

November 2016

Volume 10, Issue 11

Pride Perseverance Possibilities



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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SUNTEP: Culture Cups Overflow on Visit to Winnipeg

By Kim Kovacs and Jed Huntley

On October 5, 2016, 12 second-year students from SUNTEP Prince Albert and eight second-year students from SUNTEP Regina travelled to Winnipeg to engage in four intense days of learning about their Métis history and culture, their ancestors, themselves, and each other. Accompanied by SUNTEP faculty Russell Fayant and Jed Huntley, respected community members Vivian Meabry and Joe Welsh, and library staff Nicolle DeGagné and Kim Kovacs, the students took full advantage of this valuable opportunity to solidify and internalize learning through in-person visits to many of the historically significant sites they have been reading and studying in the classroom.

While SUNTEP Regina has been taking students enrolled in INDG 221 to Winnipeg for many years, this is only the second year that SUNTEP Prince Albert students have made the trip (last year a group of second- and third-year students went as part of a professional development initiative, and this year was the first time the Winnipeg experience has been tied to the second-year INDG 280 class).

The trip provides students from both programs with a unique opportunity to form connections and friendships that will be renewed at

cultural camps later in their academic careers.

Despite winter driving conditions, the Prince Albert students arrived in Winnipeg on Wednesday evening in time to join the Regina group on a privately guided tour of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, including a section dealing with residential schools and Métis Road Allowance communities.

On Thursday, the students did genealogical research at the Hudson's Bay Company Archives and the Centre du Patrimoine at the Société historique de Saint-Boniface, where many of them were able to discover interesting details about their ancestors, or fill in gaps and missing connections in their family histories. They then visited the Riel statue before laying tobacco at the monument for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women at the Forks. After exploring a nearby Métis-themed playground, the Prince Albert and Regina groups headed indoors for supper and to warm up in preparation for a moonlit visit to the St. Boniface Cathedral and Louis Riel's grave, as well as the controversial Lemay-Gaboury monument to Riel followed by a group debrief back at the hotel at around 9:00 pm.

The students were in the vans bright and early on Friday morning, with Prince Albert students meeting Lawrence Barkwell at the Manitoba Metis Federation, while Regina students headed off to explore the St. Boniface graveyard and Le Musée de Saint-Boniface housed in the building where Louis Riel first attended school. This was followed by a tour of the Manitoba Museum to see relevant highlights, including the Nonsuch replica, fur trade artifacts, the Métis kitchen, and Cuthbert Grant's medicine chest. Neechi Commons, an Indigenous-owned and operated arts and food cooperative in Winnipeg's North End community, provided students with delicious food and a chance gear up for the afternoon's activities. Heavy rain prevented a stop at the Seven Oaks Battle site, but both groups of students were treated to a rare tour of the inside of buildings at Lower Fort Garry, including the Furloft/Saleshop and the Big House. Thanks go to Parks Canada staff for their willingness to accommodate our group in the off-season.

Quick stops were made at St. Andrew's Church, Captain William Kennedy's house, and the Polo Park Mall for a bite to eat before heading to the walls of Upper Fort Garry to remember the history that unfolded there in 1869-1870.

Continued on Page 4.



The Month of **November** in History

In November 1885, Louis Riel, a Métis hero and icon, is hanged in Regina for his role in leading the fight for Métis rights.

In November 2007, EKOS Research Associates Inc. conducts an independent evaluation of Gabriel Dumont Institute programs.

In November 2010, Gabriel Dumont Institute announces the induction of Guy Bouvier, Clarence Campeau (posthumous), Elie Fleury, Sheila Pocha, and Elder Rose Fleury into the Order of Gabriel Dumont in honour of their contributions to the Métis Nation.

In November 2010, Gabriel Dumont Institute and Cameco sign an agreement to establish a new GDI-Cameco Scholarship. The scholarship includes five awards of \$1,300 annually for Métis students in Saskatchewan.

On November 30, 2010, the Government of Saskatchewan places a Métis sash in the Saskatchewan Legislature. Premier Brad Wall asserts that "Today, we pay tribute to the tremendous contributions made by Saskatchewan's Métis people to our social, cultural and economic development."

In November 2011, Gabriel Dumont Institute hosts the official opening of the Dennis and Jean Fisher Collection at GDI Publishing Centre in Saskatoon.

In November 2011, the Institute hosts the official opening of the Dennis and Jean Fisher Collection at GDI Publishing Building, Saskatoon.

In November 2012, Métis Elder and statesman Jim Sinclair dies. Sinclair is recognized for his role in negotiating the inclusion of the Métis in the Canadian Constitution Act, 1982.

Winter Driving Tips

By Jim Edmondson

Like it or not, winter is upon us! And with it comes poor driving conditions. Just because the road or weather isn't good doesn't mean we should stop going places; it just means we have to take care and be smart. Below are a few tips for winter driving.

Prepare your car for winter by ensuring that the tires are properly inflated. Keep your gas tank at least half full, and if behind the wheel, always wear your seat belt.

Avoid driving while you're fatigued. As well, never run a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage. Deadly exhaust fumes can leak in to the car. On the same note, ensure that the exhaust pipe isn't clogged with snow, ice or mud. Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface (wet, ice, sand), and if possible, avoid using your parking brake in cold, rainy and snowy weather.

Long distance trips

Watch weather reports prior to a long-distance drive or before driving in isolated areas. If you must travel, do let others know your route, destination and estimated time of arrival. Further, have

What is MyFoundationsLab?

By Kristi Ross

Our goal at Gabriel Dumont Institute is to enable every student to succeed. The Institute is now using MyFoundationsLab to improve results and deliver even better learning outcomes for our students and clients.

MyFoundationsLab creates online learning experiences that are personalized and are

a cellphone with emergency telephone numbers (towing company, CAA if applicable), plus blankets, gloves, hats, food, water and any needed medication in your vehicle. If weather is not good, stay with your vehicle. It provides temporary shelter and makes it easier for rescuers to locate you. Don't walk in a severe storm as you could lose sight of your vehicle in blowing snow and get lost.

Don't over exert yourself if you try to push or dig your vehicle out of the snow. It's helpful to tie a brightly colored cloth to the antenna or place a cloth at the top of a rolled up window to signal distress. At night, keep the dome light on if possible. It only uses a small amount of electricity and will make it easier for rescuers to find you. If need arises, use whatever is available to insulate yourself from the cold. This could include floor mats and newspapers. If possible run the engine and heater just long enough to remove the chill and to conserve gasoline.

If driving on a snowy day, accelerate and decelerate slowly. This will reduce the

possibility of skidding. It takes longer to slow down on icy roads, so take your time. Also, note that the normal dry pavement following distance of three to four seconds should be increased to eight to ten seconds. This increased margin of safety will provide the longer distance needed if you have to stop.

Know your brakes. If you have anti-lock brakes (ABS) and need to slow down quickly, press hard on the pedal. It's normal for the pedal to vibrate a bit when the ABS is activated. In cars without ABS, use "threshold" breaking, keeping your heel on the floorboard and using the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal.

If your car is rolling, don't stop if you can avoid it. There's a big difference in the amount of inertia it takes to start moving from a full stop versus how much it takes to get moving while still rolling. If you can slow down enough to keep rolling until a traffic light changes, do it.

Avoid driving in poor weather conditions if you can. Don't tempt fate: If you don't have somewhere you have to be, stay home and watch the snow from indoors. ❄️

continuously adaptive. It responds to how students are actually performing, offering data-driven guidance that helps them to better understand the subjects as well as difficult concepts.

MyFoundationsLab has a time frame of six months but our hope is that the clients would be able to complete it sooner so they can be

eligible for an Accuplacer retest if necessary. Note that a client cannot retest until all the work is completed and a progress report is printed and attached to his or her scores.

Like Accuplacer, MyFoundationsLab enables learners to build on and become successful course material such as in reading, math, and writing, *Continued on Page 5.*



IT Update

By Gareth Griffiths

IT Support System

In October 2016, 87 new Work Orders were received into Track-IT. Of these, 75 are now closed (85% completion rate). Overall we closed 77 Work Orders in the month. There are currently 38 open Work Orders. Don't forget to email support@gdins.org for any new requests. In the event that an email cannot be sent for any reason, please call a member of the IT Team, who will log the support Work Order for you.

Deal With DirectWest

With the discontinuing of mysask411.com, we are partnering with DirectWest and moving our promotional budget into Facebook advertising. Depending on the type of promotion needed, this will take one of two forms: News feed paid advertising or boosted posts. Both of these are targeted to a specific demographic and location.

In November, we boosted two posts and got great

results. The Gabriel Dumont Institute-University of Regina Master of Education program achieved a reach (number of times it appeared in peoples news feeds) of over 35,000. There were over 2,000 post engagements (number of likes, shares, comments, post clicks, etc).

The 'Lest We Forget' Remembrance Day post was boosted to a reach of over 51,000 with an engagement of almost 3,000. The usual post reach is between 500 and 2,000.

Video Conferencing

Video conferencing is now setup in five Institute locations. It uses software called join.me which allows up to 10 video feeds, and 250 audio participants. The system works on almost any device and integrates with Outlook for scheduling meetings. Other features include window sharing, the ability to pass mouse control or presenter role to another participant, and interactive whiteboards on iPads. We will be setting up

information sessions for video conferencing and a quick start guide has been written, with a full manual to follow.

Website

Overall, there were 26,678 Page Views over 8,257 sessions (52% of these were new visitors) in October 2016. The website homepage saw 4,625 page views. Some highlights of activity: 17% of visitors to the homepage, 8.0% clicked on What We Offer, 4.0% went to the Job Posting page.

Social Media Summary

The following are some brief stats from our Social Media channels for October. Facebook: Total number of people liking the page grew by 23 to 1,695. Total Engagements (number of links clicked, likes, or comments) was 111 over four posts. The total reach of posts (number of people that saw a post in their feed) was 2,794 with 6,639 impressions (number of times a GDI page appeared in others' news feeds).

Continued on Page 5.

MyFoundationsLab ... *Continued from Page 2*

Each domain has approximately eight questions per section and it provides a level score between one and 15. It also provides proficiency statements so the students or clients know exactly what they will be working on.

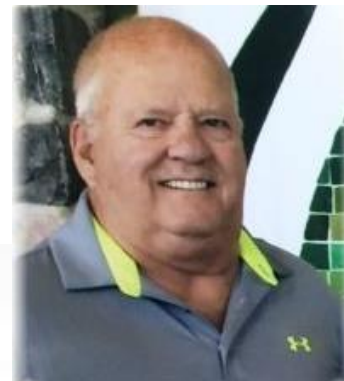
MyFoundationsLab is based on performance and generates a personalized learning path for the learners from their results. It delivers consistent, measurable gains in student and client learning outcomes, retention, and subsequent course success.

The learning system is strictly mapped based on what the client knows. It offers various individualized learning paths with each offering tutorial, instruction, and practice with feedback from the Testing Services Coordinator. It is ideal for learners of various levels and ages.

MyFoundationsLab allows clients to work at their own pace on any computer with an internet connection. It is available 24 hours a day seven days a week, and has detailed reporting tools which allows the student, client and

Dumont Technical Institute to monitor progress.

In the month of November, we delivered 20 General Educational Development (GED) exams in our Saskatoon Location. As well, we traveled to Lloydminster to deliver the first series of tests for the GED prep course using our Mobile Testing Unit. We also administered two Accuplacer tests during the month. For further information, please contact Kristi Ross, the Testing Services Coordinator, at testing@gdins.org 



Donald Dugan
April 1945 – November 2016
Don passed away this month. He served as member of the Gabriel Dumont Institute Selection Committee in Northern Region II from 2007 to 2010.

"Don was dedicated in his work for GDI and the Métis people," says Tammy Cummins, Employment Counsellor, GDI Training & Employment, Prince Albert.



Claudette Moran,
retired in October 2016
as Senior Program Coordinator
Dumont Technical Institute

We indicated in the October *GDI Communicator* that a write up about Claudette would appear in the November *GDI Communicator*. We regret to say that this was not possible.



Positive Outlook for Pinehouse Lake, Sask

By Nancy Misponas, Christy Rediron, and Ashley Natomagan (ABE Students, DTI Pinehouse)



SUNTEP students from Regina and Prince Albert at the Riel Statue in Winnipeg (Please see Page 1). Photo by K. Kovacs.

This article is about our community of Pinehouse Lake, Saskatchewan and the positive things that are happening in our wonderful town. There are many great programs that are running, and we also have Reclaiming Our Community (ROC) meetings, Elders gathering, and have recently completed the construction of the arena that includes an ice rink, big fitness centre, and a radio station. The work on the Elders' Complex is on-going.

The mayor and council knew there was a need for programs in Pinehouse Lake. So they asked the citizens what kind of programs they would want in the community. They then started fundraising to get the programs going. The results have been impressive and everyone is optimistic about the

future. The programs started so far include the Recovery Lake, training and education programs such as Adult Basic Education, Essential Skills, Carpentry, and Industrial Mechanics. Those who completed the programs got jobs with the Pinehouse Business North and some are working at the Elder's Complex.

Community leaders and organizations also hold monthly ROC meetings; and a 'prevention meeting' every Monday. We discuss the issues that are of importance to our community, and try to make things better for everyone. The community has identified challenges and opportunities in Pinehouse Lake and together we continue to identify ways to make our community a better place to live, work, study, and

raise families. Plans are in place for a new youth centre so the youth can have a place for their activities.

Over the past six years, Pinehouse Lake has been holding annual Elders Gathering event in June. Many elders from different communities come down and enjoy all the activities. It is such a beautiful thing to see all these people come to our community and enjoy stories, traditional food, and entertainment.

We would like to thank the Pinehouse Lake mayor and council, and individuals and organizations that contributed to make our home a great place. The article was submitted by Dylan Pelletier, DTI Program Coordinator. 🌐

SUNTEP Students Visit Winnipeg ... *continued from Page 1*

Elzear Goulet Park, a profoundly moving piece of landscape architecture created to honour the memory of one of the casualties of Wolseley's 1870 reign of terror, was the final stop of the evening before returning to the hotel for the nightly group debrief.

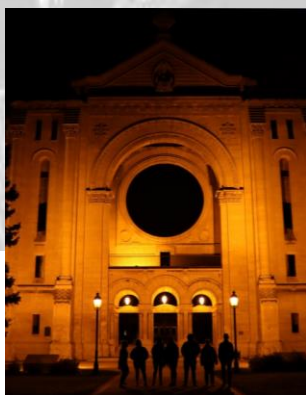
The Prince Albert and Regina groups moved together on Saturday, visiting Riel House before heading out to St. Norbert to see the Delorme House and conduct a final group debrief. They then proceeded to the Riel-Ritchot Monument, the Chapelle de Notre-Dame du Bon Secours, and the peaceful St. Norbert Cemetery. Students paused for a photo at La Barrière, grabbed a quick bite to eat at the St. Norbert Farmers' Market, and then it was back into the vans to visit Cuthbert Grant's Mill,

where Nancy and Ken Fluto provided a warm welcome and a tour despite the mill being closed for the season. After a visit to St. Francois Xavier Church and cemetery to look for ancestors' names, and a quick stop for a final group photo at the White Horse Plains monument, the Prince Albert and Regina students said their goodbyes until culture camp next year and started on the long drive back home, their "culture cups overflowing."

Despite the tight schedule, the long days, and the inclement weather, the group debriefs were marked by insightful comments and a heightened cultural awareness that demonstrated students' engagement in deep, meaningful learning about the struggles and accomplishments of their ancestors and their

solidifying pride in their identity, as well as a sense of purpose for the future. As one student from Prince Albert commented, "We can share the stories and knowledge we have gained to make youth more aware and more proud of their Métis culture and history. Many Métis are unaware of [our] rich history."

Special thanks go to Vivian Meabry and Joe Welsh for patiently sharing their knowledge, humour, and wisdom with students and staff alike, to the Institute for its continued support of these essential and transformative off-campus experiential learning opportunities, and to everyone else who contributed to make the trip a success again this year. 🌐



St. Boniface Cathedral, Winnipeg (Please see Page 1). Photo by C. Skjeie



IT Update ... *Continued from Page 3*

The most popular post was the "Continuing Care Assistant Program in Prince Albert," reaching 1,784 people.

Twitter: 34 tweets earned 15,700 impressions. There were 20 new followers in the month, 45 mentions, and 498 profile visits. The top tweet was "Orange Shirt Day in Sask," earning 903 impressions. Top mention was the "Hello from the nursing students" by MP Peter Julian; while the top media tweet was "Only one other institute in Sask graduated more practical nurses..." with 401 impressions. We currently have 919 followers.

Phishing/Virus

Please be vigilant on all emails received. Do be

wary of emails asking for account or password information (phishing attacks). The most recent reported one is from the RCMP saying you have a speeding ticket and to click the attached link. The RCMP has confirmed they will not issue any violation notice by email and to delete it.

To identify a phishing email, 1) Look at the 'From' email address. Usually, this has no reference to the organization it purports to be from. For example, if the address was rbc.support@gmail.com and it really was from RBC, the chances are the email would be .@rbc.com or ..@rbc.ca. 2) If there is a link in the email, hover over it, and look at the address it

is sending you to. Again this usually bears no relation to the company it is supposed to be to.

If you suspect any email to contain a phishing attack or a virus, don't click any of the links or reply to it. The safest option is to delete it. You are always welcome to contact IT for advice on how to deal with any suspicious emails received. Just to reinforce this. No reputable company will ask for confidential information such as passwords by email.

Closing Thought

Pavlov is sitting in a bar having a beer. The phone rings. He jumps up, runs out saying "I forgot to feed the dog." 🐕



Riel House, Winnipeg
Photo by K. Kovacs
See Page 1 for complete story.



Métis veterans at Batoche
Photo by James Oloo

Payroll Cutoff Calendar, December 2016

By Carmala Thiessen and Veronica Verzonowski

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
				Accounts Payable Cheque Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/c Payable Invoices	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Cutoff @ 3:00 for Stop Payments on Student Dec 9 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/P Invs - TMS & Payroll Revisions for Dec 15 Payday	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Dec 23 Student Payroll		Cutoff @ 4:30 for TMS & Payroll Revisions for Dec 30 Payday	Staff Payday Accounts Payable Cheque Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/c Payable Invoices	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		Cutoff @ 3:00 for Stop Payments on Student Dec 23 Direct Deposits			Student Payday	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	← Happy Holidays →				Staff Payday	

Employee contracts due prior to payroll cutoff date.



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can be obtained at:

[www.metismuseum.ca/browse/
index.php/833](http://www.metismuseum.ca/browse/index.php/833)

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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