



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

In this issue:

- Student Achievement Panel Presents its Final Report to the Minister of Education
- DTI LaLoche Building Undergoes Renos
- Police Prep Program Shaping Community Leaders

Highlights:

Back to Batoche	2
IT Update	3
Beauval Construction Program	3
30 th Anniversary Update	5

Student Achievement Panel Presents its Final Report to the Minister of Education

By Lisa Wilson

In May, 2010, the Provincial Panel on Student Achievement released its final report after two years of deliberations. Gabriel Dumont Institute was represented on the Panel by Michael Relland, Program Coordinator for SUNTEP Prince Albert. The final report makes recommendations to the Minister of Education, Ken Krawetz, on provincial education policy and direction.

The report advocates for a provincial culture of learning with increased public accountability. Most notably, the report has a significant emphasis on Métis and First Nations education with several recommendations that support improved outcomes for Métis and First Nations students. The desire and need to address Aboriginal education outcomes is seen as a moral, social and economic imperative.

Many recommendations were made in the report but are not being made public at this time. All


recommendations focus on the need to improve outcomes for students in the pre-K to 12 education system including the need to attend to early learning and child care, effective practices, community engagement, and equity measures.

The Provincial Panel on Student Achievement was struck to address provincial government concerns that Saskatchewan students were scoring below the Canadian norm according to the Program of International Student Assessment (PISA) results. The Panel on Student Achievement consisted of Ministry of Education representatives, academics, teachers, administrators, Métis and First Nations education authorities, school board members, and educational leaders.

Early in their work, the panel commissioned a literature review and a research paper on student achievement in Saskatchewan to support

and inform their work. Research questions included examination of the major influences, factors, variables, or predictors of student achievement for Métis and First Nations students. The panel used the research to narrow the range of potential actions for recommendations to the Minister.

The Ministry of Education is preparing a formal response to the Panel's report and recommendations. The Minister's response is expected to be released in ten to twelve months at an appropriate point in the government's provincial budget cycle. Within GDI it is hoped that the response will demonstrate that Métis education and aspirations are seen as priority areas for the provincial government.

Thank you to Michael Relland for his dedication and hard work that helped shape these important recommendations. 



Back to Batoche

By Lisa Wilson



(Photo credit Meredith Penner)

This year marks the 125th anniversary since the 1885 Resistance at Batoche and the Back to Batoche committee has planned extra special celebrations to mark this special anniversary. Back to Batoche has been an annual event of the Métis since the mid- to late 1880s and is normally a three day celebration staged every third weekend in July and hosted by the MN—S. In 2010 however, in honor of the 125th anniversary

of the Resistance, the Back to Batoche Festival will be an eight day event running from July 18th to 25th.

A detailed schedule for Back to Batoche has recently been posted on the MN—S website at www.backtobatoche.ca. Highlights include a commemoration and reconciliation ceremony, an artisans village, youth programming, cultural programming, genealogy workshops, loads of Métis talent, singers, dancers, jigging, fiddling and

square dancing competitions, chuck wagon and chariot races, rodeo, slow pitch tournament, a Guinness Record attempt, and so much more.

Passes for the week are \$50 for adults and \$35 for youth and include eight (8) days of live entertainment, culture and arts.

Be sure also to check out the website for driving directions, since flooding has affected some highways and roads.

See you at Batoche!



DTI La Loche Building Undergoes Renos

By Deborah Mihalicz



Terrence Herman and Stan Kolossa work on the DTI building in La Loche (Photo credit Deborah Mihalicz)

The DTI building in La Loche is undergoing long-awaited renovations. The project has recently started and in May 2010 several renovations were done to the front entrance of the building. La Loche maintenance person Terrence Herman removed the old concrete steps and built the deck, wheelchair ramp and stairs. He then teamed up with P.A. DTI maintenance person Stan

Kolosa to install a double steel door and remove an approximately 8' X 10' cinderblock wall in the front porch to open up the T&E lobby. The DTI building used to be an RCMP barracks, so you can imagine how solidly the walls are built and thus the task at hand in removing them! Removal of the cinderblock wall was not a simple task and I

wish to thank Stan and Terrence for their expertise. Stan will be ordering paint for the steel doors, floor tile and most other supplies needed to prepare the lobby for furnishing. The renovation plan also includes replacing all the windows in the building, and then there will be internal work such as electrical, drywall and painting.



IT Update

By Gareth Griffiths

Welcome to the latest IT Update section. The past few months has seen many changes in the IT Department, mostly for the better. Thank you for your patience in what has been a trying couple of months

Staffing

Firstly I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new IT Support Technician. His name is Gordon Holtslander, and comes to us after 15 years working in the University of Saskatchewan – Biology Department. Gordon has extensive experience in desktop support, and also has significant website design experience. He is based in Saskatoon head office, and will be available

to provide support for the central Saskatchewan region (Saskatoon, PA, North Battleford). Please extend a warm welcome to him, and help him settle into this challenging role.

New IT Support Procedures

The IT department continues to provide services to all areas and all functions of the Institute. The support function is one of the most important and challenging. We have adopted a client service model, with the clients being the staff and students of the Institute. In order to make IT more accountable to our clients, we are introducing some tighter protocols and procedures starting immediately. These are briefly outlined below,

including the procedure for obtaining support, and the expectations of this in the form of service level agreements. The full procedure will be made available in the Policies and Procedures Manual in due course:

Support Procedure
In order to obtain IT support an email is to be sent to support@gdins.org. This will create a work order in the support call logging system and will automatically email the requestor and assigned technician. This email will include a work order number (WO#). This number is to be referenced in all correspondence relating to this matter. *(IT Update article continued on page 5)*



(Photo credit Meredith Penner)

Beauval Construction Employment Readiness Program

By Deborah Mihalicz

I dropped by the Construction Employment Readiness jobsite in Beauval on Tuesday May 1, 2010. The 14 students have been divided between two Beaver River Regional Housing Authority (BRRHA) houses and with the direction of instructor Victor Landry and their respective crew chiefs, they were carrying out several tasks including drywall repair/patchwork and removing steps, eaves troughs and fascia.

took during that visit which managed to capture the atmosphere of the day.



L-R Cal Laliberte removing steps; Julian Alcrow on ladder; and teamwork removing eaves trough. Photo credit Deborah Mihalicz.

Here are a few pictures I



Police Prep Program Shaping Community Leaders

By Tony Blacklock and Lisa Wilson



DTI students on tour of RCMP Training Depot
(Photo credit Lisa Burry)



DTI students at an RCMP Training Depot classroom
(Photo credit Lisa Burry)

In March of this year, 11 young women and men started the Aboriginal Law Enforcement Preparation program in Meadow Lake. The five month program is being offered by Dumont Technical Institute in cooperation with several community partners. Students earn an applied certificate that prepares individuals for employment in policing at the federal, provincial, or municipal level, as well as other law enforcement agencies.

Over the course of the program, the students gain the knowledge and skills needed to enter the field of law enforcement. Studies focus on basic investigative techniques, addictions, criminal justice system, history of policing, criminal law, interpersonal communication skills, introduction to firearms, and health and fitness. Students will prepare for and take the Police Officers Physical Abilities Test (POPAT). As part of the preparation for the POPAT, the students were issued running shoes and gym clothing at the start of the program. They run as a group each morning and work out regularly at a fitness facility.

Entrance into the program required applicants to have a grade 12 or GED, be Aboriginal, and have medical clearance for the POPAT.

In mid-June, the students visited the RCMP Training Depot in Regina and visited the training site. During their

time there, the students had unrestricted access to the training facilities. They were able to see the RCMP graduating class prepare for their graduation parade, and tour the training facilities and the RCMP Heritage Museum. The Meadow Lake students stayed in barracks and ate with the regular RCMP cadets. Their sense of belonging as trainees for the law enforcement community was further bolstered by being referred to as “candidates” by the Depot staff, rather than visitors. A major highlight for the DTI students was participating in a drill class led by an RCMP instructor—the first time a visiting class has been allowed to do so.

On their way back to Meadow Lake from the Regina Depot, the students stopped in Saskatoon and visited the Armed Forces Recruiting Centre and the Saskatoon City Police.

The DTI Meadow Lake students have demonstrated their leadership by getting involved in their community. In early June they participated in the Meadow Lake Stampede Parade as parade marshalls; they helped organize the floats, and seven students marched in the parade. In May, the students participated in a community clean up, successfully cleaning 14 km of highway close to Meadow Lake. Another 25 km will be done

at a later time. They have also been involved with the Transition Place Education Centre, an alternate high school program for students with personal issues which have interfered with their abilities to function successfully in a regular school setting. The DTI Aboriginal Law Enforcement program students serve as role models for the youths, presenting talks about the Law Enforcement prep program they are in, playing volleyball with youth, and staging athletic competitions between the two organizations.

“I have heard so many good things about this program and these students,” says Métis Nation—Saskatchewan Area Director, Mavis Taylor, who is a proponent of the program and works in partnership with DTI. “There is no doubt that once they graduate from the program they will go on to be successful in their careers as law enforcement professionals.”

The students in the DTI Aboriginal Law Enforcement Preparation program are making their mark as leaders and role models in the Meadow Lake community and in the process, making their community proud. A second intake for the program is planned for January 2011.



IT Update *(continued from page 3)*

By Gareth Griffiths

If sending an email is not possible, please call one of the IT Team, and we will create the work order on your behalf. The reply email is an automatic address and replies to it will be automatically rejected. Work orders received will be categorized, prioritized and allocated to a support technician by the IT Coordinator.

SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

The following service levels related to Support Calls will be delivered by IT effective immediately:

- Within 1 working hour of

a support email being received, an automatic email will be sent to the requestor and the IT Coordinator.

- Within 2 hours this will be allocated to the assigned technician and the priority level will be set. The usual priorities will be set to either URGENT (fix within 3 days) or 2 WEEKS.
- By the end of the next working day a response by email or telephone will be received by the requestor. This does not guarantee resolution.
- Every effort will be made to resolve the problem within the expected completion time frame.

Once the expected completion date is met, this will be escalated to the IT Coordinator who will reevaluate the work order, assign a new expected completion date, and reassign if necessary

- If a request for information from the requestor is not provided after 7 working days, the call will be assumed to be resolved and closed. It will be the responsibility of the requestor to request this call be reopened with a new expected completion date. These procedures and SLA's will be backed up internally in the IT department with the introduction of measurable performance targets to which all IT staff will be expected to adhere.



(Photo credit Meredith Penner)

30th Anniversary Culture Conference

By Lisa Wilson

I hope everyone has marked their calendars for the 30th Anniversary Celebration Culture Conference and Annual General Meeting to be held in Saskatoon November 18-20, 2010. This year's event will mark GDI's 30th year with a large cultural conference and gala celebration. Special student awards will be introduced this year with the Order of Gabriel Dumont Bronze medals, and students will also be invited to participate in a special leadership seminar designed specifically with Métis learners in mind. A banquet is planned for November 18th to celebrate the student awards and kick off the conference.

November 19th will be devoted to conference activities, with the keynote address to be made by renowned Métis author Maria Campbell. Concurrent conference sessions throughout the day will allow participants to choose sessions in a variety of areas including hands-on cultural activities; presentations of Métis-specific research; Michif language sessions; and discussions about Métis cultural history. The awarding of the Order of Gabriel Dumont Silver medals will take place at the lunch. The Silver medals honour those who have made a significant contribution to the Métis.

The special gala banquet and 30th anniversary celebration will take place on the evening of Friday November 19th and will be kicked off with a special presentation of the Métis National Anthem by Andrea Menard and Donny Parenteau. The Order of Gabriel Dumont Gold will be awarded at the evening celebration to honour and recognize people who have distinguished themselves with outstanding service to the Métis.

Throughout the celebrations the Institute will pay special tribute to the founders of GDI, recognizing their leadership and foresight to

envision a Métis-specific post-secondary institution for future generations.

The Institute's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on the morning of November 20th.

A small planning committee was struck in February 2010 to begin to lay the framework for the 30th Anniversary event. As we get closer to the date many Institute employees will be recruited to help with the planning and execution of the event. Thank you to those who have already come forward with an interest in volunteering to help! It is great to see that already there is some "buzz" about the event! 🌐



Gabriel Dumont Institute/Dumont Technical Institute

917 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK
S7M 0R9

PHONE:
(306) 242-6070

FAX:
(306) 242-0002

E-MAIL:
general@gdi.gdins.org

Back issues of this newsletter
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

GDI Locations

GDI Head Office Saskatoon

917 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9
Phone: (306) 242-6070
Fax: (306) 242-0002

GDI Publishing Saskatoon

2—604 22nd Street West
Saskatoon SK S7M 5W1
Phone: (306) 934-4941
Fax: (306) 244-0252

GDI Finance and Operations

917 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9
Phone: (306) 242-6070
Fax: (306) 975-0903

DTI Head Office Saskatoon

917 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9
Phone: (306) 242-6070
Fax: (306) 242-0002

Toll Free (DTI):
1-877-488-6888

SUNTEP Prince Albert

48 12th Street East
Prince Albert, SK
S6V 1B2
Phone: (306) 764-1797
Fax: (306) 764-3995

SUNTEP Saskatoon

Room 7 McLean Hall
University of
Saskatchewan
106 Wiggins Road
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5E6
Phone: (306) 975-7095
Fax: (306) 975-1108

SUNTEP Regina

Room 227 College West
University of Regina
3737 Wascana Parkway
Regina, S4S 0A2
Phone: (306) 347-4110
Fax: (306) 347-4119

GDI Training and Employment Head Office

917 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9
Phone: (306) 242-6070
Fax: (306) 683-3508

Toll Free (T&E):
1-877-488-6888

GDI Library Regina

Room 218 College West
University of Regina
3737 Wascana Parkway
Regina, S4S 0A2
Phone: (306) 347-4124
Fax: (306) 565-0809

[http://gdi.voyager.uregina
.ca/](http://gdi.voyager.uregina.ca/)

GDI Library Prince Albert

48 12th Street East
Prince Albert, SK
S6V 1B2
Phone: (306) 922-6466
Fax: (306) 763-4834



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