



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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## GDIT&E Receives AHRDA Extension

By Lisa Wilson

In early March 2010, GDI Training & Employment received written commitment from Service Canada that the current Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement (AHRDA) will be extended for up to six months. Client commitments were immediately renewed to ensure clients have funds in place for completion of the academic year. GDIT&E amended its commitments to clients up to June 30, 2010 with the expectation that a new agreement will be in place by July 1, 2010.

Furthermore, staff and lease agreement holders were informed of the extension and agreements are in the process of being extended.

During the six month extension period, a five-year business plan will be developed and submitted to Service Canada as a means of demonstrating the capacity of the Institute to transition from the AHRDA to the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Agreement (ASETA).

GDIT&E operates in a similar way to the three pillars of the new

Aboriginals Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) – Demand Driven Skills Development, Partnership Creation, and Accountability. As such, GDIT&E is well-positioned to make the transition from AHRDS to ASETS. GDIT&E strengthens Métis people's attachment to the labour market with meaningful, quality training and employment programs. The ASETA will enable GDI to design, manage, and deliver human resources development programs and services tailored to the needs and circumstances of Métis people and employers in Saskatchewan. GDIT&E will offer employment, placement, and training programs to Métis people throughout the Province of Saskatchewan, namely labour market development programs, including multi-barriered clients. GDI will work with employers to ensure ready workplaces conducive to diversity, specifically Métis people, and ensure programming meets the needs of the labour market.

Under the new ASETA, GDIT&E will retain the successful approaches, programs, and practices

established under the AHRDA. The Institute foresaw the ASETS direction and took a proactive approach in order to build in practices and structures that would support the demand driven skills development and partnership aspects of the ASETS. For instance, the Institute structured one of its Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund (ASTSIF) projects to facilitate broad strategic partnership development with the employer community. Furthermore, the importance and necessity of participating in demand driven processes such as the ASEPs and the Aboriginal Service Delivery Partnership table cannot be understated. As such, GDI has been, and continues to be, highly involved in such processes.

GDIT&E is aiming to have the new ASETA agreement signed and in place for July 1, 2010.



## Construction Program a Huge Success

By Deborah Mihalicz

On behalf of Jason (JJ) Johnson I was honoured to represent DTI at the Construction Readiness Program graduation ceremony in "Sakitawak" (Cree for Ile-a-la-Crosse) on Thursday Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>. This program was truly community-based; through consultation with local Métis leaders, DTI program coordinator Jason Johnson was able to designate the renovation of Sakitawak's Métis Local Building, the Jonas Favel Center, as the main hands-on class project. Renovations were literally conducted from the ground up, with

the students learning skills starting in the crawl space, through the floor joists, and continuing up to install 12-foot sections of drywall.

Instructor Victor Landry, also native to Ile-a-la-Crosse, informed me that throughout the program, one student in particular stood out. Edwin Corrigan consistently demonstrated determination and hard work. In fact, Edwin was so successful that he could not attend his own graduation ceremony due to already having gained employment with the Rabbit Lake Mine. Along with 300 other applicants,

he wrote the entrance test for Underground Mining Core Training, and later made a point of personally visiting his instructor Victor to inform him of the good news and express his gratitude. "Because of what I learned in this program, I passed the entrance test with flying colours!" Edwin said. Out of the 300 test-writers, Edwin was in the top 12 who went on to training and employment with the mine.

Congratulations, Edwin, you have contributed to a Métis legacy in your community truly earned your bright future! 🌐



(Construction Readiness Program graduate, Edwin Corrigan. Photo credit Deborah Mihalicz )

## New Nation Celebrates First Print Run

By Geordy McCaffrey

By now, you have probably seen the first issue of *The New Nation: la noovel naysoon*, a publication of 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 magazine will remain relatively low as we would like to see as many people reading it as possible and these rates are only meant to recover the costs associated to shipping the magazine. *The New Nation: la noovel naysoon* 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.

This publication will help GDI highlight and archive its 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.

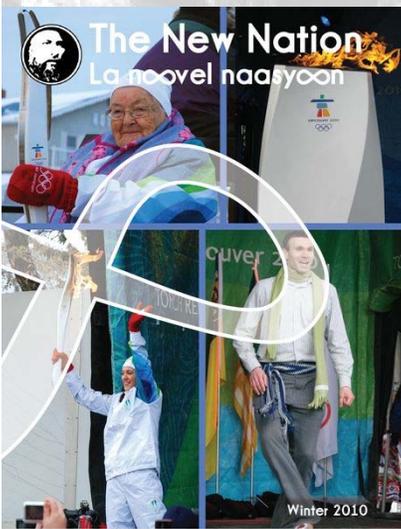
In addition to news and stories about GDI, *The New Nation: la noovel naysoon* invites our readership to submit digital photos, news, stories, and poetry which will be reviewed by an editorial committee.

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 naysoon*.

To save on potentially costly shipping charges, please arrange for pick up of free copies of the magazine from the Publishing Office for each GDI/DTI/T&E centre whenever possible. 🌐



## CMEC Releases Aboriginal Education Summit

### Report

By Lisa Wilson

The Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) has released its Summary Report of the Summit on Aboriginal Education hosted last year (February 25, 2009) in Saskatchewan. The report, called *Strengthening Aboriginal Success: Moving Toward 'Learn Canada 2020'*, summarizes the Summit's key findings and suggests possibilities for future collaboration and joint action. The report anticipates ways education systems might be strengthened to benefit Aboriginal learners. "The Summit on Aboriginal Education was a landmark event for CMEC. Of course, my colleagues and I remain committed to future collaboration and action," said Diane McGifford, CMEC Chair.

The Summit on Aboriginal Education was a high-level

national political meeting of leaders in Aboriginal education policy.

The overall goal of the CMEC Summit on Aboriginal Education was to establish a new relationship among leaders in Aboriginal education that respects jurisdiction and develops consensus on shared opportunities. Leaders discussed strategies to move forward on eliminating the gap between the educational achievements of Canada's Métis, First Nations, and Inuit students and non-Aboriginal students.

The CMEC report on the Summit identifies themes that present opportunities for collective action and for working together, including strengthening Aboriginal languages and culture, enhancing equity in funding, and increasing access, retention, and graduation

(postsecondary education and adult learning).

The Summit represents the first time leaders have come together in a national dialogue to discuss priorities for moving forward on eliminating the gaps between the educational achievements of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students in Canada.

As a historic gathering, the Summit achieved many of its objectives, including raising the public profile of Aboriginal education equity, the involvement and inclusion of National and regional Aboriginal organizations, and the identification of themes and priorities for moving forward. The Summit was only one step toward educational improvements. Ministers of education expressed their commitment to forging an ongoing relationship with National Aboriginal leaders and to strengthening their existing relationships with regional representatives. CMEC ministers affirmed that many of the themes and key priorities identified at the summit will continue to guide the priorities of CMEC.

The full report can be accessed at

[http://www.cmec.ca/Publications/Lists/Publications/Attachments/221/aboriginal\\_summit\\_report.pdf](http://www.cmec.ca/Publications/Lists/Publications/Attachments/221/aboriginal_summit_report.pdf) 

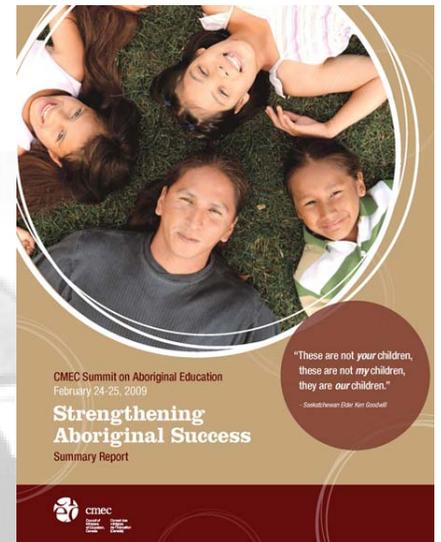
## New Member Named to GDC Graduate Selection Committee

By Lisa Wilson

GDI Board member Tammy Mah has been appointed by the GDI Board to sit on the GDC Graduate Student Bursary Program Selection Committee. Tammy replaces out-going Board member Brian Chaboyer whose term on the Board recently expired, creating a vacancy on the Selection Committee.

Other members of the Selection Committee include Sheila Pocha, Guy Blondeau, Michael Relland, and Tavia Inkster.

GDI would like to thank Brian Chaboyer for his hard work and dedication as a Selection Committee member over the past three years.



(Photo credit Cory McDougall)



## SUNTEP Scholastic Book Fair Fundraiser

By Kate Clements



(Photo credit Stacey Coulsen-Edwards)



(Photo credit Meredith Penner)

SUNTEP Saskatoon has given the student representative council and student body the opportunity to create a strong sense of community. Through the many events organized by our council, connections are built with Saskatoon's schools, the university campus, and the community. A Louis Riel Day Celebration, family friendly events, and a Scholastic Book Fair all contribute to the success of the SUNTEP SRC. The council celebrates Métis culture, but our goal is to also acknowledge Métis history, and the importance of that history, so that celebrating Métis culture is authentic, honest, and educational. Being able to go into schools and work with children and youth to teach them about Métis culture gives SUNTEP teacher candidates the opportunity to remember why they want to be teachers.

SUNTEP has been hosting the Scholastic Book Fair

Fundraiser for the past several years. Each year the SUNTEP SRC chooses a school to receive literature and materials for their library.

In 2009, the W.P. Bate Community School was the recipient of a \$1000 certificate to spend at Scholastic. W.P. Bate Community School has welcomed SUNTEP teacher candidates to their classrooms to work with the students doing activities related to Métis culture. It is always an amazing experience to see the celebration of diversity and the hard work of the teachers to make sure the students at W.P. Bate succeed. On March 31<sup>st</sup>, W.P. Bate Community School held an assembly and five representatives from SUNTEP presented the school with the certificate. When the students were asked if they liked to read, the representatives were blown away with the excited shouting of "YES!"

This year, the Scholastic Book Fair, held on February

10 and 11, 2010 saw Sutherland School as the recipient of a \$780.00 certificate to spend at Scholastic. SUNTEP teacher candidates have been invited on numerous occasions to Sutherland school to volunteer in the classrooms and work with the students. They have received invaluable advice and guidance from the staff and teachers at Sutherland School for teaching in a culturally responsive manner. On February 26<sup>th</sup>, the Sutherland School held an assembly and three representatives from SUNTEP presented the school with the certificate, the welcoming and excited atmosphere of the assembly, with students unable to stop clapping, made all the hard work of organizing a fundraiser like this worth it.

These are the exact kinds of reactions that ensure SUNTEP keeps giving back to the campus, community and schools.



## DTI Receives New LMA Funding

By Lisa Wilson

In early March, 2010 DTI learned it would receive \$400,000 in Labour Market Agreement funding from the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour. The funding is intended to support students through Job/Life Coaches and/or Program Coordinators. It is expected that these positions will primarily work with employers to

facilitate job placements and transitions, as well as arrange relevant programs in communities throughout the province. The intent of the funding is to assist students to address barriers they may be facing as well as to successfully attach to the workforce.

The funding is available for two years only through the federal stimulus

dollars provided to the Canada-Saskatchewan Labour Market Agreement. The \$400,000 funding is for the 2009-2010 fiscal year, which ends March 31, 2010. The funding is coming later than expected; however, DTI is prepared to utilize the funds as start up and salaries until the end of the school year, June 2010. 



## GDI Receives Saskatchewan Tourism Award

By Lisa Wilson

In March, 2010 GDI was honoured to receive a *Saskatchewan Tourism Award of Excellence* at the awards gala in Saskatoon. GDI Publishing received the award for Corporate Partner of the Year for their partnership with Batoche National Historic Site (BNHS). GDI Publishing has been involved in a four-year partnership whereby the staff have “made Métis history come alive by providing the expertise, knowledge, and activities to create exceptional visitor experiences” (Tourism Saskatchewan awards program).

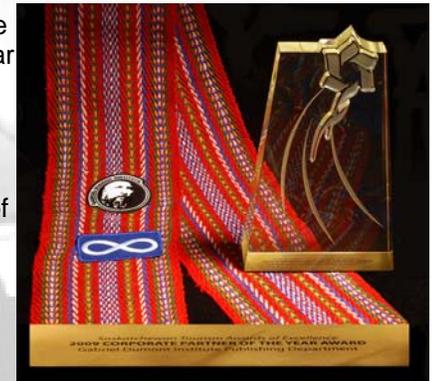
The partnership between GDI and BNHS has meant that there has been programming and events at the park interpretive

centre that have focused on Métis storytelling, language, art, dance, and food. GDI has had an important role in bringing a true voice to the Métis cultural activities at Batoche, making the experience for visitors memorable and relevant. GDI has contributed to several on-going programs at BNHS, including the Caron Home Program Development, along with events such as the Métis Women’s History of Resistance and Survival: Stories of Tourand’s Coulee/Fish Creek and Batoche, and the Back to Batoche website.

Recipients were named in fourteen different categories. These categories recognize

excellence in both emerging and traditional areas of importance to the tourism industry. Finalists and winners were selected from nearly 90 nominations by a panel of industry representatives. The Corporate Partner of the Year award is given to a partner who is not traditionally recognized as part of the tourism industry but has shown exceptional support of tourism in Saskatchewan at any level. Various types of partnerships are considered, including financial, in-kind services or other initiatives.

Congratulations to GDI Publishing staff for this significant honour and recognition!



(Photo credit Peter Beszterda)

## Digital Sign for Saskatoon Building

By Lisa Wilson

If you are driving down the 22<sup>nd</sup> Street West artery of Saskatoon, you may notice something new about the GDI Building on the south side of the street. At least that’s the intention. The Institute has just installed a large digital 2-sided screen to catch the attention of motorists and passers-by.

According to traffic estimates provided by the

city, over 50,000 people travel past the 22<sup>nd</sup> Street location each day. Annually, this amounts to nearly 20 million people.

GDI is taking this opportunity to catch the public eye with its new digital sign. The sign will prominently display information about the Institute’s programs and services and make Métis cultural symbols highly

visible. The intent is to increase the public profile of the Institute while capturing the attention of potential students and clients.



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Back issues of this newsletter  
can be obtained at:

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

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.gdins.org](http://www.gdins.org)



**GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE**  
of Native Studies and Applied Research

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#### GDI Mission:

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



**GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE**  
of Native Studies and Applied Research