



The New Nation

La noovel naasyoon



Winter 2010



The New Nation

La noovel naasyoon

is a publication of the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research.

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GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research



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The New Nation

La noovel naasyoon

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Welcome to the *New Nation!*

Welcome to the first issue of *The New Nation: la noovel naaysoon*, a publication of the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), which promotes Métis history and culture, the Institute's activities and programs, and the larger Métis community in the province. Four issues a year will be published, one for each season: winter, spring, summer, and fall. Subscription rates to *The New Nation: la noovel naaysoon* will remain relatively low as we would like to see as many people as possible read it, and these rates are only meant to recover the costs associated with shipping the magazine. *The New Nation: la noovel naaysoon* will be available for free at the GDI Publishing Office, at cultural events in which GDI has a display, as well as online at the *Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture* (www.metismuseum.ca).

This publication will help GDI highlight and archive our many accomplishments as the first-ever Métis-owned educational and cultural institute. GDI will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2010, the *Year of the Métis*. GDI's mission, which guides the Institute's work, provides a wide variety of topics to cover in the magazine.

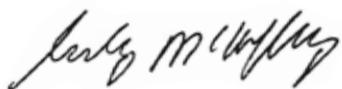
GDI mission: To promote the renewal and the development of Métis culture through research, materials development, collections and the distribution of those materials and the development and delivery of Métis-specific educational programs and services.

In addition to GDI news and stories, *The New Nation: la noovel naaysoon* invites our readership to submit digital photos, news, stories, and poetry which will be reviewed by an editorial committee.

We know from the extensive digital collection of over 230 issues of *New Breed Magazine* housed on the *Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture* that what is written today becomes the history of tomorrow. This treasured collection provides a significant overview of Métis growth and achievement since its first issue in 1970. We are grateful to the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan for producing this invaluable record of our recent history.

We look forward to adding to this legacy with the inaugural issue of *The New Nation: la noovel naaysoon*.

Sincerely,



Geordy McCaffrey
Executive Director
Gabriel Dumont Institute

2010 Named Year of the Métis

Article by Lisa Wilson

The “Year of the Métis” was announced in the Throne Speech on October 21, 2009 as an opportunity to acknowledge Métis history, celebrate Métis accomplishments, and commemorate the 125th anniversary of the 1885 Resistance. There has never been a dedication of this magnitude made to Métis citizens by the province on record. The year 2010 marks a milestone anniversary for the Métis citizens of Canada as the 125th anniversary of the 1885 Resistance.

“This is a historic proclamation,” Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN—S) President Robert Doucette said. “Never before has there been recognition like this given to the Métis citizens of Saskatchewan.”

In an official ceremony on November 4, 2009 at the Saskatchewan Legislature, Premier Brad Wall, accompanied by MN—S President Robert Doucette, officially proclaimed 2010 as the “Year of the Métis” in Saskatchewan.

“Long before we were a province, there were Métis here,” Wall said. “They have formed a significant, vibrant and distinct culture across Western Canada. The coming year will be a chance to celebrate that past, as well as being an opportunity to look towards the future.”

2010 will be a year of commemoration, celebrations, and reconciliation for all Métis citizens and non-Métis across North America. “We are expecting thousands of Métis citizens from across the country to join us as we turn a new historic chapter in the lives of Métis citizens, Canadians, and citizens of the great province of Saskatchewan. Reconciliation is important to this chapter in history,” said President Doucette. “The designation of 2010 being the *Year of the Métis* by the province of Saskatchewan marks a great chapter in moving forward for the Métis Nation as well as the province.”

Prior to Canada’s configuration as a nation, the Métis people emerged out of the relations of First Nations women and European men. While the

initial offspring of these First Nation and European unions were individuals who possessed mixed ancestry, the gradual establishment of Métis communities distinct from First Nations and European cultures and settlements, and subsequent intermarriages between Métis women and Métis men, resulted in the genesis of a new Aboriginal people—the Métis Nation.

The Métis Nation, as a distinct Aboriginal people, fundamentally shaped Canada’s expansion westward through on-going declaration of our collective identity and rights. From the Red River Resistance to the Battle of Batoche to other notable collective actions undertaken throughout the Métis Nation Homeland, the history and identity of Métis citizens will forever be a part of Canada’s existence.

Today, Métis citizens are alive and well within Canada. Each year thousands return to Saskatchewan to pay respects to those who fought for us 125 years ago, and celebrate the rich culture that has made Saskatchewan the heart of the Métis Nation and home to all.

Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Run

Features Many Métis Participants

Article by David Morin

After travelling over 100 days, through more than 1,000 communities, and over 45,000 kilometres, the Olympic Flame reached Vancouver on February 12, to open the 2010 Olympic Games. Over the course of its journey, the flame was held by many proud Métis. At 83 years of age, Rose Fleury was honoured with being a Torch bearer through Duck Lake (Saskatchewan). Rose decided that the Métis should be represented by holding the Torch while riding in a horse-drawn wagon through her hometown. Many excited family,

friends, and community people cheered on Rose as the Flame made its way from the Duck Lake town hall to the Duck Lake Interpretive Centre.

In North Battleford, former MN—S Treasurer, Gabe Lafond ran with the Torch, while in Saskatoon, Tyson Poulin and Jacqueline Lavallee were proud to hold the Torch high as they completed their leg of the relay. Tyson, a Grade 8 student at Fairhaven School, was chosen to carry the flame because he is a leader and role model for other Métis youth. Jacqueline was chosen as Saskatoon's official Olympic Torch bearer and had the honour of lighting a cauldron kicking off Saskatoon's celebration in



Karron Shimon

Tyson Poulin

Kiwanis Park. A graduate of the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) and currently a high school teacher at Oskayak in Saskatoon, Jacqueline has played basketball for the University of Saskatchewan, Team Canada, and the Marburg Marlins (a professional team in Germany).

Peter Beszterda



Jacqueline Lavallee



David Morin

Krystle Pederson and Scott Duffee

In addition to the torch bearers, the Métis were well represented at the cultural celebrations in Kiwanis Park following the lighting of the cauldron. Multi-talented singer, songwriter, actor, and playwright, Andrea Menard sang a beautiful song, followed by Krystle Pederson's rendition of the "Red River Valley." Scott Duffee came out and joined Krystle, dancing the "Red River Jig" to the thunderous applause of the audience.

The celebration was an excellent kick off to the Olympics and had everyone excited to cheer on Canada when the competitions started on February 13.



David Morin

Andrea Menard

Rose Fleury: Proud to represent Métis

Article by Andréa Ledding, Reprinted from *Eagle Feather News*

Métis Elder Rose Fleury was honoured to be an Olympic Torch bearer as it passed through her hometown of Duck Lake, Saskatchewan. An active community member, Fleury's work compiling statistics for Métis genealogy has created a legacy enabling thousands of Métis to trace their ancestry. Her tenacity and commitment is not unlike that of Olympic athletes, all of whom make personal sacrifices and dedicate their time and energy to pursue goals and inspire others.



Peter Beszterda

Duck Lake Town Office

Born Rose Gariepy near MacDowall, Saskatchewan on November 26, 1926, she grew up on a homestead north of Duck Lake. She learned to read, write, and became keenly interested in history while attending school in Duck Lake. An equally valuable education came at home from her grandmother's stories of travels, work, and families, underpinned with a reminder to "never forget where you come from or who you are. Listen to your Elders."

Working hard all her life, including maintaining a trapline in her youth, she lived at home until she was 17, and married Ernest Fleury at 21.

"I've kept track of my life in journals," noted Rose. Deaths, births, weddings, and happenings of the day have been faithfully recorded. "Unfortunately, my early journals were lost when our house burned in 1960."

When she broke her leg and was confined to a wheelchair in 1967, she began genealogical research, starting with her own families—Gariepy and Fleury, Parenteau and Lafond. Breaking her hip and left leg again gave her time to compile her research into a family history.

"Now I am 83 and have

a genealogy centre at Batoche," she said. Adding it's disheartening that many people don't know their ancestors beyond three generations. "This is why I am putting my whole heart into this project. It's important for our people to know where they came from, how we travelled, where were our ancestral homes, what kind of work was done to provide food, shelter, and clothing."

History, stories, and entertainment are the backbone of Métis culture, adds Rose. "I am dedicating my history books to all our lost people who are still in limbo as they research the history

of their ancestors and cultural background.”

She added it is an honour to be selected to carry the Olympic Torch on behalf of the Métis people and her community.

“It was very awesome . . . I don’t even know who put my name in, but I guess there was quite a few angels in Duck Lake.”

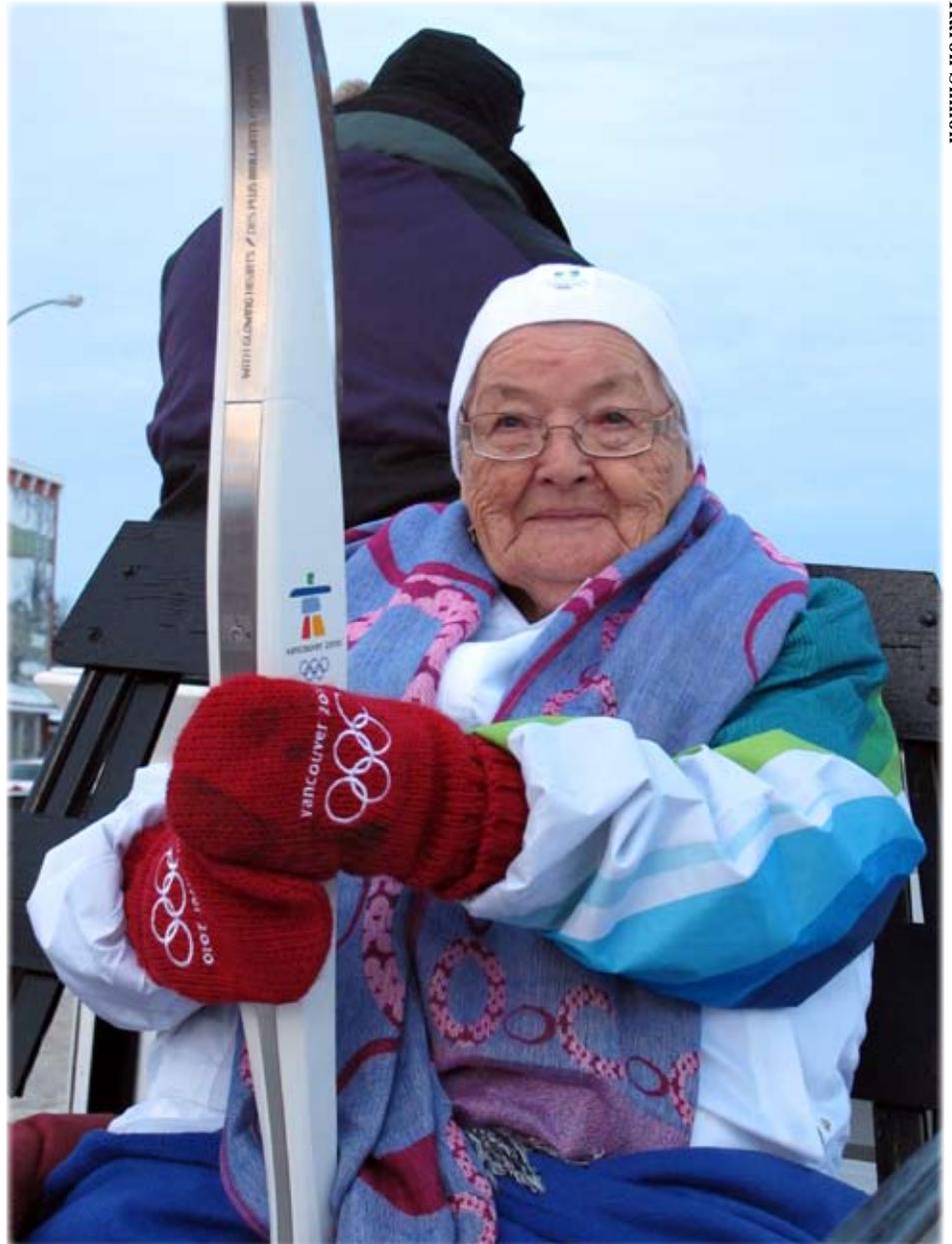
Fleury said given her age, she wasn’t going to accept but her kids talked her into it, saying it was a once in a lifetime opportunity. Cutting short a trip in B.C.—she said she’d had enough of the mountains anyway, and liked getting back to her flat country—she came back to carry the Torch while riding in a wagon, her own stipulation.

“I said I don’t want to go in a truck, that’s not my thing—since I’m representing the Métis I should ride in a wagon.” Starting at the Duck Lake town hall, she carried the torch to the Duck Lake Interpretive Centre, with many relatives and friends watching proudly—she has even lived to see her fifth generation, in two great-great-grandchildren. Her family chipped in to purchase the

torch she carried, and are getting everything framed including the suit, mitts, and toque.

She calculates they must have two or three hundred photos that they snapped.

“It’s once in a lifetime,” Fleury said, adding that even if another Olympics comes to Canada in her lifetime, “You don’t get to do it a second time—there’s always somebody else who needs to have a turn.”



Karon Shimon

Rose Fleury

GDI Acquires 1885 Willow Bunch Coin

Article by Lisa Wilson

A unique counterstamped coin used in the Willow Bunch area in 1885 has been purchased at auction. The coin is a 1797 British cartwheel penny which has been counterstamped on one side with the words "A GAUDRY WILLOWBUNCH" around the edge of the rim and the date "1885" stamped in the centre. On the other side, the counterstamp "50 CENTS" appears near the centre of the coin.

Willow Bunch was originally settled by three groups of Métis hunters from Manitoba (about 75 families in total) who wintered in the area. Willow Bunch is one of the oldest settlements in Saskatchewan. By 1885, when the coin was struck, Willow Bunch had become a boundary post for the North West Mounted Police (NWMP).

The name stamped on the coin, "A GAUDRY," refers to André Gaudry, born in 1851 in what is now Manitoba.

According to an article by George Manz in *Canadian Coin News* (August 2009), there were very few coins in circulation in Canada, and particularly in the Northwest at the time the coin was counterstamped for use by André Gaudry. While Gaudry did not run a store or business that would require the use of currency, it appears that he was an entrepreneur, with contracts to build stables for the NWMP, deliver mail to Willow Bunch, acted as hunter, interpreter, and scout, and he helped build the telegraph system across that part of Saskatchewan.

According to Manz, André Gaudry probably

counterstamped the coin to commemorate his building of the telegraph line in 1885 and then used it as currency in Willow Bunch. But, as Manz notes, no one really knows for sure why the coin was counterstamped by Gaudry, although Manz speculates that it is quite likely that the token was spent at Jean-Louis Légare's store in Willow Bunch, the only store in the village at the time.

The coin was acquired at an auction by MN—S President Robert Doucette, on behalf of the Institute. The coin is now in GDI's possession and will be added to the Institute's growing collection of Métis artifacts. The coin's acquisition coincides nicely with the anniversary of the 1885 Resistance in 2010.



Values are at the forefront

of The Giving Tree

Article by David Morin

Honesty, respect, love, sharing, caring, courage, balance, patience, strength, kindness, and tolerance for Mother Earth are the spokes emanating from the centre hub of Leah Dorion's Red River cart wheel, which represents the Creator. Leah Dorion was raised with these traditional Métis values, and they are the ever apparent themes behind her second children's book, *The Giving Tree: A Retelling of a Traditional Métis Story*. *The Giving Tree* focuses on the boyhood memories of Moushoom as he describes finding the "Great Giving Tree" with his parents. When travelling, the local Métis used the hollow of an old Manitoba Maple as a cache to hold supplies in case anybody needed them on their journeys. The golden rule when using the Giving Tree was that if you took something from it you had to put something back.

Leah's story contains a translation in Michif-Cree by Norman Fleury, which helps preserve the language. The book also contains a narration CD in which Leah reads the story

in English, and Norman in Michif.

The Giving Tree story was told to Leah by Saskatoon Elder Frank Tomkins. After hearing the story, she decided it was something that should be shared with all children because of the values it contained. Leah also provided *The Giving Tree* with many beautiful paintings. An accomplished

writer and educator, Leah has become a very well-known artist. To see more of her art, visit her website: www.leahdorion.com.



The Giving Tree:
A Retelling of a
Traditional Métis Story



Written and illustrated
by Leah Dorion

Michif Translation
by Norman Fleury

GDI Wins Big at Sask Book Awards

Saskatchewan Book Awards Press Release and Acceptance Speech by Karon Shmon

November 29, 2009, the Saskatchewan writing and publishing communities paid tribute to their own at the 17th Annual Saskatchewan Book Awards Gala.

"This year's winners represent not only excellence, but perseverance for the time and effort they put towards their endeavours as most do so with very little financial gain. In my eyes they truly are 'Stars in Their Own Write,'" said Jackie Lay, the executive director of the Saskatchewan Book Awards.

Fourteen awards were presented, with the big winner of the evening being *Dancing in my Bones* written by Wilfred Burton and Anne Patton and published by GDI, which captured the *Award for Publishing*, the *First Peoples' Publishing Award*, and, new this year, the *First Peoples' Writing Award*.

Before the awards, Rudy Wiebe, multiple-award-winning author delighted the crowd speaking about his connection to the Saskatchewan writing community and Poet Laureate Robert Currie spoke on the importance of writers and poets.

Karon Shmon, GDI's Publishing Coordinator, accepted the award on behalf of the Institute. "Every Gabriel Dumont Institute publication is the result of a great deal of effort by many people. We are honoured when authors with the writing and storytelling talent of Wilfred Burton and Anne Patton and the artistic talent of Sherry Farrell Racette want to work with us. *Dancing in My Bones* has provided us with a second opportunity to work with this team. Working on *Fiddle Dancer* with them last year was such a pleasure.

Our Publishing Department team works collaboratively to see that their sparkling stories and images make it to print. The project was

led by David Morin, who also did the layout for the publication, and has organized the book launches and promotional activities. The rest of us take a hand in writing contracts, overseeing financial and production matters, and doing whatever other work is required to ensure Métis-focused stories of this calibre are available now and in the future.

Our work could not be done without the support of the Gabriel Dumont Institute Board of Governors who set the priorities for the Institute and guide the policies that enable us to fulfill them. We also thank the sponsors of the awards, and the Saskatchewan Book



2009 Publishing Award Plaques

Peter Beszterda

Awards, for enabling us to be recognized in such a prestigious way. *Maarsij!*"

In addition to the three awards won by *Dancing in My Bones*, it was also short-listed for the *Publishing in Education Award*, which is presented to the Saskatchewan publisher of the best educational book, primary through post-secondary levels; and *The Readers' Choice Award*, which is chosen by readers who vote for their favourite new Saskatchewan book.



Brian Cobbedick of UnBound Images

Wilfred Burton book signing following the program

GDIT&E Partners on Buffalo Narrows Project

Article by Lisa Wilson

Gabriel Dumont Institute Training and Employment Inc (GDIT&E) has contributed to a partnership with the Buffalo Narrows Economic Development Corporation (BNEDC), Clarence Campeau Development Fund (CCDF), and Western Economic Diversification that will stimulate economic development and strengthen Métis employment opportunities in Buffalo Narrows and surrounding area. BNEDC will build a 30,000 square-foot Town Centre with 20,000 square feet devoted to commercial rental space and 10,000 square feet for retail space. The facility will fill a need for floor space in the area's crowded commercial

rental market. Administrative and retail positions will be created along with about 30 immediate construction jobs.

"Gabriel Dumont Institute is built on a tradition of partnerships much like this one," said GDI Board Chairperson, Gabe Lafond. "The smaller size of the Institute lends itself well to providing a rapid and flexible response to employer needs and to current economic stimulus activities. We have the capacity to capitalize on these circumstances to foster partnerships and create new opportunities."

Federal funding of \$750,000

is being provided through the Community Adjustment Fund as part of Canada's Economic Action Plan. The CCDF is providing \$1 million through its Community Business Development Program and its Large Scale Projects Program. GDIT&E is providing funding for Métis employees via its wage subsidy program.

BNEDC will own and operate the multi-purpose commercial building. All revenues from the Town Centre will be re-invested into economic development activities in the community.

Vince Ahenakew and the Gabriel Dumont Institute bring Michif to the North

Article by David Morin

GDI has released two Île-à-la-Crosse Michif resources written by Vince Ahenakew.

Nêhiyawêwin Masinahikan: Michif*/Cree Dictionary is a comprehensive resource, featuring thousands of words in the “Northern” or “Île-à-la-Crosse” Michif language.

Nêhiyawêwin Mitâtaht: Michif ahci Cree is a useful introduction to the grammar of this language. This language consists of a northern Plains Cree base (“Y” dialect) with some French nouns. It is spoken mainly in northwestern Saskatchewan in the following communities: Beauval, Buffalo Narrows, Canoe Narrows, Cole Bay, Dillon, Green Lake, Île-à-la-Crosse (Sakitawak), Jans Bay, Patuanak, Pinehouse, and Turnor Lake. Île-à-la-Crosse Michif is the only Michif language that is taught in a school system. It remains a living language in a region that has a very vibrant and unique Métis culture. As part of its release, GDI sent 100 copies of each resource to Rossignol School in Île-à-la-Crosse so that they can be used by the teachers to help pass on this Michif language.

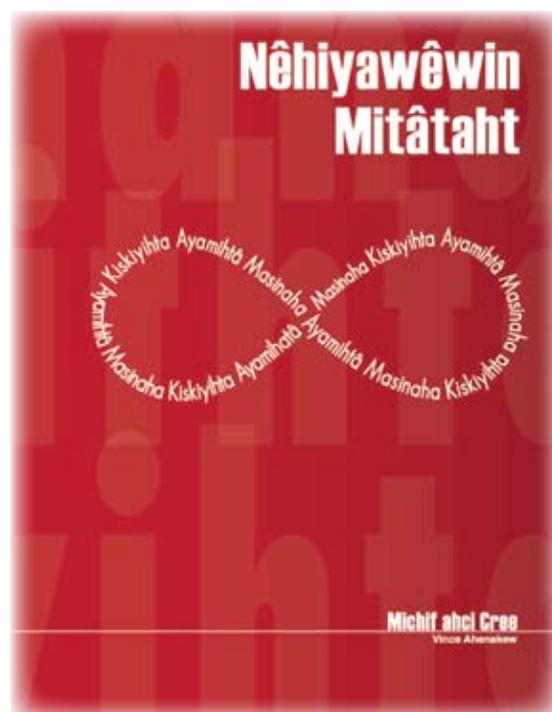
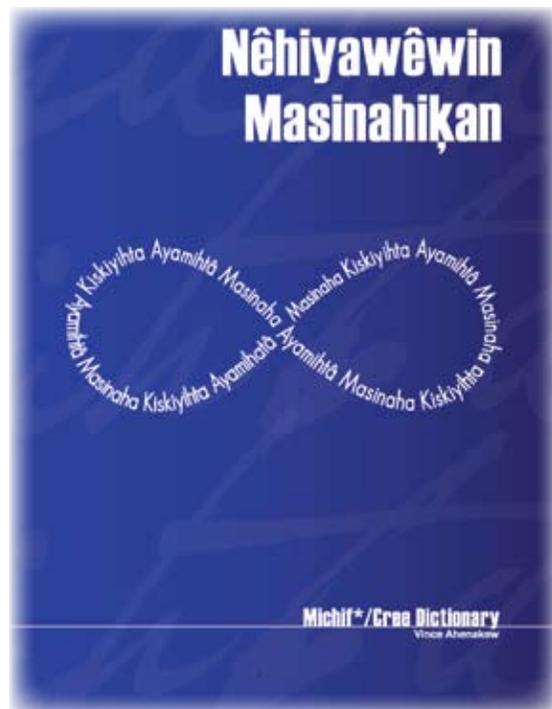
GDI plans to use both resources as templates to create similar texts in Michif-Cree and Michif-French in order to preserve all three Michif languages spoken in Saskatchewan.

Both of these resources are available online at www.gdins.org/catalog, or by contacting GDI at the address below:

Gabriel Dumont Institute
2-604 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK S7M 5W1
(P) 306.934.4941
(F) 306.244.0252

Nêhiyawêwin Masinahikan: Michif*/Cree Dictionary
ISBN: 978-0-920915-93-6
Price: \$30.00

Nêhiyawêwin Mitâtaht: Michif ahci Cree
ISBN: 978-0-920915-94-3
Price: \$30.00



ASTSIF Partnership Announcement

Article by Lisa Wilson

On January 15, 2010, the federal and provincial governments and GDI formally announced their partnership for the Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund (ASTSIF) programming at a media event in Saskatoon. GDI's ASTSIF programs include a large Health Sector Training initiative and a partnership project aimed at small to medium-sized employers.

Ms. Kelly Block, Member of Parliament for Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggan, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, announced the funding for the two projects that GDI will undertake.

"Our government is dedicated to creating the best educated, the most skilled and the most flexible workforce in the world," said Ms. Block. "Through the advanced training and partnerships provided by the Gabriel Dumont Institute, Métis people in Saskatchewan will gain the skills they need to participate in the labour market today and prepare for the jobs of the future."

Cabe Lafond, former MN-S Minister of Education and GDI Chair, noted, "These innovative and exciting new projects offer benefits to both parties: employers and Métis workers. Métis individuals benefit by gaining practical work experience, exposure to the labour market, and a chance to utilize and enhance their skills. Small to medium-sized employers will receive assistance to prepare ready workplaces for Aboriginal employees and then find and retain skilled Aboriginal workers."

GDI's Health Sector Aboriginal Human Resources Initiative and its Strategic Partnership Development Initiative will together receive more than \$5 million to provide job planning assistance and training to about 250 individuals. A recent amendment to the Health Sector Initiative added training programs for Health Unit Clerks and increased the funding to accommodate the change.

The Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour (AEEL) is contributing more than \$450,000 over two

years to the project in Provincial Training Allowance support for students in entry level programs. The Dumont Technical Institute will be offering up to six entry level health programs across Saskatchewan which will be eligible for Provincial Training Allowance support. The Honourable Rob Norris, AEEL Minister noted the significant role Métis and First Nations people play in the labour market. "This investment by the provincial government signifies our commitment to ensuring Saskatchewan people have the opportunity to participate fully in our labour market."

The ASTSIF is part of Canada's Economic Action Plan investment of \$200 million over three years to provide Aboriginal Canadians with training and skills development opportunities that create jobs in their communities. In total, the Economic Action Plan has committed \$1.4 billion for training, on-reserve housing, infrastructure and health.

National Aboriginal Day

Article and Photographs by Meredith Penner

GDI and Batoche National Historic Site partnered together once again to help celebrate National Aboriginal Day on June 21 and 22, 2009 at Batoche. It was my first time experiencing the National Aboriginal Day celebration there. As soon as we arrived on the Batoche grounds, the atmosphere was filled with fiddle music, history, and celebration. The day started off with the raising of the flag by Métis Elders, Ed Bruce and Rose Fleury on the first day, and on the second day by Ed St. Pierre and Harriet Oaks. The One Arrow Drummers sang and drummed an honour song while the flags were being raised.

Later, once everyone was settled inside on the rainy day, the Sakitawak Michif Dancers from Île-à-la-Crosse, Saskatchewan performed in the theatre, which was packed with people. They showed us the "Broomstick Dance," the "Sash Dance," and the traditional "Red River Jig." Individuals from the crowd were asked to come down and learn how to dance with the Michif Dancers. Fiddle music provided by Adele Gaudet kept the dancers moving. It was great to see

people involved and having a fun time.

A number of special publications were launched as part of the celebrations which began with a launch of *The Free People—Li Gens Libres* by Diane Payment who was on hand to address those present, both in French and English. The book is the only comprehensive history of the Métis community and National Historic Site of Batoche, and is the result of thirty years of documentary and field research as a participant-observer within the community.

Authors Wilfred Burton and Anne Patton read their newly published book *Dancing in My Bones* to a captive audience. Throughout the second day, Anne Patton and illustrator Sherry Farrell Racette read to groups of students from seven different schools located throughout the province. I watched many of the students during the book readings, and I could see in their faces how much each one of them really enjoyed this great children's book.

Anne Acco came all the way from Laval, Quebec to read her new book *Ekosi: A Métisse*



Anne Patton and Wilfred Burton

Retrospective of Poetry and Prose. You could hear a pin drop as Anne read her poems, many of which gave me the shivers. I thought the poems were very inspirational. Near the end of the day Anne was doing a signing for people who had



Anne Acco

purchased the book. Elder Harriett Oaks shared the Michif language through songs that she taught the captive student audience. The students were quick learners as they enthusiastically joined in the singing.

Métis traditional arts were demonstrated by Margaret Harrison and Joanna Potyondi who shared their display of rug hooking, embroidery, and capote-making with the audience.

Gregory Scofield, a Métis poet, also attended the event. He kept the crowd's interest as he read some of his poetry from the book *I Knew Two Métis Women*, as well as a reading of Rita Bouvier's children's book *Better That Way*.

National Aboriginal Day was also a great day for the arts as Sherry Farrell Racette talked about her series of paintings that she had made many years ago, portraying Métis history. GDI recently restored the paintings, which have been reproduced as retractable panels so that Parks Canada, GDI, and the University of Saskatchewan Department of Native Studies can share the images and teachings more broadly with others. Jane Ash Poitras, a unique artist, was



One Arrow Drummers



Flag raising ceremony



Sakitawak Michif Dancers

at the event signing National Aboriginal Day posters of her beautiful painting *Gabriel Dumont: Prince of the Plains*, which was being given out along with postcards.

Overall, this was a great event which was filled with dancing, music, storytelling, and culture. Being able to



Gregory Scofield

experience Batoche and learn about Métis history was also a highlight. National Aboriginal Day was definitely a great success and an event I will attend for years to come. It was a spirited and proud day for all Aboriginal people.

A More Nuanced View of the 1885

Resistance is Needed

Article by Darren R. Préfontaine

I read with great interest Bill Waiser's response to Doug Cuthand's article relating to the 1885 Resistance's impact on the region's Métis and First Nations peoples in recent editions of the *Saskatoon StarPhoenix*. Professor Waiser is correct to dispel the pernicious myth that the region's First Nations and Métis had a grand alliance to deal with their common colonizer in 1885. Professor Waiser's "Loyal to Death" thesis (from the book with the same name) has become the new orthodoxy relating to First Nation's involvement in the 1885 Resistance. However, as other historians, including Gerhard J. Ens, argue the pendulum has swung too far in the other direction. A more nuanced view of 1885 is clearly needed. History is invariably more complicated than the neat narrative provided by Professor Waiser. The "true" story of the 1885 Resistance is somewhere between the old myth of Stanley et al of a grand First Nations-Métis alliance and the new orthodoxy of the vast majority of First Nations remaining "Loyal to Death."

There was no universal First Nations or Métis response to 1885, but rather different responses that depended on a host of mitigating factors. While it is true that most First Nations bands were committed to being loyal to the Crown, some were committed to war and did fight such as Poundmaker's warriors who won at the Battle of Cutknife Hill; others, such as Big Bear's band and those in the Peace Hills reserves, in present-day Alberta, planned for war but did not fight because of the quick entry of the fledgling Canadian Army in the Northwest in the spring of 1885; and some First Nations fought alongside their Métis kinfolk at Duck Lake, Fish Creek, and Batoche. Moreover, as Professor Waiser correctly argues not all Métis supported Dumont and Riel—some fought under Dumont, some served as scouts and trackers for the NWMP and the Army, but most remained neutral.

A minority view among some First Nations saw planning and making war as a legitimate means of diplomacy in 1885. In two unrelated oral dictations, both Big Bear's son, Little Bear

and Gabriel Dumont indicated that some Cree were preparing for war in early 1885. By not including this important point in the narrative of the 1885 Resistance, we are denying agency to those First Nations who took up arms. *Loyal to Death* also makes Gabriel Dumont and the other Métis resistance fighters look like thugs who forcibly coerced local First Nations into their ranks. This is almost a caricatured take on the Métis that looks surprisingly similar to classic Hollywood movies such as Cecil B. DeMille's "North-West Mounted Police," which portrayed the Métis as violent and determined to disturb the "Queen's peace." Nowhere in the book are the Métis given agency.

Doug Cuthand was correct to argue that today's colonization of Western Canada's Métis and First Nations is rooted in the 1885 Resistance—because out of these tragic events, an intolerant Anglo-Protestant region was built, and all Aboriginal people were marginalized. That's the unfortunate aftermath of this tragic event in our common history.

Bringing the Past to the Present

Article by Kymber Palidwar

Recently, I took the opportunity to attend a workshop in Saskatoon that taught participants how to make a traditional Métis capote out of a Hudson's Bay point blanket.

The workshop was facilitated by Suzan Lagrove, who has helped over five hundred capotes come to life throughout Western Canada, and it was also guided by Saskatchewan's own capote maker, Elder Joanna Potyondi.

Suzan started off the day with a Power Point presentation illustrating the history of the capote. Every so often, I would glance in Elder Joanna's direction, to find her nodding in approval of the information presented. We gained insight to our Métis history that I, personally, knew little about prior to the workshop. It's

always humbling to see where we've come from, and how we've developed as people, communities, and cultures.

Filled with a sense of pride after the history lesson, I was then overwhelmed with excitement when it came time to take our point blankets out of their packaging. My heart started to beat faster, and my hands could hardly wait to touch the wool fabric. I've seen point blankets before, on display or in photos, but I've never felt one, or had one "belong to me."

With little experience in sewing or fabricwork, I went into the workshop a bit nervous that I would wind up at the back of the pack, with my capote unfinished by the end of the day. How could I possibly bring to life, in one short day, such a

symbol of our ancestors' history, and manage to do it justice?

Tracing out patterns with my scissors, and making each blanket stitch, I constantly peeked over at the other working tables, to make sure I was on the right track, and keeping up with everyone else (they seemed so much more experienced than me). But, as we worked, I was surprised at how easy the capotes came together!

The blanket stitch is incredibly quick to learn, and patterns are a breeze to line up and trace out. The hardest part truly was bringing scissors to the blanket. The patterns are designed to use one blanket per coat, no more. So, I often found myself wary of making the wrong cut, or wasting any fabric. Quadruple-checking my lines



Suzan Lagrove

Joanna Potyondi, Kymber Palidwar, Kelly Bouvier



Karon Shimon

Jennifer Altenberg, Kelly Bouvier

and measurements was not an uncommon practice!

By the end of the workshop, I was grinning ear-to-ear with pride at my nearly-finished capote. I had all the pieces fitted together, and all that was remaining was the decorative blanket stitch along the edges.

I am grateful that CDI organized this workshop, and that I signed

up quick enough to be one of its maximum fifteen participants. All things considered, I would say the most rewarding part of my day was quietly stitching, listening to Andrea Menard's songs, fiddling CDs, and the chatter of women joking back and forth with each other.

In the most refreshing of ways, in that room full of new faces and unfamiliar craftwork, I so much felt like part of a community.

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History of the Hudson's Bay

Company Point Blanket

Article by Suzan Lagrove and Photographs by Karon Shmon

For over two centuries, the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) point blanket has been a familiar item in Canada and around the world. People get as much pleasure today from the blanket as when they were first introduced into the fur trade in 1780. Canadian furs from animals such as the beaver were in demand in Europe and were used for the latest style of hats and coats. Fur was one of the items that Aboriginal peoples often traded with Europeans in exchange for a manufactured item like the blanket.

The "point" system was invented as a means of indicating the

size of a blanket. In a way, the points are a kind of code or a label indicating the blanket's size. The indigo lines woven on the side of each blanket identify the number of points. The number of points represents the finished size of the blanket, not its value in terms of beaver pelts as is sometimes believed. Point blankets rapidly became extremely popular with Aboriginal peoples.

Even though blankets had been a staple of the fur trade for Aboriginal peoples and HBC men prior to 1780, it was not until their first shipment to Fort Albany in 1780 that they were

shipped on a regular basis. By 1860, consistency of both sizes and colours was established.

The white blanket, woven with a wide-coloured stripe or bar at each end, was originally made for winter use. These blankets were popular with First Nations people as they provided excellent camouflage in winter. Different colours were popular in different regions of Canada. The highly-recognized blanket with green, red, yellow, and indigo stripes sometimes referred to as "chief's blankets" are also known as "multi-stripes." Introduced around 1800, they were later called "Queen Anne's

colours” because during her reign nearly a century earlier (1700-1714), these colours were the fashion colours of the day. Additional colours were designed to meet the needs of home decor colour themes of the current period. For over two centuries, the HBC point blanket has been part of the rich history of North America and continues to do so today with their latest point blanket for the 2010 Olympics. This is the third blanket to have four stripes of colour—the second was the millennium blanket in 2000.

The weavers of Witney and Oxfordshire were the principal suppliers of HBC blankets. The wool was (and still is) a blend of varieties from Britain and New Zealand, each selected for its special qualities that will make



Tracey Verishine, Suzan Lagrove

the blanket water resistant, soft, warm, and strong. While the HBC never actually manufactured the blankets, it did play a vital role in ensuring their quality and manufacturing standards when they imported them to the New World. Around 1890, the HBC began attaching a label to the blankets to ensure that buyers would be in receipt of the authentic article, as there were many comparable blankets on the market.

The Plains Indians often wore the blankets instead of buffalo robes and used them to make coats. The Métis fashioned the blanket into a wrap coat with hood and fringing called a capote.

Many early point blankets have survived into the 21st century and have become collector’s items. Nowadays, genuine point blankets have become very collectible and can fetch up to thousands of dollars. The main determinants of value include age, size, colour, pattern, rarity, and condition. Particularly collectible point blankets are the Coronation Blankets: the one produced for the 1953 coronation of Queen Elizabeth II brings an average price of \$600.00 for a good condition blanket. Generally, older point blankets are more valuable than regular wool blankets of the same age. With proper care



and storage, your point blanket will give many years of service and will become a valued family heirloom.

There are a number of clues to dating the manufacture of various point blankets. If the blanket has a label, the task is easy. If the blanket does not have a label, the task is a great deal more difficult. For any collectors or general point blanket enthusiasts I recommend Harold Tichenor’s *The Blanket: an Illustrated History of the Hudson’s Bay Point Blanket* and his second book, *A Collector’s Guide to Point Blankets*.

SUNTEP Grad Honoured as

Outstanding Alumnus

Article by Lisa Wilson

Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) alumnus Corey Matthews has been named the University of Regina (U of R)'s Outstanding Young Alumnus for 2009 and received an *Alumni Crowning Achievement Award* in a ceremony in Regina.

Corey received his Bachelor of Education degree from SUNTEP Regina in 2003 and has been making his mark as a community leader ever since. He is the founder and Executive Director of the North Central Lakers Club, an organization dedicated to creating highly successful Aboriginal youth. The club runs elite sports programs, a successful youth group, and is developing a modern-day manhood training program based on traditional Aboriginal teachings.

Corey's achievements have previously been recognized with two nominations for the *Métis National Role Model* awards, a 2006 Regina Crime Prevention award, and a Centennial Medal for Service to Saskatchewan in 2006. In 2008, Corey was

named Aboriginal Apprentice Coach for the 2009 Canada Summer Games Saskatchewan basketball team. Corey was also selected as a Métis Olympic Torch bearer for the 2010 Olympics and carried the Torch on January 12, 2010.

During his tenure as a teacher at Scott Collegiate in Regina, Corey revived a 15-year-dormant basketball team to win City Championships twice. This year, Corey began working at Winston Knoll Collegiate as a Core Leader in Student Support Services.

As a young student, Corey did not experience typical success in the classroom, and he entered SUNTEP not really believing that university was for him. Through his four years in the SUNTEP program, Corey not only succeeded in his studies, he excelled to achieve at a high level.

"To go from thinking that I did not belong there to being recognized by the University shows the power of an expanded world view and a great

educational setting," says Corey.

The Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards were established by the U of R in 2005 to celebrate alumni who have realized extraordinary achievements and made remarkable contributions to the University and their communities. One award is presented annually in each of the following five categories: *Lifetime Achievement Award*; *Award for Professional Achievement*; *Award for Humanitarian and Community Service*; *Award for Outstanding Service to the University and the University of Regina Alumni Association*; and *Outstanding Young Alumnus Award*.

Corey says of his award, "This ranks as one of my highest honours that I have achieved." With over 50,000 U of R alumni, Corey has good reason to be proud of his achievement.

The fourth annual *Crowning Achievement Awards Gala* was held November 20, 2009 at the Hotel Saskatchewan in Regina.

Honouring Our Alumni Awards Gala

Article and Photographs by Karon Shmon

The University of Saskatchewan held its annual *Honouring Our Alumni Awards* on February 4, 2010 in Saskatoon, where the accomplishments of six alumni were celebrated, two of whom—Cort Dogniez and Alika LaFontaine—are Métis.

Cort Dogniez was recognized with the *Alumni Excellence in Aboriginal Initiatives Award* for his “significant and on-going contribution to aboriginal initiatives and the aboriginal community.” Dogniez’s career spans 30 years with Saskatoon Public Schools where he has been a teacher and administrator, and where he is currently the Coordinator of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis



Cort Dogniez

Education. Throughout his career, he has been a strong advocate for Métis and First Nations children and families bringing his knowledge to bear on curriculum, language programs, and division policy. His work as a founding member of the Okiciyapi Partnership has been critical to its success. The partnership is a strategic alliance between the Central Urban Métis Federation Inc., the Saskatoon Tribal Council, and Saskatoon Public Schools. The partners collaborate to bring Métis, Inuit, and First Nations culture and heritage to all staff and students, and to assist in the creation of culturally-responsive learning environments. In accepting the award, Dogniez humbly acknowledged the help he has received from his family, friends, colleagues, mentors, and the community who have supported and encouraged him in his life’s work.

Alika LaFontaine received the *Outstanding Young Alumni Award* “presented in recognition of a graduate from within the last 10 years who is 35 years of age or younger, and who has achieved significant accomplishments since graduation.” Dr. LaFontaine graduated from medical school in 2006, and is currently specializing in anesthesiology.

He has strong ties to both his Aboriginal and Pacific Islander heritage. His other accomplishments are impressive. He was the youngest recipient of a *National Aboriginal Achievement Award*. In 2008, he was named “Canada’s Next Great Prime Minister”



Alika LaFontaine

by the CBC. He has also received many academic and volunteer awards including the *Saskatchewan Centennial Medal*.

Both recipients had a large number of supporters in attendance to applaud their achievements. GDI presented each with a sash. Congratulations to both Cort and Alika!

Dorion and Burton Share their Stories for Aboriginal Storytelling Month

Article by David Morin

February was Aboriginal Storytelling Month in Saskatchewan. It was celebrated all across the province with many different First Nations and Métis authors and storytellers sharing their stories with captive audiences in schools, libraries, friendship centres, and bookstores.

As part of the events surrounding the special month, Leah Dorion was invited by the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network to present two workshops entitled "Teachings from the Giving Tree" on February 12, 2010 in Saskatoon. Leah shared her second children's book *The Giving Tree* in two well-attended sessions, which showed how the traditional values represented in her stories can be used in literacy programs and in a regular school setting. As part of the scheduled events, Leah launched *The Giving Tree* to the general public over the lunch break. The reading and launch was well received by all those in attendance. GDI wishes to thank Carole Vandale and the rest of the staff of the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network for so graciously hosting this event.

On February 12 and 13, Wilfred Burton did a whirlwind tour of his book *Dancing in My Bones* (co-written by Anne Patton), reaching over one hundred students and community members with his award-winning story. Wilfred was joined in all of his sessions by the "Master of the Métis Fiddle," John Arcand, and his wife Vicki, who played fiddle and guitar respectively while Wilfred read. Wilfred, John, and Vicki spent the morning of February 12 with Grade one to five students at King George School in Saskatoon,



David Morin

King George School



David Morin

Mayfair Library



David Morin

Wilfred Burton with John and Vicki Arcand

and the afternoon with students from the Westmount and Caswell Hill Schools at the Mayfair Library. Wilfred not only read his story, but also demonstrated and taught all the students the fancy jig steps from *Dancing in My Bones*. Boys, girls, and even teachers learned the “cross step,” “bunny step,” and the “*chi galop*,” as John played the “Red River Jig.” Students and teachers at Mayfair Library were very lucky to have local Elder, Dorothy Aubichon in attendance because she brought fresh baked bannock for everyone! During the afternoon launch on February 13 at McNally Robinson Saskatoon, Wilfred, John, and

Vicki were back in front of friends, family, and guests, sharing the story and jiggling up a storm. One of John’s fiddle students, Laura Lynn Thomas from Outlook,

Saskatchewan, delighted the audience by picking up John’s fiddle and sharing a couple of the tunes she had learned in an impromptu jam session!



Karon Shimon

Wilfred Burton, Laura Lynn Thomas, John Arcand

Gabriel Dumont Institute and *Eagle Feather News* Partner for 2010 Year of the Métis

Article by David Morin

With 2010 being named the “Year of the Métis” by both the federal and provincial governments, *Eagle Feather News* and GDI decided to team up to help create awareness about why that distinction has been made and what activities will be going on through the year to celebrate. 2010 is the 125th anniversary of the 1885 Resistance, which culminated in the Battle of Batoche on May 9-12, 1885, and all of these years later,

Métis culture is still thriving after being socially, economically, and politically marginalized.

For the entire year, the middle spread of *Eagle Feather News* will be dedicated to bringing you historical articles on the Métis’ role in the 1885 Resistance, including a timeline

of events, a calendar of current events and celebrations for the “Year of the Métis,” and some quick Métis facts.

Be sure to pick up each copy of *Eagle Feather News* as they share these Métis stories alongside the interesting articles and stories they cover every month!



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- 7 pm Lifetime Achievement Award Presentation
- 7:30 pm CONCERT (Fiddle Instructors Showcase)

FRIDAY

- 9 am - 4 pm WORKSHOPS (Fiddle, Jigging, Guitar, and Piano)
- 1-4 pm Main Stage entertainment
- 4:30 pm Andy Dejarlis Preliminaries
- 6 pm MÉTIS CONCERT SHOWCASE
- 9 pm Old Time Dance

SATURDAY

- 9 am Fiddle Contest Preliminaries
- Jigging Contest Preliminaries
- 7 pm CONCERT (John Arcand & Special Friends)
- 9 pm Old Time Dance

SUNDAY

- 7 am Fiddles & Flapjacks (pancake breakfast with live music)
- 9 am Gospel Hour
- 10 am Fiddle Contest Finals
- Jigging Contest Finals
- Fiddle Finale

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SaskTel Métis Scholarship

Article by Lisa Wilson

In the spring of 2009, GDIT&E and SaskTel entered into a joint partnership agreement to create the *SaskTel Métis Scholarship*. The first deadline for applications to the scholarship was May 1st. The *SaskTel Métis Scholarship* had 34 applications. On May 26, 2009, the GDI Scholarship Selection Committee convened to review applications.

Seventeen students received scholarships in the amount of \$500 each. 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

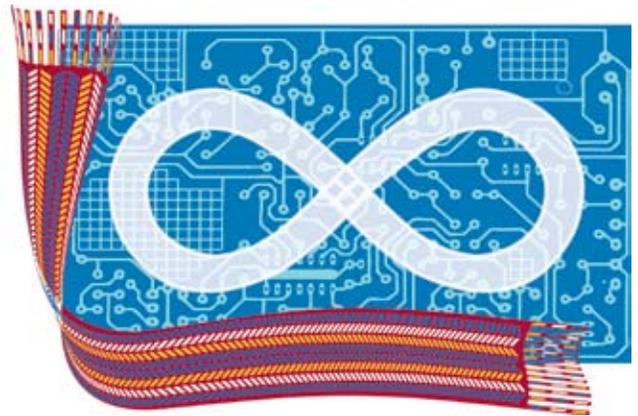
The scholarship is open to Entrance and Undergraduate students who are enrolled in accredited post-secondary institutions and are pursuing their degree, diploma, or certificate

in a program directly related to telecommunications.

The scholarship is funded by a contribution of \$9,000 per year from SaskTel, matched by the same contribution by GDIT&E. The *SaskTel Métis Scholarship* is administered by the Gabriel Dumont 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 Scholarship Foundation II Selection Committee.

Candidates must self declare as Métis; be a Saskatchewan resident; demonstrate academic ability to be successful in their course of study; be enrolled as a full-time student in the current



year; demonstrate financial need; submit a statement of no more than one page attesting to leadership skills and community involvement, which includes a 50-word biography.

Candidates must grant permission for the Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation II to provide their name, photo, course of study, and submitted statement for publication purposes, should they receive the award.

SaskTel has agreed to provide career mentorship for award recipients. SaskTel will also inform all award recipients of summer employment opportunities with SaskTel.

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

My Story as a Métis Woman

Article by Chris Blondeau Perry and Photograph by J. Columba

When one introduces themselves, I think they should start from their very first impressions of life. I was born on the south edge of Estevan, Saskatchewan on December 17, 1929. My parents were Alexandre Joseph Blondeau (born July 19, 1885 in Estevan) and Marie Beatrix Blondeau—née Desjarlais (born February 5, 1897 in what is now Lebret, Saskatchewan). They were married at Lebret, in the Roman Catholic Church, on April 5, 1921. I had three sisters and two brothers. I have two sons, one daughter, two grandsons, and two granddaughters. My family lived at this site until I was about two-years-old. I have retained some recollections of living there. One that I regard as being really significant in my life was my father putting me on the back of a white mare (named *Wahbee*) and leading her around the yard. That event has lived with me to this very moment, and it has been a great support in my life. It had a profound influence in the way my life evolved. It certainly helped cultivate the sentimentality I now possess and display without reservation. Without which, I may not have been so understanding of the

will and hard work with which my mother and father lived their lives, or to truly see the immense strength and intelligence my parents, grandparents (whom I never met), and earlier ancestors used every day of their lives.

When I started to write about the historic times of my nation, I chose to focus on the daily duties that help in moulding a lifestyle. Much of what is learned about daily duties is learned by example, not by speech. Speech was a constant in our lives although, with five children and two parents, talk was inevitable and constant. My parents accommodated us to as much academic education as was possible. This gave me my ability to write—except for my cartoon book of two hundred plus pages, and five Michif children's books, the majority of my writing has been to news, media, and politicians. I have defined many of the things they say, print and do in stark, realistic, and very understandable language. Most of my children's lives, I have been a single parent, a reality that was brought to the fore of my life. This included knowing how easily the justice system is

used to keep poverty-stricken people in poverty while the rich always win. Of how there can be the rich, but why there are no poor?

I presume if one has read this far, the question will be: where is the sentimentality? Well, Webster's dictionary defines it as: "Affection of fine feeling or exquisite sensibility—proneness to sentiment." Sometimes, I'm sure it governs a great part of my life, I even sometimes wonder if anyone else has that kind of feeling. I have been from Saskatchewan, west to Vancouver Island, north to Uranium City, south to the edge of Oregon, and east to Sudbury, Ontario. I have done many things besides work and caring for three children. While still at home, from the time of our first pony on, I always had a horse. My younger sister Mary and I were my father's cowboys—we looked after our cattle. We rode horses a lot—but we still milked four cows each, looked after the calves, helped with dishes in the house, and fed the cattle. We could sew, manage the house, the garden, the barn, and the chicken house. When we left home we tried rodeo bronc-

busting (we were the ones that got busted) and roping. We practised “trick-riding.” We waited on tables, cooked hamburgers and fries, anything that earned money we did. Our one rule when we worked was: “No one but us would pay our way in life.” In whatever we did, we “loved” doing it. No cat, dog, calf, horse, or wild animal that we came in contact with went by without Mary and me loving it. We also met people that we knew deserved our admiration and sentiment, whom I still love deeply. To try listing them would take more pages than I think I should use.

I must also take the opportunity to refer to reading. From the time I learned to think, I had

“heroes.” My first and forever heroes were my mother and father. They were truly wonderful things that evolved in my life and influenced the way I handled the Euro-inspired bad events. I am forever beholden to them. Then when I could read, there was an avalanche of heroes, including cartoons—“Prince Valiant” and Tim Tyler’s “Luck.” These cartoons were interesting and so superbly drawn.

More heroes came from Anna Sewell’s *Black Beauty*, Marguerite Chapman’s *Black Gold* and *Misty of Chincoteague*, Ernest Thompson Seton’s beautiful animal stories, Albert Terhune Paysen’s lovely dog stories, the poet Bliss Carmen, and Amelia Earhart because she could fly. These

are the earlier ones, from these grew many, many more. I read a lot, I saw a lot, and I heard a lot. With so many heroes, how could I deny my sentimentality? ...

I recently researched, styled, and designed a map of the settlement where I lived my early days. It was as near a “memory lane” for me as a project and article can get. I can visit the places on that map and recall the houses which my ancestors built and lived in. These include where my father was born and the exact location of the house where I was born. There was that vital help on this project which history projects need. It became an activity with which I turned to the start of my life, and turned into my life today.



Duchess and Chris Blondeau Perry

My Experience in the 2010 Vancouver

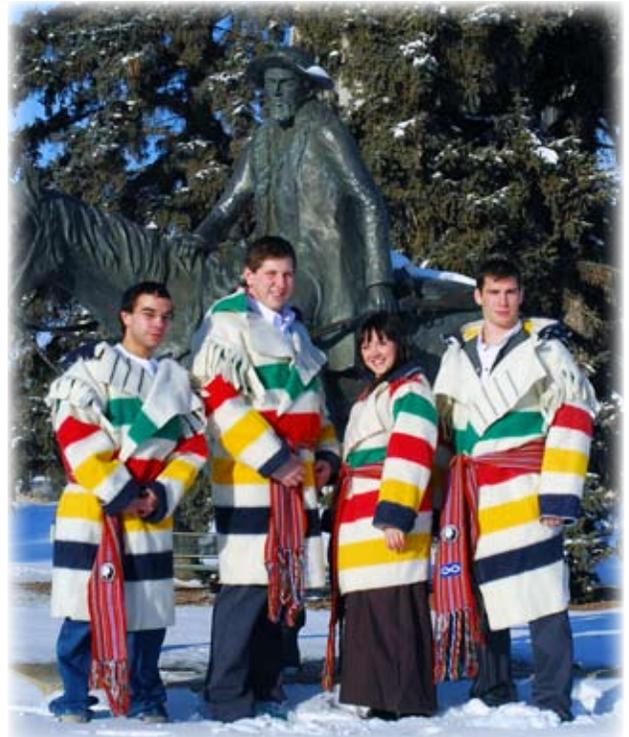
Winter Olympic Opening Ceremony

Article by Bradley Brown

This past month, thanks to GDI's recommendation and support, I had the opportunity to attend the Indigenous Youth Gathering and participate in the opening ceremonies of the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games, as a Métis youth representative from Saskatchewan. Four Métis delegates were sent from Saskatchewan, including myself, Daniel Olver, Dallas Fiddler-Boyer of Saskatoon, and Kymber Palidwar of Nipawin. This event was made possible by the Four Host First Nations (FHFN) and the Vancouver Organizing Committee (VANOC).

Ever since VANOC started planning to host the Olympics, the FHFN have been consulted and included in the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games. The games were held within the traditional and shared traditional territories of the Lil'wat, Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples. These four nations came together in a historic protocol agreement where they agreed to

"coordinate their collective efforts to host and support the 2010 Winter Games. As a result, the Four Host First Nations Society was formed." Due to this partnership between VANOC and the FHFN, over 300 First Nations, Métis, and Inuit youth had the opportunity to represent their nations by participating in the opening ceremonies of the 2010 Winter



Peter Beszerda

Dallas Fiddler-Boyer, Bradley Brown, Kymber Palidwar, Daniel Olver



Kymber Palidwar

Kymber Palidwar, Daniel Olver, Jenna McLeod, Bekki Wilson, Bradley Brown

Olympics. And due to partners like provincial governments, BC Hydro, Deloitte, and many others, the FHFN was able to host a two-week Indigenous Youth Gathering (IYG) leading up to the Opening Ceremony performance. The IYG allowed Aboriginal youth from across Canada to come together and share aspects of our cultures through the Olympic movement. Efforts were made on behalf of a number of different people, organizations, and governments to create an extraordinary experience for Aboriginal youth across the country.

An average day at the IYG consisted of long days jam-packed with a number of events, rehearsals, and activities. A typical day consisted of 6-8 a.m. fitness options, 7-9 a.m. breakfast, 9:30-11:15 a.m.

cultural activities, 11:30 a.m.-12 noon board busses, 12-2 p.m. travel to Vancouver, 2-6 p.m. performance rehearsal, 6-7 p.m. dinner, 7-10:30 p.m. performance rehearsal, and 10:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. travel back to accommodations. The days were fun and exciting, but they definitely took a physical and mental toll on our bodies. However, the gathering was not all work and no play. Being the optimistic Aboriginal youth we are, we decided to make the best out of any situation. So instead of dreading the boring two hour bus ride back to our accommodations, our bus trips turned into jam sessions performed by our talented musicians. In fact, one evening our bus heard



KyMBER PALIDWAR

Dallas Fiddler-Boyer jam session

a number of different types of music, like the deep voiced singing and drumming of the First Nations of the Northwest, Métis fiddle and guitar, the high pitched and upbeat tempo singing and drumming of the Prairie First Nations, and the unique and beautiful throat singing of the Inuit. Our bus rides were quite the cultural experience. Also, none of us will forget the free time where we all got to go shopping in Whistler, the Squamish/ Lil'wat Cultural Center, and downtown Vancouver.

Much of our experiences at IYG were empowering

KyMBER PALIDWAR



Bradley Brown, Tewanee Joseph (CEO of FHFN), KyMBER PALIDWAR

and inspirational. We had the opportunity to hear from a number of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal leaders. One of the leaders being retired track and field athlete Billy Mills. Billy was a gold medalist in the 1964 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, Japan. He won the 10,000 metre race, which is significant because he was the first, and only, North-American athlete to ever win in that event. Billy is also one of the very few Aboriginal athletes that have competed in the Olympics. He spoke of the hardships he faced in college. He told us that even though he was a three-time all-American track athlete, the photographers would still ask him to get out of the shots of the track and field team just because he was Aboriginal. It was hardships like these that caused him to consider the possibility of suicide, but in the end, he made the right choice to stay strong and go on to become a successful athlete and positive role model for other Aboriginal people.

On the eve before our big performance in the opening ceremonies we had the opportunity to hear a few words from the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Canada's Governor General, at an Olympic Truce Youth

Dialogue. Her Excellency spoke of the significance of the Olympic Truce, and how sport has the power to bring nations together despite their differences. Being able to hear from such prominent leaders and role models was a once-in-a-lifetime and empowering opportunity for us.

The best part about the entire experience was our performance

felt that it was only appropriate that the Indigenous people of Canada welcome the athletes of the world. Our role in the ceremonies was to be introduced by the FHFN, perform our culturally appropriate dances, welcome the athletes of the world, and be in the most pit audience for Bryan Adams and Nelly Furtado. This was not only a significant opportunity for the IYG delegates, but was also



Kimber Palidwar

Ryan Giesbrecht, Daniel Olver, Bradley Brown, Daniel Dupont

in the opening ceremonies. Over 300 Aboriginal delegates had the opportunity to welcome the athletes of the world. Our involvement in the opening ceremonies had been kept very quiet from the public. Everyone involved in the IYG had to sign a confidentiality agreement stating that we would not disclose any information about our involvement in the opening ceremonies to the public. VANOC and FHFN

an historically unprecedented opportunity. In no other Olympics has an Indigenous group of the host country been included in the opening ceremonies or the planning of the Olympics until this one. So, not only did we get to welcome the athletes of the world and make their home communities proud, we were all part of a significant precedent in Olympic history that will set a positive example for years to come.

Many long days were put into rehearsing our performance. On average, during our first week, we spent about eight hours a day rehearsing our performance. Also, following that first week we had two dress rehearsals, one in front of an audience of 20,000 and another in front of 50,000. We were on the stage for an hour and-a-half, which was longer than any other performer. And if anyone has ever tried to jig for an hour and-a-half, they will know that it is very tiring, to say the least. But the fact that we were performing in front of a stadium filled with 60,000 people and being aired on TV for three and a-half-billion viewers had

its motivating factors. Out of all the people that were watching, only a few stuck out in my mind. I jigged with pride hoping that I was making all my family and the Métis community back at home proud. There was a grueling point in the performance where my calves burned, my feet ached, I was drenched in sweat, and thought that I needed to slow down, but the possibility of being seen on TV back at home not jiggling my heart out for my nation motivated me to keep on going.

My time in Vancouver has been a life-changing experience. Before this we

were all just 300 Aboriginal youths doing the best we could to be leaders in our communities. Being able to participate in such an event has instilled a sense of inspiration within us that can often be taken away by the unfortunate realities that our communities face. Our participation showed us all that we have the opportunity to be and do something great, no matter what the circumstances are. I hope that all the youth go back to their communities with this inspiration to make all those changes that need to be made.

The Saskatchewan Métis youth delegates would like to thank GDI for its support. Ever since the Saskatchewan delegates had been announced, GDI has supported us. GDI was kind enough to supply us with traditional clothing to take to the gathering and wear during the opening ceremonies. Some of the items that were donated were pants, shirts, traditional Métis capotes made from real HBC blankets, as well as sashes with crested logos, beaded moccasins, and beaded shawls. GDI not only provided the clothing, but went out of their way to find members from the Aboriginal community to make the clothing. Due to GDI, we were able to showcase traditional Métis clothing to a world-wide audience watching the opening ceremonies of the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics.

Veterans Honoured at Batoche

Article by David Morin

This past November, in what has become an annual tradition, Parks Canada in partnership with GDI, held an event honouring Métis veterans at the Batoche National Historic Site (BNHS). Dallas Fiddler Boyer played the fiddle, and was accompanied on guitar by his father, Phil Boyer, as the Interpretive Centre filled up with many guests. Displays of local veterans filled the grand passageway so that all in attendance could learn about the brave men and women of the area who were members of the Canadian Forces. Veterans in attendance included Edwin St. Pierre, Paul Arcand, Janet Blais, Wilbur Fisher, George Sutherland, Eugene Baldhead,

Kelvin Paintednose, Rodney Paintednose, and Wilfred Paintednose.

The ceremony began with a prayer from local Elder, Rose Fleury, followed by introductions from Ray Fiddler, BNHS Site Manager, and Karon Shmon, GDI Publishing Coordinator. The attentive crowd then listened as Paul Arcand and George Sutherland recounted some of their experiences with the Canadian Forces, as well as honouring the soldiers that had fought before and after them. Edwin and Harriet St. Pierre were next on the agenda, reciting "In Flanders Fields" in English and Michif.

Following the speeches, a solemn procession was led out to the Batoche cemetery where Edwin and George laid two wreaths at the base of the monument which honours the Métis and First Nations casualties from the 1885 Resistance. A moment of silence was held before everyone returned to the Interpretive Centre.

Margaret Tourond, a descendent of Madame Josephite Tourond (owner of the land at Tourond's Coulee during the time of the 1885 Resistance), gave a presentation on her father, Arthur Joseph Tourond, who had served during World War I, and shared photographs of him. During the 1885 Resistance, her father was nearly a two-year-old, and was carried to safety by Louis Riel, following the Battle at Batoche. He enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1916 and in 1918 was sent to France with the 22nd Regiment. He was wounded in the leg on August 27, 1918, and was sent to a hospital in Boulogne, France. Margaret said that he didn't talk about the war much,



Susan McKenzie

Bonnie Hryciuk

preferring to forget what he saw and experienced.

The last presenter of the day was Lawrence Barkwell of the Louis Riel Institute in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Lawrence has done a considerable amount of research into the families of the 1885 Resistance, connecting past Métis leaders to current ones. In his presentation, he discussed the families as well as provided interesting connections such as Métis artist Dennis Weber, from Kelowna, British Columbia, being a descendent of the Pions from St. Laurent and Batoche whom were active in the 1885 Resistance.

All the presenters gave us knowledge to think about and to help us remember those that fought to make our lives what they are today, and we thank them for that.



Susan McKenzie

Procession to Batoche Cemetery



David Morin

Janet Blais, Rose Fleury, Edwin St. Pierre, Ray Fiddler, George Sutherland

David Morin



Edwin St. Pierre, Janet Blais, Rose Fleury

David Morin



Casualties of the Battle of Batoche

GDI Students Star Athletes

Article by Lisa Wilson

GDI Saskatoon staff may remember Daniel Olver as the summer student who helped out in the Finance Department this past summer, but the third-year Gabriel Dumont College Saskatoon student is also making his mark as a leader on the Huskies wrestling squad. Daniel is not only team captain but a gifted athlete. Ranked as one of Saskatchewan's top performers, Daniel is "one of the best" says University of Saskatchewan (U of S) Head Coach Todd Hinds. Daniel has been on Canada's junior world team three years in a row and was nominated as Huskie male athlete of the year in 2009. Among Daniel's many wrestling accomplishments are a silver medal at the 2009 Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championships and being a national medalist ever since he entered the CIS league. Daniel says his goal is to win CIS. He is a three-time defending Canada West champion in the 76 kilogram weight class. Daniel is a U of S All-Academic team member and medal hopeful in the Canada West Conference.

In a recent article in the *Saskatoon Star Phoenix*, Daniel and his fiancée Lindsay Wickstrom were featured. Lindsay is also a wrestler with the Huskies

team. They met in high school, where they were both on the Holy Cross wrestling team. Daniel notes that being wrestling teammates means they spend a lot of time together. "We motivate each other to stay fit. We're both competitive. It makes for a good atmosphere." The two plan to get married in May.

First-year SUNTEP Saskatoon student, Alwyn Piche, stands 6-foot-2 and considers himself "tiny" compared to his colleagues and rivals on the volleyball court. He makes up for his size on the court by his quickness and leaping ability. Alwyn is the prized recruit this season for the U of S Huskies volleyball team.

Alwyn has been playing volleyball since his school days in his home community of La Loche, Saskatchewan. His La Loche high school team took two provincial titles, in 2001 and 2003. Alwyn finished high school at St. Mary's in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan where he played on the high school team as well as playing club and provincial volleyball.

Following high school, Alwyn chose to attend Keyano College in Fort McMurray, Alberta to be closer to his home community, despite being

recruited by the U of S Huskies. He spent three years playing for the Keyano College Huskies, and during that time was named the Men's Volleyball Player of the Year (08-09) for both the Canadian Colleges Athletic Association and the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC). He was also named an Academic All-Canadian in that year. In all three seasons at Keyano, he was named an ACAC All-Star and was voted Keyano College Athlete of the Year in 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Alwyn also has provincial and national experience, having played with Team Saskatchewan at the Canada Summer Games and with the Junior National team in the National Team Challenge Cup and under-19 world championship in Algiers, Algeria.

Huskies coach, Brian Cavlas notes that Alwyn has a lot going for him right now, "He's in SUNTEP and looking at getting an education degree. Hopefully we have him for two years. We've talked about him heading off to play pro (in Europe) and trying that sort of thing. Hopefully that happens, maybe after he gets his degree."



The New Nation

La noovel naasyoon

Advertising

The New Nation: la noovel naaysoon, is a publication of the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), which promotes Métis history and culture, the Institute's activities and programs, and the larger Métis community in the province. Four issues a year will be published, one for each season: winter, spring, summer, and fall. Subscription rates to *The New Nation: la noovel naaysoon* will remain relatively low as we would like to see as many people as possible read it, and these rates are only meant to recover the costs associated with shipping the magazine. *The New Nation: la noovel naaysoon* will be available for free at the GDI Publishing Office, at cultural events in which GDI has a display, as well as online at the *Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture* (www.metismuseum.ca).

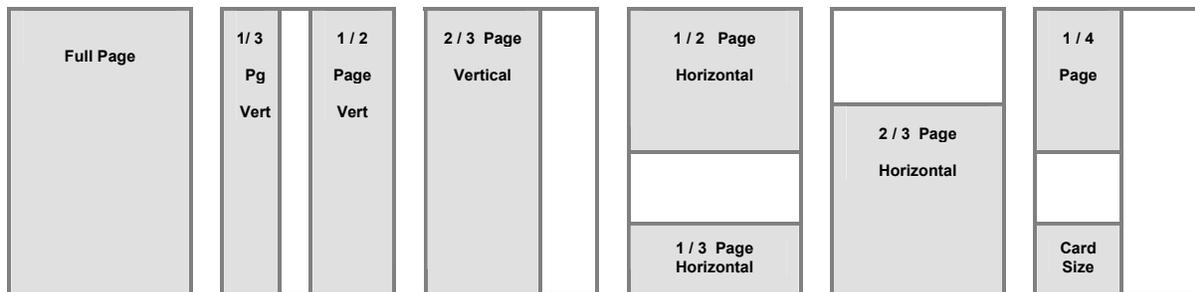
GDI's mission, which guides the Institute's work, provides a wide variety of topics to cover in the magazine.

GDI mission: *To promote the renewal and the development of Métis culture through research, materials development, collections and the distribution of those materials and the development and delivery of Métis-specific educational programs and services.*

For inquiries regarding *The New Nation: La noovel naasyoon* feel free to contact us by telephone 306.934.4941, by fax 306.244.0252 or by email (david.morin@gdi.gdins.org).

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