

Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies & Applied Research



An Overview

The Gabriel Dumont Institute is the educational arm of the Association of Metis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan (AMNSIS). Its mission is *to promote the renewal and development of Native culture through appropriate research activities, material development, collection and distribution of educational materials, and by the design, development and delivery of specific educational and cultural programs and services. Sufficient Metis and Non-Status Indian people will be trained in the required skills, commitment and confidence to make the goal of self-government a reality.*

This mission has been given to the Institute by the Metis and Non-Status Indian people of Saskatchewan. Beginning with the cultural conference of 1976 and continuing to the present, they have been collectively and consistently put forward as recommendations by the membership. These recommendations have in turn provided policy direction to the Board of the Gabriel Dumont Institute, and guidelines for Institute planning.

The Gabriel Dumont Institute has only been in operation for a few short years. During that time, it has had an impact on the educational situation of Metis and Non-Status Indian people in Saskatchewan, and has raised the level of awareness of the non-aboriginal public regarding the goals and aspirations of Aboriginal Peoples.

Educational programming is based upon three principles:

- all training and professional education must be fully accredited and recognized;
- all activities of the Institute, whether in the area of research, curriculum development, library service or in the provision of post-secondary education, must be of the highest quality;
- all of our activities are directed towards the self-determination of our people.

Governing Structure

The Gabriel Dumont Institute is incorporated under the Non-Profit Corporations Act of Saskatchewan, and is governed by a management board comprised of 23 members: 4 representatives from AMNSIS, 1 from each of the 11 AMNSIS areas, 2 representing Native Women, 1 from each university in the Province, 1 from each of the Federal and Provincial Governments, and 2 student representatives.

This board meets six times yearly to determine policy and to supervise the affairs of the Institute. A four-person Executive Committee is entrusted by the board to oversee policy implementation in the Institute, in conjunction with the Executive Director.

Central Programs of the Institute

Planning and Program Development

The Executive Director leads a team of program heads who design, develop and implement new programs and initiatives according to policy established by the Board.

Research

The Research program devotes much of its efforts towards the establishment of a new understanding of the role of Metis and Non-Status Indian peoples of the Province and of Canada, by conducting historical research and primary and secondary research into the present cultural, social, economic and political circumstances of Metis and Non-Status Indians in Saskatchewan.

Research support is provided to other units within the Institute, in particular projects concerned with the development of community/adult education and cultural programs for Metis and Non-Status Indian Peoples in Saskatchewan.

Library/Resource Network

Students, staff and faculty, the Native community, academics and the general public all have access to the library, which contains books, documents, magazines, tapes, rare books and archival materials. The collection specializes in all aspects of Native Studies.

Every STEP training and SUNTEP centre has a library resource centre, co-ordinated by the main library, for the use of its students and faculty.

Curriculum Development

The Curriculum Development Unit is responsible for the production and distribution of educational materials. These materials may include books, filmstrips, slide shows, study guides and other educational support materials. Curriculum is designed for use in the K-12 school system, and for the training and professional courses offered by the Institute. Lists of available materials are supplied by the Gabriel Dumont Institute upon request.

Metis Historical Archives

Future plans include the development of an archives. It will consist of copies of primary documents on the political, social and economic history of Indian and Metis people, and will include diaries, manuscripts, letters and religious records from archives across Canada, Britain and the U.S., from the Hudson's Bay Company records, the Canadian Government and the RCMP. It contains complete documentation of Metis Scrip given out in Western Canada.

Aboriginal Language Development

A comprehensive plan for aboriginal language enhancement is currently being developed.

Communications and Education Extension Services

The Communication and Education Extension Services Unit is responsible for the distribution and collection of information regarding the goals and mandate of the AMNSIS/Dumont Institute network. Information is made available to the general public and the Native community at large. The Education Extension workers do needs assessments, community profiles, classroom workshops and recruit for AMNSIS/Dumont programs.

Administration

To ensure the efficient operation of the organization, clear administrative policies and procedures must be followed. This is the responsibility of the administration program staff. They provide control over expenditures, and ensure a smooth financial operation. They provide effective administrative support to all programs of the Institute.

Professional/Training Programs

Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP)

The Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program is an off-campus program offered through the Gabriel Dumont Institute in cooperation with the Department of Education, the University of Saskatchewan and with the University of Regina.



SUNTEP Students in Regina.

The primary goals of the program are:

- i) "to ensure that people of Native ancestry are adequately represented in urban teaching positions" and
- ii) "to provide Native teachers who are more sensitive to the educational needs of Native students and who can be identified as positive role models for both Native and Non-Native students."

An additional goal stated in SUNTEP's contract is "to train and graduate students of Native ancestry as fully certified teachers." By early 1986, the program had graduated over 40 fully-qualified Metis and Non-Status Indian teachers, and had an enrollment total of 135 students in all four years of the program.

For more information contact:

SUNTEP Director
409 - 224 - 4th Avenue South
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7K 5M5
Phone: 934-4941

OR

SUNTEP Regina
121 Broadway Avenue East
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4N 0Z6
Phone: 522-5691

SUNTEP Saskatoon
Rm. 12, McLean Hall
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7N 0W0
Phone: 343-9595

SUNTEP Prince Albert
118 - 12th Street East
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan
S6V 1B6
Phone: 764-1797

Saskatchewan Training for Employment Program (STEP)

Many vacancies in the highly-skilled and highly-qualified occupations could be filled by Metis and Non-Status Indians, if they had the required skills. The goal of STEP is to ensure that as many of these vacancies as possible are filled by Saskatchewan Metis and Non-Status Indian people.

STEP programs are unique in that they offer classes in Native Studies and provide strong support services in counselling, tutoring and guidance. A supportive environment is fostered where students and faculty can work together and assist one another when difficulties arise.

Training is provided through centres located throughout Saskatchewan; programs are accredited and certified through universities and technical schools. Where possible, "competency-based" learning is utilized, so that students can be given credit for existing skills.

Courses change as job markets change.

For more information contact:

STEP Director
121 Broadway Avenue East
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4N 0Z6
(306) 522-5691 or
1-800-667-9851



Early Childhood Development Program, Buffalo Narrows.

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance is available to students from the Student Financial Services of Saskatchewan Advanced Education and Manpower, based on need and previous post-secondary education. Ask for details at the nearest Gabriel Dumont Institute training program, or directly from the Institute in Regina.



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(All of Saskatchewan, except Lloydminster)