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GDI 30th Anniversary
1980-2010



GDI Communicator

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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Apprenticeship Initiative and the Labor Market

By James Oloo

In early October 2011, the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission (SATCC) and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration (AEEI) released the results of their joint annual survey, *Labour market conditions for apprenticeship trades in Saskatchewan, 2010-2013* (see

<http://www.saskapprenticeship.ca/News/94/>). The report analyzed the labour market conditions for 34 apprenticeship trades in Saskatchewan.

In 2010, 26 of the 34 trades (about 76 percent) experienced labour shortages. Of these, six were considered severe: hairstylists, ironworkers, painters and decorators, powerline technicians, roofers, and sheet metal workers.

The number of trade shortages is expected to remain the same, but trades experiencing severe shortages are expected to increase by 100 percent from six to 12 by 2013, the year when the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Aboriginal Apprenticeship Initiative

will start winding down. Among employee recruitment and retention concerns are cost of wages, lack of qualified and experienced workers, and a lack of knowledge or interest in the trades. The report asserts that employers are looking to new labour pools, including Aboriginal, to help alleviate trade shortages.

According to RBC Economics, Saskatchewan's GDP is expected to grow by 3.8 percent this year. The strong economic performance should, in turn, stimulate job creation. The labour market conditions for apprenticeship trades therefore present both challenges and opportunities in Saskatchewan labour market.

However, Enterprise Saskatchewan points out that despite the boom, the province has room for improvement with its Aboriginal population. That is where GDI Aboriginal Apprenticeship Initiative comes in.

GDI Aboriginal Apprenticeship Initiative is a workplace strategy that empowers Aboriginal peoples to enter apprenticeship programs and gain employment in the trades sector, and supports both the employer and apprentice through to journey person status.

At the conclusion of the apprenticeship initiative by the end of 2013, the project will have added additional 120 Aboriginal apprentices in the province. This will be a significant number considering that in June 2009, there were 8,924 apprentices in Saskatchewan who were registered with SATCC. Of these, 13 percent or 1,160 were Aboriginal. Thus GDI Aboriginal Apprenticeship Initiative will result in more than 10 percent increase in Aboriginal apprentices in the province.

For more information about GDI Apprenticeship Initiative, please contact Apprenticeship Office at 657-2256 or toll free at 1.877.488.6888 or by email at apprenticeship@gdi.gdins.org. www.gdins.org 



SUNTEP Student Breaks Soccer Record

By Lisa Wilson

SUNTEP Saskatoon student Elizabeth Hudon has broken the record for points and goals in Canada West women's soccer. Hudon is a striker for the University of Saskatchewan Huskies women's soccer team, where she is in her fifth and final year on the team. Hudon, originally from Prince Albert, is in

her second year of SUNTEP following the successful completion of a kinesiology degree.

In a report by Darren Zary in the Saskatoon *StarPhoenix*, the U of S head coach Tom LaPointe notes that Hudon went about quietly breaking records and no one noticed until almost a year later. With 47 points

and 39 goals, Hudon exceeds the next person on the list by 11 career goals. She has played on Team Canada under 15 and on Team Sask. Hudon is a 2010-2011 Canada West First Team All-Star.

Congratulations Elizabeth! (Source: *StarPhoenix*, September 27, 2011).



E. Hudon (source: thesheaf.com)

Prince Albert Welcomes New Program

By Delaney Tait and Angela Letendre

It has been a busy and productive beginning of a new school year all over for Dumont Technical Institute. This is especially true in Prince Albert as they have had the privilege of welcoming a new program called Essential Skills for the Workplace (ESWP).

The program, which currently has twelve students and two instructors, was developed to assist level one and two literacy learners obtain the academic and essential skills needed to find gainful employment. As well it focuses on providing adult learners an opportunity, through a work placement, the possibility of full/part time employment.

Currently the students are learning about the nine essential skills required for the workplace which include oral communication, numeracy, document use, continuous learning, computer use, thinking, reading, writing and working with others.

The enthusiasm for the new program is felt in what the students have to say about what they are learning: "As a new student at Dumont Technical Institute in the ESWP program, I know the program has helped a lot of us break down barriers.... Also, always believe in yourself and it will take you a long way. Rather than saying, 'I quit,' ask for help and believe whatever barrier is in your way will not be there forever," says Tyson Mason-Bird.

However, the students are not limited to a classroom setting. The instructors have them actively involved with attending various community functions and tours. So far the students have been scheduled for a tour of the Bernice Sayese Centre, where they will learn about community services available.

The students also learn

from a variety of guest speakers who give presentations on a range of topics that will help them to be successful in their after school experiences. Rosie Custer asserts that "It (ESWP) is an interesting program. It is good that I got accepted. It's like my life is on track again and I love that this program gets my literacy skills going. I love getting up in the morning."

The program was created to help students make effective and positive decisions in their lives. The students study healthy lifestyles, community involvement, volunteering and working on building self-esteem.

The program aims to empower Aboriginal peoples to overcome the multiple barriers they face so that they may become effective employees and active members in their own community.



GDI Participates in Apprenticeship Awards

By Tavia Laliberte

The Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission (SATCC) and the Commission Board hosted the 11th annual Apprenticeship Awards ceremony on September 30, 2011 at the Queensbury Convention Centre in Regina.

The host emcee was DTI Director Brett Vandale. Brett has been a SATCC Board member for the past seven years representing Saskatchewan's Métis people.

The Apprenticeship Awards acknowledge and celebrate the successful designation of a Journeyperson in one of the recognized trades in Saskatchewan. The awards recognized the top achievers from among the nearly 1,600 new journeypersons certified in a

chosen trade between July 2010 and June 2011. The total number of apprentices registered with the SATCC has thus risen to 9,442 in 2010-11 representing a 3.3 percent increase over the previous year and a 39.3 percent increase since 2006-07.

The evening started with opening remarks from Bill Hutchinson, Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport on behalf of Rob Norris, the Minister responsible for SATCC. Greetings were also shared from the SATCC chair Garry Kot and SATCC CEO Joe Black.

There was significant Aboriginal representation at the awards. In addition to Brett's role as emcee for the evening, other Institute staff also attended including

representatives from GDI's Apprenticeship Skills and Partnership Fund project. Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) had considerable representation from the projects they run with Construction Careers. SIIT also has specific scholarships celebrating new Aboriginal Apprentices under their Joint Training Committee.

Apprenticeship training has one of the highest results leading to employment. In fact many of the award recipients were not able to attend the celebration due to their work commitments. Overall, 69 awards were presented during the evening.

As a project partner in the GDI apprenticeship initiative, SATCC and GDI work closely to enhance Aboriginal participation in apprenticeship. 



Brett Vandale, DTI Director
(Photo by Tavia Laliberte)

GDI T&E Hosts Orientation Night

By Sherry McLennan

The end of summer marks a new beginning. For GDI T&E clients it may mean the start of a new school year, a new place to live, a new program, new friend... a new chapter in your book of life.

On September 27, 2011, Prince Alberta GDIT&E staff hosted a student Orientation Night held at Parkland Hall with the goal of bringing the students together to meet with their counsellors, introducing new students to the city, and an opportunity to meet other post secondary students.

Over 30 people including students and family members attended. Elder Florence Basaraba gave a blessing over the stew and bannock meal that was prepared by Eunice Robertson and Della McKay of North Saskatchewan River Métis, Local 269. Prince Albert Métis Women's Association donated freshly baked cakes.

Dawn Robins and Judy Robinson from the Bernice Sayese Centre and Donna Horydeski of

the Prince Alberta Tourism Centre gave speeches and answered questions. There were many door prizes and draws were held throughout the evening. The children that came out were treated to face painting, nail painting, yo-yo's, Frisbee's, and free decks of cards.

The PA GDIT&E staff thanked those who attended the event and paid tribute to businesses whose donations helped make the evening a success. Congratulations to PA GDIT&E for an enjoyable first annual Student Orientation Night. 



PA Fall Culture Camp

By SUNTEP Prince Albert ENG 99 Students



Guided by the theme of 'Explore and Discover,' Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Prince Albert held Fall Culture Camp at Camp Kinasao, Christopher Lake in early September 2011. Many happenings occurred over the three-day Culture Camp including group gatherings, Elders' teachings, activity sessions, and workshop presentations.

Part of the annual Culture Camp experience also included family feast and talent night, which drew a fun and lively crowd.

As expressed by SUNTEP students, the highlights of the Fall Culture Camp included the chance to be around and listen to Elders and to be able to participate in the many and varied activities and workshops which were provided to them. The students also enjoyed the opportunity to get to know more about themselves, their student peers, and SUNTEP faculty.

Fall Culture Camp was described as the best way to begin the new school

year and all who participated genuinely appreciated having the opportunity to be part of the celebration.

The tradition of the Culture Camp is a long one. The initial Prince Albert SUNTEP Fall Culture Camp was held in August 1991 at Camp Kinasao at Christopher Lake. The impetus for the initial camp was to honour traditional Aboriginal knowledge, wisdom, and worldview.

This effort was promoted as a way to ensure that SUNTEP students received a balanced educational experience that not only emphasized Western academic knowledge but also utilized Aboriginal Elders and ways of knowing such as the importance of oral traditions. Such an experience is likely to be useful to SUNTEP students both in the present and in their future careers.

As well, SUNTEP Cultural Camps were designed to take students out of the classroom environment and provide them with experiential opportunities

where they could explore their traditional cultural heritage and personally identify with their Aboriginal roots.

The Culture Camps provide a safe environment for this exploration to occur as well as an opportunity to create a sense of belonging and to foster community-building experiences. The goal was and is to aid in SUNTEP students' personal and professional development and assist them in fulfilling their roles as change agents and valuable role models for Métis, First Nations, and other children and youth both in the classroom and outside the school.

Since the SUNTEP program was started in 1980, it has graduated over 1000 Aboriginal teachers who continue to teach and inspire thousands of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students each day both inside and outside the classroom.



Christmas Break Reminder

By Lisa Wilson

This is to remind all Gabriel Dumont Institute employees about this year's Christmas break dates as set by the Gabriel Dumont Institute Board of Governors for the Institute employees.

For the 2011 holiday season, the Christmas break will be from Friday December 23, 2011 to Monday January 2, 2012 inclusive. Gabriel Dumont Institute will reopen on

January 3, 2012. These dates were passed by a Board of Governors motion on March 10, 2011. Plan a safe and fun-filled holiday season.



IT Update

By Gareth Griffiths

Website

Between September 15 and October 14, 2011, the website received 64,000 hits. The Homepage had over 6,100 hits, Programs 1,100 hits, and Scholarships over 950 hits. We have added a Statutory Reporting page <http://gdins.org/reporting> where items like financial statements and annual reports will be posted.

IT Support System

Between September 15 and October 14, we received 76 new requests to the support system, of which 54 (76%) are already completed and closed. We closed 122 backlog calls in this period.

Service Level Agreement

We will be implementing

the IT Support Service Level Agreement. This will make the IT Support function accountable and more responsive, with specific and measurable performance targets. The main service targets we will adhere to are as follows: Within an hour of a support email being received, an automatic email will be sent to the requestor and the IT Coordinator. Within two hours this will be allocated to the assigned technician and the priority level will be set. By the end of the next working day an email or telephone response will be received by the requestor.

If a request for information from the requestor is not provided after seven days, the call will be assumed to be resolved and closed. It

will be the responsibility of the requestor to request this call be reopened with a new expected completion date. Every effort will be made to resolve the problem within the expected completion time frame.

New Webmail Client

The new and improved webmail client is now operational. This allows drag and dropping of mail between folders, and is much easier and more intuitive to use and is available at webmail.gdins.org

Intranet Usernames

We have been developing the Intranet site. Ready to launch are some asset disposal requests, policies and procedures and the internal job vacancies. You will be receiving email updates soon.



Ânskohk Aboriginal Literature Festival

By Lisa Wilson

GDI was involved with the recent successful Ânskohk Aboriginal Literature Festival held in Saskatoon. The festival, which is one of only two such festivals in Canada, was held October 19-22, 2011 in a variety of venues along 20th Street West. The goals of the festival were to showcase the writing of Aboriginal authors, to promote the richness and diversity of Aboriginal writing, and to foster understanding between Aboriginal people and the general population.

A stellar line up of authors was featured at the event, including Maria Campbell,

Tomson Highway, Louise Halfe, and Harold Johnson. The event kicked off with an opening ceremony followed by "Bannockdots," a ticketed event involving four authors doing improv, which provided an unscripted evening of entertainment that inspired both laughter and tears. The following evening featured book launches and signings by GDI author and Officer of the Order of Canada Maria Campbell, writer Harold Johnson, and comedian /writer Dawn Dumont.

Workshops on a variety of topics were held during the day on Friday and Saturday, with a Friday evening show by Tomson Highway.

Highway, a playwright, novelist, composer, and pianist, is well known for such plays as *The Rez Sisters* and *Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing*. Highway was accompanied by Métis singer Krystle Pederson. Highway played three songs from his unique music cabaret *Kisageetin*, which involves cabaret style music with lyrics in English, French, and Cree.

GDI participation at the Ânskohk included providing a representative to the Ânskohk board, workshop presentations by staff members on publishing and writing topics, and presentations by featured GDI-published authors. 



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can be obtained at:

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

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.gdins.org



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GDI Mission:

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



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of Native Studies and Applied Research