



The GDI Communicator is an internal newsletter intended to increase communication between management and staff of the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research

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GDI Surpasses \$1 M in Scholarship Awards

By Cory McDougall

With the latest scholarship adjudication in May 2011, the Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation (GDSF) is proud to announce that more than \$1 million in scholarships has been awarded to Métis students over the history of the fund. Since 1986, the GDSF has provided financial support to Métis students pursuing their academic goals. The GDSF operates with five Trustees who meet twice a year to make scholarship awards.

The main scholarship program administered under the Foundation is the Napoleon Lafontaine Scholarship, which awards funds to qualifying students for entrance, undergraduate, graduate, loan remission, and graduation scholarships. The fund is named in honour of Nap Lafontaine, a Métis activist who devoted years of his life to the Métis and Non-Status people in Saskatchewan. He was an instrumental figure in the

organization and establishment of the Association of Metis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan (AMNSIS) in the mid 1970s. He also devoted his efforts to the development and recognition of social and educational policy for Aboriginal peoples.

The original \$600,000 endowment, which was made in 1985 by the federal Department of Regional Industrial Expansion under the Native Economic Development Program, has grown over the years - as has the scope of the overall program. Today the amount restricted for endowment purposes sits at \$2.34 million after the establishment of the \$1.3 million Gabriel Dumont Institute Training & Employment Scholarship and Bursary program in March 2008.

The success of the GDSF, and more recently the implementation of the GDIT&E Scholarship fund, have led to the establishment of

scholarship agreements with key industry partners such as SaskEnergy, SaskTel, and Cameco. Contributions from these various partnership agreements, along with the interest earned on the endowment funds, are awarded to students in May and October of each calendar year.

Over the 25+ year history of the GDSF, approximately 1,800 scholarships have been awarded to the deserving students who meet the criterion of the various scholarship categories. More than 70% of these scholarships have been awarded to female Métis students, who also tend to make up a majority of students enrolled in GDI programs.

For more information on the scholarships available under the Foundation please visit the GDI website at

www.gdins.org.



Inclusion Works

By Audrey Arcand

GDI is pleased to announce that two T&E clients attended the 2011 Inclusion Works recruitment fair in Montreal in May with outstanding results.

Kelsey Gunderson, a Bachelor of Commerce graduate, was offered jobs with the TD and the Royal banks while at the fair. She decided to accept the offer with TD and has been working since May 25 as an Associate in the TD Business Banking Group. When asked about her experience at the fair she stated, "It's a great

opportunity to work on your interview skills, network with employers, and network with other young professionals from across the country. It was a really good experience!"

Kayla Morrison, also a Bachelor of Commerce grad, was successful in securing a job. After six interviews she decided to accept a job offer with the Bank of Montreal as a Financial Services Manager. She started work on June 1st. When asked about her experience at Inclusion Works, Kayla said, "The

Aboriginal Human Resource Council (AHRC) really catered to the needs of the new grads as well as the employers.... There was definitely a lot of pressure and stress but I think it was worth it!"

Inclusion Works offers Canadian and international guests a one-stop-shop to learn about the benefits of workplace inclusion. The Inclusion works event is packed with Indigenous Entertainment, networking, break out workshops, and the recruitment fair.



GDIT&E client Kelsey Gunderson at the Inclusion Works conference (photo credit Fred Cattroll)

New Resources Available Spring 2011

By David Morin

The Gabriel Dumont Institute is proud to announce that new resources from their award-winning Publishing Department are available this Spring and launching at the National Aboriginal Day celebration at Batoche National Historic Site. The first is a new children's story by Leah Marie Dorion called *Relatives With Roots: A Story About Métis Women's Connection to the Land*. This book is a heartfelt story about a Métis grandmother who takes her granddaughter out into the bush to teach her how to pick traditional medicines. As the granddaughter learns the traditional beliefs and stories about how the Métis people use the plants for food and medicine, she feels happy to be a Métis child with access to such wonderful cultural knowledge. This charming and vibrant book introduces

young readers to key concepts in the traditional Métis worldview while focusing on the special relationship between a young Métis girl and her grandmother. *Relatives With Roots* is the second in a series of children's books relating to traditional Métis values by Leah Marie Dorion. The first book, *The Giving Tree: A Retelling of a Traditional Métis Story*, was nominated in 2010 for a Willow Award in the Shining Willow category.

Gabriel Dumont: Li Chef Michif in Images and in Words is a compilation written by Darren R. Préfontaine, collecting all known images and newspaper accounts relating to Gabriel Dumont. Gabriel Dumont is an iconic figure in Métis and Canadian history. In the popular imagination, he is well known for leading the

Métis forces during the 1885 Resistance, and for being a renowned bison hunt leader, a Wild West show performer, and a husband to his beloved Madeleine. But outside of printed history and a fragmented oral history what do we really know about him? How has he been imagined over the past 125 years? This book answers these questions by focusing on visual and journalistic representations of Gabriel Dumont through time and space. Many of the book's images — some commissioned for this project and several newly found — have never before been published. Compiled together for the first time, these eclectic sources provide poignant vignettes of Gabriel Dumont's life, which will greatly enhance our knowledge about him, while further contributing to his legend.



Collective Bargaining Update

By Geordy McCaffrey

As many of you are aware the Institute and its union have been busy negotiating a new collective agreement for the period of April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2013. Some of the more significant items that the negotiating committees have tentatively agreed to forward to their principals are as follows:

- Deferred salary leave plan;
- Streamlined the language around article 11 – Probation;
- Enhanced article 20 surrounding dispute resolution;
- Replacement of the current four increment dates per year to 12; and
- Wage increases at 1.5%, 2%, and 2% over the three years.

In order for a final agreement to be reached, both the Union membership

and the Gabriel Dumont Institute Board of Governors will need to approve the work of the respective negotiating committees. In anticipation of a successful resolution of the agreement the GDI Board of Governors had agreed to convene a conference call meeting prior to the summer break pending union approval of the proposal in order to make the agreement move forward.

In discussions with the Union bargaining Chair Russell Fayant we were hoping to have the membership exercise their vote on the package by the end of June. This would have meant that retroactive pay would have been processed for

the summer break. Unfortunately, Russell indicates that the tentative contract needs to also be approved by both the Union's Education Sector and the Administrative Committee of the Union's Provincial Council prior to being put forward for ratification by GDI's union members. Furthermore, Russell has indicated that the Administrative Committee will not be available to meet in June, nor for that matter, the rest of the summer. Pending notification from the union things have now been put on hold until fall. The union will be holding information sessions with its members during the month of June.



GDIT&E client Kayla Morrison at the Inclusion Works conference (photo credit Fred Cattroll)

Client Expresses Her Thanks

Submitted by Cecile O'Neil

In a letter to GDIT&E, client Alicia Cartier expressed her gratitude to the Prince Albert GDIT&E office for the sponsorship she received to finish her university education. She says, "I would like to extend to GDI and my counselor Tammy Cummins my sincerest gratitude...I'm extremely proud to say that I completed my university education with a Bachelor Degree in Science and a

Bachelor Degree in Education." Alicia goes on to say she has secured a job as a teacher in Canwood teaching grades 3-12 science.

Alicia ends her note by saying, "Your sponsorship program has helped me more than I can express. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you."

Alicia was funded under the Individual Sponsorship

Program, which helps clients receive the training and education needed to obtain quality employment or to obtain the skills to advance their present position.

For more information on GDI Training and Employment programs contact the central office at 1-877-488-6888.

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PA Adult 12 Graduation

By Delaney Tait



The excitement level in Prince Albert began to rise this month as the Level 4 students in the Adult Basic Education program planned for their graduation. The students spent the last few months very busy fundraising and planning for their graduation, which occurred on June 17th at the Art Hauser Centre. When asked about their time spent at Dumont, many of the students had positive memories of their time. “[Dumont] is the highlight of my entire education history. It was here where I learned the value of my education and where I began to discover my potential,” wrote Brandon Ferland. “I really enjoyed being here [Dumont], and if anyone asked me about DTI I would tell them that



it’s a wonderful place to be,” stated another student.

The students were busy preparing for final exams and making their last minute preparations for their new lives outside the classroom. Some of the new career paths that the students have chosen are nursing, youth worker, heavy equipment, and business administration.

Even though the students are preparing for their new careers, they stated that they will miss the friendly and inviting environment that the Prince Albert classroom had created for them. When asked to describe their class in one word, the majority of students chose the word family. “I loved every minute of coming to

school, I love my classmates, they were like my second family,” said Chandelle Fiddler.

The students were also very enthusiastic to share what they had learned about their Métis ancestry. “I’m happy to say I chose such a wonderful place to be a part of, and even happier to see the heritage which DTI maintains to preserve in feeding knowledge to its students. It’s very helpful to allow us to carry on the Métis legacy,” said Edward Thomas.

The Prince Albert classes officially completed on June 17th and the students will be enjoying their summer before continuing their journey into their prospective careers.



GDI To Announce Two New Projects

By James Oloo and Lisa Wilson

On Wednesday June 29, 2011 GDI and its strategic partners will officially launch two new initiatives: an Aboriginal Apprenticeship Initiative under the federal Strategic Partnership Fund and the signing of a GDI-Saskatoon Health Region Scholarship.

The Aboriginal Apprenticeship Initiative will empower Aboriginal people to enter apprenticeship programs and gain employment in the growing trades sector in Saskatchewan.

Partnering with GDI in the initiative are, the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission, Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure, and the Dumont Technical Institute. The project is funded under the Skills and Partnership Fund, a program of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.

The second initiative to be highlighted at the event is a GDI-Saskatoon Health Region partnership to provide

scholarships for Métis students to pursue post-secondary education in the health sector. The partnership agreement is a four-year pilot project cost-shared equally by GDI and the Saskatoon Health Region.

The event to highlight these two new initiatives will take place at 9am on June 29th at the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre. For more information please contact James Oloo at 657-2251.



History Comes Alive in PA Classroom

By Delaney Tait

The Level 3 students in Prince Albert have been busy recreating the past with the completion of their Métis trading post. The students recently hand-built their very own trading post, which includes a hand carved sign, made by one of the students. The instructor, Angela Letendre, explained that she developed the idea when the students were researching trading posts in Métis Studies and decided to put their own modern twist on the traditional idea.

Working with found and bought material, the students built their own shelving units, created their own curtains and signs, and even found traditional clothing to decorate the small trading post. "It's amazing when the student's find out they are very talented, when they have a creative atmosphere to apply themselves in," stated

Angela. "Many students start out the project with an attitude of 'I can't' and finish with an attitude of 'I can!' The transformation is thrilling for an instructor."

When asked about their projects, the students were enthusiastic about sharing their experience in building the trading post. "I really enjoyed the whole project. Being able to see it from start to finish was amazing. It showed me what it would have been like to have experienced it first hand, like the trappers did," stated Mike, a DTI student.

Another student, Ida, explained, "At first when I got the material to make the curtains, I didn't think it would look very authentic; but then when it was all put together I was really happy with how the room looked and felt. It was very cool to see what you have accomplished."

The students were asked to research how trading

posts were run, how currency was evaluated, and what relevance the trading post had to the Métis people. The students then applied these ideas to the trading post and their idea was created. The students have marked all of their donated goods for sale and the trading post will be open June 10th for the staff and students to enjoy.

Furthermore, last year the Prince Albert Level 3 students created a Métis cabin, complete with its own family, as well. Again the creative students re-created the traditional home of the Métis, which included building their own papier-mâché family. The students were able to research what they needed and re-build the home with what they learned. It was put on display at the Prince Albert Exhibition last year to promote Metis culture in the community.



Activities at Batoche National Historic Site

Submitted by Karon Shmon

Mark your calendars. Upcoming activities at Batoche National Historic Site include the following:

- Saturday June 25 ☞ Campfire Movie Night
- Friday July 1 ☞ Canada Day

-July 1 ☞ July 3 ☞ Fête Fransaskoise at Back to Batoche land

-Saturday July 16 ☞ Parks Day

-Thursday July 21 ☞ Mass at Historic Church

-July 22, 23, 24 - Back to Batoche Weekend

Other dates to look forward to this summer include the John Archand Fiddle Fest August 11-14, 2011.



Gabriel Dumont Institute/Dumont Technical Institute

917 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK
S7M 0R9

PHONE:
(306) 242-6070

FAX:
(306) 242-0002

E-MAIL:
general@gdi.gdins.org

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

We're on the Web!

See us at:

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
Phone: (306) 242-6070
Fax: (306) 242-0002

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

SUNTEP Prince Albert

48 12th Street East
Prince Albert, SK
S6V 1B2

Phone: (306) 764-1797
Fax: (306) 764-3995

SUNTEP Saskatoon

Room 7 McLean Hall
University of
Saskatchewan
106 Wiggins Road
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5E6
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.uregin
a.ca/](http://gdi.voyager.uregin
a.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