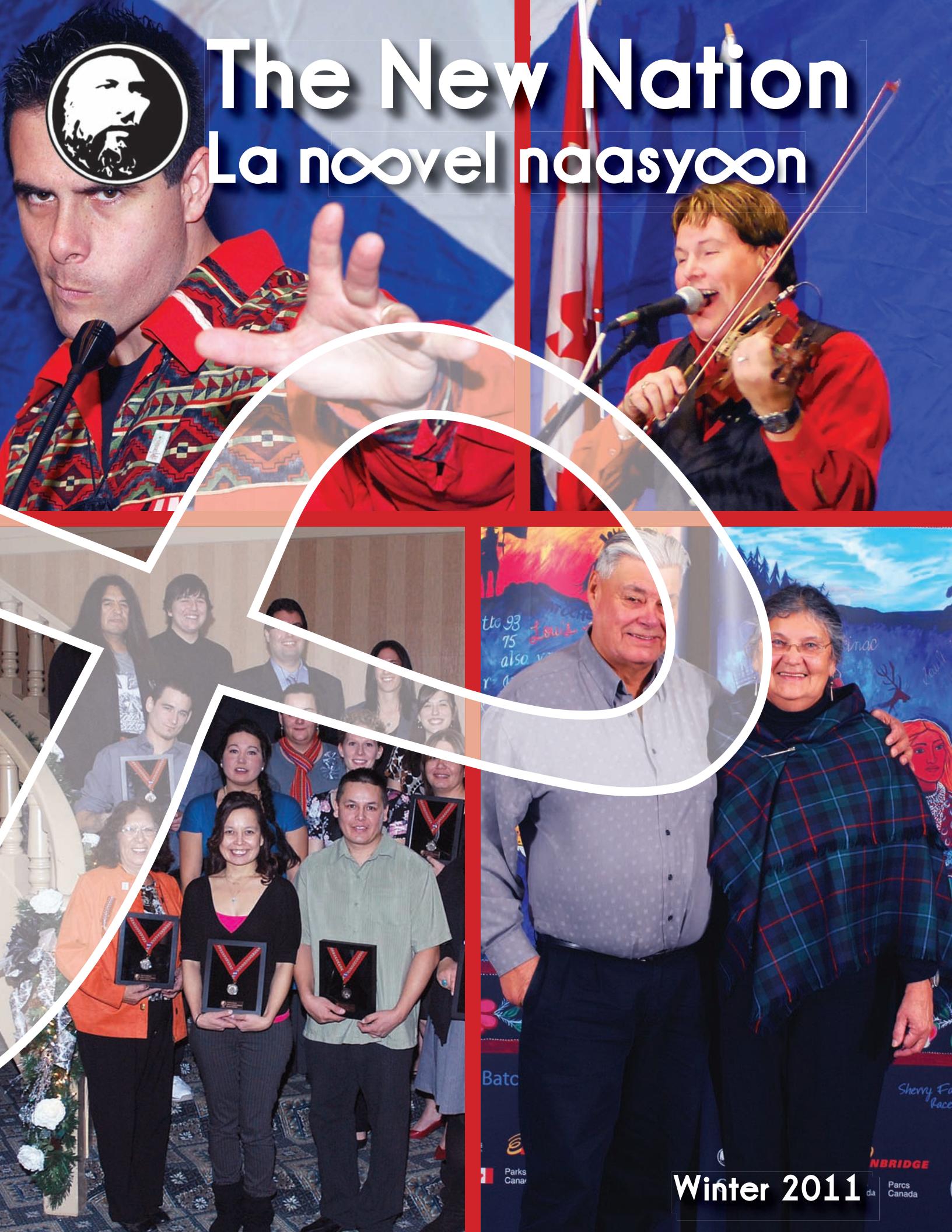




The New Nation

La nœvel naasyoon



Winter 2011

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The New Nation

La noovel naasyoon

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GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research



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SaskEnergy Scholarships Awarded

to Métis Students

Article by David Morin and Photograph by Peter Beszterda

Twice annually, students are rewarded for their hard work with *SaskEnergy Scholarships*. The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) partnered with SaskEnergy in 1998 to provide funding assistance to Métis students pursuing post-secondary education in fields relating to Business Administration, Environmental Studies, General Science, Commerce, Accounting, Economics,

Personnel Management, Law, Computer Science, Trades, Arts and Sciences, Engineering, Public Administration, Marketing, Office Administration, and Political Economy.

This year's recipients were recognized by SaskEnergy representative Trish Watier at the GDI 30th Anniversary and Culture Conference Student Awards Banquet held on November 18,

2010. The recipients included Spencer Chuhaniuk, Graeme Currie, Brian Grosskleg, Amanda Hanson, Ethan Herman, Sharon Hoedel, Amanda Lafontaine, Chelsea McKay, Kayla Morrison, Jodi Snook, Barbra Spetz, and Tamara Wiebe.

For more information on this scholarship and others provided in partnership with GDI, visit their homepage at www.gdins.org.



Kayla Morrison leading a youth activity at Batoche

Métis Veterans: Remembrances

Article by Darren R. Préfontaine and Photograph by the Gabriel Dumont Institute

Another Remembrance Day has come upon us and our thoughts turn to our veterans and our service personnel presently serving overseas. Through two world wars, localized wars, numerous peacekeeping and peacemaking actions, hundreds of thousands of Canadian men and women have sacrificed a great deal so that we may enjoy our freedoms. Over 100,000 of these brave souls paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country. As a small national community within Canada, the Métis have played a large role in Canada's various war efforts.

Unfortunately, we don't have exact enlistment ratios for the Métis, like we do for Status First Nations or Euro-Canadians—although many people and institutions such as Bruce Flamont, Cathy Littlejohn-King, Edward King (d), Claude Goulet, and the Métis National Council have worked hard to enumerate Métis veterans or chronicle their stories. Nonetheless, we can deduce that their enlistments, during the two world wars, in proportion, were as high, if not higher, than the average for English Canadians at 40-50%. The only thing holding back Métis

enlistment would have been poor health: many suffered from tuberculosis or had been malnourished while living on road allowances. Men with missing teeth, for instance, were turned away. However, during the Second World War, units such as the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, the "Royal" Regina Rifles, the Loyal Edmonton Regiment, and the South Saskatchewan Regiment had scores of Métis soldiers. In addition, many other French-speaking Métis from Western Canada were placed into Québec-based regiments in both world wars. Cumberland House, Lebret, Duck Lake, and many other Métis communities sent hundreds of young men into combat.

Every Métis family and community has its own war stories. In the 1990s, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) documented several Métis war stories in *Remembrances: Interviews with Métis Veterans*. Here's a very important war story from that book: Joseph McGillivray (d), a Métis trapper from Cumberland House, claimed to have captured SS Obersturmbannführer Kurt Meyer, the man responsible for the murder of more than 150 Canadian servicemen. However,

history credits the capture to partisans or to whom McGillivray thought, the Americans. There's a story related to this one, which is not in the book, but one that nevertheless touched one Métis family. The teenage fanatics of the 12th Armoured SS, Hitler Jugend, which was led by the very same Kurt Meyer, murdered Rifleman Napoleon Morin—the grandfather of artist and educator Leah Dorion.

In another Métis war story, Frank Tomkins had every male in his extended family from Grouard, Alberta enlist during the Second World War. Frank himself enlisted, but was too young for combat; he only turned 18 in 1945. His family has a very interesting but little-known war story. His brother Charles (d) was attached to the US 8th Air Force Bomber Command and because of his fluency in Cree, he was one of the first Code Talkers. The Americans used the Code Talkers to confuse the enemy by sending orders in an unintelligible language. After briefly using Canadian Métis and Cree as Code Talkers, the US military began using their own Native-American servicemen, largely Navajos, to fill this vital role. Nevertheless,

despite their service to their country, Frank and his family were unable to receive veterans' benefits. This is a familiar story for Métis veterans. Most Métis who served in the two world wars were unable, for whatever reason, to obtain the benefits to which they were entitled from Veterans Affairs.

Prince Albert's Claude Adams (d), a paratrooper during WWII, once shared a story with the author about how he and other Canadian paratroopers "did something very great" during the early hours of the D-Day landings, but had to swear an oath of secrecy, which they had to take to their graves.

Mary Rose Boyer, with roots near Estevan, has worked hard to chronicle the stories of the five men in her family who went to war: Reuben Blondeau (d, grandfather, WWI), Raymond Blondeau (d, uncle, WWII), Edward Gilbert Blondeau (d, uncle, WWII), Louis Blondeau (d, uncle, WWII), and Joseph Ernest Boyer (d, father, WWII). In an article, published a few years ago, she wrote this about her family's tradition of military service: "All of these men, because of their contributions and examples made me proud to be a member of their family and proud to be a Métis girl from the Souris River Valley. That was

quite possibly the best legacy."

Cathy Littlejohn-King went to France last summer, and visited several Canadian cemeteries such as Bény-Sur-Mer. On the graves of 15 Métis servicemen from Saskatchewan that she was able to identify, she placed mini-Métis sashes. Cathy is working with GDI to publish a story about her research and her emotional connection to the graves of

these fallen Métis servicemen.

These stories are only a small sampling of how war touches families and communities. As a society, we should never forget our war stories and the role played by our brave soldiers, sailors and airmen during wartime. Hopefully, we can live up to this legacy by properly remembering and honouring their sacrifice, while building a more respectful, tolerant country.



Frank Tomkins

SUNTEP Regina's Excursion to Lebret

Article by Russell Fayant and Photographs by Kim Kovacs

Batoche and Red River are forever emblazoned in the Métis' collective consciousness. They symbolize our passions, our triumphs, and our struggles. The reach of their power extends like a fog into southern Saskatchewan's river valleys and coulees, and into the Métis communities of Lebret, Willowbunch, and Val Marie. Like Batoche, these communities began as hibernant camps and later sheltered permanent Métis settlers fleeing the oppressive conditions of Red River in the 1870s. However, unlike Batoche, we sometimes forget the importance of these lesser-known communities—communities which have sheltered stories, families, and Métis culture for almost a century-and-a half.

Lebret, Katepwa, and the Qu'Appelle Valley remain significant cultural markers for many southern Métis, including Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Regina students and staff, many of whom call the valley their cultural home. It was with this in mind that SUNTEP Regina organized its first annual all-centre trip to Lebret. The purpose of the trip was to build community ties, to start the year off in a good way, and to model for students the value of an off-campus, land-based

educational experience.

With the help of Metchtild Morin, Lucy Larocque, Métis historian Joe Welsh, and cook Linda Fayant, staff organized tours of the historic Sacred Heart

Roman Catholic Church and graveyard, the Lebret museum, the Stations of the Cross, and the old Road Allowance settlements around Lebret.

The day began when students and staff loaded onto a school bus and travelled the 45 minutes to Lebret. As the bus lumbered past a sign that welcomed us to "paradise," stories of climbing the hill, fishing, and the *rougarou* filled the empty spaces on the bus until we unloaded ourselves in front of the unexpected grandeur of Lebret's Sacred Heart church. There, we organized ourselves into four groups and began to explore the tiny town nestled between the hills of the Qu'Appelle



Russell Fayant with Students

Valley and Mission Lake.

The tour of the church was given by former CDI employee and local historian, Metchtild Morin. Students were told of how the Métis sacrificed both their resources and time to help build a church that would rival the one they left behind. Many of the Métis who first came to Lebret were originally from St. François Xavier, a community just west of Winnipeg, and originally founded by Cuthbert Grant. In Lebret they would rebuild their community, and at its heart would be a magnificent fieldstone church that continues to serve as an active Roman Catholic parish and community gathering point. In the cemetery, students

searched for ancestors and paused for quiet reflection.

The second station we visited was that of the Lebret Museum. The museum sits across from the church, and appropriately reflects the sense of community and spirituality that is so tangible in Lebret. Lucy Larocque toured students through four different sections of the museum, and many were excited to find old photos and artifacts once belonging to family members. For a small village, Lebret has preserved its history remarkably well and the pride that its citizens show in maintaining the collection is evident in every corner of the building.

For anyone who has either lived in or visited Lebret, the Stations of the Cross hold indelible memories. Some people climb the hill for religious reasons, others for adventure. No matter

what the reason, one cannot help but feel moved as they drink in the best view in the valley. From the top of the hill, Mission Lake reflects the shadows of the valley and guides the eye to a view of its larger cousins—Katepwa and Echo lakes. From this vantage point, one can easily discern why the Métis who first settled here considered it “paradise,” and petitioned ardently when they arrived to have their settlement rights recognized by the federal government in the 1870s.

After having lunch on the shores of Echo Lake, the group was introduced to Joe Welsh. Joe is a Métis historian and author of *Jackrabbit Street*, which is a vivid and hilarious recollection of Lebret-area stories. Joe took the group to a piece of land on the south side of Mission Lake where a Métis Road Allowance community (including his own family) once thrived in

the coulees and pastures b e h i n d the Lebret Seminary. The group braved the cold and wet conditions as Mr. Welsh explained to the staff

and students what life was like on the road allowance. He regaled us with stories of the *rougarou*. He recalled how the Métis families were close knit and hard working. Mr. Welsh told the students: “If we were oppressed, we never knew it, because we always had enough to eat, and we always found a way to make fun.” He spoke of the traditions that kept the community strong and resilient, like the four days of visiting that would take place at New Year’s, and the special place of old people at the dinner tables. He impressed students with memories and stories of their relatives, and encouraged all of us to reclaim the correct Michif pronunciations of our family names. The road allowance walk with Mr. Welsh was truly memorable, and demonstrated to the students that some of the best learning takes place outside of a classroom.

At the end of the day, we thanked our guides, loaded back onto the bus, and excitedly shared our favourite parts of the day while we travelled back to Regina. By the time we had returned, many students who did not know each other had become acquainted. But perhaps even more important, we had all become reacquainted with our ancestors, our stories, and with the quintessentially Métis town of Lebret. We can’t wait to go back!



Joe Welsh explaining life on the Road Allowance

Traditional Métis Christmas and New Year's Celebrations

Article by the Gabriel Dumont Institute

The Métis have long placed a great emphasis on maintaining strong relationships among families, extended families, and communities, particularly when work was hard and the future uncertain. Nowhere were these bonds of kinship and friendship better renewed than during Christmas (*Li Krismas/Li jhoor di nwel*) and New Year's (*Li jhoor di l'aan*) celebrations. While Christmas Day was largely a religious event for most Métis communities in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, it still remained festive. For instance, at Batoche, in the

1880s and 1890s, from Christmas to Epiphany/All Kings' Day (*Li jhoor dii Roi*) (January 6th), Métis families held ballroom dances by "oil light" (*bals à l'huile*). A Prince Albert newspaper reported in 1889 "at Batoche, during the holidays, balls are the order of the day. Two were held last night, one at Pilon's and the other at D(aniel) Charette's and youngsters had all the chances they wanted of shaking themselves up." Métis Elders have recounted that families spent Christmas Eve by attending Midnight Mass, occasionally singing hymns in Cree or French,

and then having a large supper and party known as *réveillon*. However, most celebrating during the holiday season was reserved for New Year's Day. As one Batoche Elder told historian Diane Payment, "On Christmas Eve, we went to Midnight Mass, and when we got home, we ate a little, drank some tea, and went to bed. The presents were for New Year's Day."

Early on the morning of Christmas Day, families travelled by horse and sleigh to loved ones' homes, and stayed until late in the evening. Prior to this gathering,

mothers and daughters prepared food for days to ensure everyone would be well fed. Christmas and New Year's fare included *beignes* (fried bannock), *boulettes* (meat balls), *rababou* (stew), chokecherries or Saskatoon berries served with cream and sugar, puddings, pemmican, wild game, as well as tea, homemade beer, or wine. Unlike the commercialism, which permeates our holiday season, traditional Métis Christmas



Painting by Armand Paquette, Image Courtesy Parks Canada

celebrations were modest. One Elder recounts that “we did not have Christmas gifts, only candies, apples, and pastry.”

While Christmas was a religious event for the Métis, New Year’s was a grand social celebration. It was not uncommon for several households in a community to hold a feast and dance on different nights so that people could visit and celebrate for many evenings in succession around New Year’s Day. In the 1860s, at Prairie Rond, in what is now the area around Dundurn, Saskatchewan, a New Year’s celebration lasted ten days! Manitoba Métis Elder Joe Venne had this to say about the Métis’ festive spirit during the Christmas/New Year’s holiday season: “When it came to the holidays, Christmas and New Year’s, we used to go for two, three weeks at a time, dancing every night, partying every night. Other people didn’t have that style.”

Children were an integral part of New Year’s celebrations. On New Year’s Eve, children received presents from their parents, usually small gifts of food. One Elder related that “On New Year’s Eve children hung stockings at the foot of their bed and would wake up to find all sorts of treats.” After receiving their presents, on the morning of

New Year’s Day, children thanked and blessed their parents, and families hugged and kissed one another. Fathers also blessed their children on this day as well.

New Year’s Day was usually held at the grandparents’ home, and was a special time for families as cousins, aunts, and uncles attended. It was an occasion

for social drinking, and the eating of all sorts of food with people travelling from house to house, dining, dancing, and visiting. While visiting house-to-house, everybody would shake hands and kiss. As a result, some Métis called New Year’s Day “Ochetookeskaw,” or “kissing day,” or Shaking Hands Day, “Shakishchenoisi.”



Photograph by Karon Shmon

Saskatoon CCA Student Overcomes Life Obstacles and Succeeds

Article by Kimberly Parent and Photograph by Peter Beszterda

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

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 great deal 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



Brett Vandale, Tracy Arcand, and Glenn Lafleur

practicum, she was offered an employment 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 this field upon graduation, but also has a long-term goal of going further into 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."

Tracy recently received the *Order of Gabriel Dumont Bronze Medal*, which recognizes Gabriel Dumont Institute students who have distinguished themselves through their perseverance, centre and community involvement, and overall student performance.

Andrea Menard Sparkles on Tour

Article by David Morin and Photograph by Peter Beszterda

In promotion of her APTN Christmas special: *Sparkle: An Evening with Andrea Menard*, Andrea set out on a six-city Sparkle Tour, with a stop in Saskatoon on December 8, 2010. The Broadway Theatre was full of fans that were not disappointed by the amazing two-hour performance.

The Christmas spirit was in the air as Andrea sang her winter songs from the album *Sparkle*, accompanied by Robert Walsh, Stephen Maguire, Dawn Gamble, Gent Laird, and Roy Sydiah. People were clapping, laughing, and having a great time! The crowd interaction made for an entertaining show as well. At one point, Andrea searched through the audience to find the perfect companion to her song "Santa, I'm Broke." She found it in Curtis, an excellent sport, as he donned a Santa hat and coat, and had Andrea serenade him on stage.

The concert was well-paced with slower songs such as "Evergreen" balanced by more up-tempo songs like "The Family Test" and "Yuletide You." Andrea also shared some personal stories which contributed to the songs such as the Métis Christmases of her childhood. Two of Andrea's band members had the

opportunity to shine when Robert Walsh and Stephen Maguire each sang one of their own songs with Andrea as backup. Stephen also did an excellent job filling the shoes of Lorne Cardinal who had recorded the duet "The Christmas Slump" with Andrea on *Sparkle*.

After saying goodnight and leaving the stage, the crowd erupted into applause, getting to their feet, and clapping away even as the lights turned on. The applause continued until Andrea and Robert took to the stage once again in an unplanned encore. After asking Robert what they should play, one audience member shouted out "Call My

Name," and with that, Andrea and Robert broke into song one more time as the crowd listened.

Made possible by the sponsors—the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the Gabriel Dumont Institute, the Métis National Council, and the Saskatchewan Arts Board—the Sparkle Tour visited Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, La Ronge, Calgary, and Edmonton. At each stop on her tour, back-up singer Dawn Gamble organized a Little Spark Tour, in which Andrea visited an elementary school where she gave a one-hour performance, and a one-hour workshop promoting the idea that every one of us is a spark.



Andrea Menard Performing at the GDI 30th Anniversary Gala

GDI Signs \$47.5M Agreement with Federal Government

Article by Lisa Wilson and Photograph by Peter Beszterda

In a special signing ceremony on Friday November 19, 2010, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) formally recognized their new five-year \$47.5 million agreement. Under the agreement, GDI will provide employment and training programs and services to Saskatchewan's Métis community.

The agreement was signed at the opening of the GDI 30th Anniversary Cultural Conference, and included remarks by the Honourable Ed Komarnicki, Member of Parliament and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Human Resources and

Skills Development and to the Minister of Labour; the Honourable Rob Norris, Saskatchewan Minister of Advanced Education Employment and Immigration; President Clément Chartier, Métis National Council; and President Robert Doucette, Métis Nation-Saskatchewan.

The agreement falls under the federal government's Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS). The Honourable Diane Finley, HRSDC Minister announced the strategy in September, 2009. ASETS replaces the former Aboriginal Human Resources Development

Strategy under which GDI was also an agreement holder. The new agreement will be administered by GDI's Training and Employment program, which operates in a similar way to the three pillars of the ASETS: demand driven skills development, partnership creation, and accountability.

"Under the new ASETS Agreement, GDI will retain the successful approaches, programs, and practices established under the former agreement," said GDI's Chair, Karen LaRocque. "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."

GDI strengthens Métis people's attachment to the labour market with meaningful, quality training and employment programs. The ASETS Agreement enables GDI to design, manage, and deliver human resources development programs and services tailored to the needs and circumstances of Métis people and employers



Rob Norris, Rob Clark, Kelly Block, Clément Chartier, Karen LaRocque, Ed Komarnicki, Robert Doucette

in Saskatchewan. CDI offers employment, placement, and training programs to Métis people throughout the province of Saskatchewan, namely labour market development programs. CDI works with employers to ensure ready workplaces conducive to diversity, specifically for Métis people,

and ensures programming meets labour market needs.

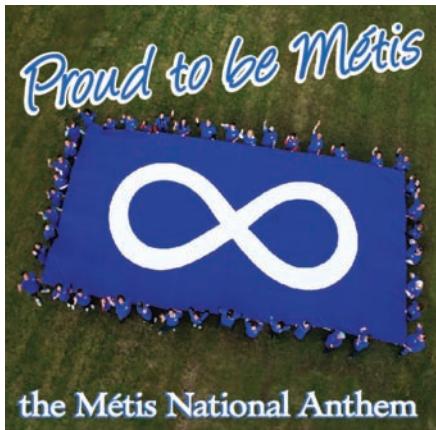
"Our government is helping Aboriginal people get the skills and training they need in Saskatchewan," said the Honourable Mr. Ed Komarnicki, "Investing in training is one of the most important measures our

government is taking to protect Canada and its workers today, while strengthening the long-term competitiveness of our economy."



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE of Native Studies and Applied Research

The Métis National Anthem Now Available on CD!



***Proud to be Métis:
the Métis National Anthem***

Format: CD

Price: \$20.00

The *Proud to be Métis* compilation includes the original "Proud to be Métis" song as well as a new shorter version written as a *Year of the Métis* tribute, and masterfully sung by Andrea Menard and Donny Parenteau, complete with instrumental versions for those who want to sing it themselves. The original has earned its place as the traditional version and is accepted as the Métis National Anthem. It was composed in the 1970s by Clint Buehler and Dennis Charney. The shorter tribute was written during the 2009 National Aboriginal Day celebrations at Batoche National Historic Site by the collaborative team of Clint Buehler, Andrea Menard, Donny Parenteau, and Karon Shmon. It celebrates our proud past and bright future. It was released in 2010, the *Year of the Métis* and the 125th Anniversary of the Northwest Resistance, as a tribute to our ancestors, to whom we owe an immeasurable amount of gratitude. Because of their strength and commitment, we are proud to be Métis.

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GDI and Cameco Sign Scholarship Agreement

Article by Lisa Wilson and Photograph by Peter Beszterda

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) is pleased to announce the signing of a new Métis scholarship with Cameco. GDI and Cameco celebrated the new scholarship agreement on Saturday November 20, 2010 in Saskatoon with a special signing ceremony.

GDI and Cameco have partnered to provide scholarships to encourage Métis students to pursue post-secondary education. Under the agreement, there are five awards of \$1300 annually for Métis students enrolled in a post-secondary institution pursuing a degree, diploma, certificate, or apprenticeship program related to career opportunities with Cameco.

The scholarship agreement is a four-year pilot program with a shared contribution by Cameco and GDI. Scholarships will be administered annually by the Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation Trust, commencing in May 2011.

"This is a significant agreement for GDI 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 the job market."

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

GDI was incorporated in 1980 to serve the educational and cultural needs of Saskatchewan's Métis community. The Institute celebrated its 30th anniversary this year with a cultural conference. The GDI-Cameco signing was part of the celebration.

GDI has the capacity to enter into such partnerships through 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.



Tavia Laliberte, Dara Hrytzak-Lieffers, and Karen LaRocque

GDI Hosts 30th Anniversary Cultural Conference and Annual General Meeting

Article by Lisa Wilson and Photograph by Peter Beszterda

On November 18, 19, and 20, 2010, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) hosted its 30th Anniversary celebration and Cultural Conference followed by the GDI Annual General Meeting. The event provided an opportunity for GDI and the Métis community to celebrate 30 years of Métis education, resource production, and cultural programming.

The event began with several pre-conference forums. The Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Alumni event took the form of a dialogue on the SUNTEP program as a model of Métis teacher education. Participants discussed 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 the SUNTEP graduates and other stakeholders to discuss the importance of the program, the opportunities and challenges encountered, and the benefit to students and schools were provided.

All GDI staff attended GDI:

Looking Back, Looking Forward, presented by GDI Executive Director Geordy McCaffrey. The session highlighted the historical, social, and economic circumstances that Métis people in Saskatchewan faced 30 years ago when the Institute was founded. Placing the origins of GDI in the context of the day served to illustrate how far we have come with our Institution today.

The evening of Thursday November 18 included a special awards ceremony and banquet to celebrate the *Order of Gabriel Dumont* Bronze medal recipients. The Bronze award was introduced as a new award this year. Eighteen students were inducted into the Order with the Bronze medal. Following the award presentations, Métis hypnotist Scott Ward delighted the audience by hypnotizing a number of GDI students, staff, and Elders.

Friday November 19 officially opened the 30th Anniversary Cultural Conference. Opening remarks were made by a number of dignitaries including the

Honourable Ed Komarnicki, Member of Parliament and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development and to the Minister of Labour; the Honourable Rob Norris, Minister of Advanced Education, Employment, and Immigration; President Clément Chartier, Métis National Council; and President Robert Doucette, Métis Nation—Saskatchewan. In addition, several other political leaders and representatives were in attendance for the conference opening and for the signing of the ASETS agreement.

Keynote speaker Maria Campbell, accompanied by John and Vicki Arcand, presented opening thoughts and read a story from her revised edition of *Stories of the Road Allowance People* with fiddle and guitar accompaniment. Concurrent Cultural and Academic sessions followed throughout the day. In addition a special student leadership session was offered. The *Order of Gabriel Dumont* Silver medals were presented at the lunch banquet.

The 30th Anniversary Gala banquet took place on

Friday evening with musical performances by John and Vicki Arcand, Andrea Menard, and Donny Parenteau, the introduction and performance of a tribute version of the Métis Anthem, and the awarding of the *Order of Gabriel Dumont* Gold medals.

The GDI Annual General Meeting was held Saturday, November 20, and included a special signing ceremony with Cameco Corporation for a new scholarship partnership.

of the Institute management, I extend sincere thanks to all the staff who displayed the pride and spirit of GDI and pitched in to make the three-day event a real success. *Marsi!*

Overall, the event was a resounding success. On behalf

GDI Cultural Conference Features

Many Prominent Métis

Article by David Morin Photographs by Peter Beszterda

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) 30th Anniversary Cultural Conference boasted an impressive line-up of Métis artists, performers, and educators, in an effort to continue GDI's mission of promoting and preserving Métis culture.

Maria Campbell launched her book, *Stories of the Road Allowance People: The Revised Edition*, during one of the sessions and featured John and Vicki Arcand. Elders Roy Poitras and Billyjo DeLaRonde were on hand as well to read pieces of the stories that they narrated on the CD that accompanies the newly-revised edition. *Stories of the Road Allowance People* remains the finest anthology of traditional Métis oral stories in print. Remaining



Cynthia Fey, Natasha Beeds, and Sherry Farrell Racette

true to the oral history, and written in the melodious Michif-accented English of the original storytellers, this timeless collection of traditional stories reflects the Métis' rich and vibrant storytelling tradition.

Artist Sherry Farrell Racette and poet Gregory Scofield pulled double duty, each presenting a session on their own as well as teaming up for a workshop on beading, where novice and experienced beaders alike were



Gregory Scofield

given a basic understanding of the art form along with tips and techniques on how to bead. Sherry's individual session was titled, "Métis Clothing and Art: Sewing Ourselves Together." She led the participants on a trip through history by looking at clothing and art created for daily life and for special occasions. This workshop featured historic photographs, documentary art, artifacts from museum collections, reproductions, and contemporary fashion.

Gregory's session was on his book, *I Knew Two Métis Women*, where he shared his vibrant poems with an engaged audience.

Scott Duffee shared his amazing cultural talents in two sessions. The first was a learning how to jig lesson in which the basic

steps were taught, and the second was a fingerweaving session where participants were taught the skills to fingerweave their own sashes. The attendees were able to use the techniques learned to make a bookmark-sized sash by the time they left the session.

Artist Christi Belcourt presented a session, in the morning, on her nine-painting series *Great Métis of My Time*, featuring paintings of Maria Campbell, Harry Daniels, Jean Taillet, Tony Belcourt, and Steve Powley. In the afternoon, Christi shared her knowledge of traditional medicinal plants and the healing properties of the plants depicted in her artwork, which honours the centuries-old healing traditions of Métis women.

Michif was prominent in two sessions at the Cultural Conference. David Morin led a demonstration on how technology can be used to preserve the language through the use of Thornton Media's language pal technology. Working with Norman Fleury, Michif specialist, GDI has begun to bank the Michif-Cree language through the language



Scott Duffee teaching jiggsing



Elder Rose Fleury practicing Michif

pal software to be used on the Nintendo DS system as well as online. The project is currently in its beta phase with more banking to continue into the new year. Norman Fleury was joined by Harriet Oaks for an afternoon Michif-dialogue session where they shared a conversation in their beloved language so that the participants could hear the language in use.

With the help of GDI's Métis Graduate Bursary, Métis graduate students Louise Legare, Keith Goulet, and Natasha Beeds are creating a unique body of Métis-specific research. These featured researchers shared their work and knowledge in their chosen field of specialization.

Elder, genealogist, and Order of Gabriel Dumont Silver medal

a database with thousands of names of related Métis families from around Batoche and area.

Mary-Rose Boyer led a session on Métis Veterans, focusing on five men from her family that went to war. She also gave tips on how to research veterans in participants own families. Elders Ed St. Pierre and Harriet Oaks shared the poem "In Flanders Field" in both English and Michif.

Hypnotist Scott Ward rounded out the presenters with a student leadership workshop in which students were guided through techniques that will help them utilize their natural talent and abilities while listening to their heart in order to set goals and achieve their dreams.



Christi Belcourt

New Inductees to the *Order of Gabriel Dumont*

Article by Lisa Wilson and Photograph by Peter Beszterda

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) is pleased to announce the induction of several individuals into the *Order of Gabriel Dumont* at the Institute's 30th Anniversary and Cultural Conference, which was held on November 18 and 19, 2010.

The *Order of Gabriel Dumont* is awarded by GDI 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 most recent inductees are Clarence Campeau (posthumous) and Guy Bouvier in the gold category, and Elie Fleury, Rose Fleury, and Sheila Pocha in the Silver category. The recipients join the ranks of esteemed individuals who have been inducted into the Order, including Maria Campbell, Elijah Harper, and Harry Daniels, to name a few.

The *Order of Gabriel Dumont* gold medal recognizes those who have distinguished themselves with outstanding service to the Métis. In past practice, the gold medal has

been awarded based on lifetime achievements and service. The *Order of Gabriel Dumont* silver medal honours those who have made a significant contribution to the Métis.

Furthermore, the Institute introduced the *Order of Gabriel Dumont* bronze medal awards this year. 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 was awarded to eighteen GDI students on November 18, 2010 at a special banquet to honour the bronze medal recipients and to kick off

the GDI 30th Anniversary Culture Conference.

The students who received the bronze medal award this year are Arrick Forsythe, Bruce Janvier, Candace Janvier, Gerald Nabess, Helena Goulet, Holly Wiberg, Jacqueline Lavallee, Jason Phillips, Jenel Markwart, Jennifer Altenberg, Jennifer Brown, Josh Lafontaine, Kaitlin Fendelet, Martine Smith, Mike Palmer, Teresa Thrun, Theresa Malboeuf, and Tracy Arcand.

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



Bronze Medal recipients

Order of Gabriel Dumont Gold Recipient:

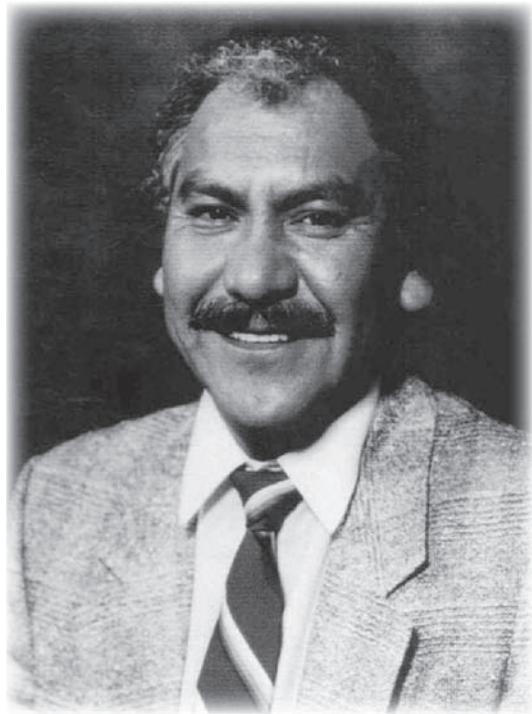
Clarence Campeau

Edited by Lisa Wilson and Photograph by Peter Beszterda

The late Clarence Campeau was born in 1947, near Rose Valley, Saskatchewan. When he was 18, Clarence met Napoleon LaFontaine, who encouraged him to become involved with Métis politics. In 1973, Clarence became the youngest Area Director for the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan Eastern Region II, a position he held over the next twenty-four years.

Early in life Clarence was shaped by his family's experiences living along a road allowance near Algrove. When he was

young, Clarence's family was forced to leave their road allowance community. The event is described by Jesse Gardiner in a 2004 *New Breed* article: "Under the guise of rehabilitating Métis families, the provincial government, in the early 1950s, began to break-up road allowance communities and forced their Métis residents onto Métis Farms. The Campeau family were rounded up and put on a boxcar bound for the Green Lake Métis Farm.



Clarence Campeau



Karen LaRocque, Tammy Mah, Jackie Kennedy, Helen Johnson, and Ryan Calder accepting on behalf of Clarence Campeau's family

Undeterred, the family left Green Lake the moment they arrived, traveling throughout the night before returning to their home in Algrove. No doubt, Clarence Campeau's spirit of resistance and desire for social justice for the Métis people were sparked by this event."

Clarence was a strong leader who believed that the Métis are great

business people. The importance of creating economic opportunities for Métis people led Clarence to design programs as well as form a construction crew to build homes for Saskatchewan Housing, and to engage in cabinet making, and other ventures. Clarence believed in the power of the grassroots and he built his vision for the Region on what the community wanted. Clarence's vision included moving beyond project-based economic initiatives to

work for broad-based economic development, integration, and participation for Métis people. Clarence also worked for social and educational development in the Métis community and started a number of programs in his Region.

Clarence had been negotiating with the province for the establishment of an economic development fund when he passed away unexpectedly at age 50. The Clarence

Campeau Development Fund is named in his honour.

Clarence enjoyed many outdoor activities, particularly fishing with his grandson on Barrier Lake. He was known for his generosity, his sense of humour and for his dedication to improving the lives of the Métis people of Saskatchewan. Those who knew him still speak fondly of him as a respected and respectful person who brought out the best in others.

Order of Gabriel Dumont Gold Recipient: Guy Bouvier

Edited by Lisa Wilson and Photograph by Peter Beszterda

Born in Île-à-la-Crosse, Guy Bouvier carries a proud northern Métis spirit. Since 1973, Guy has worked on behalf of the Métis people to promote the Métis agenda on education, employment, entrepreneurship, healthcare, culture, and housing. Always willing to help others, he is friendly, easygoing, dedicated, hardworking, caring, honest, knowledgeable, and understanding.

Guy takes great pride in being a strong supporter and builder of the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI). In 1994/95, he played a key role in successfully negotiating with government a recovery plan for the

Institute. During his term as a Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN-S) Regional Director for Western Region I and as Chairperson for the Local Métis Management Board, from 1992 to 2004, Guy worked to ensure that the education and training administered by the Region was delivered by GDI or the Dumont Technical Institute (DTI). In addition, as Acting MN-S President, Guy helped secure a \$500,000 Métis Health Scholarship fund for Métis students studying in health-related fields.

Over the years, Guy has held numerous MN-S portfolios including Acting President,

Vice President, Area Director for Western Region I, Minister of Finance, Minister of Tourism, Minister of the Pathways to Success Program, Minister of Employment and Training, Minister of Economic Development, Tripartite negotiator, and since 2007, President of Meadow Lake Métis Local #31. In addition, Guy has sat on or has chaired numerous boards including those for the Sask Métis Economic Development Corporation, the Clarence Campeau Development Fund (CCDF), the Northwestern Métis Employment Incorporated Management Board, and the Native Urban Housing Authority in Meadow Lake.

In other capacities, Guy has

served as the general manager of the first Aboriginal housing program, and represented the Métis Nation on the National Aboriginal Capital Corporation from 2000 to 2004. His many achievements include winning a Métis Employment and Training Lifetime Achievement Award. Guy also helped negotiate the first Métis-specific Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy on behalf of the five Western provinces, worked as Chair of the CCDF board to increase their

annual funding, helped create and later expand the Native Housing Program in Meadow Lake, helped build the Elders' Hall at Batoche, and helped to further develop Batoche and the Métis Nation festival site. Guy has devoted most of his life to serving Métis people. Guy was also instrumental in forming the Northwest Friendship Centre in Meadow Lake and in bringing Legal Aid to that community.

In addition to all of these

accomplishments, Guy is a proud Métis father and grandfather. He loves his horses, the traditional Métis way of life, and sharing his stories. In true Métis fashion, Guy can tell a story and keep you laughing for hours. He enjoys bannock and tea, and shares Métis stories with anyone. Guy Bouvier changes the lives of the people who know him, and always for the good. He is a man of his word, and has dedicated his life to serving others.



Karen LaRocque, Mavis Taylor, Guy Bouvier, Jackie Kennedy, and Tammy Mah

Order of Gabriel Dumont Silver Recipient: Elie Fleury

Edited by Lisa Wilson and Photograph by Peter Beszterda

Elie Fleury has spent a rewarding 50 years working in the field of education. He began his career in Manitoba as a teacher, but has spent most of his life working to improve accessible post-secondary education for Métis and other Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan. Throughout the years, Elie has developed extensive knowledge in planning, evaluation, and policy development, which have paved the way for transformative changes to occur in the lives of Métis students, their families, and their communities.

An accomplished administrator, Elie has held several senior positions. From 1976-1986, he worked as a consultant, superintendent, and CEO. From 1986-1996, he worked as the Director of Education for Cowessess First Nation and as an education consultant for the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations. For the last 14 years, he was the Executive Director of the Northern Teacher Education Program (NORTEP) and the Northern Professional Access College (NORPAC). During his tenure as Executive Director, Elie influenced the lives of approximately 2,000 students, of which approximately 50%



Karen LaRocque, Elie Fleury, Geordy McCaffrey

were Métis. Elie is well known and respected by NORTEP/NORPAC staff, faculty, and by many people in northern communities, and throughout Saskatchewan.

When the NORTEP university program began, there were very few Aboriginal teachers in northern Saskatchewan. Elie viewed the preparation of paraprofessionals to become teachers as one of the outstanding accomplishments of the NORTEP Program. As Executive Director, Elie saw the number of teacher graduates grow from 191 to over 370. Elie was instrumental in implementing the first Master of Education program offered in northern Saskatchewan. Always modest, Elie states that he is

appreciative of the opportunity to work with the program.

The Order of Gabriel Dumont is an esteemed award. "The award recognizes those who have distinguished themselves with outstanding service to the Métis." During the last 50 years, Elie has served the educational and cultural needs of the Saskatchewan and Manitoba Métis and the Non-Status Indian communities. He is proud to be part of the Métis Nation, and is a member of the La Ronge Local. He is deserving of a medal for his lifetime achievement serving the Métis people. Elie Fleury will wear the Order of Gabriel Dumont medal humbly, and will treasure the spirit in which it was received.

Order of Gabriel Dumont Silver Recipient:

Rose Fleury

Edited by Lisa Wilson and Photograph by Peter Beszterda

Rose Fleury has been a proud voice for the Métis for many years. A life-long resident of central Saskatchewan, she currently resides in Prince Albert. She has constantly promoted the importance of being Métis, which to her means knowing your roots, living a Métis life, and promoting Métis culture from the past, the present, and the future.

Rose has become an expert on genealogy. She has helped thousands to trace their roots, and find their identity. As an Elder, she has travelled from one end of the country to the other, and is known and respected for her no-nonsense presence.

She has been an asset at Batoche National Historic Site as a traditional knowledge keeper, and never hesitates to share her traditional and contemporary knowledge. Rose always says that knowledge must be shared or it is useless. Her motto is “pass it on or lose it forever.” Rose has led many workshops, and serves as a resource, answering numerous



Rose Fleury

requests from the Site. She was instrumental in the conception of ideas for the Battle of Tourond's Coulee/Fish Creek National Historic Site, starting with the name change, leading to feedback for plaques, and to the eventual construction of a gazebo and trails that will be enjoyed by all visitors. Rose also provides direction for special events, delivers prayers and gifts, and helps to strengthen interpretative experiences with her presence. Rose constantly leads by example: by respecting the many voices

approach, by participating in demonstrations and storytelling, or by giving interviews.

When the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay came to Duck Lake, Rose was chosen to represent the community. She carried the flame high and passed it on to other community members. We feel that Rose Fleury deserves to be recognized as a leader, as a wise and a strong voice for women, and a friend to all.

Order of Gabriel Dumont Silver Recipient:

Sheila Pocha

Edited by Lisa Wilson and Photograph by Peter Beszterda

Sheila Pocha has been a deeply committed and respected advocate for Métis and First Nations rights for nearly 30 years. Her unfailing energy, optimism, and real concern for the welfare of others make her a uniquely effective Métis advocate. Sheila has been an exceptional leader, and is always willing to volunteer her services. She has proven her remarkable effectiveness in numerous contexts, including education and community service.

As an educator, she served on the Awasis Special Education Council for several years, building capacity, and working with others to ensure that high-quality professional development

opportunities were made available to Aboriginal children and families. Sheila also served on a number of committees on behalf of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, the Ministry of Education, and Saskatoon Public Schools.

In her role as the coordinator for the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP), she supported many Métis to become teachers, and she molded the program to ensure that graduates left with a strong cultural identity and a critical approach to education. As SUNTEP coordinator and a faculty member, Sheila informed the university community about

the program's calibre, and its benefits to the K-12 system and beyond. She returned to the classroom, both as a teacher and administrator, and soon became a school principal offering insight, guidance, and leadership to the senior administration of her school division.

She also served on the University of Saskatchewan senate, sitting on behalf of the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan. Sheila was also a governor for the Gabriel Dumont Institute Board of Governors, and was also a board member for the Saskatoon Preschool Foundation, which enabled her to work on behalf of young Aboriginal children. Her professional expertise also extends to the National Family Literacy Panel and to the Office of the Treaty Commissioner Speakers' Bureau. Sheila also volunteered to serve on the Station 20 West Board, an inner-city social justice program in Saskatoon.

In each of these roles, Sheila has been a strong advocate for education and social justice,



Karen LaRocque, Sheila Pocha, Geordy McCaffrey

demonstrating first-hand that education and caring can change lives. Despite meeting resistance to some of her goals, she has remained undaunted, and continues to make informed decisions, based on her education and training, and her

life experience as an Aboriginal woman all too familiar with childhood poverty and racism. Sheila has applied her holistic worldview to her impressive cadre of volunteer work.

Decades of community service

and outstanding leadership have meant Sheila has given thousands of volunteer hours. She has freely and readily given them in order to make a difference. Sheila Pocha is an excellent role model for all members of the community and an inspiration to many.

Stories of the Road Allowance People: The Revised Edition Released

Article by Darren R. Préfontaine and Photograph by Peter Beszterda

The Gabriel Dumont Institute is pleased to announce the publication of Maria Campbell's *Stories of the Road Allowance People: The Revised Edition*.

First published in 1995, *Stories of the Road Allowance People* remains the finest anthology of traditional Métis oral stories in print. Acclaimed Métis writer, Maria Campbell has lovingly brought these evocative stories to life once again in this revised edition. Remaining true to the oral history, and written in the melodious Michif-accented English of the original storytellers, this timeless collection of traditional stories reflects the Métis' rich and vibrant storytelling tradition. The stories range from the humourous "La Beau Sha Shoo" in which Ole Arcand



John Arcand, Maria Campbell, and Vicki Arcand

drinks a jug of wine with Jesus Christ, to the more serious issue of racial discrimination and colonization in "Big John" and "Joseph's Justice." Also included is a traditional *rou garou* story, which deals with the efforts of missionary priests to eradicate the old "Indian" religion among their

Métis parishioners. Each of these poignant stories leaves a lasting, highly-memorable impact on readers. *Stories of the Road Allowance People: The Revised Edition* contains a new story, "Dah Red-Headed Fur Buyer," new artwork by Sherry Farrell Racette, and an accompanying CD

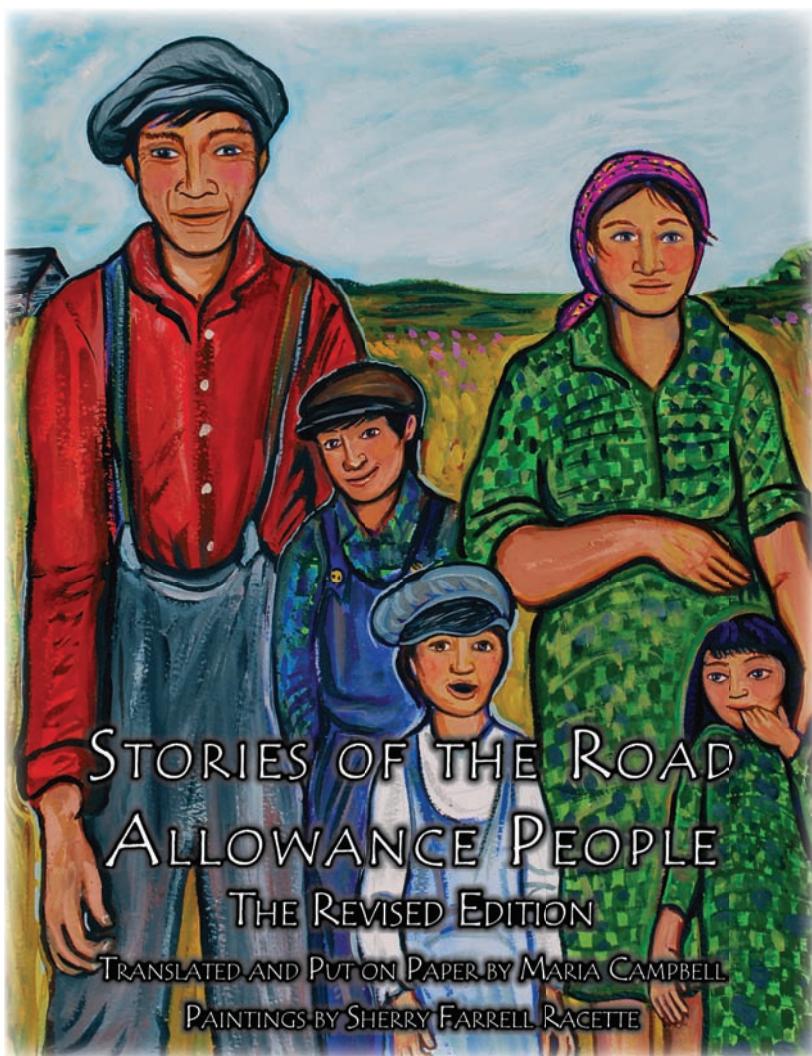
featuring Roy Poitras and Billyjo DeLaRonde narrating two of these stories, and two traditional Métis fiddle tunes by John Arcand and Gilbert Anderson.

For more information about this book contact:

Darren Préfontaine at darren.prefontaine@gdi.gdins.org/
306.657.5711.

To order, contact:

Gabriel Dumont Institute
2–604 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK S7M 5W1
(T) 306.934.4941
(F) 306.244.0252
or order online at
www.gdins.org/catalog.



The Gabriel Dumont Institute can tell you about a book that shows one side of the story about the Métis one hundred and twenty-five years ago. These accounts defend the laws made at the time, and do not admit that the Métis, who lived on it before the government claimed it, had a right to the land. These accounts are written in a language the Métis could not read and were published in places not seen by the Métis. If the Métis heard these words spoken, many would be unable to understand what was said because it is in a language foreign to them and uses legal terminology which is unfamiliar to most people. For the few Métis who understood the notices in the newspapers, to respond to it meant agreeing with the new law. You would have to go before the court to plead your case. The best you could do if the court decided in your favour still meant you had to give up your current land for land elsewhere or a small amount of money. All of the hard work done to get their farms ready, build homes and establish a community would have to be done again. You would only be able to take what you could move. This notice was given despite of letters, petitions, and sending spokespersons to speak on behalf of the Métis. Métis were pushed off the land anyway and many were cheated out of the land or money they should have received by people who claimed to be acting on their behalf. We are told in the book containing these accounts that this is accurate history simply because it exists in print. *See our previous issue for a translation in Michif.*

Remembering Louis Riel and Métis Veterans

Article and Photographs by Karon Shmon

Louis Riel Day, November 16th, marks the day in 1885 that Louis Riel was hanged. Both the morality and legality of what led to this outcome will be discussed for years without consensus. Most can agree, however, that to lose your life for a cause is the ultimate sacrifice. Standing up for the rights of the Métis cost Riel his life. Some non-Métis assume November 16th is Riel's birthday or the date of a remarkable victory in our history. They are somewhat taken aback to learn it is the date of his execution, a day we commemorate Riel's courage and commitment to the Métis. Remembrance Day is a similar day, commemorating Canadians who died in service to Canada from the South African War to current missions. It is held every November 11. Métis fought bravely to defend their families, lands, and rights in 1885, and in both World Wars, the Korean War, and still defend Canada in current conflicts. We remember their sacrifice as well.

Over the past few years, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), Batoche National Historic Site (BNHS), and Parks Canada, through a special partnership, have combined their efforts to pay homage to Métis veterans



Krystle Pederson and Shirley Isbister

by hosting commemorative events on Louis Riel Day. In the past, the partnership has hosted Louis Riel Day events at BNHS and at the University of Saskatchewan. This year, we were delighted to partner with the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre (SIMFC) and Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. (CUMFI) in their Louis Riel Day event which they have hosted for many years in Saskatoon under the leadership of Shirley Isbister, CUMFI President, and May Henderson, SIMFC Director. We also welcomed the opportunity to partner with the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN-S), SaskCulture, and CHEP (Child Hunger and Education

Program) for this event.

The day began with a walk to Gabriel Dumont's statue in Friendship Park, which was not for the timid in our cold November weather. Others joined this group at the Friendship Centre for a boulette soup and bannock luncheon which began with the Métis national anthem, sung by Krystle Pederson. She was followed with greetings by Robert Doucette, MN-S President, Bob McLeod, MN-S Area Director, the Honorable Ken Chevaldayoff, Saskatchewan Minister of Métis and First Nations Relations, His Worship Don Atchison, Mayor of Saskatoon, and Diane



Christi Belcourt unveiling her portrait of Louis Riel

Boyko, Chair of the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division. Geordy McCaffrey, GDI Executive Director, expressed his gratitude to the Métis veterans of 1885 and the Métis veterans that have followed. Dallas Fiddler Boyer and Phil Boyer, and John Arcand, the “Master of the Métis Fiddle” provided musical entertainment for the crowd. A portrait of Louis Riel, commissioned by GDI and painted by artist Christi Belcourt, was unveiled at the commemoration. Christi spoke of her passion for Métis heroes and her desire to honour them, through her art. Métis poet

Gregory Scofield read from his forthcoming poetry collection

which pays tribute to Louis Riel and the Métis women and children who lived through the 1885 Resistance.

For me, the day was a mix of solemnity, solace, and delight. It is always hard to recall our losses, especially of our loved ones. We can take some solace that they will always be remembered. Personally, I was delighted to see contemporary artists pay homage to Riel and to see so many school children attend this event. They are learning much earlier than I did, of the Métis, their courage, and their sacrifice. One can only smile when you see children jigging around the *friendship circle*. It assures us that our culture is thriving. I like to think Louis Riel and the rest of the Métis veterans would be grinning from ear to ear.



Faye Maurice dancing with the youth

Christmas Sleigh Ride

Article and Photographs by Kimberly Parent

A sleigh ride may just be the most perfect and traditional Christmas activity one can participate in. On Saturday December 18th, I bundled up and set out for the Gabriel Dumont Institute staff Christmas sleigh rides at the Western Development Museum with my daughter, Arri and my best friend Viki. Arri is almost three-years-old, but sadly her only experience with horses is riding the carousel at Kinsmen Park. Needless to say, my city kid was quite delighted to see real horses!

We arrived at the museum and had some lunch and

refreshments. All of the children were given a gift of candy and wooden spoons. Now, thanks to GDI, my daughter is well on her way to becoming the first ever Métis-Ecuadorian wooden spoons child prodigy.

After some visiting and spoons playing, the horse-drawn sleigh arrived and we all piled in. The day was cold, but it was sunny and beautiful. We had plenty of blankets to keep warm and cozy under. The sleigh bells sounded magical and gave me that warm Christmas spirit feeling that only comes along every once in a while as an adult. After a couple of difficult

Christmases, I was feeling very appreciative to be happy and enjoying the holidays.

In the end, Arri didn't want to cuddle up with me on the sleigh, instead she insisted on standing and watching the horses (they were real, after all). She was cold, but she was smiling. I hope this can be a holiday tradition for us, to spend an afternoon with family, friends, and co-workers. This is the season to be joyful, and I'm thankful that I was able to build some happy Christmas memories.



Arri with the horses

Sash Takes Place Alongside Other Symbols

Article and Photograph by John Lagimodiere, Reprinted from *Eagle Feather News*

An historic moment was shared in the provincial Legislature in November, as Métis leadership and hundreds of community members from across Saskatchewan looked on during a ceremony to invest a Métis sash in the Saskatchewan Legislature.

The celebration was especially fitting since 2010 was earlier proclaimed by Premier Brad Wall as the "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," Premier Wall said in the Legislature.

Later, in an exclusive interview with *Eagle Feather News*, Wall said that when they announced the "Year of the Métis," he and Métis Nation-Saskatchewan President Robert Doucette chatted about how to take it a step further.

"I leaned over to Robert and said, you know, because of Premier Calvert we have that great mace runner and the beaver



MN—S President Robert Doucette, Senator Nora Cummings, Premier Brad Wall

pelt for the mace as a symbol for our First Nations, the first ever affection of First Nations in our house, but we don't have anything for the Métis," said Wall.

"The Métis not only shaped our provincial history, but the history of North America. I said to Robert, maybe we ought to think about doing this and figuring out what the symbol is. Of course we didn't have to think too long about it and the Métis Nation and Mr. Adams presented the sash today and it is perfect, absolutely perfect."

The specially-designed Métis sash was woven by Métis artist Pat Adams and presented to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Don Toth by Métis

Senator Nora Cummings and President Robert Doucette.

Premier Brad Wall and Dwain Lingenfelter, the leader of the Opposition, then 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.

"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 President 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. When you come here now, you see that symbol in the house. When I come here in the future, I will feel like I belong. This brings home the Métis, not only in this legislature, but in this province. It is truly a great day for Métis across Saskatchewan and across Canada”

Métis artist Pat Adams designed the sash after lots of thought and research.

“It took me about 45 hours to make, but I spent time thinking about the design and what it means to people,” said Adams who designs and sells 20-30 sashes a year.

“I incorporated the blue and white colours of the Métis Nation flag and the green and gold of the provincial flag into the sash and I had to make it a special width and length to accommodate the table and how it will sit.”

Adams was also asked to address the Legislative Assembly and tell about the significance of the sash and in an emotional address, he explained it succinctly.

“A sash is something that someone

wears as a statement of their identity. When they wear it, they are saying that they are Métis and they are comfortable with that. In the old days, we couldn’t do that. Now we do and we say we are proud to be Métis. And that is a positive statement.”



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research



Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation

The Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation administers scholarships to Métis students twice per year. There are a number of different scholarship options, including:

Napoleon LaFontaine Scholarship (entrance, undergraduate, graduation, graduate, loan remission, and special)	Deadline October 1st and May 1st
SaskEnergy Métis Incorporated Scholarship	Deadline October 1st and May 1st
SaskTel Métis Scholarship	Deadline October 1st and May 1st
Basic Education Scholarship	Deadline October 1st and May 1st
GDC Graduate Student Bursary Program	Deadline October 6th and April 6th
GDI/Cameco Scholarship	Deadline May 1st

For scholarship details including eligibility, academic criteria, and application forms, please visit our website at www.gdins.org or contact:

Secretary, Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation
c/o Gabriel Dumont Institute
2—604 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7M 5W1
(306) 934-4941

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.

Celebrating Contributions of Métis Women to Saskatchewan

Reprinted courtesy of the Ministry of Social Services, Government of Saskatchewan

The year 2010 was officially proclaimed by the province as the “Year of the Métis” to commemorate the unique history of Métis people and their contributions to Saskatchewan –past, present and future. It is also an opportunity to celebrate the vital role Métis women have played in the economic, social, cultural, and political fabric of the province.

“As the Year of the Métis comes to a close, our government is pleased to recognize the historic and on-going contributions of Métis women to Saskatchewan and Canada,” Social Services Minister and Minister responsible for Status of Women June Draude said. “Métis women have blended distinct cultures to create strong and vibrant communities, and are leaders and role models for future generations. We are proud to acknowledge their rich and diverse achievements, and encourage Saskatchewan people to learn more about the contributions they have made, and continue to make, to our country.”

The first generation of Métis women in Saskatchewan were either born to European fur-

traders and Indigenous women at posts such as Cumberland House (1775) and Carlton House (1790), or had accompanied their fathers or husbands into the region. They were the heart and strength of the community, traditional healers and midwives, artisans and storytellers who ensured the preservation of Métis families, communities, and nations past.

Contemporary Métis women continue to seek a compromise between traditional cultural roles in the community and other roles in today’s ever-changing society. They continue to demonstrate the leadership qualities passed down by their ancestors through career choices such as administrators, lawyers, teachers, and business owners. Over the last 20 years, their participation in post-secondary education has dramatically increased, signifying a new era of moving forward together and contributing to all aspects of Canadian society.

Four Métis women who have chosen diverse career paths and are demonstrating leadership in their communities are Tavia Laliberte, Mary

McAuley, Mary Rose Suzanne Boyer, and Laura Burnouf.

Tavia Laliberte has worked for over 10 years with the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) and served as a Director since 2006. In this role, she oversees Métis training and employment operations and services for Métis communities across Saskatchewan.



Tavia Laliberte

Her formal education includes a four-year Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in International Studies and a Master’s of Business Administration Degree from the Edward’s School of Business at the University of Saskatchewan. Tavia was recognized by the

Edward's School of Business in their Role Model Campaign in 2009 and by the Province's Status of Women office in celebration of Métis Women in 2010—"The Year of the Métis."

Her informal education includes wife, mother, aunt and avid adventurer.



Mary McAuley

Mary McAuley is a fluent Cree-speaking Métis who was born and raised in Cumberland House, Saskatchewan. After completing Grade 12, she obtained a Cosmetology Honours Diploma and then a Business Administration Honours Diploma. Mary next completed two years of a Psychology Degree, followed by the Legal Studies Program for Native People at the Native Law Centre, University of Saskatchewan in 2003. Immediately thereafter, Mary began law school and graduated in May 2006. She is now a criminal defence lawyer with Legal Aid Saskatchewan in Prince Albert, working in the Cree Court.

Mary attributes her success to her faith, parents Bert and Margaret McAuley (recently deceased), family, and husband Brian Zimmer.



Mary Rose Suzanne Boyer

Mary Rose Suzanne Boyer was born near Estevan and raised south of Macoun on her grandfather's farm. After graduating from Macoun School in 1964, Mary Rose attended the University in Regina where she obtained a Bachelor of Education degree. She spent most of her working years as a teacher, administrator and consultant. She also worked for the provincial and federal governments and for First Nations tribal councils.

After retirement, she contracted to work for Sask Justice, SaskCulture, SMILE, and the Estevan Art Gallery & Museum. Today, she works part-time as

the librarian for the Bienfait branch of the Southeast Regional Library. She is also actively involved in a number of committees, including South East Tours & Trails Inc., which compiles the area's Métis history for future generations.

History is very much close to Mary Rose's heart. Mentored by her parents, Mary Rose learned many stories about the Métis community in the Estevan area. She has begun to write these stories, one being "Five Men Who Went to War: A Métis Legacy," which was presented at the 30th anniversary of the Gabriel Dumont Institute.



Laura Burnouf

Laura Burnouf was born and raised in Beauval, Saskatchewan. She attended high school near Saskatoon, and received her Bachelor of Education degree

in 1985. She taught in various schools for about 10 years before accepting a faculty position in the Northern Teacher Education Program in La Ronge. In 2005, Laura obtained a Masters of Education degree from the University of Alberta

Laura speaks both Cree and Michif, which was the language that she grew up listening to and speaking. She faced discrimination for speaking

Michif, as it was not accepted in school. She also sings and plays guitar and piano. Music has been one of her greatest strengths in the classroom as well as in promoting the language in the surrounding schools within the La Ronge district. She owes her interest in music to many people, especially her mother, whose love of music encouraged her.

Presently, Laura is a faculty advisor and instructor at the

Northern Teacher Education Program in La Ronge. She teaches University level Cree, Indigenous Studies and Social Studies courses. The Métis culture and language have always been a part of her life and a driving force. She attributes her achievements to the positive influences of her parents. Laura has always had a strong desire to learn, and reading has always been a passion.



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Please contact us at the address to the right for ordering information or order online at www.gdins.org/catalog.

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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).

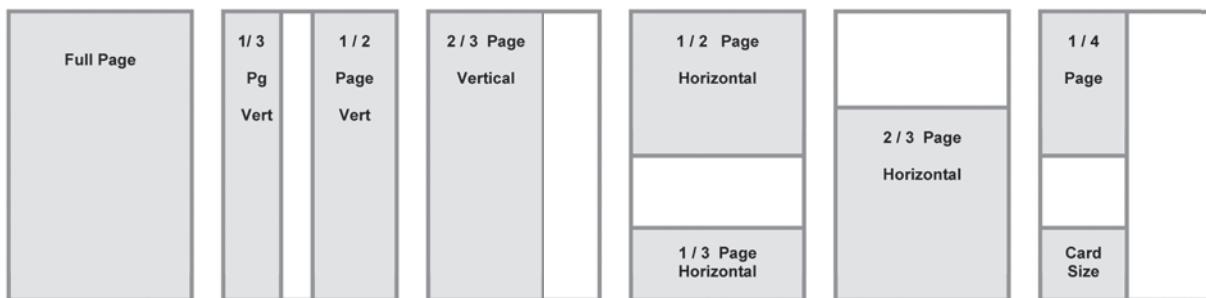
GDI's mission, which guides the Institute's work, provides a wide variety of topics to cover in the magazine.

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).

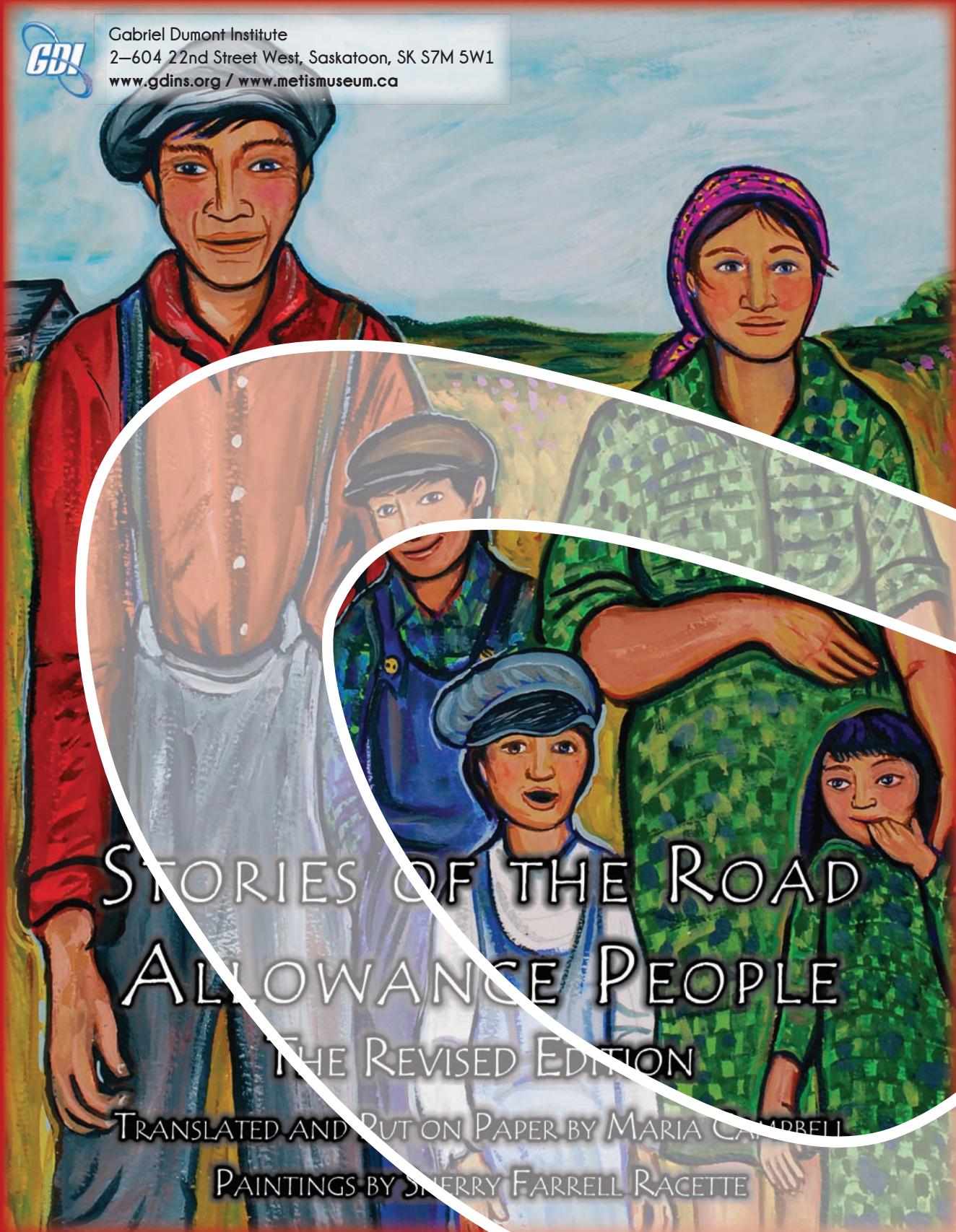
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