

1999 Annual Report

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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

I am pleased to submit the 1999 Annual Report to the Board of Governors and the membership of the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI). Upon reflection, 1999 was a year of continued stability and growth for the Institute. With most of our fiscal challenges put behind us we were able to move forward on a number of fronts.

For example, in 1999 the Institute signed a contribution agreement with the Honourable Ralph Goodale, the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-status Indians. This agreement provides \$125,000 for the 1999 fiscal year for the establishment of a Métis Cultural Centre to be located in Saskatoon, Regina and Prince Albert. It is hoped that this funding will be secured on an ongoing basis.

With the Institute once again on secure financial footing, the GDI Board of Governors has committed itself to expand and further develop Gabriel Dumont College. It is the vision of the Board of Governors that the College asserts a strong, clear Métis voice on both university campuses in the province. It is our hope that the College will provide a vehicle through which the Métis language, culture and history can be preserved and promoted.

In addition to the strides made in academic and cultural programming, 1999 has been a milestone regarding pay equity within the Institute. For years, GDI staff worked for wages that many felt were below the market standard. Thanks in large part to the GDI Board of Governors, the GDI senior management, our SGEU Bargaining Committee and Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training, this inequity was finally addressed in November of 1999, with a wage enhancement grant from Post Secondary Education and Skills Training (PSEST). We thank all of those involved in correcting this inequality and we thank PSEST for their commitment, wisdom and foresight.

Overall, 1999 was a successful year for the Institute as collectively we have made great strides forward in a number of important areas. I would like to thank all of our educational partners, the members of the GDI Board of Governors and all of our employees for their support and dedication. To all members of the Métis community, I thank you for the opportunity to serve you as chairperson of the Gabriel Dumont Institute.

Sincerely,

Murray Hamilton
Chairperson
Gabriel Dumont Institute Board of Governors

Executive Director's Report

On behalf of the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), I am pleased to present this portion of the Annual Report for the fiscal year 1999 – 2000.

The Institute has placed a huge emphasis on program and policy development. With the support of the Management Board, we have also ensured maximum efficiency from our budget allocations. The Board of Governors, Program Managers and employees deserve a great deal of credit for the tremendous progress made despite the financial constraints that we experienced.

The Institute continues to graduate students that are very quickly being absorbed into the workforce. The Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) has reached 500 graduates and the Gabriel Dumont College shows steady growth and progress. The Dumont Technical Institute is still expanding and new partnerships are being formed regularly. Employment rates for Métis people in Saskatchewan continue to improve with the support of these unique and effective programs.

The Curriculum and Publishing Department has experienced another solid year. New products, projects, partnership agreements and publishing support have made GDI a very respected player in the area of Curriculum and Educational Support Materials.

Pay equity for GDI's staff has finally happened over the course of this fiscal year. Many years of patience and diligence displayed by the staff has finally been rewarded. While resolving the pay equity issue, the Institute is still not able to fully meet its mandate due to inadequate staffing levels. Work will continue to seek creative ways to help GDI fulfill its mandate and advance the goals of Métis self-determination.

Sincerely,

Karon Shmon
Executive Director, GDI

Assistant Executive Director's Report

I am pleased to submit this report for the annual fiscal year 1999-2000.

A major focus has been on the policy side of the Institute. Much of the past year has been spent developing, revising and implementing policy and procedures. While not very exciting, it has been a tremendous learning experience for me, and a necessary step in the evolution of the Institute. The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) has also been involved in a tripartite relationship around the planning and development of programming for the common labour market.

A major step forward has been the elimination of the old scholarship foundation and replacing it with a more versatile foundation. This two-year process was completed in this fiscal year. The new foundation has scholarships that are available to all Métis students from across Canada and are more accessible for GDI students.

Exciting developments have also occurred in the area of cultural development. GDI is exploring the development of a number of Métis cultural centres and how they can best serve the needs of the Métis community.

A more formal structure has also been established for the Gabriel Dumont College. This has occurred through developing a term of reference, a planning program and the hiring of a staff member.

The most significant development over the past year has been the finalization and implementation of the Salary Compensation Review. This has been a very beneficial process that has placed GDI in a parity position with similar agencies in the public sector.

I believe that the Institute has made great strides in the past year. We have moved forward on several fronts. The Institute is now as stable as it has ever been and every semester sees more Métis students graduating from our programs. It is a pleasure to work with so many talented people. This makes GDI a very exciting and positive place to be.

Sincerely,

Calvin Racette
Assistant Executive Director, GDI

BOARD OF GOVERNORS 1999

The 1999 Annual Report focuses on the 1999 fiscal year that began April 1, 1999 and ended March 31, 2000. During this period, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Board was composed of six members with four alternate members and an additional representative from the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan. With an alternate also being appointed by the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, this brought the maximum Board representation to twelve members. The Board is regional represented, with two members each representing the southern, central and northern areas of the province. The Institute would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Board members and to thank them for their commitment and dedication to GDI.

GDI Board of Governors Representatives:

Gabriel Dumont Institute Chairperson
Murray Hamilton – Minister of Education (Métis Nation of Saskatchewan)

Earl Cook – Northern Representative (Vice-Chair)
Annie Chartier – Northern Representative
Michelle Bonneau – Northern Alternate

Dennis Langan – Central Representative
Rita Bouvier – Central Representative
Darren McKee – Central Alternate

Shirley Boucher – Southern Representative
Angela Smith – Southern Representative
Joe Pelletier – Southern Alternate

Métis Nation of Saskatchewan Alternate
Dale McAuley – Associate Minister of Education

The Institute would especially like to thank those Board members who are completing their two-year appointment as of April 2000. The out-going members are Annie Chartier, Shirley Boucher, Rita Bouvier and Dennis Langan. We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Board members to the Institute: Joe Pelletier, Angela Smith, Michelle Bonneau, Josie Searson, and Beverly McLean.

1999 ANNUAL REPORT

GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE OF NATIVE STUDIES AND APPLIED RESEARCH

In 1999, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) entered its nineteenth year of operation. It also entered a period in its evolution where it is reaping the benefits associated with a level of institutional stability and maturity. Over the last two decades, the Institute, with its program delivery via Dumont Technical Institute (DTI), the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) and Gabriel Dumont College (GDC), has developed a reputation for delivery quality programming to Métis communities in a culturally sensitive manner. This is in keeping with the Institute's mandate which is to design, develop and deliver specific educational and cultural programs and services in a manner that fosters the renewal and development of Métis culture. None of this would have been possible without the support and commitment of the Métis community. For this support, the Institute is thankful.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Curriculum and Publishing Department Annual Report

The 1999-2000 fiscal year for the Curriculum and Publishing Department has been both challenging and rewarding. This year witnessed our largest and most diverse resource development since 1985. The following year should bring to completion many projects initiated throughout this past fiscal year. The Department's staff consisted of Leah Dorion (Coordinator), Darren R. Préfontaine (Curriculum Developer), Blanche Gehriger (Clerk-Steno) and Yvonne Morrisette (Clerk-Steno).

Community involvement is a large part of our publishing program. For instance, this year we published *Sasquatch Exterminator*, a children's book based on a song created by Don Freed and children from Cumberland House, and illustrated by Myles Charles. Clearly there is a demand for Métis-specific children's literature and the department has begun work on two other children's books by SUNTEP Saskatoon student, Penny Condon.

During the past fiscal year, much of our focus was spent participating in the Michif Language Initiative, which was sponsored by the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan and the Department of Canadian Heritage. Additionally, the Department received funding from Saskatchewan Education to video and audiotape a Michif language workshop held on April 24-25, 1999, in Yorkton. The broadcast quality video footage will be used for the development of future literary, video and multimedia resources, and it will be an integral component to the Institute's planned Métis Cultural Centre and archives, and

a virtual museum on the World Wide Web. The Department is also planning on producing a series of short Michif videos with this footage in addition to developing accompanying resource materials. Funding has also been received from Saskculture for the production of these videos.

As a result of our work in preserving the Michif language, we have formed an important and necessary relationship with the Michif Language Speakers Association (MLSA) which was formed in April 1999. The MLSA executive provides our Department with direction and advice concerning the preservation and promotion of the Michif language. Leah Dorion was appointed by the MLSA as GDI's representative. The Department, at present, does not have an Aboriginal Language curriculum developer with a Michif specialization. Therefore, we have contracted Michif speakers, or those that can understand Michif, such as Gilbert Pelletier, Norman Fleury, Margaret Hodgson, and Maria Campbell to do translations, narration, identify speakers, develop video scripts, conduct interviews and conduct Michif research for the Department.

The Department is committed to the ongoing development of our oral history collection. A Metis oral history will be an important project completed in the next fiscal year. This year, Rob Innes, a graduate student, was contracted to conduct interviews with Metis veterans. We are pleased to announce that we now have a Metis veterans' database available on our Website at www.gdins.org. Individuals are encouraged to register any veterans in their family on-line at the GDI Website.

Our next major project was the Metis CDROM entitled, *The Métis: Our People, Our Story*. A great deal of editing and revision occurred for this project in the 1999 fiscal year. It will be released on September 1, 2000 in our next fiscal year. The Department also completed another project, with the Louis Riel Institute of the Manitoba Metis Federation, entitled, *Resources for Métis Researchers*. The book was created due to demands made by students and the general public for a comprehensive listing and historiography of Métis resources.

The Department has also continued its practice of negotiating distribution agreements with Métis filmmakers, writers and artists in order to provide more Métis specific resources on our catalogue. Demand for Métis resources has proven so great that our Department continually tries to distribute high-quality Métis-specific audio, visual and literary resources.

In late March, Todd Paquin finished work on a major research paper, compiled by himself, Darren R. Préfontaine and Leah Dorion, entitled, *Effective Practices in Aboriginal Education*. The paper was funded by the Saskatchewan School Trustees Association and was released at the AWASIS Conference in Saskatoon.

This fiscal year also witnessed the beginnings of a new Metis Cultural Centre initiative, which was funded by the Privy Council Office (PCO) under the direction of the

Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Natural Resources and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-status Indians. With these developmental funds the Department has liaised with Roger Ross of Creerunner Communications to develop a new video series of vignettes on Métis dancing storytelling, fiddling and the Michif language tentatively entitled, *Métis Pride*.

The Institute received a contract to host the National Aboriginal Headstart (AHS) Conference in Saskatoon from September 19-22, 1999. The Department played a large role in organizing and working at the conference. Overall, the conference was a great success.

The Department has made major in-roads in marketing and promoting its resources. Because of a number of administrative improvements, the Department is able to conduct better business. This is in part due to the development of a database to track our customers' purchases, the development of a mailout database, and using Quickbooks to print professional invoices. The Department has increased our catalogue mailouts to Canadian schools and libraries and to our long-term customers. Our full colour catalogue is our most successful marketing device. This year the Curriculum and Publishing Department also obtained a permit number for doing bulk mailouts through Canada Post. Since that time, we have witnessed a significant increase in sales as a result of the bulk mailout. (Refer to our Sales Chart for 1985-2000)

This year we launched our new e-commerce Website at www.gdins.org/ecom, which allows customers to place orders through the Internet. Other improvements to our Website include author profiles, product highlights, and audio/video clips. It is also a certified secure site. Our other marketing success is the community display program, which keeps us connected with the needs of the Métis people. This year we have attended more community events and conferences than ever before. The Department obtained a new display and pamphlets, which have been well received.

The Department is largely dependent on obtaining outside funds for the development of our new Métis-specific resources and for the majority of our marketing activities. As a result, we have spent a large portion of time writing grant proposals and filling out applications. This time was well spent as we received some major grant funds for our publishing program.

Our grant application to Canada Council for the Arts - First Peoples Publishing Infrastructure Grant was successful. We received \$30,000 from this grant to improve our marketing strategies and office technology. This year we also applied to the Department of Canadian Heritage's Western Cultural Fund (WCF) for promotion and marketing assistance. We received \$11,500 for publishing support for web-page marketing, purchasing a display, and improving our catalogue design and printing. We also received \$7,000 for book production, marketing and publishing technology support from a grant through the Saskatchewan Publishers Group (SPG).

The Department continues to be actively involved in the following committees and professional organizations: the SPG, the Saskatchewan Organization of Heritage Languages, and the Saskatchewan Education Aboriginal Peoples Advisory Committee (AEPAC).

This fiscal year has seen a great deal of growth for the Department and its staff. New resources have been developed, a significant amount of funds have been raised, new partnerships have been built, and our resources continue to be well received by the community. The Department hopes to build upon these successes in the next fiscal year by continuing our evolution as a full-fledged publisher of Métis-specific literature, and as a distributor for Métis writers, musicians and artists.

Strengthening our publishing program was our main goal in this fiscal year, and it will continue to be so in the near future as we contemplate changing our Department's name, developing new resources, and building new partnerships. This year was our most successful year to date, in terms of sales, fundraising and resource development. We hope to build upon and improve these successes in the next fiscal year by focusing on community-based projects, and raising funds from more diverse sources.

Library and Information Services

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Library functions within the mandate of the Institute to support the information and research needs of GDI and Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) programs. The Library has three branches located in Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert. Its unique collection focuses on Métis history and culture and on issues of concern to Métis and First Nations communities. The library actively seeks to partner with all other library and information services to provide free and unrestricted access to information.

The Saskatoon branch

The Saskatoon branch is slated for extra attention this year. Its excellent collection requires a thorough weeding to make it more relevant to the SUNTEP program. Automation has not yet begun at this branch.

Automation

Through its membership in the Regina Library Information Network (RegLIN), the Library enjoys low-cost access to *Voyager*, a powerful library management software package. The Regina and Prince Albert branches have been automated for over one year. This has enabled staff to achieve greater efficiency in services. For example, catalogue records are steadily being brought up to international standard. The acquisitions module will be implemented this year making it possible to combine purchasing and cataloguing in one smooth process.

The Library's challenges

Now, more than ever, all libraries must function as part of a network. Ensuring client access to a wide variety of information sources has become a more important objective than acquiring great numbers of print volumes. Since cost of access is high, collaboration and cost-sharing have become fundamental to library operation. In addition to its membership in RegLIN, the GDI Library serves as a member of the province-wide Database Licensing Project, thereby playing an active part in bringing such resources as the *Infotrac* databases to all Saskatchewan residents. Over the next fiscal year, the GDI Library will work towards meeting these challenges:

- 1 Security of materials could be improved with the addition of security gates at each site. Security gates are costly and will require considerable renovation.
- 2 An inventory is needed to bring the catalogue records in line with the holdings. Library staff plan to carry out the inventory with automated methods in the near future.

- 3 Remote programs, including DTI programs, need improved access to information services. Consultation with the programs and cooperation with other libraries can ensure that access.

GDI has always shared its library resources with the community outside GDI/DTI. The Library is in the process of developing procedures and policies that will allow fair sharing without compromising the needs of GDI/DTI students and staff. Participation in the very effective Saskatchewan Provincial Interlibrary Loan Program could provide a means to accomplish this.

The Library's role in GDI/DTI

Over the previous year, the GDI Library staff has worked with GDI's Executive Director to draft library policies, which would be included within a framework of Institute policies. The policies will lay the groundwork for developing library programs to meet the information needs of clients and for enabling the Library to become a vital part of the educational program.

Cooperative program planning for information literacy has been a goal of the GDI Library for many years. Some instructional planning between teaching staff and the Library has been carried out. The results are just beginning to show. The Library seeks to expand this process, which is crucial to resource-based learning.

Conclusion

The GDI Library builds on its strengths: an excellent Métis collection and a service that provides a high degree of individual attention for clients. The Library also seeks to give its clients the information edge as we move confidently into the Information Age. Sharing cost of access with other libraries and sharing our collection with the outside community are a good means for reaching our goals.

Gabriel Dumont Institute 1999 Programming

1. Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP)

SUNTEP Prince Albert

The year 2000 marks the 20th anniversary of SUNTEP’s existence. SUNTEP Prince Albert opened its doors in 1981, a year after the Regina and Saskatoon Centres. During the past two decades, SUNTEP has graduated over 500 Metis and First Nations teachers, 240 of whom have graduated from SUNTEP Prince Albert.

SUNTEP Prince Albert has evolved into a dynamic, creative Aboriginal teacher-training program. This is due in large part to the commitment and dedication of the faculty and support staff at SUNTEP Prince Albert. In the 1999 - 2000 fiscal year, SUNTEP has a staff complement of eight including one clerk-steno, one program coordinator, one part-time Elder, and five faculty members. We are proud of the fact that two of our faculty are previous graduates who have since gained valuable teaching experience before enrolling in graduate studies.

The SUNTEP Staff for 1999 - 2000 was as follows:

Mike Relland	Coordinator
Vicki Wilson	Elder
Elaine Sukava	Faculty
Murdine McCreath	Faculty
Sandy Sherwin-Shields	Faculty
Liza Brown	Faculty
Bente Huntley	Faculty
Donna Biggins	Clerk Steno

STUDENT UPDATE

As of the end of April, we have a total enrollment of 80 students. In the four years of the program, students are enrolled as follows:

		Male	Female	Métis	Treaty
Year One	25	9	16	15	10
Year Two	14	1	13	7	7
Year Three	21	3	18	12	9
Year Four	20	3	17	16	4
TOTALS	80	16	64	50	30

*Note: We also have one hearing impaired student and one learning disabled student. SUNTEP is also located in a wheel chair accessible building.

SUNTEP Graduation

This year's graduation was held on Friday, May 21 at the Marlboro Inn. At this year's festivities, 17 graduates were honoured. The function was well attended with over 275 people in attendance.

SUNTEP GRADUATES 1999

Shona Bruce	Prince Albert
Suzette Carriere	Cross Lake, Manitoba
Juness Felix	Sturgeon Lake
Kimberly Cody	Prince Albert
Margaret John	Patunak,
Angela Johns	Lloydminster, SK
Dorothy Johnstone	Mont Nebo
Shelley Linfitt	Prince Albert
Karen Moreau	Marcelin, SK
Scarlet Nicolas	Prince Albert
Bonnie Novotny	Prince Albert
Dorothy Olson	Fond du Lac
Norma Ross	Montreal Lake
Darcy St.Amand	Prince Albert
Leigh-Anne Subchyshyn	Prince Albert
Kimberly Welden	Prince Albert
Sharon Wood	Prince Albert

Note: All of the graduates found educational-related employment within the province of Saskatchewan

1999 - 2000 Program Highlights

There were a number of other events that served as highlights to 1999. They were events such as:

Intake interviews for the fall of 1999 were conducted during the last week of May 1999. As a result of these interviews, SUNTEP Prince Albert accepted thirty-two first year students for the fall term. Seventeen students are Métis, thirteen of these students are from PAGC and two students are from independent bands.

The fall semester began in earnest on September 2, when the first year students arrived for orientation. Orientation was followed by our annual fall cultural camp, which was held on September 8, 9 and 10 at Camp Kinasao. We had several Elders attend this year's camp including Rose Umperville (Métis), Danny Musqua

(Saulteaux), Roseanne Adams (Dene), Howard Walker (Cree) and Jacob Felix (Cree). Numerous cultural activities were made available to the students from birch bark biting to beading and attending a sweatlodge. Overall, this year's camp was a great success. Classes began on Monday, September 13, 1999. By the end of September, classes were well under way and everything was running smoothly.

On September 15, first year students made their annual trip to Batoche as part of their orientation into the SUNTEP Program.

Survivor's Banquet was held on November 15th. Karon Shmon, Rita Bouvier and 150 friends and family attended this year's banquet. This year we honoured 15 Survivors in an evening full of laughter and entertainment.

In January, we had a number of guests at the SUNTEP Centre. Elder Danny Musqua was in the Centre January 10th and 11th to discuss traditional First Nations Philosophy. On January 18th Collette Robertson was at the Centre to give a presentation to the fourth year students regarding Saskatchewan Education's direction for Indian and Métis education.

SUNTEP Theatre

SUNTEP Theatre, under the direction of Lon Borgerson, performed on May 18th at the Saskatoon Tribal Council's Street Symposium. The play, which honours children and focuses on the stories and experiences of our students and their children, was titled "The Smile on Your Face".

On Thursday, February 24, SUNTEP Theatre performed at the WESTCast Conference in Regina. The play, "Wheel of Justice" was well received and made a positive statement for the SUNTEP Program. In all, nine students participated in the play and attended the three days of the conference. SUNTEP Theatre also performed two other local performances of the production.

Conferences and Workshops

On October 20th the first and third year students conducted Cultural Arts workshops at Hobbart Elementary School in Duck Lake. The workshops were presented to students between grades one to seven.

In August, Elder Vicki Wilson, two staff and 18 students attended the World Indigenous People's Conference in Hilo, Hawaii.

Sandy Sherwin-Shields and Elaine Sukava attended a Conference on racism in New York City. They were in New York from October 13 to 19th. They found the conference to be an illuminating experience.

Employment Opportunities

Hiring agencies have been more aggressively recruiting our graduates this year. Several jurisdictions approached our centre, giving presentations or interviewing our students. Interested parties included Churchill School, Northern Lights School Division, Saskatchewan Rivers School Division and Angus Merasty School.

SUNTEP Prince Albert recently hired Liza Brown, a former SUNTEP graduate, who is currently enrolled in Graduate Studies at the University of Saskatchewan. Liza began working with the Institute on August 23, 1999 and is primarily responsible for teaching Communications 99. Liza has worked out extremely well, and we feel very fortunate to have her on board.

Program Development

Alan Ryan and Trevor Gamble from the University of Saskatchewan met with SUNTEP Prince Albert staff on October 28th regarding the future direction of SUNTEP Programming and University/TEP relations. Overall, it was an excellent meeting and strides were made in developing autonomy and good relations.

On November 3, Sandy Sherwin-Shields and Mike Relland made a presentation to the Saskatchewan Rivers Principals' Group. The presentation was to make local schools more aware of the SUNTEP Program and to thank them for their participation over the years.

On January 28th, representatives from all of the TEP programs associated with the University of Saskatchewan met with the Dean, the Assistant Dean, the Associate Deans and with Sam Robinson from the University of Saskatchewan regarding the direction of the TEP's.

A proposal regarding SUNTEP Prince Albert taking responsibility for Internship supervision has been presented to the University of Saskatchewan. The proposal has met with a positive response from the college and we look forward to implementing it as a three-year pilot project in the fall of 2000. Under the terms of the pilot project a college supervisor will deliver the internship workshops at SUNTEP Prince Albert and interns and cooperating teachers will be encouraged to attend SUNTEP sponsored cultural events. To date, the proposal has met with a positive response from all parties involved including the College of Education, Saskatchewan Education (who will be picking up the additional costs associated with the project), Saskatchewan Rivers School Division, and the Prince Albert Roman Catholic School Division.

SUNTEP, Regina Centre

The 1999-2000 year begins our third year on campus. We have settled in nicely, with students taking advantage of on-campus offerings such as access to the computer lab and involvement in intra-mural sports. Space and time-tabling continue to be issues. SUNTEP classes must be scheduled months in advance and meeting space must also be booked, with space at the University of Regina being at a premium. We still have no definite word when additional space will be available on campus for SUNTEP.

Student Update

	Metis	First Nations	Total
Students enrolled in Year 1	16	4	20
Students withdrawn in Year 1	1	1	2
Students enrolled in Year 2	14	3	17
Students withdrawn in Year 2	2	1	3
Students enrolled in Year 3	7	4	11
Students withdrawn in Year 3	1	0	1
Students enrolled in Year 4	9	0	9
Students withdrawn in Year 4	0	0	0
Total students enrolled	46	11	57
Total students withdrawn	4	2	6

1999 Graduates

In 1999, seven students received their Bachelor of Education Degree, including one student who was a member of the first class of students of 1980 and who had taught for a number of years with a Standard A teaching certificate. All were employed, either in casual, part-time, or full-time positions:

Ralph Klyne	La Loche
Tiffany Howat	Regina Public Schools
Danelle Reiss	Balcarras
Ada M. Bojarski	Early Learning Centre, Regina
Michelle L. Lavallee	La Ronge Indian Band
Mark R. Pelletier	Regina Public Schools
Lianne Bird	Peepeekisis

The SUNTEP Regina Staff for 1999 was as follows:

Joanne Pelletier	Program Coordinator
Donna Scarfe	Faculty
Karen Arnason	Faculty
Wilfred Burton	Faculty
Treena DeCarlo	Clerk-Steno

Regina centre staff attended the All-GDI staff meeting held in Christopher Lake. New employees enjoyed the opportunity to meet and interact with the rest of the GDI staff.

SUNTEP students and faculty presented a Métis dance workshop/presentation at Westcast 2000 held February 23, 2000 at the University of Regina.

Centre Activities

Staff and students held luncheon centre meetings once a month during the fall and winter semester. These meetings are more important since the move on campus. They serve as a means for students and staff to bring forth issues and concerns and for students to become acquainted with their fellow students in other years.

Students were also very busy: besides regular class activities, they also took part in numerous workshops including computer modules, Faculty of Education outdoor education module (OCRE), AWASIS, intra-mural sports and other curricular activities.

First and second year students enrolled in the spring session of Indian Studies 221 made a field trip to Winnipeg where they conducted genealogical research and visited various historical sites.

SUNTEP held an open house March 29 after mailing out invitations to high schools and ABE programs in the southern part of the province.

The program experienced a very sad incident this past year. Long time instructor, supporter and friend, Victor Zuk, passed away. Victor taught classes for SUNTEP since the very beginning of the Regina program and will be missed by faculty and students.

Student Achievements

- 4 Marquita Neufeld: recipient of the David Amyotte Scholarship presented to fourth year student on behalf of the Amyotte family.

- 5 Marquita Neufeld and Kara Howat: recipients of the Ethel May Rainville-Lavallee Memorial award made on her behalf by her daughters, Joy Amundson and Michelle Lavallee.
- 6 Lianne Bird: recipient of the "Sharing the Warmth" award, a beautiful Star Blanket, made on behalf of SaskEngery.
- 7 Russell Fayant: recipient of the Helen Marquerite Fuller Prize for pre-internship.
- 8 Riva Jo Farrell Racette: recipient of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation Scholarship awarded annually for highest grade-point average.

Program Development

SUNTEP is currently in the process of reordering the sequence of classes offered to better meet the changing needs of the student body and to take into consideration the changing needs of SUNTEP students. This spring/summer is the last time we will be offering SUNTEP sections of classes.

SUNTEP offered its own sections of the Multicultural Education Foundations class and Teaching English as a Second Language in the winter 2000 semester.

SUNTEP Saskatoon/ Gabriel Dumont College (GDC)

The SUNTEP Regina Staff for 1999 was as follows:

Sheila Pocha	Coordinator
Anne Boulton	Faculty
Ruth Daniels	Clerk Steno
Ken Kutz	Faculty
Linda Lysyk	Faculty

Student Update

SUNTEP	81 STUDENTS	*Enrolled in 1999/2000
GDC	9 STUDENTS	
YEAR ONE:	23	
YEAR TWO:	23	
YEAR THREE:	15	
YEAR FOUR:	19	

Student Teaching

The first year students eagerly studied various aspects of becoming a teacher in their very first Education class with Anne Boulton. The students learned about the mechanics of teaching and the various needs of children through theory and practice. The students were able to understand the mechanics of drafting up mini lessons for primary, middle years and adult students and experienced their lessons in action in various classrooms throughout the city.

The first and second year SUNTEP students are frequently invited to visit many schools to give workshops or to do storytelling. In fact, the demand greatly exceeds the time available so that only those teachers who demonstrate insight and a willingness to “build on” the experiences provided by our students have their requests met. Being in “real-life” classrooms is enormously satisfying to the students who otherwise would have to role-play the different age groups themselves while their peers instructed “micro-lessons”. Similarly, the Radius students visited the Centre bi-monthly to engage in lessons related to all areas of the curriculum. This professional development opportunity presented a challenge for our students to which they readily responded.

The students also had the opportunity to teach lessons within the cultural arts and drama at various schools and learning centres within the city and outside of the city. They visited Caswell, Westmount and St. Volodymyr schools as well as Pelican Narrows Elementary School in northern Saskatchewan. They visited a Hutterite Colony where they learned to appreciate another culture and lifestyle. They also visited and prepared lessons for teaching at correctional institutions such as the Saskatoon Correctional Centre and a farm school outside of the city. The students also had the opportunity to teach adults in an Adult Basic Education program created by the Institute and the Dumont Technical Institute. All of these visits have prepared them well for a diverse understanding of education.

Interns/Graduates

We had 15 interns who successfully completed their Fall Internship, and therefore, 15 graduates. It is important to note that 6 of these graduates graduated from the College of Education and SUNTEP with Distinction. SUNTEP has embarked on an aggressive job-search campaign on behalf of our graduates. Meetings were held with the Saskatoon Public and Roman Catholic School divisions, and representatives from those boards, as well as the Northern Lights and Meadow Lake divisions, were invited to meet with our graduates. Intensive follow-up with school boards where our graduates apply is intended, not only to gain employment for our graduates, but also to foster continuing awareness of SUNTEP and to remind employers of their education equity responsibilities. Eight of these students have accepted teaching positions for the fall of 2000 with the Northern Lights School Division, the Saskatoon Roman Catholic Division, the Saskatoon Public Division or in Band schools. One of

these students was nominated for the Bates Award of Teaching Excellence. The students celebrated their graduation at the Saskatoon Inn on May 13th. The 15 graduates presented their families, friends, teachers and faculty with a special video presentation of their childhood and their times together as students at SUNTEP. The presentation was very well done. We are very proud of our graduates because they have worked hard to achieve their goals and have been working just as hard in finding employment.

This year's graduates are:

Janine Akerman	Laurel Amiotte
Joseph Belhumeur	Priscilla Gonzalez
Lance Hall	Brennan Janvier
Michelle Lavallee	Stacey McDougall
Sean Nelson	Dylan Pelletier
Nicole Piche	David Pilon
Robert Ranger	Christopher Roy
Sherry Sayers	

Centre Activities

Orientation- September 1999: All new students, accompanied by the faculty and several upper year volunteers, enjoyed an inspirational visit to Batoche. This allowed students to be reminded of their cultural roots and the historical underpinnings of the program they are now entering. The students were also invited to our centre to meet all the staff and be welcomed by Clem Chartier, President of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan and Karon Shmon, Executive Director of Gabriel Dumont Institute. The students were presented with a slide show and overhead productions of activities here at SUNTEP/GDC. The presentation included information of what is expected by them as students and professional student teachers. The students were asked to pay a \$5.00 fee to help cover the costs of a new student handbook, which was presented to them during the orientation. This handbook informs students of their rights as students, the policies and procedures of our programs and the Institute, as well as snapshots of events around the centre and a university calendar. An examination of university procedures and protocol was also presented.

Fall Family Barbeque: Spouses, significant others and many children met to mingle and munch hamburgers cooked by SUNTEP faculty and the student association. This was an excellent opportunity for families to visit and for all four years of SUNTEP students to meet each other in an informal setting.

Fine Arts: GDC and SUNTEP students were introduced to the Saskatoon Symphony in concert at the Centennial Auditorium in Saskatoon as part of their introductory course in the Music strand of the Fine Arts course. The students also had the wonderful opportunity of studying different dance and Art media within the Dance and Art strands.

During the Drama strand, Andrea Menard, a former student cooperatively taught this section with one of the department's faculty members, Margaret Kyle. The teamwork was essential and it really benefited our students, as Andrea Menard is an exceptional actress, who brought a Métis perspective to the class. The students enjoyed aspects of ballet dance as they attended a ballet in Saskatoon called *Cinderella*. They had the opportunity to learn the Red River Jig while viewing videos during class. Students learned finger weaving from our Executive Director, Karon Shmon during their Art class. Many students grasped this skill quickly and made their own Métis sashes. The students also visited the Mendel Art Gallery's exhibit of various Inuit and Saskatchewan Aboriginal art works. These extra curricular opportunities greatly enhanced their appreciation of the course content. For many, these visits were "first time" events.

Christmas Festivities: The children's party brought together all four years of SUNTEP and GDC students and provided fun, games, food and gifts for the children. Santa Claus visited the centre and the excited children each received an attractively wrapped gift, thanks in large part to the efforts of the first year students.

Hudson's Bay Company Archives/Provincial Archives of Manitoba: The Saskatoon Center prides itself on offering a unique opportunity to all its second year Native Studies students to examine primary sources at various archival holdings in Winnipeg. This five-day visit is paid for from funds raised through bingoes and costs approximately \$500.00 per student. The research tasks at the archives are not only valuable and enhancing part of the Native Studies course, but the genealogical data available is intensely rewarding to the students as they trace their own family history for several generations. The fact that the <<*Festival du voyageur*>> occurs at the same time as this visit only adds further enjoyment for the students.

New Mexico Visit: This trip is funded by student fund raising events. In total, twenty-four people flew to Albuquerque, New Mexico this May for a cross-cultural visit. Our Executive Director, Karon Shmon, Anne Boulton and the Coordinator, Sheila Pocha, provided supervision for these students as they organized gatherings and touring of local Art galleries, university settings, and reservation visits of the Pueblo nations. Highlights of the trip include: The San Juan Pueblo Reserve where we taught students from grades K-8 the parfleche bag and other activities. We also visited a public school in the city of Albuquerque called Painted Sky. There, the students were able to demonstrate legends and "Pourquoi" stories to the Navajo children. The Navajo children danced their traditional dances for us and then served us fried bread and Navajo bean style meat.

Another highlight was our excursion to Farmington, Colorado where we visited the National Historic Park called Mesa Verde. The ancient ruins of the Pueblo nations were strikingly beautiful. We were able to follow a guided tour throughout this park and viewed Cliff Palace.

We also watched traditional dances performed by Pueblo children at the Cultural Center and looked throughout their stores and museum at the beautiful works of art and pottery. The students were amazed at the sights and at the dancers. We also were able to visit Santa Fe and all of their galleries. We visited the Indian Institute of American Indian Art and witnessed a truly amazing graduate study of colonialism and how the Indian people feel about this imposition. It was outstanding!

AWASIS Conference: The first year students, Linda Lysyk and Anne Boulton coordinated a cultural activity to present to AWASIS delegates. The activity demonstrated the history of the parfleche bag as understood by traditional Aboriginal peoples of North America. Later all the participants were shown how to make their own parfleche bag out of hide and acrylic paints. The students and staff did a very fine job of presenting this workshop.

Aboriginal Teacher Associate Certificate (Meadow Lake)

The Aboriginal Teacher Associate Certificate (ATAC) Program in Meadow Lake is a two-year certificate program accredited through the College of Education at the University of Saskatchewan. The ATAC program is a pilot program that was designed in a manner which would allow graduates to continue their studies in a degree program or to seek employment as a teacher associates upon completion of the certificate.

The ATAC Staff for the 1999 fiscal year were:

Judy Okanee	Program Coordinator
Vivian Pritchett	Clerk-Steno
Sandy Danchuk	Tutor

Centre Update

The ATAC program had an enrollment of 19 students in 1999 – 2000. Of these students, 16 were involved in full-time studies while 3 were taking classes on a part-time basis. Currently, it appears that fifteen students will graduate from the program when the course is completed in June, 2000.

Overall, the ATAC pilot project has been a great success. We have been very impressed by the quality of students that have emerged from the Meadow Lake community. We have also been struck by the lack of Aboriginal teachers and para-professionals in the local community. Because of this strong need, it is our hope that this pilot program will be the first of many to be delivered throughout Saskatchewan.



Dumont Technical Institute (DTI)

It gives me great pleasure to provide this update for the Gabriel Dumont Institute Annual Report.

The mandate of DTI is to serve the upgrading and technical training needs of the Métis of Saskatchewan.

During the 1999/2000 academic year, DTI delivered twenty training programs to Saskatchewan's Métis. There were one hundred and eighty eight graduates from a wide variety of skills and basic education courses.

Over the past year, DTI continued to deliver community based skills and basic education courses throughout the province. In this delivery, a wide array of partnerships with Métis communities and mainstream institutions were established. The partnerships have added resources, expertise and support to our programs. Effective partnerships will continue to assist in the development of the Institute over coming years.

Thank You To Our 1999 - 2000 Partners

- Eastern Assiniboine Training & Emp. ERIIA - CanSask Centres
- Methy Pathways - Missouri Coteau Development Corp. - Bridging to Employment
- Metis Employment & Training Centre - Southeastern Metis Dev. Corp.
- Northcote Metis Development - Post Secondary Education and Skills Training
- Northwest Regional College - Parkland Regional College
- Northlands Regional College - Cumberland Regional College - SIAST
- Metis Nation of Saskatchewan - Ile-a-la Crosse School Partnership - METSI

In closing, a breakdown of the courses offered over the last year has been provided on the following page.

Sincerely,

Geordy McCaffrey, Principal



Program Name	Location	Number of Students	Graduates
Computer Support Specialist	Yorkton	21	13
Licensed Practical Nurse	Prince Albert	16	15
Certificate in Aboriginal Employment Development (CAED)	Saskatoon	53	6
Computer Support Specialist	Prince Albert	16	13
ABE 5-10	Regina	17	5
ABE 5-10	Saskatoon	20	9
ABE 5-10	Prince Albert	21	12
GED	Prince Albert	22	20
ABE 5-10	LaLoche	15	2
ABE 5-10	Ile-a-la Crosse	15	6
ABE 5-10	Cumberland House	7	7
ABE 5-10	Fort Qu'Appelle	12	11
ABE 5-10	Michelle Village	20	4
GED	Regina	22	20
Basic Carpentry	Batoche	14	11
Employment Readiness	Yorkton	14	4
Tourism Training	Yorkton	12	12
Basic Carpentry	North Battleford	15	11
ASE 12	Yorkton	18	3
ASE 12	Esterhazy	12	4

Scholarship Foundation

The Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation was established to administer the Institute's scholarship funds.

Napoleon LaFontaine Development Scholarships

The Napoleon LaFontaine Development Scholarship Program was established to encourage Saskatchewan's Métis to pursue full-time education and training in fields of academic studies that lead to the development of Métis people.

Scholarship Trustees and Selection Committee

The Trustee and Selection Committee Board is comprised of five members. Three members are selected from within the Institute while two of the members are external appointees from the Métis community. The Trustees and Selection Committee members are:

Internal: Murray Hamilton – Chairperson
Earl Cook – Vice-Chair
Karon Shmon – Secretary

External: Max Morin
Shirley Ross

Entrance Scholarships

Entrance Scholarships are available to post-secondary students who are enrolled in a diploma or certificate program only and who meet the eligibility criteria. Students who have not completed high school may apply for the scholarship if they have fulfilled all entrance requirements of the institution where they will be studying.

Undergraduate Scholarships

Applicants for the undergraduate scholarships must have completed a minimum of one academic year of full-time studies and have achieved at least a 'B' average during the most recent academic year in which they were enrolled.

Graduate Scholarships

Applicants for the Graduate Scholarships may be engaged in any graduate degree program at the Masters or Doctorate level or be accepted into a Masters or Doctorate degree program at a recognized Canadian university. Applicants for the Graduate Scholarship must be engaged in a major research project or thesis, which relates to the development of Métis people.

Loan Remission Scholarships

Applicants for the Loan Remission Scholarships must apply for the award within two months of graduation. Applicants must have an outstanding loan balance through the Canada Student Loan Program and/or the Saskatchewan Student Loan Program after

the receipt of any other loan remission awards available to them through the governments of Canada and Saskatchewan.

Gabriel Dumont Graduation Scholarship

To receive the Graduation Scholarships, students must have completed a diploma, certificate or degree program at the Gabriel Dumont Institute that required a minimum of eight months of full-time study with a minimum 'B' average in the most recent academic year of studies.

Recipients of the Graduation Scholarship will be nominated by the staff of the Gabriel Dumont Institute on the basis of academic achievement, contribution to student body of the Institute and commitment of Métis people.

The value of the Graduation Scholarship shall not exceed \$200 for each year of full-time studies to a maximum of \$1000 for any one recipient.

Special Scholarships

Special Scholarships may be considered when funds designated for other scholarships are not fully utilized or when unanticipated revenues are available.

Recipients of Special Scholarships may not be required to submit an application.

Scholarship Recipients

The following received Napoleon LaFontaine Development Scholarships in 1999:

1999 Scholarship Recipients

Entrance Scholarships

Jarret Bray
Walter Falcon
Dwayne St.Dennis
Jody Volk

Amelia Bruce
Ryan Lesperence
Merlene Toth

Undergraduate Scholarships

Brad Calihoo
Jonathon Galloway
Dea Riel
Roger Williams
John Dorion
Amanda Harvey
Christopher White

Daryn Fisher
Tanya Ryzak
William Roger
Tracy Bray
Alain Fafard
Graham Inkster
Karen Woodward

Graduate Scholarships

Robert Shmon

Special Scholarships

Trisha Turk
Joseph Pelletier

Alisa Banin
Dana Wolkosky

Graduation Scholarships

Blanche Gehriger

Agnes Blue

Loan Remission

Tammy Lavallee
Teresa Brenner

Burlen Murray
Anita Kai

Gabriel Dumont Institute Staff: 1999

The following staff list is of those employed with the Institute between April 1, 1999 and March 31, 2000. It includes regular staff, part-time and term positions, but does not include sessional lecturers.

GDI ADMINISTRATION

Karon Shmon, Executive Director (Saskatoon)
Calvin Racette, Assistant Executive Director (Regina)

PROGRAM	Location	Staff
Finance & Operations	Regina	Maureen Bandas, Director Barb Kozak, Accounting/Clerk Aaron Desjarlais, Accounting/Clerk Sheryl Durocher, Accounting/Clerk Joan Mantee
	Prince Albert	Stan Kolosa, Maintenance Arnold Grimard, Maintenance Laurie Biggins, Maintenance
Library Services	Regina	Marilyn Belhumeur, Librarian Pat Kelly, Library Technician
	Prince Albert	Bette Desjarlais Sharon Wood Janice DePeel, Student Assistant
Curriculum Department	Saskatoon	Leah Dorion, Program Coordinator Darren Préfontaine, Curriculum Developer
GDI Sub-Office	Saskatoon	Lorraine Amiotte, Administrative Coordinator Blanche Gehriger, Clerk-Steno
SUNTEP Regina	Regina	Joanne Pelletier, Program Coordinator Donna Scarfe, Faculty Karen Arnason, Faculty Wilfred Burton, Faculty Treena Racette, Clerk-Steno
SUNTEP Saskatoon	Saskatoon	Sheila Pocha, Program Coordinator Anne Boulton, Faculty Ken Kutz, Faculty Linda Lysyk, Faculty Ruth Daniels, Clerk-Steno
SUNTEP Prince Albert	Prince Albert	Michael Relland, Program Coordinator Murdine McCreath, Faculty Sandy Sherwin-Shields, Faculty Elaine Sukava, Faculty Bente Huntley, Faculty Liza Brown, Faculty Donna Biggins, Clerk-Steno

Aboriginal Teacher Meadow Lake Judy Okanee, Program Coordinator
 Associate Certificate Vivian Pritchett, Clerk-Steno
 Sandy Danchuk, Tutor

DTI Administrative Staff

Geordy McCaffrey, Principal
 Lisa Wilson, Assistant Principal

Diana Barr, Program Coordinator
 Brent Vandale, Program Coordinator
 Ken Kowalko Admin. Coordinator

Cindy Hansen, Program Coordinator
 Tavia Inkster Admin. Coordinator
 Marlene Laliberte Admin. Coordinator

Dumont Technical Institute Programs

PROGRAM	Location	Staff	Start/End Date
Regina ABE 5-10	Regina	Marj Obleman Councilor Nicole Amiotte, Instructor Debbie Duthie, Instructor	August 30/99 June 30/ 00
Saskatoon ABE	Saskatoon	Greg Stark, Instructor Brian Guiboche	August 30/99 June30/ 00
St. George's Hill ABE 5-10	St. George's	Barry Taylor	Sept 99 June30/ 00
LaLoche ABE 5-10	LaLoche	Cecile O'Neil, Instructor Roger Morin, Instructor Cecile Jolibois, custodian	August 30, 1999 June30 /00
ASE	Esterhazy	Natalie Langill, Instructor	August 30/99 June 30/00
ASE	Yorkton	Karen Bradbury, Instructor	August 30/99 June30 /00
ABE 5-10	Fort Qu'Appelle		Sam Nie Sept/ 99 June30/ 00
ABE	Prince Albert	Elizabeth Mojocha, Instructor Rene Caisse, Instructor	Aug 30 /99 June30 /00
Licensed Practical Nursing	Prince Albert	Marilyn Beaucamp Instructor	June/99 Sept29 /00
Computer Support Specialist	Yorkton	Andy Balberda, Instructor	Sept/99 August /00
Basic Carpentry	Batoche	Tony Ostafie	April/ 00 July21/ 00
CAED Employment Development	N. & S. Sask.	Diana Barr	Sept/ 99 March/ 01
Urban Youth Lifeskills	Saskatoon	Monell Marden Elton McKay	Feb/99 Oct/99

Pre-Employment North Battleford Carpentry		Tony Ostophie Leo Garelle	Feb/00-April/00
Computer Support Spec	Prince Albert	Brent Gerlach Grant McMillan	
GED	Regina	Sheila Starr	
		Marj Obleman Jon Baxter	Sept/99 April/00
Job Skills	Yorkton	Andy Balberda	Jan/00 -Feb/00

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS DIVISION

1999/00 ANNUAL REPORT

It has been a challenging year for the Finance and Operations Division. The division staff as of March 31, 2000 are Custodians: Stan Kolosa, Lori Biggins (on leave), and Arnold Grimard; Accounting Clerks: Barb Kozack, Sheryl Durocher, Aaron Desjarlais; and Program Director: Maureen Bandas. We said a sad good-bye to long-term employee Joan Mantee who pursued a job opportunity with another educational institution.

The Gabriel Dumont Institute Finance and Operations Division is located in Regina and Prince Albert. The Regina location provides the accounting, payroll, and human resources to the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) network that is spread Saskatchewan wide. The Prince Albert location provides maintenance and general upkeep for the Institute's building, which is occupied by GDI/DTI programs. This division derives its operating revenue by charging an administration fee for service to all Institute programs, projects and departments. The division administers many program and department budgets on an on-going basis. On average, there would be, at any given time, between 25-40 programs.

The purpose of the Finance and Operations Division is to carry out financial planning, personnel services and administrative support services. The mission of this division is to provide (1) administrative and financial direction, support and accountability to GDI and its subsidiaries; and (2) efficient delivery and management of administrative and personnel services.

The objectives of the division are (1) financial planning/reporting; (2) personnel services; and (3) administrative support services. These are achieved through a centralized accounting/administration system. The goals and objectives of the division are as follows:

a) Financial Planning

- 8 Develop comprehensive financial plans for the Institute's operations and programs.
- 8 Provide a financial accounting and reporting system that will assist in evaluating activities and maintaining the credibility of the Institute.
- 8 Ensure those appropriate policies, procedures and internal controls are in place to safeguard assets, to manage cash flow, to comply with contractual arrangements, and to report the results of operations.
- 8 Provide planning, support, consultation services, and expertise on financial matters.
- 8 Establish appropriate purchasing policies and procedures to ensure that the Institute operates in the most cost-effective manner.

b) Personnel Services

- 8 Provide expertise in Human Resource Planning and to assist in allocation of personnel to best meet the needs of the Institute.
- 8 Facilitate Institute operations according to its personnel policy.
- 8 Maintain and distribute an Institute manual of current personnel policies.
- 8 Advise staff of personnel policy terms and interpretations.
- 8 Provide interpretation and advice, as necessary, on the terms of the Collective Agreement.

c) Administrative Support Services

- 8 Facilitate essential administrative processes in the areas of payroll, benefits, attendance, and other administrative tasks.
- 8 Conduct a periodic evaluation of the employee benefit package and manage the contractual arrangements.
- 8 Ensure that the financial and administrative reporting requirements outlined in various funding and program and course contractual arrangements are being met.
- 8 Participate in the negotiation of major funding contracts in order to assess the financial and administrative aspects of the contracts.
- 8 Assist in ensuring that the Institute has the appropriate space and equipment to adequately and efficiently carry out its activities.

The 1999/00 fiscal year was an ambitious year for the division. The division assisted in several initiatives of the Institute. More specifically, we assisted in the ongoing process and implementation of the results obtained in the Salary and Benefits Compensation Review and developed a Personnel Policy Manual.

The future plans of the Finance and Operations Division include the development of a GDI policy and procedures manual, performance appraisal form and supervisor manual and assist in an independent review of the financial and administrative support services provided to Institute programs and departments.

Treasurer's Report

On behalf of the Gabriel Dumont Institute Board of Governors, I am pleased to submit the audited financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2000.

The past year has been both challenging and rewarding. Due to good financial management, the Institute has registered a budget surplus for the 1999 – 2000 fiscal year and we can now safely state that we are currently on secure financial footing. With the worst of our financial obstacles behind us, we are now able to focus on our future growth and how we can best serve the Métis community of Saskatchewan. We can now look forward to expanding our infrastructure and purchasing our own buildings in Saskatoon and Regina. In addition to purchasing additional space, we are pleased to have made our final payment on the Prince Albert building as of November 2000.

This past fiscal year, while presenting a number of challenges, also presented its share of triumphs. In November of 1999 Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training approved wage parity for all Institute employees. This was a major breakthrough for the Institute and we congratulate Post-Secondary for their foresight and wisdom in committing the required funding on an ongoing basis.

Through prudent spending practices, we have ensured our immediate survival, but government funding agents need to realize that additional funding will be required for the Institute's core budget if we are to achieve our mandate and properly deliver programming to the Métis community in the future.

Sincerely,

Angela Smith
Treasurer, GDI Board of Governors