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GDI Communicator

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Selection Committees Appointed for GDI Training & Employment

In January 2007 Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) officially launched its new Training & Employment entity. GDI Training & Employment (GDIT&E) has been on a path of rapid development ever since.

Employment offices have been established in ten Métis communities across the province. The program's objectives are to provide Métis people with the training and employment opportunities necessary to be fully competitive in the labour force.

GDIT&E transferred files from Canada-Saskatchewan Career and Employment Services in January and began providing new client services as of April 1st. Since then, GDIT&E has sponsored 130 students and has over 400 on its payroll.

Decisions about student sponsorships for training and education are made based on a number of factors including local labour market needs and alignment with GDIT&E work plans.

Following a nomination and selection process, three Selection Committees (North, Central, and South) were appointed by the GDI Board of Governors in June 2007. The role of each Selection Committee is to provide prioritized, systematic, open, transparent student sponsorship selection related to labour market needs that will result in measurable outcomes. Selection Committees operate on the principles of consensus, respect, team building, and professionalism. Names of Selection Committee members will appear in the next issue of the GDI Communicator.

Each Selection Committee is comprised of six voting members. A senior staff person of GDIT&E functions as the facilitator for the Selection Committee meetings, which allows consistency among and within Committees and also allows all members of the committee to vote. Furthermore, Selection Committees operate on blind judging of each application. This will

provide confidence in the system and ensures the integrity of the process, in that adjudication decisions are based on the merits of the application as it relates to labour market attachment, rather than on the individual identity of clients.

Resource people from the following organizations will be invited to attend Selection Committee meetings:

- 2 GDI staff members
- Regional College Rep
- HRSDC Rep
- Can-Sask Rep

The role of the resource people will be to provide information relating to labour market needs.

Specific programs and services offered by GDIT&E include career counselling, tuition support, training allowance support, wage subsidies, self-employment assistance, apprenticeship subsidies, and job referrals. Everyone benefits from a highly-trained and skilled Métis labour force.



Institute Embarks on Policy Consolidation Exercise



Photograph of a beaded hide bag
This item is part of the Gabriel
Dumont Institute Museum Collection.

Plans to issue a Call for Proposals for a GDI Policy and Procedures project are underway. In the near future the Institute will be engaging in a three phase project to develop its policies and procedures into a user-friendly accessible manual.

The main objective of the project is to produce a comprehensive policies and procedures manual that encompasses all aspects of governance and operational policies for the Institute, including, but not limited to Board Governance, Human Resources, Student Affairs and Services, Finance/Administration, and Programming. A further goal of the project is to present the Institute policies and procedures in a user-friendly format that is digitally and print available and that follows a standardized formatting scheme.

The project involves the following three broad tasks:

1. **Consolidate** existing policy, including:
 - Digitize information for website;
 - Standardize wording and format;
 - Purge contradictory or confusing information;
 - Develop a referencing system/directory for policy manual.
2. **Analyze** policy to identify gaps:
 - Suggest policy to fill gaps;
 - Research comparable organizations;
 - Advise Board of policy considerations.
3. **Maintenance** plan or system for policy storage:
 - Renewal plan for new policy and how it is made and shared;
 - Responsibility plan for a dedicated staff person to maintain, add, and share policy.

GDI has experienced rapid growth over the past year, adding a new incorporated entity, GDI Training & Employment, to its structure as well as expanding programs and services to include such items as a Health Scholarship program and Graduate Studies. The size and complexity of the Institute, with its many policy documents and manuals, exemplifies the need for policy consolidation and organization to take place.



Photograph of beadwork created by Laurie Smith of La Ronge, Saskatchewan. This item is part of the Gabriel Dumont Institute Museum Collection.

MN-S Election Results

The very recent Métis Nation-Saskatchewan election took place on June 27th. A new MN-S Executive has been announced as follows: Robert Doucette, President, Allan Morin, Vice President, Max J. Morin, Secretary (pending judicial recount), and Gabe Lafond, Treasurer (by acclamation). In addition, Area Directors

were duly elected for the 12 MN-S Regions of the province. For full results go to:

www.metiselectionsk.ca/

Congratulations to those who were elected. GDI looks forward to developing positive relationships and working with the MN-S representatives toward the

common goal of providing relevant and accessible education to Métis people. Education is recognized as an important factor in the economic and social well-being of Métis people.



Staff Updates

SUNTEP Prince Albert
(submitted by Michael Relland)

SUNTEP Prince Albert's staffing compliment continues to redefine itself as long-term employee Murdine McCreath retires and Elaine Sukava moves on to other opportunities. We are grateful to these employees for their years of service and commitment and wish them the best in the future.

In response to these resignations, SUNTEP Prince Albert has had the good fortune to recently hire two dynamic Métis educators to assist in filling the void left by these resignations. Leah Dorion, a former GDI employee, and Corey Teeter, a former SUNTEP Prince Albert graduate, are now both permanent, full-time employees of the Institute. In addition, both Corey

and Leah are currently working towards the completion of their Masters degree in Education. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome them to the Institute and wish them a long and happy career at GDI.

Kiki Miyototawn Wilfred Burton

(submitted by Janice R. Thompson)

June 14, 2007 marked the farewell celebration for our dear colleague, Wilfred Burton from SUNTEP Regina program. A come and go tea provided memorable stories, laughter, and tears. Staff, students, instructors, professors, and community members, paid tribute to a man who has devoted eight years to teacher-training, and continuous promotion of cultural unity at work, and in our communities.

Wilfred's dedication and commitment in the SUNTEP program cannot be defined in a hundred words, or less. However, we can say that his knowledge, his experiences, and his ties to the community, reminds us of how he touched each and everyone of us. Whether it was teaching a class, jiggling at an event, or prolonging a staff meeting, Wilfred always demonstrated integrity and professionalism.

While we know he will be a definite asset to the Regina Public School Board as their new Differentiated Learning Consultant, we're positive he'll stop by to see us from time to time. We wish him all the best in his new job, and we will miss the fact that **"he knows everything."** Thank you Wilfred Burton, we will miss you.



Wilfred Burton at his SUNTEP Regina farewell celebration

GDI – Union Set to Enter Negotiations

The Institute and its union, the Saskatchewan Government Employees Union (SGEU), are prepared to exchange proposals, likely in June, with the intent to negotiate a multi-year Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). The former CBA expired on March 31st 2007 after a three year term.

The GDI SGEU agreement is unique to GDI in that it is a Métis-specific agreement. The

Institute is recognized as a significant Métis employer in the province. Even before its recent expansion to include the Training and Employment entity (GDIT&E), the Institute was the largest Métis employer in the province.

GDI operates with an exemption from the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission that allows for the specific recruitment, hiring, and retention of Métis

individuals. The collective agreement also reflects this organizational objective by providing job security for in-scope Métis employees. The Institute has experienced good labour relations over the course of its history and has become a prominent employer in Saskatchewan with approximately 100 full-time employees. 

"The GDI SGEU agreement is unique to GDI in that it is a Métis-specific agreement."



Renewal Planned for Batoche

“The Institute was an instrumental partner in the repatriation of Gabriel Dumont’s pool table back to Batoche.”



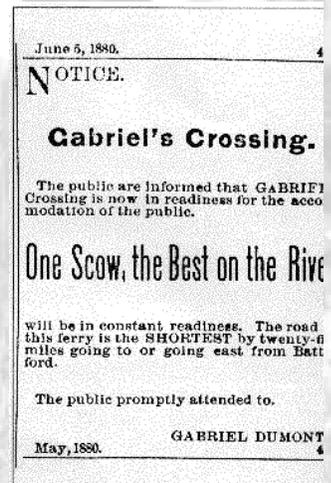
The Batoche National Historic site is promoting a \$12 million plan to upgrade the site to attract more visitors and revitalize interest in Métis history and the significant events that helped shape the Canadian northwest. Plans for the site include a genealogy centre, the re-creation of a log house, an expanded exhibit centre, a redeveloped visitor centre, period stables and houses, and wagon rides.

For many years GDI and DTI have viewed Batoche as a resource for their learners and an expansion to the site is welcome news. A tour of Batoche reveals the Institute’s presence in a number of ways, including the use of many GDI posters, the mention of GDI in the presentations and exhibits, and the display of

GDI resources in the visitor’s centre. The Institute was an instrumental partner in the repatriation of Gabriel Dumont’s pool table back to Batoche and GDI provides an interpretive program at the Caron farm house. The Gabriel Dumont Institute has a keen interest in the Batoche revitalization plan and looks forward to working cooperatively on an initiative that would promote greater awareness of Métis history and contributions in Saskatchewan.

There are currently no timelines for the project but interested organizations are setting the groundwork for a Métis cooperative to work toward the implementation of the plan and to enhance Métis

perspectives and history of the site. The Gabriel Dumont Institute, Friends of Batoche, Saskatchewan Métis Wagon Adventures, Sagehill Community Futures, Fireweed Productions, and Parks Canada are some of the organizations with an interest in this project.



Saskatoon GDIT&E/DTI Host Open House

“Open Houses are being hosted at GDIT&E sites across the province as a means of promoting the programs and services offered.”

The Saskatoon office of GDI Training & Employment (GDIT&E) in conjunction with Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) hosted an Open House on Friday June 15, 2007. Open Houses are being hosted at GDIT&E sites across the province as a means of promoting the programs and services offered. Community members and their families attended, along with representatives from MN-S affiliates and Service Canada, to name a few.

Those who attended were offered a soup and bannock lunch accompanied by fiddle music played by Darren Lafond from Duck Lake.



Sheena Yew and Jessica Rorison make up the DTI greeting committee



Darren Lafond plays fiddle at the Open House



Michelle Demontigny GDIT&E



Board Highlights

At its most recent meeting, the GDI Board of Governors appointed three Selection Committees for the province to ensure Training and Employment funds are administered to Métis students to take training in fields relevant to the local labour market. The Board also approved a Terms of Reference for these Selection Committees to operate under.

Other highlights include: approval of a policy consolidation exercise (see p. 2), and a record of decision approving new DTI policy on Recognition of Prior Learning for grade 12 credits.

Members of the GDI Board of Governors are

appointed to represent the twelve MN – S regions. The Chair of the Board is the MN – S Minister of Education.

Current Board members are as follows:

Doyle Vermette, Vice Chair, Northern Region I

Vacant, Northern Region II

Bernice Aramenko, Northern Region III

Michael Bell, Western Region I

Ron Gagnon, Western Region IA

Terry Boyer, Western Region II

Sheila Pocha, Western Region IIA

Darrel Hawman, Western Region III

Brian Chaboyer, Eastern Region I

Kathy Palidwar, Eastern Region II

Gerald St. Pierre, Eastern Region IIA

Guy F. Blondeau, Eastern Region III

The GDI Board of Governors is responsible for the development of Institute policies and programs, for the development and approval of programs, and for the general administration of the Institute. 



Photograph of beaded legging panels - 2 panels. This item is part of the Gabriel Dumont Institute Museum Collection.

SUNTEP Prince Albert Update

By Michael Relland

A number of events occurred at SUNTEP Prince Albert during the past several weeks. For example, this year's graduation ceremony was held at the E.A. Rawlinson Centre on May 18th where approximately 400 people gathered to honour this year's twenty-three graduates (see the June 2007 issue of the GDI Communicator for a list of names of graduates).

Spring Session began on May 7th for all years. This year spring session is

scheduled to end on June 22nd. The centre also recently completed its student intake for the fall of 2007. This year's Intake interviews were held on May 29th, 30th and 31st. In total approximately 60 students were interviewed and 36 students were selected to begin the program in August of 2007.

SUNTEP Prince Albert has begun working on an Internship Pilot Project. To facilitate this process Sandy Sherwin-Shields

and Bente Huntley organized an advisory committee of former graduates and local teachers and administrators to help guide the process. This advisory committee has met a number of times in recent months to assist in the development of a new internship model. To date, we are very happy with the progress of this new initiative and it appears that the pilot will be in place for this fall's Internship. 

The Internship Pilot Project "advisory committee has met a number of times in recent months to assist in the development of a new internship model."



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