



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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SaskTel Métis Scholarship Awards

By Sheena Daigneault and Lisa Wilson

In the spring of this year Gabriel Dumont Institute Training & Employment (GDIT&E) and SaskTel entered into a joint partnership agreement to provide the *SaskTel Métis Scholarship*. The first deadline for applications to the scholarship was May 1st. The *SaskTel Métis Scholarship* had 34 applications, a stellar number given that this is a new program with a relatively small promotional base. On May 26, 2009 the GDI Scholarship Selection Committee convened to review applications. Seventeen students received scholarships in the amount of \$500 each. The students and their program of study are as follows:

Melissa Allary, Management Studies Year 1; Denise Blondeau, Management Studies Year 1; Naomi Corrigal, Office Education; Meagan Dumont, Management Studies Year 1; Deanna Fahl, Office Education; Corey Guy, Information Technology; Erin Hansen, Office Education; Ashley Holinaty, Management Studies Year 1; Ashley Kazmiruk, Management Studies Year 1;

Stevie Kowblick, Business Administration; Trudy Laliberte, Computer Works; Cherrie Martel, Management Studies Year 2; Kayla Morrison, Business; Kiley Sinclair, Management Studies Year 1; Jaclyn Smith, Office Education; Mike Stushnoff, Management Studies Year 2; Corry Lynn Umpherville, Management Studies Year 2;

The *SaskTel Métis Scholarship* is a three-year pilot program designed to recognize leadership, academic achievement, financial need, and community involvement of Métis students pursuing post secondary accreditation in one of the following:
-Engineering (electrical, electronic or telecommunications)
-Business Administration/Commerce
-Computer Science
-Other field of study related to SaskTel.

The scholarship is open to Entrance and Undergraduate students who are enrolled in accredited post-secondary institutions and are pursuing their degree, diploma or certificate in a program related to telecommunications. The

scholarship is funded by a contribution of \$9,000 per year from SaskTel, along with a matching contribution by GDIT&E. The *SaskTel Métis Scholarship* is administered by the Gabriel Dumont Institute Scholarship Foundation II, under which a Selection Committee meets twice per year to award scholarships and bursaries including the Napoleon Lafontaine Scholarships and the SaskEnergy Métis Incorporated Scholarship program.

Awards for the *SaskTel Métis Scholarship* are based on education and career focus, academic ability, financial need, and the submitted statement, as determined by the Gabriel Dumont Institute Scholarship Foundation II Trustee Committee.

Under the agreement, SaskTel provides career mentorship for award recipients and informs award recipients of summer employment opportunities with SaskTel.

Applications and scholarship information are available on the GDI website at www.gdins.org.



Education Assistant Partnership Launched

By Lisa Wilson



(L-R) Gabe Lafond, GDI Chair; Dianne Boyko, GSCE Chair; and Doris Turcotte, CUPE representative sign the partnership agreement.

(Photo credit Meredith Penner)

The Dumont Technical Institute, GDI Training & Employment, and Saskatoon Catholic Schools held a media event in Saskatoon at ED Feehan High School at the end of June to celebrate their partnership for programming to train Teacher Assistants. In a true spirit of partnership, the three organizations jointly interviewed applicants to the training program, and used consensus to determine the final roster of trainees. The program will be brokered through SIAST and delivered by DTI under their Federation Agreement. The Catholic School system has guaranteed employment for 100% of the graduates.

"Training Métis Education Assistants to work in the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools helps build capacity to support the needs of Métis children at the elementary and secondary levels," said GDI's chairperson, Gabe LaFond. "Even more importantly, each student will graduate from the program with a career waiting for him or her."

Dianne Boyko, chair of the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division, noted the partnership helps address the needs of their representative workforce agreement under which it is important to have Métis people join the school division. Boyko noted that Education Assistants are often "the

unsung heroes in schools." Likewise, CUPE 2268 representative Doris Turcotte remarked on the positive partnership and expressed her hopes for a "long future for this program."

The partners signed the MOU at the media event. This fall, fifteen new students will begin their Education Assistant training at ED Feehan high school in classroom space provided by the catholic school system. Instruction will be shared by DTI and the catholic school division and GDI&T will provide students with living allowances while in training. All partners look forward to a successful program.



(Photo credit Jennifer Kastrukoff)

GDI T & E Partners in Heavy Equipment Operator Course

By: Jennifer Kastrukoff

Last month, the GDI Communicator reported on the partnership between the Dumont Technical Institute (DTI), the Northern Village of Pinehouse, and Pinehouse Business North for the delivery of a Heavy Equipment Operators Course. It is important to also recognize GDI Training and Employment as a funding partner in this program.

The Heavy Equipment Operators course provided ten students from Pinehouse, Saskatchewan with the opportunity to use their training to begin building a six-hole golf course, a fire barrier, and to clean-up the village's landfill within their community. Upon completion of the course, many students were able to obtain employment.

For more information, please contact Jason Johnston, DTI Program Coordinator, at 242-6070.



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Health Scholarship Program Update

By Lisa Wilson

In 2006 Health Canada entered into a multi-year (2007-2010) contribution agreement with the Métis National Council (MNC) for funding of a Health Scholarship and Bursary program. In turn, GDI, the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MNS), and the Métis National Council (MNC) signed an agreement for GDI to administer the Health Canada scholarship and bursary funds for Saskatchewan Métis involved in health-related training. As a result, the *Métis Health and Wellness Scholarship Program* was established under GDI.

The Métis Health and Wellness Scholarship

Program offered both scholarship and bursary support to encourage Saskatchewan Métis to enter into health-related careers associated with the advancement of Métis people. In total, GDI awarded \$552,700 to support 210 Saskatchewan Métis students in their studies related to health careers.

In early 2008 the program's future was put on hold by Health Canada pending a review with the MNC. GDI participated in an audit of the Institute's records for the scholarship program and was found to have adhered to all terms and conditions of the funding. Subsequent

resolution between the MNC and Health Canada has meant that the program has moved from GDI to the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation (NAAF). A Métis representative from GDI sits on the NAAF Jury committee to ensure Saskatchewan Métis representation. For more information on Aboriginal Health Bursaries and Scholarships, please go to the NAAF website at www.naaf.ca.



(Photo credit Meredith Penner)

"In total, GDI awarded \$552,700 to support 210 Saskatchewan Métis students in their studies related to health careers."

Elaine Crocker Retires from DTI

By Brett Vandale and Lisa Wilson

In July, 2009 DTI Program Coordinator Elaine Crocker retired from the DTI. Elaine first came to the Institute as a Program Coordinator in August of 1998, at a time when DTI was in its infancy in the delivery of educational programs. Elaine briefly left the Institute for a short time to work as a manager within the Saskatoon Health Region, but she soon realized the error of her ways, and returned to DTI a couple of years later.

Elaine has been instrumental in the development and

delivery of DTI programs and services. Elaine has played a significant role in the development of many DTI policies that we see today. More importantly, Elaine has been instrumental in the delivery of services to DTI clients in many different skills training and basic education programs. Elaine had a significant role in the evolution of the DTI Saskatoon Adult Basic Education Learning Center and the successes of the students in the program over the years. Many students, staff and colleagues have benefited from Elaine's

experience and commitment.

Elaine's retirement was celebrated at a luncheon in Saskatoon on June 26th, where she was thoroughly roasted before being released to a well-deserved retirement. Elaine said she plans to spend time with her grandchildren and enjoy a "girls' trip" to Vegas.

The retirement marks a milestone for both Elaine and DTI. Elaine's retirement is the first retirement for DTI since its inception in 1992.



"Elaine's retirement is the first retirement for DTI since its inception in 1992."



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IT Support Procedure

By Gareth Griffiths



Photo credits, this page,
Meredith Penner

For any IT request, please email support@gdins.org. Please use this procedure for any IT-related request, including Access rights/email requests, Office Relocation, Hardware/Software faults, and any other IT request you may have. By using this procedure, a Work Order will be automatically added into the IT Support Call logging system called Track-IT. The request can then be tracked via this system and gives a better idea of the current support workload.

Once the request is received, a reply is automatically generated. This will indicate the Work Order Number (WO#), and the details of the call. An example reply email is as follows:

Subject: New WO# 441 - testing
 Date: Mon, 11 May 2009 14:55:08 -0600
 From: GDI IT Support <support@gdins.org>
 Reply-To: support@gdins.org
 To: <user.email@gdi.gdins.org>

Thank you for your request

This has been logged as work order number 441. Please quote this number in all correspondence.

GDI IT Support Team

<Call Details included here>

Click on this link to submit additional information related to this Work Order:
<mailto:support@gdins.org?subject=Append:441>
 Click on this link to request an updated status for this Work Order:
<mailto:support@gdins.org?subject=Status&body=441>
 Click on this link to request an updated status for all of your recent Work Orders: <mailto:support@gdins.org?subject>All%20Status>

The 3 links at the bottom of the email are useful. These will allow you to interact with the support system. As stated, the first link will allow additional information to be added to the call. Only the original requestor is allowed to do this. The next link will send a status update for just this WO and the final link will send an update for all of your recent WO's. Using these links will allow you to be informed of changes made to the WO, and to interact with IT.



Since introduction of this system at the end of April, 113 calls have been logged.

Since introduction of this system at the end of April, 113 calls have been logged. With everyone's help, this system can continue to be a success.

IT Support Service Level Targets

In order to make IT Support responsive to its users, we are going to introduce 2 service targets. These will be as follows:

Response Target – Once a call is logged via support@gdins.org, the recipient will receive a response from the assigned technician within 1 working day of the received date. This response will either be by email or phone.

Resolution Target – Once a call is received, the priority of this call will be decided upon by the IT department. Once this priority is entered, this will setup a targeted fix time. This will become the resolution target. Every effort will be made to achieve this target. Where circumstances beyond our control are experienced, for example the call is referred to an external organization, this will be entered into the detail of the resolution page and the Due date extended. Status of these calls can be automatically requested by using the links described above.



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GDC Graduate Student Bursary Awards

By Lisa Wilson

In May, 2009 the Selection Committee for the GDC Graduate Student Bursary program awarded three bursaries to Saskatchewan Métis graduate students. Janine Akerman was awarded a \$10,000 bursary to support her Master's studies and research in Elementary Education at the University of Alberta. The focus of Janine's research is on Aboriginal understandings of childhood as they relate to culturally relevant education. Melanie MacLean was awarded \$7,000 in support of her Doctoral studies and research at the University of Alberta. Melanie's research is on the literacy lives of Aboriginal youth

who are successful in school. Finally, Mildred Goulet received a \$5,000 bursary to support her in completion of her Master's degree in Education Psychology at the University of Regina. Mildred is researching theories and practices that support her counselling practice and is interested in research on intergenerational effects of residential schools and colonization on the psychology of Aboriginal people.

In total the GDC Graduate Student Bursary has awarded 16 bursaries in support of Saskatchewan Métis graduate students. The program is independently sponsored by the Institute in

response to the desire of Métis people to support and incorporate graduate studies into the Institute.

The GDC Graduate Student Bursary program is a three year pilot project intended to provide support to Métis graduate students, to increase Métis-specific research, and to increase the recruitment pool of qualified Métis. The May, 2009 awards mark the final disbursement in the three year pilot. A final analysis and report on the pilot program will be completed and submitted to the GDI Board of Governors, who will decide the future of the program.

For full details of program recipients please visit the GDI website at www.gdins.org.



Dancer at National Aboriginal Day, 2009. Photo credit Meredith Penner.

IT Update

By Gareth Griffiths

Website News Updates
In order to ensure we have current news items available to the public on the website, please forward any newsworthy items related to your department to Lisa Wilson. These can be success stories to do with your department, such as graduation results. She will then act as editor and forward related items to IT for coding. These items can also be included in the Communicator.

Website Update

Work continues on the website update project. We now have a test site

that new changes are implemented and tested first. Coming soon will be a news archive section, and other changes in readiness for the major overhaul that we have been waiting for.

The Intranet is being enhanced and will be re-launched shortly. The main focus will be the Policies and Procedures Manual, but this will include other staff related items. This section will be protected by a username and password. Further details will follow soon.

Anti Virus Update

We have successfully installed Sophos Anti Virus

to a central console and 69 workstations over 6 sites. This package is unobtrusive and allows central control and removal of viruses. We will continue to rollout and test this system. Further enhancements that are available from using this are Application Control and Network Access Control that can define which programs are allowed to run or use the internet on each individual machine or location.

Further details on when this will be rolled out to your location will follow soon.



Photo credit correction:
this photo (above)
appeared in the June 2009
Communicator sans credit.
Photo credit is due to Ron
Frigon.



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Back issues of this newsletter
can be obtained at:

www.metismuseum.ca/browse/index.php/833

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.qdins.org



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
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<http://gdi.voyager.uregina.ca/>

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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.



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