



**GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE  
OF NATIVE STUDIES AND APPLIED RESEARCH**

**BRIEFING NOTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**to the**

**MINISTER OF EDUCATION**

**Prepared by**

**The Gabriel Dumont Institute  
of Native Studies and Applied Research**

**December 5, 1991**



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**INTRODUCTION**

The Gabriel Dumont Institute Board of Directors welcomes the opportunity to meet with the Honourable Carol Teichrob, Minister of Education.

In anticipation of this meeting we have prepared an introduction to the Gabriel Dumont Institute and an overview of the most important education issues facing the Metis in Saskatchewan today.



ITEM ONE: OVERVIEW OF THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE OF NATIVE STUDIES AND APPLIED RESEARCH

Incorporation and Board Structure

The Gabriel Dumont Institute was incorporated in 1980. It is governed by a 24 member Board of Directors comprised of the following appointments:

-	Metis Society of Saskatchewan	4
-	MSS Area Representatives	12
-	Government of Saskatchewan	1
-	Government of Canada	1
-	University of Saskatchewan	1
-	University of Regina	1
-	Aboriginal Women	2
-	Gabriel Dumont Student Association	2
	TOTAL	<u>24</u>

Services

The Gabriel Dumont Institute offers the following services:

-	contemporary and historical research
-	curriculum development
-	library
-	Metis Studies
-	finance and administration
-	community liaison

Programs

An essential element of the Institute is the education and training programs offered to Metis students throughout the province. The following are the current university and SIAST programs offered by the Institute:

-	Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) (Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert)
-	Business Administration (Regina)
-	Human Justice (2 intakes, Prince Albert)
-	Business Administration (Cumberland House)
-	Health-Care Administration (Ile-a-la-Crosse)
-	Integrated Resource management (Buffalo Narrows)
-	Home Care/Special Care Aide (North Battleford)
-	Business Administration (Meadow Lake)





### The Community Training Residence

Since 1989 the Institute has operated a Community Training Residence for female offenders in Saskatoon. Up to 14 offenders stay at the CTR and during their stay they receive counselling and life skills training. This year the Institute was granted a new five year contract to operate the CTR by the provincial Department of Justice.

### The Native Services Division

Since 1987 the Gabriel Dumont Institute has operated the Native Services Division at SIAST. The Native Services Division offers support services and programs to Aboriginal students at any of the four campuses of SIAST.

Last month the Institute signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Government of Saskatchewan and SIAST to create the Dumont Technical Institute as a federated college of SIAST. The Native Services Division would form the basis of this new federated college which would have the mandate to deliver adult basic education and other appropriate technical and vocational programs.

### Funding

The Institute has to some extent a diversified funding base. The following are the main and on-going sources of funding to the Institute:

-	Saskatchewan Education	
-	GDI Core Funding	\$ 790,000
-	SUNTEP	1,400,000
-	Native Services Division	345,000
-	Department of Justice (CTR)	300,000
-	Employment and Immigration Canada (training allocation)	1,100,000

### Institute Priorities

The Institute has identified the following as its immediate priorities:

- signing of a five year Core Contract with Sask. Education
- Developing the Dumont Technical Institute
- Establishing a federated college at either the University of Regina or the University of Saskatoon
- Establishing a Metis student financial assistance program



**ITEM TWO: THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE ANNUAL CULTURAL AND EDUCATION  
CONFERENCE**

Since its inception in 1980, the Gabriel Dumont Institute has held an Annual Cultural and Education Conference. The goals of the Annual Conference are:

1. to build a strengthen the cultural heritage and educational status of the Metis community in Saskatchewan by providing a forum which recognizes and reaffirms the grassroots' ownership of the Gabriel Dumont Institute; and,
2. to raise the level of awareness of the general public on the cultural heritage and importance of culturally-relevant education to the Metis community.

On January 30th through February 1, 1992, the Gabriel Dumont Institute will be holding its twelfth Annual Cultural and Educational Conference. This Conference, which attracts more than 1,000 participants, represents the largest cultural gathering of Metis and Non-Status Indian people in Saskatchewan, and perhaps in Canada. It will be held at the Saskatoon Inn in Saskatoon.

The Conference, entitled "STEPS IN TIME", will celebrate learning through the generations. The family is the centre of the Metis culture. As such, the Conference is planned to encourage the participation from the very young to the traditional Elders.

The "important people" at the Conference are not the Keynote Speakers and Presenters. On the contrary, the "important people" are the grassroot's Metis people of Saskatchewan - a people steeped in cultural pride and determination.

On January 30th, the first day of the Conference, registration and display areas will open in the late afternoon. Two concurrent workshops will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. One workshop will focus on the enhancement of early (preschool) learning experiences of Aboriginal children while the other will explore the topic of cross-cultural education. The evening will conclude with traditional jigging, fiddling and square dancing competitions.

The second day of the Conference will open with a prayer and pipe ceremony by a traditional Elder. Keynote addresses from the Honourable Roy Romanow, Premier of Saskatchewan and Jim Durocher, President of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan will follow. The remainder of the morning will be filled with a plenary on Constitutional reform and its effects on Metis people.

The noon Luncheon will feature a fashion show of traditional Metis clothing. Historically, Metis women made extensive use of flower designs and beadwork. The tailored leather hide clothing and bright woven sashes of the Metis were both practical and fashionable. Beaded moosehide moccasins and leggings, scarves, shawls, capotes and ribboned skirts are all reflective of Metis culture. Many of the younger generations of Metis, particularly those living in urban areas, have little opportunity to view and understand the historical significance of traditional Metis clothing.



The afternoon of January 31st will be reserved for a series of concurrent three hour cultural and education workshops. These include a repetition of the two January 30 workshops as well as an Oral History Workshop, a Community Schools Workshop, and a Workshop on the Post-Graduation Employment Experiences of GDI students.

The final activities of January 31st are the Banquet and Awards Ceremony and a dry dance. Keynote speaker at the Banquet this year will be Dr. Colin McColl, the first Metis Medical doctor in Saskatchewan and Canada.

On Saturday, February 1st, a continuation of the Constitutional plenary will precede the GDI Annual General Meeting.

**Recommendation:**

We would recommend that the Honourable Roy Romanow, Premier of Saskatchewan open the Conference and that Ministers Teichrob, Goulet and Mitchell attend.



**ITEM THREE: CORE GRANT CONTRACT EXTENSION**

Since 1980, Saskatchewan Education has provided the Gabriel Dumont Institute with funding to support certain core activities. This money has been granted on an annual basis under contract agreement between Saskatchewan Education and the Institute.

The Core Grant Contract recognizes the interest of both GDI and Saskatchewan Education in promoting the increased participation and retention of Metis and Non-Status Indian students within the Province's K-12 and post secondary education systems.

The latest three year Core Grant Agreement expired March 31, 1991. At the time of the expiry, it was felt that with the imminence of a Provincial Election and the fact that the Core Grant was undergoing comprehensive joint evaluation, it would be best to defer the signing of the new agreement. Two written short-term (monthly) extensions have held the Institute in the interim but as of November 30, 1991 the Institute has only a verbal guarantee that the Contract has been extended for the remainder of the fiscal year (March 31, 1992).

The completion of the 1988/89 Core Evaluation has served to reinforce the progressive and positive impact that the Gabriel Dumont Institute is having on Aboriginal education. From Saskatchewan Education's perspective, the Institute "has developed some outstanding material. In particular, the Keep Your Spirit Free project, the Metis: Two Worlds Meet project, and the Steps in Time Dance Video are example of the high quality, successful materials that GDI has produced".

The Core Evaluation reaffirmed the importance of the Core Grant and stated:

"...the significance of the Core Grant to the continued operation, credibility and leveraging ability of the Institute should not be discounted (p. 12)..."

In the opinion of the Steering Committee, the fact that the Institute was able to use its core funding to attract over \$2.5M direct program funding in 1988/89 (excluding SUNTEP) is highly noteworthy (p. 56)..."

**Recommendation:**

1. That an interim extension of the Core Grant to March 31, 1992 be signed immediately.
2. That the Honourable Carol Teichrob sign a new five year Core Contract, the March 31, 1997, at the Gabriel Dumont Institute 1992 Cultural Conference, January 30 - February 1, 1992.





**ITEM FOUR: DUMONT TECHNICAL INSTITUTE**

On October 15, 1991, the Gabriel Dumont Institute, the Department of Education and SIAST signed a memorandum of agreement to create the Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) as a federated college of SIAST.

As a federated college, DTI would be legally, financially and administratively separate from SIAST but academically integrated. In other words, classes and programs offered by DTI would be available to all students of SIAST. A nine-member Board of Directors (4 appointed by the Gabriel Dumont Institute Board, 3 nominated by SIAST, one appointed by the Minister of Education and one nominated by the DTI student association) would be responsible for governing the affairs of DTI.

The DTI would, within the federated agreement with SIAST, have a mandate to undertake training needs assessment, curriculum and program development and delivery of certified ABE and technical programs. The ability of DTI to deliver ABE and technical programs under certification from Saskatchewan Education (in the case of ABE) and from SIAST (in the case of technical programs) is an extremely important step forward for Metis Education in Saskatchewan.

The Native Services Division (NSD) of GDI, in existence since 1987, would form the basis of DTI. The core funding of NSD, \$345,000, would be rolled over into DTI. In addition, DTI would be eligible for funding from NSIM, the Saskatchewan Skills Extension Program and the Saskatchewan Skills Development Program. These sources of funding are now closed to GDI.

It is our intention to have DTI operational by April, 1992, and to be offering classes and programs by September, 1992.

**Recommendation:**

That Saskatchewan Education sign, immediately, a five year Master Agreement to create the Dumont Technical Institute.



**ITEM FIVE: METIS STUDENT FUNDING****Background:**

Over the past nine years, GDI has been liaising with the Student Financial Branch of Saskatchewan Education to communicate the financial problems that Metis and Non-Status Indian students face during their years of educational training. Very little headway has been made. As a result changes to the loan program continue to be made without consideration of how they will affect the user group and in particular the MNSI students.

**Outstanding Issues:**

Outstanding issues in Metis student funding continue to be:

- the accumulation of debt by our students as they pursue their education;
- the need to exclude the preparatory phase from counting as post-secondary weeks of education; and,
- the need to have direct access to the Federal and Provincial decision-making committees governing changes to student loans.

**Institute of Record:**

On Friday, November 22, 1991, a meeting was held with Brady Salloum of Saskatchewan Education to discuss the continuing problem around the funding of the GDI preparatory phase. This discussion has taken place every year for the last four years. Each year we suggest that it is time for GDI to become the Institute of Record. This would allow GDI to determine what courses are required for individual programs and to certify that students are registered full time. This would also give us equal status to other educational institutes within the Student Loan Program.

After four years of lobbying, we now have a verbal commitment from Brady Salloum that Rita Archer (Assistant Deputy Minister) has approved our request to become the Institute of Record. Once this becomes finalized, the Institute will be able to sign all student loan documents, and our students will be able to access funding for the preparatory phase as well as the post-secondary phase and practicum placements.

**Recommendations:**

1. That the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research be deemed, by written Agreement, to be an Institute of Record.
2. That Saskatchewan Education ensure that Metis students have comprehensive financial assistance in the way of a bursary program administered through GDI on the basis of need.

