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*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*

## GDIT&E Inks Deal Under Federal Skills & Partnership Fund

By Lisa Wilson

GDI and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) have signed an agreement under the Skills and Partnership Fund (SPF) for an apprenticeship project that will run over the next two and a half years. The SPF focuses on strategic partnerships and innovation in project delivery. The program recognizes that the needs of Aboriginal workers have changed since the early 1990's and also that the labour market has changed significantly. The fund provides a means for organizations like GDI Training and Employment (GDIT&E) to test and improve on innovative approaches to program and service delivery. The SPF is in-line with the demand-driven, partnership-based priorities of the Aboriginal Skills, Employment and Training Strategy (ASETS) under which GDIT&E currently has a five-year agreement.

The GDI SPF project will receive \$2.4 million over

two and a half years to provide programming and services to clients and employers in the trades, with a specific focus on apprenticeship. The project will increase awareness of apprenticeship and will increase Aboriginal participation. Three organizations partnered with GDIT&E on the project: Dumont Technical Institute, Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure, and the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Certification Commission. Under the project partnerships will be established with employers and businesses willing to indenture Aboriginal apprentices.

There are over 50 trades in Saskatchewan designated under the Apprenticeship Commission. Being indentured by an employer as an apprentice is the means to successful upward mobility in a trade. It is the only way to achieve Journeyperson

status in one's particular trade. Becoming a Journeyperson ensures provincial and national credential recognition and employment mobility. The SPF apprenticeship project aims to engage 120 Aboriginal Apprentices by the end of the project in 2013.

The fund is also highly focused on evaluation and accountability and calls for a significant amount of evaluation over the course of the project, from employer needs assessments to client and employer satisfaction surveys and other data analysis. In addition, the project will produce a "Directions" document at the conclusion of the project, which will set out the future course for GDIT&E apprenticeship programming and strategy.

For more information on the new SPF project contact Tavia Laliberte, Director of GDIT&E.



## GDC Graduate Student Update

By Lisa Wilson



GDC Graduate Student  
Bursary Recipient Leah Dorion

Since 2006, 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. 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 that 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).

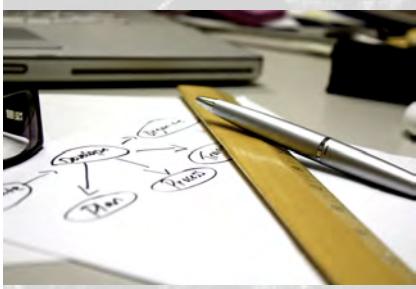
What follows is the profile of one of the graduate students and her research. GDI is proud of the Métis graduate students and pleased to have helped facilitate their studies and research.

**Leah Dorion** received a GDC Graduate Student Bursary in April 2010 in support of her Master of

Arts Integrated Studies at Athabasca University. Ms. Dorion is conducting oral history research with Métis and Cree Elders on traditional parenting. This study will fill a large gap in the literature about traditional parenting teachings. Ms. Dorion has a substantial research background and has been a part of the Gabriel Dumont Institute family for many years, most recently as a Faculty member in SUNTEP, a position from which she took a leave of absence in order to conclude her research and complete her Master's thesis. The following is her summary of her research:

"This research project explores Cree and Métis Elders' teachings about traditional child rearing and how

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## GDI Act Update

By Lisa Wilson

Based on direction from our Métis membership at the last AGM (November 2010) GDI continues to work with our provincial partners and Métis government to create a Gabriel Dumont Institute Act. Such legislation is standard for all other post-secondary training institutions in the province.

Last year a joint committee of GDI and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and

Immigration was formed. The Ministry was prepared to move the legislation forward in time to be announced in the "Year of the Métis." Unfortunately the timing was not ideal and the issue of GDI legislation had to be removed from the province's legislative calendar.

The Ministry has indicated to GDI that it is ready to move this item forward.

What is needed is confirmation from the Métis ownership that we can proceed. This would involve the Provincial Métis Council (PMC) referring the issue to the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly agenda. At this time there is a PMC meeting scheduled for late April, 2011.



## GDI Payroll Cut-Off Calendar

APRIL 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
			Cutoff @ Noon for Stop Payments on Apr 8 Direct Deposits	Accounts Payable Cheque Run	<b>Student Payday</b> Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
				Accounts Payable Cheque Run	<b>Staff Payday</b> Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		Cutoff @ Noon for Stop Payments on Apr 21 Direct Deposits	Accounts Payable Cheque Run	<b>Student Payday</b> Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/P Invs - Timesheets & Payroll Revisions for Apr 29 Payday	<b>Good Friday Stat Holiday</b>	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	<b>Easter Monday Stat Holiday</b>	Cutoff @ 4:30 for May 6 Student Payroll		Accounts Payable Cheque Run	<b>Staff Payday</b> Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	

Please Note:

- Employee contracts due at payroll upon job acceptance
- Payroll must receive contracts prior to payroll cutoff date
- If received after the cutoff date the employee will be paid on the following pay period
- MRTS due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month

For more information contact Jim Edmondson at 657-2272 or Cory McDougall at 657-2257.

## Planning Ahead—Christmas 2011

You may wonder what we are doing talking about Christmas in March? Well, in case you are planning ahead all the way to Christmas, the GDI Board has set the Christmas break dates for GDI for

2011. The dates of the 2011 Christmas Break are **Friday December 23, 2011 to Monday January 2, 2012 inclusive**. These dates were passed by Board motion on March 10, 2011.



## GDC Graduate Student Update

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The next application deadline for the GDC Graduate Student Bursary Program is April 6, 2011.

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."

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.

Annually, the application deadlines are **April 6** and **October 6**. Application packages must be received by the Secretary of the Selection Committee by these dates.

Application and Financial Declaration forms can be downloaded from the GDI website at [www.gdins.org](http://www.gdins.org).



## Provincial Budget 2011-2012

By Cory McDougall



Métis Nation—Saskatchewan President Robert Doucette talks to reporters after the budget presentation (photo from MNS website)

The provincial budget was released on March 23, 2011. GDI is pleased to receive additional resources of \$500,000 to offset cost increases that have been experienced for teacher education at the university level. GDI is also pleased with AEEI's commitment of additional funding to GDI (approximately \$175,000) to meet the increasing costs of these programs on an ongoing basis. This increase will help the organization cope with the 4.5% tuition increase at the universities and the expected increase in staffing costs through the organization's anticipated new collective bargaining agreement.

Saskatchewan's Metis population also needs support in attaining essential skills that will

make them employable in Saskatchewan's robust economy. To this end, equitable core funding to the Dumont Technical Institute will allow this program to continue to deliver community-based Adult Basic Education and training in the skill trades. The additional \$170,000 pledged in this budget is a step in the right direction.

At present, the Metis are underrepresented in the skill trades and other important sectors of the Saskatchewan economy. DTI has been allocated less money for skills training (a \$16,000 decrease) and did not receive any increases for ABE programming. There is much work to be done to have the Metis as a fully engaged participant in the

Saskatchewan economy.

While we are appreciative of the increased program funding, another unfortunate reality is that the Metis continue to be shut out of infrastructure spending. We are pleased that universities, SIAST and regional colleges are improving their facilities but we do have to wonder when it might be our turn. A funding commitment for the proposed Metis Centre of Excellence would be a welcome step.

On the whole, we received a funding increase of approximately 9.6%. Total funding to GDI and DTI from the province in the upcoming fiscal will be approximately \$10.1 million.



## DTI Wellness Club Pilot Project

By Lisa Wilson

In a letter dated December 24<sup>th</sup> 2010 the Gabriel Dumont Institute Executive Director, Geordy McCaffrey, was notified by the federal Minister of Health, Leona Aglukkaq, that a proposal entitled "Dumont Technical Institute Wellness Club: Renewing Métis Spirit Through Active Living," had been approved.

The project, targeted at DTI students, clients and staff, aims to create a path for Saskatchewan Métis people to reconnect with the healthy living habits of traditional lifestyles. The project will provide nutrition and health seminars, cooking and meal planning, and affordable opportunities for physical activity. Furthermore, a body of research will be produced that will increase understandings of health

status and health outcomes for Métis people.

Elders will be incorporated into the program as a means of sharing traditional knowledge about healthy lifestyles. Elders will be involved in as many aspects of program delivery as possible.

The project will be supervised out of the DTI Saskatoon central office but will be led on the ground by Regina staff.

The project is needed given that Métis people are at increased health risk for a number of diseases including diabetes and heart disease. 12.5% of Métis people are diagnosed with diabetes compared with 5% of the general population (Health Council of Canada). Similarly, Métis people suffer an

8.4% rate of heart disease while the general population has a 5.6 % rate (Heart and Stroke Foundation).

Healthy food choices, nutritional information, and health information all play a part in good health and disease prevention. The project recognizes the risks that often prevent people from engaging in healthy lifestyles. For instance, residents in the lowest socioeconomic areas in both Regina and Saskatoon do not have access to a neighbourhood grocery store, thereby limiting healthy food options. The project will find creative ways to address these barriers.

As a pilot project, evaluation will play a key role in determining the outcomes of the project, best practices, and opportunities for similar expanded programming in the future. ☀



DTI student Kara Alnajjar making bannock (photo credit Chantelle Gagnon)

## GDI Building Purchase

By Lisa Wilson

GDI and SaskNative Rentals (SNR) have recently agreed on a deal that will see GDI purchase the SNR building at 1001 22<sup>nd</sup> Street West in Saskatoon. The building will primarily house DTI programs and staff and GDIT&E front line offices. GDI is in a good position to be able to purchase the building outright with no mortgage. \$500,000 has been borrowed from

Clarence Campeau Development Fund (CCDF) for renovations to the building to ensure the space will meet our needs.

The building represents an increase in the growing property asset base of the Institute. In addition to the new building purchase from SNR, GDI owns the Saskatoon DTI building at 917 22<sup>nd</sup> Street West; the Prince Albert building

which houses the PA library, SUNTEP and DTI programs; the CTR building in the north end of Saskatoon; and the

building in La Loche that houses our Northern Campus. GDI is working toward a future Métis Centre of Excellence for the province and the Institute's growing asset base will help ensure the success of this long-term objective. ☀



Pictured above, the new building at 1001 22<sup>nd</sup> Street West in Saskatoon. The current DTI building is just to the left of this building (photo credit Daniel Downs).



## Gabriel Dumont Institute/Dumont Technical Institute

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Back issues of this newsletter  
can be obtained at:

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

We're on the Web!

See us at:  
[www.gdins.org](http://www.gdins.org)



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



## GDI Locations

### GDI Head Office Saskatoon

917 22nd Street West  
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9  
Phone: (306) 242-6070  
Fax: (306) 242-0002

### GDI Publishing Saskatoon

2—604 22nd Street West  
Saskatoon SK S7M 5W1  
Phone: (306) 934-4941  
Fax: (306) 244-0252

### GDI Finance and Operations

917 22nd Street West  
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9  
Phone: (306) 242-6070  
Fax: (306) 975-0903

### DTI Head Office Saskatoon

917 22nd Street West  
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9  
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Fax: (306) 242-0002

Toll Free (DTI):  
1-877-488-6888

### SUNTEP Prince Albert

48 12th Street East  
Prince Albert, SK  
S6V 1B2  
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Fax: (306) 764-3995

### SUNTEP Saskatoon

Room 7 McLean Hall  
University of  
Saskatchewan  
106 Wiggins Road  
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Phone: (306) 975-7095  
Fax: (306) 975-1108

### SUNTEP Regina

Room 227 College West  
University of Regina  
3737 Wascana Parkway  
Regina, S4S 0A2  
Phone: (306) 347-4110  
Fax: (306) 347-4119

### GDI Training and Employment Head Office

917 22nd Street West  
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9  
Phone: (306) 242-6070  
Fax: (306) 683-3508

Toll Free (T&E):  
1-877-488-6888

### GDI Library Regina

Room 218 College West  
University of Regina  
3737 Wascana Parkway  
Regina, S4S 0A2  
Phone: (306) 347-4124  
Fax: (306) 565-0809

<http://gdi.voyager.uregina.ca/>

### GDI Library Prince Albert

48 12th Street East  
Prince Albert, SK  
S6V 1B2  
Phone: (306) 922-6466  
Fax: (306) 763-4834

#### GDI Mission:

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



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