



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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New Research Offers Independent Assessment of Métis AHRDAs

An independent review of the potential impacts of the Métis Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreements (AHRDAs) in Canada, by the Centre for the Study of Living Standards (CSLS), reveals that overall, Métis people, Métis communities, and Canadian society have experienced positive results from the Métis AHRDAs. While Métis AHRDA activities generate immediate benefits, such as training for Métis clients and employer partnerships leading to jobs, the Métis AHRDA activities also generate benefits over time through permanent higher incomes, and by extension, higher tax revenues, lower government transfers, and better health outcomes.

The report estimates annual fiscal savings to the Canadian government and the governments in the five jurisdictions covered by Métis AHRDAs (Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia) within a range of \$4.2 to \$47.9 million, with a higher probability associated to the lower-bound estimate than the

upper-bound estimate. The middle-bound estimate is \$8.5 million in fiscal benefits to the federal and provincial governments. The costs of the program are about \$49 million and are fully recovered over time. On a long-term basis, the discounted fiscal benefits of the Métis AHRDA outweigh its costs in all cases except when a very high discount rate of ten percent is applied along with the most conservative estimate. The report's middle-bound estimate of lifetime benefits is \$103 million. Given that benefits from Métis training and employment encompass more than what is captured in this analysis, the return from the Métis AHRDA to Canadian society appears to be well worth the investment.

In addition to the fiscal benefits of the program, other impacts of the work carried out by the Métis AHRDA holders should be accounted for even though they are more difficult to quantify. For instance, Métis bursaries and awards have been made possible by AHRDA funding, including the recently established

GDIT&E Scholarship fund and the SaskTel Métis Scholarship partnership. Such awards will form a lasting legacy for Métis students.

The report finds that the composition of services offered by Métis AHRDAs is skewed toward services which produce generally better results (i.e., skills development programs based on training purchases or project-based training), suggesting that Métis AHRDAs are actually above-average in terms of results within the AHRDA program.

The current AHRDAs will expire March 31, 2010 and the federal government has indicated its intention to implement a "partnership and results-based successor" strategy. Yet the design of the new agreement is still under discussion. The CSLS review of the direct and indirect impacts of the Métis AHRDAs was undertaken in this context and proves valuable in its Métis-specific focus. It is anticipated that an HRSDC evaluation of the overall AHRDA program will be published later in 2009.



SUNTEP Grads



Nadine Bercier, SUNTEP Regina grad and Joanne Pelletier, SUNTEP Regina Program Coordinator

This spring saw 45 graduates from the GDI SUNTEP programs across the province, bringing the total number of SUNTEP graduates to 923.

SUNTEP Saskatoon

Graduates:

Tasha Altman
 Kayla Aubichon
 Amy Cosgrove
 Leah Dumont
 Leana Dyck
 Jessie Fiddler
 Kelley Fiddler
 William Mintram
 Lise Nicolas
 Kallie Nicloux
 Winona MacDonald
 Candace Olfert
 Angela Rancourt
 Kelsey Riel
 Blair Ross

SUNTEP Prince Albert

Graduates:

Mona Brass –
 Peepeekisis
 Orlanda Chaboyer – Métis

Cumberland House
 Leanna Daniels – Hatchet Lake
 Cienna Fourstar – Wahpeton
 Shaun Gaudet – Prince Albert
 Sonya Genaille – James Smith
 Cheryl Hanikenne – Métis – Prince Albert
 Megan Hansen – Métis – Prince Albert
 Amanda Huskins - Métis – Prince Albert
 Denae Jaman - Métis – Prince Albert
 Tammy Jewitt - Métis – Holbein
 Joel Kinequon – Touchwood
 Steven Korecki – Métis – St. Louis
 Shayne Kowal - Métis – Prince Albert
 Scott Langlois - Métis – Prince Albert
 Mary Ann McCallum – Peter Ballantyne
 Jason McLeod - Métis –

Prince Albert
 Curtis Menard - Métis – Prince Albert
 Cody Meyers - Métis – Prince Albert
 Angus Mirasty – Lac La Ronge
 Cora Mirasty – Lac La Ronge
 Melanie L. Morin – Fairford First Nations
 Holly Parenteau - Métis – Prince Albert
 Heather Tibbs - Métis – Prince Albert
 Danielle Young - Métis – Prince Albert

SUNTEP Regina

Graduates:

Nadine Bercier
 Kyle DuMont
 Ashley Hayden
 Tammy Obey
 Jessica Parr (Great Distinction)



Heavy Equipment Operator Course in Pinehouse

By: Jennifer Kastrukoff and Meredith Penner



On June 2nd, 2009, we had the privilege of traveling with Program Coordinator Jason Johnson four hours North of Saskatoon to Pinehouse, Saskatchewan, which is located on the shores of Pinehouse Lake. While there we had the opportunity to meet with the Dumont Technical Institute students and instructors and get a grasp on some of the community development and construction that they were achieving through the Heavy Equipment Operator Course.

Pinehouse is a fairly small but vibrant community that has been striving to better the experience of its residents as well as of the tourists that come through. The atmosphere is friendly as many people welcomed us to the village with smiles and greetings. With the opportunity given to eleven students by Pinehouse, along with the help of the Dumont Technical Institute, the community has been constantly developing and growing.

Some of the projects on which the students have put their new skills to use are a six-hole golf course, a fire barrier, and the clean-up of the village's landfill. These student projects will long benefit the community as well as help financially. The students are set to graduate on June 19th, 2009, with promising opportunities for work immediately following.



Canoe Artifact Moves to Regina

By Karon Shmon

The Gabriel Dumont Institute Library in Regina is the new, temporary, home of an authentic birch bark canoe purchased for the Gabriel Dumont Institute Museum in Saskatoon. At eighteen feet long, the canoe is too large for the current museum to house but will be proudly displayed in the library until the *Métis Centre of Excellence* becomes a reality in years to come.

The canoe was purchased from Ric and Rose Richardson who commissioned the canoe from "B-boy" (Stewart) Daigneault for their museum in Green Lake. They approached the Institute when the museum was closing to give GDI the first opportunity to purchase their artifacts. The Richardsons provided the following background on the canoe.

"The Birch Bark Canoe was constructed by "B-boy" (Stewart) Daigneault, of Isle a la Crosse, in the summer of 2002. B-boy is a recognized Métis artist and has made a number of canoes. We believe it is important to support those who are keeping our Traditional works alive.

The canoe is 18 feet long and was made from materials that B-boy gathered on one of the islands near his home, where logging had not

occurred and large birch trees still grow, unmolested. He used old photos as well as advice from Elders to design and build this functional work of art that demonstrates both the technical understanding of how to use natural materials and design to work in harmony with nature, as well as to Honour our ancestors, who created items that were of use to our peoples in transportation, especially as the use of canoes were important in our region. "

The canoe has been in the water, but is very fragile, highlighting the fact that the voyageurs needed both bravery and skill on their journeys, particularly since they would have to make the repairs using found materials such as spruce pitch (also known as spruce gum), roots, and bark.

It was not easy to relocate the canoe to Saskatoon or Regina, as there are no modern tie-down eyelets and too much pressure on it might crack the bark. A large moving truck was required to prevent damage during transport.

One thing has remained steady through this canoe's modern voyages. It peaks the interest of all who see it and is certainly a conversation starter!



Photo credit: Ron Frigon

**My paddle's keen and bright
Flashing with silver
Follow the wild goose flight
Dip, dip and swing
Dip, dip and swing her back
Flashing with silver
Swift as the wild goose flies
Dip, dip and swing**

**Land of the silver birch
Home of the beaver
Where still the mighty moose
Wanders at will
Blue lake and rocky shore
I will return once more
Boom-diddy-ah-da, Boom-diddy-ah-da,
Boom-diddy-ah-da, bo-oo-oom**



DTI Undergoes Internal Reorganization



Effective July 1, 2009, DTI head office will have two distinct departments or work units.



Photo credit: Jennifer Kastrukoff, Summer Student, GDI Publishing

Effective July 1, 2009, DTI head office will have two distinct departments or work units: Skills Training and Basic Education. The Skills Training unit will be staffed by the following Program Coordinators: Tony Blacklock, Elaine Crocker, Tracy La Prise, and Jason Johnston. Administrative support for the program coordinators in the Skills Training unit will be provided by Angie Yew and Stephanie Ditto.

Program Coordinators responsible for the Basic Education department include Claudette Moran, Janice Thompson, Deborah Mihalicz, and Nikki LaVoie. Both Deborah Mihalicz and Nikki LaVoie's positions are shared between DTI and GDIT&E.

Administrative support for the Basic Education unit is provided by Rachel Durocher.

Transitions and updates between Program Coordinators have been occurring for the past two months in preparation for the change, and will continue until the transition is complete on July 1, 2009.

Specific goals and objectives have been set out for each of the new departments including improved recruitment and retention rates in both units. The Basic Education department will focus on the implementation of BE redesign curricula, incorporation of TEL services, student counseling processes, student progress reporting/feedback, formal reporting and recording of incorporated cultural components, and post-program client tracking. The Skills Training department will focus on student counseling processes, formal student progress reporting/feedback, formal reporting and recording of incorporated cultural components, and post-program client tracking.

In addition to the two distinct departments, DTI also has several Administrative Coordinators responsible for a variety of areas. Marlene Laliberte is responsible for invoices, leases, contracts, and student appeals. Rhonda Pilon looks after PTA,

student records, and student loans. Jessica Sandell is responsible for marketing, communications, and student loans. Christine Fiddler provides support to senior management and oversees the Clerk Steno's.

If you have questions about specific DTI programs please contact DTI at its main number 242-6070 or toll free at 1-877-488-6888 to reach reception and have your call forwarded to the appropriate Coordinator. A listing of programs and responsible Program Coordinators is also available by calling the main number.



National Aboriginal Day June 21, 2009

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY CELEBRATION

JUNE 21-22, 2009

BATOCHÉ NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

FEATURING AUTHORS, CULTURAL ARTISANS, POETS,
MICHIF LANGUAGE SPECIALISTS, MUSICIANS, AND DANCERS:

JANE ASH POTRAS

GREGORY SCOFIELD

SAKITAWAK MICHIF DANCERS

DIANE PAYMENT

WILFRED BURTON

ANNE PATTON

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE

ANNE ACCO

MICHIF ELDERS

ONE ARROW DRUMMERS

YOUTH FIDDLERS AND DANCERS

AND MORE!!!



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HISTORICAL SITE INC.



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of Native Studies and Applied Research



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Affairs Canada

Affaires Indiennes
et du Nord Canada



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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



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[http://gdi.voyager.uregin
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GDI 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