



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

In this issue:

- Métis Sash Placed in Saskatchewan Legislature
- Continuing Care Aid Program a Success
- Medical Lab Assistant Program Underway

Highlights:

MNC Election Results 3

Graduate Student Bursary Program Update 4

Staff News and Updates 2 & 5

Métis Sash Placed in Saskatchewan Legislature

On November 30, 2010, the Government of Saskatchewan shared an historic moment with Métis leadership and hundreds of community members from across Saskatchewan during a ceremony to place a Métis symbol in the Saskatchewan Legislature.

This celebration is especially fitting since 2010 was earlier proclaimed by Premier Brad Wall as Year of the Métis and it is also the 125th Anniversary of the 1885 Northwest Resistance.

"Today, we continue to honour our strong relationship with the Métis

Nation as we gather to pay tribute to the tremendous contributions made by Saskatchewan's Métis people to our social, cultural and economic development," Wall said.

"This is history in the making and I am honoured to be present on this day - it is a day Métis have long waited for because this Legislative Assembly belongs to all the people of Saskatchewan," Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Robert Doucette said. "Métis are a founding people of this province and we are moved by this sacred symbol being placed in the Chamber forever more."

A specially-designed Métis sash was presented to the Speaker of the

Legislative Assembly Don Toth by Métis Elder Nora Cummings and President Doucette.

Wall and Leader of the Opposition Dwain Lingenfelter together placed the sash on the table in the Legislative Chamber alongside the First Nations beaded mace runner and beaver pelt pillow that the mace rests on each time the House sits.

Both symbols will serve as physical reminders of the Métis and First Nations ancestry that has played a significant role in the birth of our province. (SOURCE: Government of Saskatchewan News Release, November 30, 2010. Photo credit: John Lagimodiere, Eagle Feather News) 



Continuing Care Aide Program a Success

By Chantelle Gagnon



Continuing Care Aid, Saskatoon, Graduating Class 2010

On December 16, 2010, nine proud students graduated from the Continuing Care Aide (CCA) program in Saskatoon. Graduation was held at Smiley's Buffet and Catering in a private banquet room. Students, their families, and loved ones attended—approximately 40 people in total. It was an evening filled with laughter, tears, thankfulness, and some very proud graduates. Nine of the ten students enrolled have completed the program at this point. One student has one

class to complete that she was unsuccessful with at her first attempt and is working to complete it in the next little while; she will then complete her practicum.

Many of the students who graduated faced challenges and struggles over the past eight months as they worked towards their careers as CCA's, but with some positive words of encouragement they saw the light at the end of the tunnel and persevered for themselves and their families. Seven of the graduates have

already gained employment, some of them with not one, but two or even three jobs. The other two have also been interviewed for jobs and are waiting on call backs.

Overall the program was success and I want to thank all of the people who contributed to the program to make it a success.



Congratulations to Doctor Elizabeth Majocha, PhD!

By Lisa Wilson



Dr. Elizabeth Majocha, DTI Saskatoon Faculty

Long-time DTI Faculty member Elizabeth Majocha has successfully completed her doctorate program through the University of Calgary. Elizabeth spent many years at the GDI/DTI programs in Prince Albert before transferring to Saskatoon a couple of years ago to instruct the Education Assistant course for DTI out of ED Feehan high school.

Dr. Majocha's work, *Qualities of Teacher Leadership during the Face of Technological Change*, explored the traits of teacher leadership during technological change in a K to 12 public multi cultural

school system. Through this study the views of teacher leaders were collected and extrapolated. From the analysis of the exploratory multicase qualitative study, teacher leaders concurred that (a) to maintain leadership, teacher leaders need to learn, explore, and share; (b) to earn respect, teacher leaders must be knowledgeable, humble, supportive, and excited; (c) to earn leadership, teacher leaders must encourage, respect, and network; and (d) to preserve leadership, teacher leaders must be

approachable and accept feedback from colleagues and students. Currently, she is rewriting her dissertation to have her findings published in the International Journal of Teacher Leadership.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Elizabeth Majocha on the successful completion of her Doctorate. Well done!



Medical Lab Assistant Program Underway

By Lisa Wilson

In early December eight new students began the Medical Lab Assistant Program in Saskatoon at the Dumont Technical Institute. The Medical Lab Assistant Program is a 23 week applied certificate program which includes nine weeks of clinical experience. Students in the Medical Lab Assistant Program learn how to collect specimens from patients and to process and prepare specimens for analysis. Students also develop data entry skills and learn how to perform clerical and reception services and basic lab procedures. In order to qualify for the program MLA students needed a grade 12 with a minimum average of sixty percent with English Language Arts A30, English Language Arts B 30, Math 20 (or any 30 level math), Biology 20 or 30 as well as

Chemistry 20 or 30. Students also needed minimum keyboarding skills and a clear criminal record to be accepted into the program.

Medical Lab Assistant jobs have been identified by the Saskatoon Health Region as in-demand jobs. The Saskatoon program is one of the numerous health-related programs offered by GDI/DTI under the Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund (ASTSIF). The ASTSIF fund's intention is to strengthen partnerships between Aboriginal employment service organizations like GDIT&E and employers through training-to-employment programs linked to concrete job opportunities. The fund supports short-term, focused initiatives designed to help

Aboriginal people obtain the specific skills they require to benefit from economic opportunities. The health sector is the province's largest employer.

Graduates of the program are eligible to write the Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science (CSMLS) Medical Laboratory Assistance certification examination. Once certified, graduates will have the opportunity to apply for Medical Lab Assistant jobs across Canada. Jobs may be in medical labs (hospitals/medical clinics) or scientific research laboratories.

For more information on the Medical Lab Assistant program please contact Chantelle Gagnon at 657-2246. Best of luck to the eight new DTI students!



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Métis National Council Election Result

By Lisa Wilson

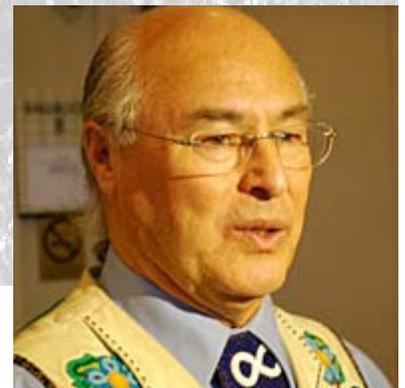
On December 11, 2010 Clément Chartier was re-elected to another three year term as President of the Métis National Council (MNC) at the MNC General Assembly in Saskatoon, SK.

President Chartier highlighted the needs of our Métis Veterans, the legacy of Residential Schools, Harvesting

Rights and the need for a Métis Nation Constitution as being just some of the key priorities during the next few years.

In a press release issued by the MNC, President Chartier stated, "This indicates that the Métis National Council is doing what it was set up to do – provide leadership, support each of the

Governing Members and advance the political agenda of the Métis Nation at the federal level. We will continue to push for recognition and rights of our Métis citizens across the homeland."



President Clément Chartier,
Métis National Council



Graduate Student Bursary Program Update

By Lisa Wilson



Jolee Childs, GDC Graduate Student

In 2006, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) took 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. 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.



Timothy Kent, GDC Graduate Student

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. A review of available graduate bursaries shows that there are very few scholarships/bursaries specifically for Métis students at the graduate level in Canada and no others in Saskatchewan (Catherine Littlejohn, *Review of GDC Graduate Student Bursary Program*, 2009).

What follows are profiles of two of the graduate

students and their research. GDI is proud of the Métis graduate students and pleased to have helped facilitate their studies and research.

Jolee Childs received a GDC Graduate Student Bursary in 2009 to support her studies in Master of Education in School and Counselling Psychology in the Department of Educational Psychology and Special Education at the University of Saskatchewan. Ms. Childs is conducting an action research project aimed at developing guidelines for using personal music players (e.g. iPods, Mp3 players) in the classroom. She says of her research, "My thesis research investigates the problem of how teachers, students and schools can incorporate Personal Music Players (PMPs) into the secondary classroom. The study uses action research to respond to the need for mutually developed guidelines such that schools can capitalize on the benefits accrued with music listening (e.g., focus, attention, motivation) without disrupting classroom learning."

Timothy Kent received a GDC Graduate Student Bursary in the fall of 2009 to support his studies in the Master of Science in Finance program at the Edwards School of Business, University of Saskatchewan. At that time, he expected to begin

his research in the field of Financial and Economic Science in the spring of 2010. He says of his studies, "In my program I study the theoretical background in contemporary finance issues and conduct research through quantitative empirical methods on topics relating to areas of finance and business."

Each year there are approximately 5 awards available for qualified Saskatchewan Métis students. Applicants are eligible for a maximum of two awards, which may be consecutive years or non-consecutive years.

The GDC Graduate Bursary is available to Saskatchewan Métis graduate students at the masters or doctoral level who undertake a major research project or thesis related to Métis people, who are committed to working in a Métis environment upon the successful completion of their studies, and who demonstrate a commitment to the advancement of Métis people. The bursary program also requires applicants to demonstrate need for financial support during the study period.

Annually, the application deadlines are April 6 and October 6. For more information please visit the GDI website at www.gdins.org. 



GDI Board Update

By Lisa Wilson

The GDI Board is made up of 12 members from each of the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MNS) regions, and a Chair who is the MNS education Minister.

There is currently one vacancy on the GDI Board for Clearwater/Clearlake (Northern Region II). Notice has been sent to the affected region and a call for resumes has been issued. Appointment to the GDI Board follows a three step process: Regional Council

nomination; Provincial Métis Council ratification, and approval by the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration (AEEI).

The current GDI Board of Governors is as follows:

Karen Larocque, Chair and Métis Nation—Saskatchewan Minister of Education;
Glenn Lafleur, Vice Chair, Northern Region I;
Tammy Mah, Secretary, Western Region II;
Vacant, Clearwater/Clearlake

(Northern Region II);
Bernice Aramenko, Northern Region III;
Paul Trotchie, Eastern Region I;
Viola Bell, Eastern Region II;
Gerald St. Pierre, Eastern Region IIA;
Guy Blondeau, Eastern Region III;
Michael Bell, Western Region I;
Jackie Kennedy, Western Region IA;
Shirley Ross, Western Region IIA; and
Collette Robertson, Western Region III.



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

GDI Staff Member Leah Dorion Successfully Presents Master’s Project

By Lisa Wilson

Leah Dorion, Faculty member at SUNTEP Prince Albert, has successfully presented her final project, marking completion of all requirements for her Master of Arts - Integrated Studies from Athabasca University. Leah conducted oral history research with Métis and Cree Elders on traditional parenting. Her study, entitled “*Opikinawasowin: The Life Long Process of Growing Cree and Metis Children,*” fills a large gap in the literature about traditional parenting teachings. Leah has a substantial research background and has been a part of the Gabriel Dumont Institute family for many years. She recently took a leave of absence from her position in order to conclude her research

and complete her Master’s requirements.

About her research, Leah says, “This research project explores Cree and Métis Elders’ teachings about traditional child rearing and how storytelling is used to facilitate the transfer of this culturally based knowledge. Through this study many of the beliefs, philosophies, customs, and traditions about traditional child rearing teachings are expressed by the Elders. The research project employs a methodological approach based on the oral tradition and

has followed the accepted traditional protocol expected for working with Elders that are from Cree and Métis communities in central and northern Saskatchewan. The research journey and Elders teachings are shared through the model of narrative inquiry because it is consistent with traditional First Nations and Métis approaches to teaching, learning, and sharing.” Please join us at GDI in congratulating Leah on her successful completion of all requirements for her Master’s degree. Way to go!



Leah Dorion, SUNTEP Prince Albert Faculty



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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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