



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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SUNTEP Student Achievements Recognized

By Lisa Wilson

GDI's SUNTEP students are known for being leaders and role models in both the Métis and the broader communities. Recently, several SUNTEP students have been recognized for their achievements and have received awards reflecting academic achievement as well as leadership and social accomplishments.

In Prince Albert, eight students received 13 awards. Trisha Gowan (year 4) received a National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation Bursary, Maureen McKenzie (year 4) received a Cogema Northern Scholarship and a Cameco Northern Scholarship, Troy Parenteau (year 3) received a Peter T. Milland Scholarship, Jennifer Brown (year 2) received a U of S Undergraduate Scholarship and made the Dean's Honour Roll, and Holly Wiberg (year 3) received a STF Scholarship, the John Middleton Scholarship, and a U of S Undergraduate Scholarship, as well as

making the Dean's Honour Roll. In addition, the following students made the U of S Dean's Honour Roll: Allison Tait (year 4), Kerri Lynn Gareau (year 4), and Jordon Reynaud (year 3).

In Regina, 13 SUNTEP students received 33 awards. The Regina students and their awards are listed in the article on page 4. Notably, SUNTEP students receive awards in numbers that exceed their proportional numbers in the student population. The successes of the SUNTEP students reflect well on the Faculty and Staff of the program, on the Institute as a whole, and on the Métis community overall.

SUNTEP is often referred to as the flagship of GDI. Established in 1980, SUNTEP is the longest-running program of the Institute. The primary goals of the program are to ensure Métis people are adequately represented in the teaching profession, and to ensure that SUNTEP graduates are educated to

be sensitive to the individual needs of all students, particularly those of Aboriginal ancestry.

In partnership with the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina, GDI operates three SUNTEP delivery sites in the province—Saskatoon, Regina, and Prince Albert. Their training combines a sound academic education with extensive classroom experience, and a thorough knowledge of issues facing students in our society.

Since 1984, over 900 students have graduated from SUNTEP with a Bachelor of Education Degree.



Annual Report Update

By Lisa Wilson

The GDI Annual Report for 2008-2009 is complete and at the printers. Copies of the report are expected to be in the Saskatoon office by the end of February and ready to be mailed out shortly after. The report is longer this year by about 20 extra pages. This is both a reflection of the growth of the Institute in recent years and also a purposeful expansion of the report in anticipation of a wider distribution during the "Year of the Métis", 2010.

This year's report is organized under the thematic headings of Leadership, Partnership, Community, Culture, and Achievement—all apt descriptors for GDI and the work of the Institute. Again, the Audited Financial Statements are provided in the back of the report on a compact disc. Also included on the disc are Operational Highlights and Reports from Training & Employment, DTI, SUNTEP, and the Library.

The Annual Report is a significant marketing tool

for the Institute and as such Institute employees are encouraged to distribute the report widely to your department's partners, communities, stakeholders, and others. The report will also be available on the GDI website in the near future.

Copies of the report can be requested by contacting April Tarrington at april.tarrington@dti.gdins.org.



(Photo credit Saskatchewan Archives Board; report design, Murray Lindsay)

Red River Bound

By Murray Hamilton

It was an enthusiastic group that departed on Sunday February 7, 2010 from SUNTEP Saskatoon on its annual fieldtrip to the Hudson's Bay Archives in Winnipeg. This year the group was accompanied by MNS President Robert Doucette and Vice-President Allan Morin and Mrs. Morin and also GDI employee Cory McDougall. From all accounts the dignitaries thoroughly enjoyed the trip and after awhile it was difficult to distinguish them from the students.

The six day adventure is a research component of Native Studies 280.6. The education process began en route with a viewing of the National Film Board production "Dancing Around the Table" a narrative of the 1984-87 Constitutional Conferences, which might seem like dry stuff, but is highly entertaining. After a brief stop in Regina for the required Tim Horton's we were off down the Trans-

Canada bound for Red River. The time flew by quickly with endless banter and a couple of student-paced movies. Allan Morin and Murray Hamilton regaled the crowd with tales of the old days in the Métis world. President Doucette bore the brunt of a lot of teasing and had a few barbs of his own.

Having departed Saskatoon at 10:00am and arriving at 7:00pm we considered that we made good time. The same trip via Red River cart in the 1800's would have taken weeks. After settling in, there was time for a nightcap of hot cocoa and cookies before we stumbled off to bed.

Monday morning after breakfast and a ten minute walk to the archives the students were given an orientation and then the paper chase began. There is a joke amongst the SUNTEP students that no

dating is allowed until their genealogy is completed. Turns out!, it's no joke we're all related. In archives there is always something new to be discovered. This year a couple of our students came across an 1885 Order-in-Council which called for the arrest of several Métis before the fighting had even commenced.

Tuesday while one group remained in the archives, another visited the Métis Resource Centre and we are indebted to Randy Rainville for his work with the students. President Doucette, Vice-Pres. Morin, Jennifer Altenberg SUNTEP/GDC Saskatoon SRC representative were given a two hour tour of the Parks Canada facilities, which houses and repairs artifacts from historical sites across western Canada. The Parks Canada officials seemed very nervous with the visitation of the MNS brass. Of course we jokingly

asked them where they kept the "bell."

On Tuesday afternoon, Philippe Mailhot, Director of the St. Boniface Museum gave an excellent presentation to the group on the events in 1870. This presentation was an excellent introduction for our visit the next day to the St. Boniface Museum, the Louis Riel grave site and the St. Boniface cathedral. We also had time to visit the controversial statue of Louis Riel adjacent to the St. Boniface Historical Society.

The group had lunch at La Fourche (the Forks, where the Red and Assiniboine rivers meet) a popular tourist destination with lots of shopping and as a consequence I was scolded for not allowing sufficient time for this segment of our journey. The afternoon was spent at the Manitoba Museum of Civilization which has several excellent exhibits and Métis artifacts.

Red River Bound (continued from previous page)

By Murray Hamilton

On Wednesday evening, Cory McDougall, Bob Lindsay, Jennifer Altenberg and I rendezvoused with Diane Payment for supper at Chez Suzie Bistro in St. Boniface. I highly recommend this restaurant; although very small it has a very European atmosphere and excellent food at a reasonable price. Wouldn't you know it! Ms Altenberg just happened to know the handsome young waiter who served us. Le Michif, what can I say!

On Thursday morning there were still some keeners at the Archives, others at the Métis Resource Centre, some

shopping and some unaccounted for. All were present for a great presentation by Diane Payment noted author and historian. On Thursday afternoon a group photo was taken in front of the Louis Riel statue behind the Manitoba Legislature. This photo session has become a SUNTEP and Métis tradition. No Métis can say they've done their duty unless they have taken a pilgrimage to Batoche and Red River.

On Thursday evening the entire group went to an Olive Garden restaurant for supper. Although there was a lengthy wait, a lot of fun was had visiting and just being a loud boisterous gathering of Métis. Nobody has more

fun than we do! It was not all historical sites and archives; there was time for individual and small group side trips to McPhillips Station Casino, pre-Olympic hockey between Switzerland and Belarus, shopping, book buying, and general fun and laughter.

On Friday morning after breakfast and check out and another stop at Timmies, it was bon voyage au Saskatoon. All in all it was an educational and inspirational excursion that gave all participants a greater understanding of our history and a sense of pride that can only be obtained by experiencing the sense of place. All Métis should undertake a journey to Red River. 🌐



GDI 30th Anniversary Plans

By Lisa Wilson

2010 is Gabriel Dumont Institute's 30th anniversary and dovetails with the 125th anniversary of the Métis Resistance at Batoche. As such, it is an important and opportune year for us to highlight and showcase Métis culture and accomplishments. Plans are underway for the GDI 30th Anniversary celebration. The Institute will host a Culture Conference and Annual General Meeting on November 18, 19, and 20, 2010 in Saskatoon. A planning committee for the event was struck early this year and the wheels are in motion for a stellar celebration and event.

The 30th Anniversary celebration will provide both a Métis culture component alongside a Métis academic

component. Conference delegates will have the opportunity to choose from a variety of concurrent sessions led by cultural leaders and Métis academic/research leaders. In addition, the conference will include a banquet, Métis entertainment, and an awards ceremony for the Order of Gabriel Dumont.

The Order of Gabriel Dumont is awarded by the Gabriel Dumont Institute to a small number of persons who have served the Métis of Canada with distinction. In addition to the activities of the 30th Anniversary and Culture conference, the conference provides an important opportunity for Métis people to gather and re-connect via Métis culture and language.

Established in 1980, GDI is a leader in Métis education in Canada. GDI is the only Métis institution that offers university, technical, skills, basic education, employment, publishing, and social justice programming. The services provided by the institute to Saskatchewan's Métis community are not replicated anywhere else. Métis culture is a critical feature of all GDI programming. GDI is a conservator of Métis history and culture, a national leader in Michif initiatives, and a trusted source for those seeking Métis-specific information throughout the world. The 30th Anniversary provides us with an opportunity to reflect, to celebrate, and to be proud. 🌐



(Photo credit Meredith Penner)

SUNTEP Regina Student Achievements

By Joanne Pelletier



One of the program highlights for the fall 2009 semester is the outstanding academic achievement of the SUNTEP Regina students. Students across all four years of the program received academic recognition. Faculty see this as strong testimony to their hard work, commitment to education, and belief that what they learn here is important and will help them, in turn, to become better and stronger teachers.



The centre had ten students on the Dean's Honour List Education for the fall 2009 semester, a program historical high. To be included on the Dean's Honours List,



students must achieve a term grade point average of at least 85% on a minimum of 15 credit hours. More than 20% of all SUNTEP Regina students registered in fall 2009 classes made this honours list.

In addition to the Dean's list, seven students qualified for Academic Gold Scholarships and five qualified for Academic Silver Scholarships. To put this in perspective, SUNTEP students make up only 3% of the education students at the University of Regina, but received 28% of the academic gold scholarships awarded for the Fall 2009 semester. Students who qualify for academic gold

scholarships must have a minimum of an 85% term grade point average and be in the top 1% of their faculty.

In this outstanding group of students, two students who merit special consideration are fourth year students Nicole Anne Morrow and Jed Huntley. Both students have been diligent and consistent in both applying and qualifying for scholarships throughout the four years of their program of studies. These scholarships, bursaries and awards assist in the funding of their education, as SUNTEP students receive program support for tuition only and must find other sources for their living expenses.

Scholarship and award recipients for the fall 2009 semester include:

Year 1	Wynter Ducharme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dean's List Education; Academic Gold Scholar
	Jenel Markwart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dean's List Education; Academic Gold Scholar; CIC Aboriginal Bursary
	Michael Jordan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> University of Regina Out of Province Entrance Scholarship
Year 2	Jolie Brewer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dean's List Education; Academic Silver Scholarship
	Joni Racette	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elizabeth and Grant Holden Bursary
Year 3	Allison Kimbley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dean's List Education; Academic Gold Scholarship
	Kaitlen Yee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic Silver Scholarship
Year 4	Lucas Blondeau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dean's List Education; Academic Silver Scholarship; Saskatchewan Teachers' College Reunion Book Prize
	Jed Huntley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dean's List Education; Academic Gold Scholarship; Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation Scholarship; Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan Scholarship; CIC Aboriginal Bursary
	Erin Kramer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dean's List Education; Academic Gold Scholarship; CIC Aboriginal Bursary
	Nicole-Anne Morrow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dean's List Education; Academic Silver Scholarship; C.D. Howe Mature Student Achievement Award; Dr. Edward Wolstein Award for Students of Aboriginal Ancestry; University of Regina Undergraduate Single Parent Bursary
	Jessica Wesaquate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dean's List Education; Academic Gold Scholarship; CIC Aboriginal Bursary
	Jade Yee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dean's List Education; Academic Gold Scholarship

Northern Needs Assessment Pilot Project

By Lisa Wilson

A pilot project for community needs assessment is currently underway at GDI. In partnership with Northern Region III, GDI, DTI, and T&E, the Institute will be leading a needs assessment process with the Regional Council in early March in Meadow Lake. The process will involve a labour market overview by Service Canada that is specific to the region and extrapolates data for the particular area. There will be information provided to

the Regional Council about the Institute and its programs, and an opportunity to receive feedback, input, and ideas from the community. GDI is piloting this approach in one region initially and will use the experience to further refine and enhance the process. It is an opportunity for the Institute to connect more closely with the community and to hear first-hand what the training and labour priorities are for the area. It is also an excellent opportunity for

information exchange between interested parties.

Generally the needs assessment processes used by the Institute are eclectic, involving presentations to communities, attendance at Regional College needs assessment processes and community meetings, the gathering of labour market data, and finally, alignment of training plans according to the information gathered. The pilot project in Northern Region III is an opportunity for greater local involvement and input.



(Photo of northern moon, credit Deborah Mihalicz)

SUNTEP PA 25th Annual Survivor's Banquet

By Bente Huntley, SUNTEP Faculty

There were over 100 friends and families in attendance at the Parkland Hall as SUNTEP Prince Albert held its 26th annual Survivor's Banquet and Awards Night on November 15, 2009. The first year SUNTEP students did a marvelous job of organizing and roasting those second year students who successfully completed their first year at SUNTEP. The theme for the evening was "Risn up to the Challenge" with the music from "Eye of the Tiger" while entertainment was provided by Mathew Remenda, a first year student, and the staff otherwise known as SUNTEP "Unhinged". Keynote speakers for the evening, chosen by the

survivors, were Corey Teeter and Bente Huntley. There were 17 survivors this year: Glenda Abbott, Brenda Bird-Gaudry, Jennifer Brown, Katherine Burak, Leah Clarke, Kyle Harkiss, Taryn Henry, Kayla Kaponyas, Lauren Mazurak, Destiny Martin, Jordon Reynaud, Leah Roberts, Jennifer St. Germaine, Ashley Stalwick, Brittany Walker, Holly Wiberg, Alexa Woods.

In addition, every year SUNTEP honors two people from the community who have played a key role at SUNTEP and this year the Friends of SUNTEP Awards went to Grace Lafayette, Elder and spiritual advisor, and Doreen Beavereye, former

SUNTEP graduate and cooperating teacher from Queen Mary School. As well, the annual SUNTEP Achievement and Spirit Scholarships were presented to 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year students. This year's recipients for the Spirit award were as follows: Katherine Burak, Year 2; Glenda Abbott and Troy Parenteau, year 3; Heather McAuley, year 4. The recipients for the Academic Achievement Award were as follows: Ashley Stalwick, year 2; Glenda Schrimshaw, year 3; and Edward Benonie, year 4. Congratulations to all Survivors and award winners and a big thank you to the First year students for a job well done.



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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.

