



The GDI Communicator is an internal newsletter intended to increase communication between management and staff of the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research

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Louis Riel Poems Go To Auction

Four handwritten poems signed by Métis leader Louis Riel went up for auction in Toronto last month. The poems, written by Louis Riel in his jail cell, were penned while he waited for his death sentence to be carried out after being convicted of treason by the Canadian government for his role in leading the Métis to fight for their rights at Batoche in 1885.

The poems are said to have been written shortly before Riel was hanged on November 16, 1885. They were then given to Constable Robert Hobbs, the North West Mounted Police officer responsible for guarding him. The story is that Hobbs gave Riel writing paper to pass the time in jail and in

return, Riel gave Hobbs the four poems. The poems have been in possession of the descendants of the jail guard for over a century.

The poems offer a glimpse of the last days of the famous Métis leader, and of his spirituality and devotion to God. When viewed in light of Riel's position as a man condemned to death, along with Riel's early religious training and lifelong religious devotion, it is not surprising that the poems focus mainly on religious themes. There is also the sense, from the poems, that Riel's work and sacrifice for the sake of social justice for the Métis people was viewed by Riel largely as God's work, with Riel's role

being that of God's humble servant.

The poems sold for more than \$31,000 at the Toronto auction. Originally valued at approximately \$5,000, interest in the poems increased as media publicity about them grew. At auction, at least five parties were on-hand with an interest in acquiring the poems. The Manitoba Métis Federation was reported to have declared their desire to own the documents as part of Manitoba's Métis history. The Gabriel Dumont Institute likewise expressed interest in adding the poems to its archival collection and, in effect, bringing the poems home to Saskatchewan where they originated.

(cont'd on page 2...)

The morning dew, with silver drops,
Never shines as much as the word
Of the Preacher who develops
The blessed teachings of the Lord.

Happy is the congregation
Which obeys, with true devotion,
The sermons of its Minister,
For the sake of Christ, the Master!

Louis "David" Riel.



IT Update

By Gareth Griffiths

Welcome to the first installment of what is intended to be a regular newsletter insert to inform and (hopefully) entertain all staff about the world of IT. This is intended to ensure news and progress related to key developments is sent to all staff.

Staff News

We have a new staff member. I would like to introduce the newest member of the IT Department – Edwin Morin. Edwin originally joined DTI to assist in the development of the Métis Studies Online course, of which he has been instrumental in the development and trial of this.

Edwin will be continuing development of this course, as well as other duties including first line IT support, website development, email queries, and many other important duties

IT Support

As mentioned above, Edwin will be the first person to call regarding IT Support queries. As we move forward, our IT Support call logging system (Track-IT) will be made available for all users to use as a self service portal. This will enable you to track the progress on your own calls, as well as access a customized Knowledge Base that may assist you in answering your own queries. Further details regarding this to follow.

In order to contact IT support or other related calls, please contact Edwin or me either by email or phone on the following numbers:

Edwin: email: Edwin.morin@dti.gdins.org ph: 306-657-2238
Gareth: email: gareth.griffiths@gdi.gdins.org ph: 306-347-4118

Website

We are currently undertaking a redesign of the GDI website. A working group has been set up comprising Gareth Griffiths, Cory McDougall, Lisa Wilson, David Morin, Jessica Rorison & Edwin Morin. The remit of this working group is to look at a better and more streamlined design for this website.

An outline of the new site has been distributed to senior managers and the new design will start to appear shortly. It is intended to improve the usability and look of the website by removing all obsolete links, and completely redesigning the way the site is accessed.

Following on from this will be a relaunch of the intranet. This will be an information portal for all staff members to use. Please watch this space for further details, and check the website often for these updates. The address is www.gdins.org



Louis Riel Poems

(continued from page 1)

While the auctioneer would not identify the purchaser of the poems, the CBC Winnipeg reported that Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) would be bringing the poems "home to Manitoba." President, David Chartrand, indicated a plan to put the poems on public display at the St. Boniface Historical

Museum. The MMF was able to gather enough financial support from the province, the bank, a local foundation, and a private Métis businessman to ensure their success at auction.

Chartrand indicated a future desire to make the

poems a central display at a Manitoba Métis museum. An official announcement from the MMF about the acquisition of the poems is expected in the near future.



Louis "David" Riel



GDI Board Update

This month, GDI welcomes four new members to the GDI Board of Governors. The new Board members are Glen Lafleur, Northern Region I; Linda Pederson, Northern Region II; Jackie Kennedy, Western Region IA; and Tammy Mah, Western Region II. These members fill vacant or expired board seats.

GDI Board vacancies are filled by an established process: 1) the position is advertised in the MN—S area with a statement of qualifications and duties; 2) resumes are collected and shared with the Area Director. The Regional Council identifies their choice through a motion at a Regional Council meeting; 3) The MN—S

Provincial Métis Council considers and/or approves the selected candidate; 4) The candidate's name and resume are sent to the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour for final approval; 5) Board members are provided training, and sign applicable code of conduct/conflict of interest guidelines.

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) is governed by a twelve-member Board of Governors, plus a Chair who is the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN—S) Education Minister. All Board terms are for three years.

The full GDI Board of Governors is as follows: Robert Doucette, Chair

- Glen Lafleur, Northern Region I
- Linda Pederson, Northern Region II
- Bernice Aramenko, Northern Region III
- Michael Bell, Western Region I
- Jackie Kennedy, Western Region IA
- Tammy Mah, 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 Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) is governed by a twelve-member Board of Governors, plus a Chair who is the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN—S) Education Minister.”

Phishing Attempt on GDI Email

By Gareth Griffiths

Recently, GDI had a phishing attack that reported to be from our webmail administrator. The email stated that they were doing an upgrade and would like the password and username of an account returned by email in order to guarantee this account was preserved. After checking with the email hosting provider, and looking at the return email address, this was proven to be a false email and a phishing attempt.

Phishing is a word that has become increasingly prevalent. It is a play on the word “fishing” that

suggests someone is electronically “phishing” for financial information and passwords. Phishing is a criminally fraudulent process of attempting to acquire sensitive information such as usernames, passwords and credit card details by masquerading as a trustworthy entity in an electronic communication.

Following are some points to consider regarding these phishing attempts: 1) Any legitimate company should not request personal details by email. It is a good security policy to never divulge any details such as credit card numbers,

usernames/passwords by email; 2) One thing to look at is the address of the email or website that you are directed to (if it is a website address hovering over the link should display it in the status bar at the bottom). For phishing attacks this usually is either a misspelt version of the company it is reporting to be, or a completely different domain (i.e. ebay.website.com - eBay will always end ebay.com)’ and 3) If you are in doubt of the validity of an email, please ask the IT Department. 🌐

“It is a good security policy to never divulge any details such as credit card numbers, usernames/passwords by email.”



Call for Submissions—Naming of New GDI Scholarship/Bursary Program

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Board of Governors is calling for submissions for naming of a new scholarship/bursary program.

The scholarship / bursary program is based on an endowment fund of \$1.3 million established under the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement (AHRDA).

GDI is in the process of establishing a GDI Training & Employment scholarship/bursary program. The scholarship/bursary program is being established to encourage Saskatchewan Métis people to pursue full-time education in fields related to Métis people that will lead to sustainable long term employment as well as fill identified labour market needs.

The scholarship/bursary program is based on an endowment fund of \$1.3 million established under the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement (AHRDA). The goal of this fund is to provide scholarship or bursary funding to Métis clients who have eligible action plans. Interest accrued on the initial investment will be allocated as scholarships/bursaries, and will be available for eligible applicants. The new scholarship program will operate under the GDI Scholarship Foundation and the trust agreement established therein. The GDI Scholarship Foundation currently administers the Napoleon Lafontaine Scholarship Fund, which was established under a similar model, as well as other scholarships.

Criteria

All submissions should include:

1. The name being recommended for the new scholarship/bursary;
2. Rationale for the name (why this would be a good choice); and
3. Some background information.

Deadline

Deadline for submissions is **January 15, 2009**.

Please send submissions to:

GDI Board of Governors
c/o Mr. Geordy McCaffrey, Executive Director
Gabriel Dumont Institute
917 - 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9
Phone: (306) 242-6070 Fax: (306) 242-0002
Email: geordy.mccaffrey_dti@sasktel.net



Updates from Finance

By Jim Edmondson

Short Term Disability Benefit

As of January 1, 2009 there will no longer be a Short Term Disability benefit plan through our benefit provider Great West Life. Any employee who is ill for an extended period or disabled due to a non-work related scenario after that date will need to use any accrued sick time or apply for EI Sickness Benefits. The Long Term Disability benefit plan remains in effect with its 119 day wait period. With the termination of the Short Term Disability benefit plan employees will see approximately \$10 per pay in savings from the previous benefit premium.

Sick Leave Policy

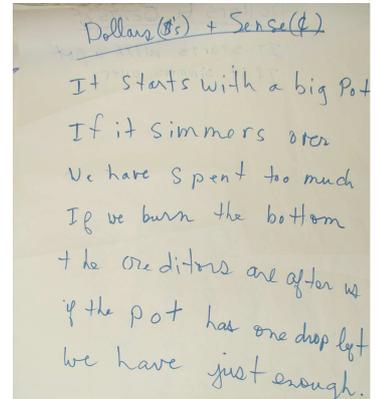
Under existing policy, employees earn sick leave credits as follows: Twenty days sick leave per year at the rate of 1.67 days per month of employment. The unused portion of an employee's sick leave accumulates from year to year to a maximum of 125 days. New employees who become sick and do not have sick days accumulated will be advanced up to five days sick leave. These days will be deducted from future accumulations.

Permanent employees will be advanced a maximum of five days sick leave in the event that they do not have any accumulated sick leave days. These

days will be deducted from future accumulations. In the event that an employee terminates or is terminated by the employer any advanced sick leave days will be deducted from their final pay period.

December Month End Payroll

Due to the Institute being closed from December 23, 2008 to January 5, 2009 for the Christmas break, the payroll for month end will be issued on Monday December 29, 2008. To facilitate this, any timesheets or new contracts must be submitted to the Payroll department by end of day Monday December 15, 2008 to be included in the month end payroll.



"As of January 1, 2009 there will no longer be a Short Term Disability benefit plan."

Northern Campus Update

For several months during 2007 and 2008 the Institute worked on securing the purchase of a building in La Loche to serve as a Post-Secondary facility. The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) made the offer to purchase the building in La Loche in order to provide the Institute with classroom and office space, and a stronger northern presence. This is in line with the Institute's 2004 strategic goal of establishing a Northern Campus. Through a

process of consultation, La Loche was selected as a prime location for a more visible GDI presence in the North. The decision was influenced by several factors including the area's tar sands activity, its general exploration activity particularly for uranium, and the fact that it is a Métis community without a large post-secondary presence.

Several conditions were met in relation to the offer, including a building inspection and an

environmental report, which were both satisfactorily completed. Then an unanticipated delay resulted due to problems with the non-profit registry. Finally the paper work was reconciled and the purchase of the building became final.

DTI now owns the building in La Loche, has been renovating as necessary, and looks forward to continuing to run successful Northern programs.



DTI now owns the building in La Loche.



Gabriel Dumont Institute/Dumont Technical Institute

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Back issues of this newsletter
can be obtained at:

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

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.gdins.org



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research



GDI Locations

GDI Head Office Saskatoon

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GDI Publishing Saskatoon

2 – 604 22nd Street West
Saskatoon SK S7M 5W1
Phone: (306) 934-4941
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GDI Finance and Operations

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3737 Wascana Parkway
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Fax: (306) 347-4119

GDI Training and Employment Head Office

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1-877-488-6888

GDI Library Regina

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GDI Library Prince Albert

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Prince Albert, SK
S6V 1B2
Phone: (306) 922-6466
Fax: (306) 763-4834

GDI's mission:

To promote the renewal and the development of Métis culture through research, materials development, collection and the distribution of those materials and the development and delivery of Métis-specific educational programs and services.



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research