



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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GDI and Cameco to Sign New Scholarship Agreement

By Lisa Wilson

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) and Cameco Corporation will celebrate a new scholarship agreement with a special signing ceremony at the GDI Annual General Meeting on Saturday November 20, 2010 in Saskatoon.

GDI and Cameco have agreed to partner to jointly provide scholarships to encourage Métis students to pursue post-secondary education. Under the new agreement there will be five awards of \$1,300 annually for Métis students enrolled in a post-secondary institution pursuing a degree, diploma, certificate, or apprenticeship program related to career opportunities with Cameco. In addition, Cameco will inform scholarship recipients of summer employment opportunities with Cameco.

The scholarship agreement is a four year pilot with a shared contribution of 70% by Cameco and 30% by GDI.

Scholarships will be administered annually by the Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation Trust, commencing in May 2011.

"This is a significant agreement for the Gabriel Dumont Institute because it not only provides scholarship funds to Métis people, it provides links to the labour market via a highly recognized large employer," said GDI's Chair Karen LaRocque. "Our partnership with Cameco is a proactive step to address labour force demands and recognize the importance of the Métis population in filling shortages in the job market."

Scholarship selection will be based on career focus, academic achievement, and financial need of Métis students pursuing post-secondary education in the trades, business administration, commerce, computer science, and other fields of study related to Cameco.

GDI has capacity to enter into such partnerships by way of its various entities,

including GDI Training & Employment, a service delivery organization that enters into business and industry partnerships to link Métis workers with employers and training. Furthermore, the Dumont Technical Institute forges partnerships with business, industry, and trades to provide targeted training related to labour market demands. The partnership with Cameco is an example of successful collaboration.

For more information about the Cameco/GDI scholarship agreement please contact Cecile O'Neil, Program Coordinator for GDI Training and Employment at 763-8015.



Order of Gabriel Dumont

By Lisa Wilson



This year at the 30th Anniversary celebration, the Institute will award the Order of Gabriel Dumont to a number of individuals in three categories: Gold, Silver, and Bronze. The Order of Gabriel Dumont is awarded by the Gabriel Dumont Institute to a small number of persons who have serviced the Métis of Canada with distinction. The award itself, however, is made to persons without regard to race.

The Order of Gabriel Dumont Gold recognizes

those who have distinguished themselves with outstanding service to the Métis. The Order of Gabriel Dumont Silver honours those who have made a significant contribution to the Métis. Gold and Silver awards will be made on Friday November 19th.

This year the Institute is introducing the Bronze medal. The Bronze Medal award has been specifically designated as a student award to honour those GDI students who have distinguished themselves through their perseverance, centre and

community involvement, and overall student performance. The Bronze Medal will be awarded to eighteen GDI students on November 18, 2010 at a special banquet to honour the Bronze Medal recipients and kick off to the Gabriel Dumont Institute's 30th Anniversary Cultural Conference.

The Order is presented in the form of a medallion, a certificate signed by the Officers of the Institute, over the Seal and which enrolls the recipient in the Order.



Louis Riel Day November 16th

By Lisa Wilson



The Gabriel Dumont Institute commemorates November 16th as Louis Riel Day. All Institute offices will be closed on this day to observe the 125th anniversary since Louis Riel was executed.

Louis Riel was an advocate of justice for the Métis people, and is recognized as the leader of the North-West resistance, and a pioneer in the campaign for the rights of the Métis in western Canada.

Louis Riel was instrumental in negotiations that led to the establishment of Manitoba as Canada's fifth province in 1870. In 1885, during his trial, Louis Riel stated, "I know that through the grace of God I am the founder of Manitoba." As the Métis leader of the Red River

Resistance of 1869-70, he was instrumental in drafting the List of Rights that formed the basis of the *Manitoba Act*, passed by the Parliament of Canada in the spring of 1870, which brought Manitoba into Confederation.

After living in exile in Montana for many years, Louis Riel returned to Canada, to Batoche. Riel petitioned the federal government over the land claims in the area and finally, frustrated by the inaction of the government and threats to Métis lands by encroaching settlers, Louis Riel established a provisional government in mid-March 1885. By late March the first shots were fired near Duck Lake in what has become known as the Riel/Northwest

Resistance of 1885. Following the Resistance, Louis Riel was tried for treason and found guilty by an English-speaking Protestant jury. Although the jury recommended mercy, the judge sentenced Riel to death. Louis Riel was executed in Regina on November 16, 1885.

This year on November 16th GDI, in partnership with CUMFI Local in Saskatoon, will be hosting a number of events including the launch of a portrait of Louis Riel commissioned by artist Christi Belcourt and a reading by Gregory Scofield from his most recent manuscript of poems about Louis Riel.

More information will soon be available on the GDI website.



Louis Riel Day November 16, 2010 168 Wall Street



Agenda

- 10:00am — Gabriel Dumont Statue — Friendship Park
- 11:00am — Welcoming and Greeting — SIMFC
- 12:00pm — Lunch
- Entertainment by Mel Vandale and Len Dumont
- 1:30pm — Gabriel Dumont Institute Presentations
- John Arcand
- Christi Belcourt
- Gregory Scofield
- 3:30pm — Métis Crafts and Games
- Entertainment by Dallas Fiddler Boyer and Phil Boyer
- 5:30pm — Supper
- Entertainment by Donny Parenteau

Come and Go

In Partnership



30th Anniversary & Cultural Conference Update

By Kristi Weeks



On November 18 and 19, 2010, GDI will be hosting its 30th Anniversary celebration and Cultural Conference followed by the Institute's Annual General Meeting on November 20th. The event will provide an opportunity for GDI and the Métis community to celebrate 30 years of Métis education, resource production, and cultural programming.

On Thursday, during the day the focus will be on pre-conference forums, including a SUNTEP alumni event. This one day dialogue on the SUNTEP Program as a model of Métis teacher education will enable participants to discuss the growth and transformation of the program over the last three decades and its impact on the Métis, public education and the economy. Opportunities for SUNTEP graduates and other stakeholders to discuss the importance of the program, the opportunities and challenges encountered, and the benefit to students and schools will be provided.

Also on Thursday, GDI Training and Employment will be hosting an event for its staff in the Saskatoon Room from 8:00am to 2:30pm, lunch will be provided. DTI hosts an event for their staff in the Canadian Room from 10am – noon. Lunch will

also be provided. For DTI, from 1:00pm to 2:30pm the staff not attending the SUNTEP alumni session will be helping prepare for the evening student awards banquet. At 3:00pm all GDI staff attend *GDI: Looking Back Looking Forward*. GDI staff who are not involved in the DTI or T&E or SUNTEP events should plan to attend, as their first event, the *Looking Back Looking Forward* event from 3:00-4:00pm.

The evening of Thursday November 18th will include a special awards ceremony and banquet to celebrate the Order of Gabriel Dumont Bronze medal recipients and will commence with a reception at 5:00 pm. Registration for the conference also begins at 5:00 pm. The Bronze award has been specifically designated as a student award and will honor those GDI students who have distinguished themselves through their perseverance, centre and community involvement, and overall student performance. Following the award presentations, Métis hypnotist Scott Ward will provide the evening's entertainment.

Friday November 19th will be the start to the Cultural Conference with keynote speaker Maria Campbell, accompanied by John &

Vicki Arcand. Concurrent Cultural and Academic sessions focusing on 4 main strands – Academic, Cultural, Language and History will take place throughout the day. In addition, a special student leadership session will be offered. The Order of Gabriel Dumont Silver medals will be presented at the lunch banquet.

The 30th Anniversary Gala celebration will take place on Friday evening with musical entertainment by John and Vicki Arcand, special performances by Andrea Menard and Donny Parenteau, the introduction and performance of the new Métis Anthem, and the awarding of the Order of Gabriel Dumont Gold medals.

Saturday November 20th has been set aside for the GDI Annual General Meeting from 9 am to noon. The AGM will include a special signing ceremony with Cameco Corporation for a new scholarship partnership.

Many GDI staff members have already registered for the conference. Be sure to send your registration in early to avoid disappointment with full sessions. See you there!



Métis Graduate Studies Update

By Lisa Wilson

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) has taken a proactive role to encourage and support Métis graduate studies. Based on the Institute's strategic direction to develop capacity for more Métis people to enter and complete graduate-level programs, GDI launched the *Gabriel Dumont College Graduate Student Bursary Program* in 2006 as a three year pilot. The program provides financial assistance to encourage Saskatchewan Métis people to pursue full-time

graduate studies, to conduct research in fields related to Métis people, and to increase Métis employment in Saskatchewan and within the Institute.

The Graduate Student Bursary Program is independently funded by the Institute with a \$50,000 annual contribution from GDC. Métis graduate students who undertake a major research thesis or project which relates to Métis people are eligible for the program.

At the end of the three-year pilot an independent review of the program (September 2009) revealed that the GDC Graduate Student Bursary Program has been a resounding success. The three year pilot project saw 16 Métis graduate students receive in total \$130,150.

A document highlighting the research of the Métis graduate students funded under the program will be released at the GDI Conference in November.



"The sign of serious leadership...means the education and training of our best members as present and future leaders." –Jim Brady

Saskatoon CCA Student Overcomes Life Obstacles and Succeeds

By Kimberly Parent

Tracy Arcand is currently enrolled in the Continuing Care Assistant (CCA) program in Saskatoon. She was a photographer travelling all over Canada before she decided to settle down in Saskatoon and take post-secondary education with the Dumont Technical Institute. She has enjoyed the learning process in the CCA Program, especially the practicum aspect of the course.

However, things are not always easy for Tracy. While taking the program, she has also been battling cancer. She has been through tests, chemotherapy treatments, and a lot of sickness. However, through this struggle, she has

continuously attended class, has done well on her exams, and excelled during her practicum.

"Tracy is a hardworking student who comes to class despite obstacles and never complains. During her practicum she proved to be a caring and competent individual who is an asset to the health team," says CCA Instructor Cathy Wirth, RN.

After Tracy completed her first practicum, she was offered a job position pending her completion of the CCA course.

Tracy believes that the CCA Program has changed her life for the better. She plans to work in the Continuing Care Assistant field upon

graduation, but also has a long term goal of going further in to healthcare, possibly working in an operating room setting. She feels proud of what she has accomplished already and has overcome obstacles that would have held many people back. Tracy feels positive about what the future has in store.

When asked what she would say to potential DTI students, Tracy responded, "I would tell them you will have a lot of support there. I had a great experience with the program. Think positive and if you really put your mind to something, you can do whatever you want."



DTI student Tracy Arcand



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

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.gdins.org



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GDI Mission:

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



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of Native Studies and Applied Research