Governors. The position of Regional Director for ERIII is currently vacant.

ERIII has a Métis population of 2,565, about 40% of whom are below age 20 years. 51% of the ERIII Métis aged between 15-24 years do not have high school diploma (compared to 48% for the general population of Saskatchewan in the same age group), while the other 49% have completed Grade 12 or equivalent (versus 52% for general population). Of the ERIII Métis aged 15-24 with high school diploma, 41% had completed a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree compared to 32% for the general population in the same age group.

That is, significantly more ERIII Métis aged 15-24 are going for postsecondary education than the general population. This should be encouraged and supported. ERIII has 1,195 Métis

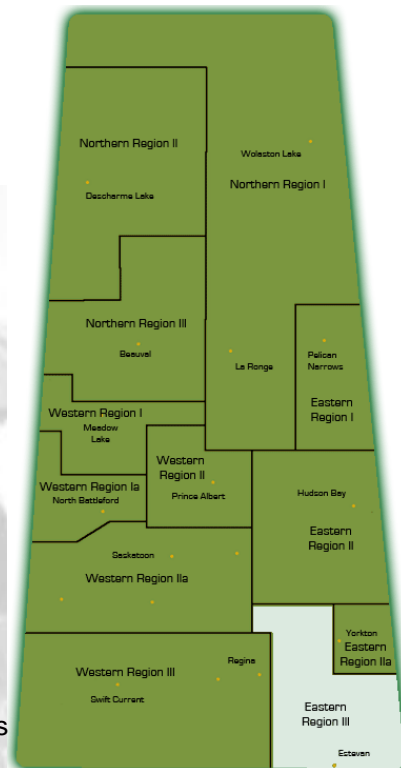
people aged between 25-64 years. Of this, 22% do not have high school diploma (compared to 19% of the general population of Saskatchewan in the same age group) and 78% have at least high school diploma (versus 81% for Saskatchewan). Of those with Grade 12, 35% had Grade 12 as their highest level of education (compared to 26% for Saskatchewan); 31% had a postsecondary certificate or diploma in apprenticeship or trades (versus 14% for Saskatchewan); 17% had a non-university certificate or diploma from a college (versus 18% for Saskatchewan); and 17% had a university certificate, diploma or degree compared to 22% for the general population in the same age group.

Thus, among those aged 25-64 years, relatively more ERIII Métis do not have high school diploma compared to the general population at 22% versus 19% respectively. As well, fewer ERIII Métis (17%) go to university compared to the general population (22%). However, significantly more ERIII Métis have postsecondary diploma or certificate in apprenticeship or trades (31%) than does the general population (14%). Also, significantly more ERIII Métis have non-university postsecondary training than the general population in Saskatchewan in the same age group at 40% versus 18% respectively. Among those with Grade 12,

relatively more ERIII Métis (35%) have Grade 12 as their highest level of education compared to the general population (26%). This is a group that can be empowered through training to acquire skills that are needed in the labour market.

Labour force activity for the ERIII Métis was as follows. Of those aged 15-24 years, 73% were in the labour force (versus 66% of the general population of Saskatchewan) while 27% were not (versus 34% for Saskatchewan). 87% of those in the labour force were employed (versus 88% for Saskatchewan) while 13% had no job (versus 12% for Saskatchewan). Thus, there was relatively more ERIII Métis aged between 15-24 years in the labour market than the general population (at 73% versus 66% respectively) yet employment rates for both groups were similar (87% and 88% respectively).

For the ERIII Métis aged 25 years and over, 73% were in the labour force (compared to 69% for Saskatchewan) while 27% were not (versus 31% for Saskatchewan). Of those in the labour force, 92% were employed (versus 95% for Saskatchewan) and 8% were not (versus 5% for Saskatchewan). Thus, while relatively more ERIII Métis were in the labour force than the general population (at 73% versus 69%); employment rates were higher for the general population (95%) than for the ERIII Métis (92%). The gap could perhaps be bridged by providing relevant skills and knowledge that are needed in the labour market for this group of the ERIII Métis.



Dennis and Jean Fisher
Donated Métis-related artifacts
to the GDI, 2011
Photo by Peter Beszterda



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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



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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