



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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## Task Force on Aboriginal Education Announced

By Lisa Wilson

In May 2011, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration (AEEI) signed an agreement with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) to establish a joint task force on Aboriginal education and employment with the express aim of increasing First Nations and Métis peoples' participation and success in advanced education and the labour force. Individuals interested in being on the three-member task force were invited to submit expressions of interest.

On March 26, 2012, AEEI and the FSIN announced the three panelists who will lead the Joint Task Force on Improving Education and Employment Outcomes for First Nations and Métis people in Saskatchewan. The Joint Task Force members are Gary Merasty, Vice President Corporate Social Responsibility of Cameco and former grand chief of the Prince Albert Grand Council; Rita Bouvier, researcher/writer and community-learning facilitator; and Don Hoiom, Executive Director, League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents of Saskatchewan.

Rita Bouvier has a long history and association with Métis education in the province. She is a former GDI board member, was appointed chair of the GDI board nominating committee in 1994 during a period of restructuring, and is a former Director of SUNTEP. Bouvier's Master of Education thesis at the University of Saskatchewan was on a case study of specialized training within SUNTEP. *Better That Way* (2008), Bouvier's collaborative work with Sherry Farrell-Racette and Margaret Gardiner, was published by GDI Publishing.

"Through this partnership with FSIN, the Joint Task Force will consult with First Nations and Métis peoples and provide advice on practical solutions to eliminate education and employment gaps," AEEI Minister Rob Norris said. "I want to thank the task force for agreeing to lead this process in support of First Nations and Métis people gaining the skills and knowledge needed to fully participate in Saskatchewan's economy."

The role of the task force is to be inclusive and talk with Métis and First Nations people and stakeholders throughout the province to help identify practical,

grassroots solutions for eliminating the current gaps in education and employment outcomes for First Nations and Métis people in Saskatchewan. The Joint Task Force will focus on several key goals including:

- Improved early childhood outcomes and transition to school;
- Increased high school and postsecondary completion rates;
- Improved participation in the labour force; and
- Greater quality of life and enhanced self-sufficiency.

Although the agreement to develop the Joint Task Force is exclusively between the Government of Saskatchewan and the FSIN, assurances were made at the announcement of the agreement regarding Métis participation. In response to the question "Will the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan be involved in the work of the Joint Task Force?" the answer has been, "Yes. The Government of Saskatchewan is in discussion with the MN-S to determine how best to ensure Métis participation." Updates will be provided once the results of such discussions are announced.

The Task Force will begin its public consultations in spring 2012, with the final report to be completed in 2013.



## Community Profile: Northern Region III

By James Oloo

This is the third article in our monthly series of socioeconomic and demographic profiles for the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan regions. The goal is to highlight the performance of the Métis population against such indicators. This will enable us to identify areas that need improvement. The article uses 2006 Canada Census data.

Northern Region III (NRIII) Region office is in Île-à-la-Crosse with local offices at Beauval, Canoe River, Cole Bay, Big River, Canoe Narrows, Green Lake, Patuanak, and Pinehouse Lake. The Regional Director for NRIII is Louis Gardiner. Bernice Aramenko represents the region at the GDI Board of Governors.

NRIII has a Métis population of 3,535, more than 50% of whom are below age 25 years. 76% of the NRIII Métis population between ages 15-24 years had no high school diploma, while 24% had successfully completed high school. Of those with high school diploma, 33% had completed postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree. Among the general population of Saskatchewan

in the same age group, 48% had not completed high school while 52% had high school diploma. Of those with high school diploma, 32% had completed postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree.

1,490 NRIII Métis were in the 25-64 years age group. Of this, 49% had no high school diploma (compared to 19% of the general population in the same age group). Of those with high school diploma, 37% had Grade 12 as their highest level of education (compared to 26% for Saskatchewan); 27% had a postsecondary diploma or certificate in apprenticeship or trade (versus 14% for Saskatchewan); 23% had a non-university certificate or diploma from a college (versus 18% for Saskatchewan); and 12% had a university certificate, diploma or degree compared to 22% for the general population in the same age cohort.

Thus, among those in the 25-64 years age group, proportionately more Métis population in NRIII had postsecondary

diploma or certificate in apprenticeship or trades and in non-university postsecondary training than did the general population in Saskatchewan. This is a strength, perhaps due to the work of Aboriginal focused colleges such as GDIT&E and DTI, that should be enhanced even as we strive to improve in our performance in other areas.

Among the NRIII Métis population aged 15-24 years, 24% were in the labour force and 76% were not in the labour force. Of those in the labour force, 64% were employed while 36% were unemployed. For the general Saskatchewan population in the same age group, 66% were in the labour force while 34% were not. And of those in the labour force, 88% were employed and 12% were not.

For the NRIII Métis population aged 25 years and over, labour force activity was as follows: 60% were in the labour force while 40% were not. Among those in the labour force, 83% were employed while 17% were not. Within the general population in the same age cohort, 69% were in the labour force and 31% were not. Of those in the labour force, 95% were employed.



Rita Bouvier, a member of the Joint Task Force on Aboriginal Education. Other members are Gary Merasty and Don Hoium. Photo credited to [www.usask.ca](http://www.usask.ca)



Gary Merasty  
Photo credited to [www.usask.ca](http://www.usask.ca)



Don Hoium  
Photo credited to [www.hqc.sk.ca](http://www.hqc.sk.ca)



SUNTEP students Jenna Reimer and Matthew Jacoby preparing clay house exhibition. See story on page 3. Photo by Cynthia Fey

## Safe Workplace Recognition

Contributed by Bill Lehne; written by Lisa Wilson

GDI is pleased to announce that Saskatchewan Worker's Compensation Board (WCB) has issued a "Certificate of Achievement" to GDI and DTI to acknowledge our safe workplaces in 2011. The WCB issues such certificates to recognize employers who exemplify workplace safety.

GDI and DTI have achieved the WCB goal of 'mission zero,' a strategy designed to promote safety in the workplace and acknowledge companies with a clean safety record. As the WCB notes, "Employers who make safety a core

value for their companies know there are rewards in terms of employee morale and reduced costs due to injuries, lost time and reduced productivity."

GDI has established Occupational Health and Safety committees at its centres across the province.



## SUNTEP Project Connects Art, Education, and Affordable Housing

By Lisa Wilson

In a partnership that took months to develop, SUNTEP Saskatoon, along with Georges Vanier Catholic Fine Arts School and international artist Monique Martin, have come up with a unique art and learning project inspired by the desire to bring awareness to issues of poverty, homelessness, and the need for affordable housing.

The project is multifaceted and ongoing. Starting in September 2011, Georges Vanier students from Grades 5 to 8 worked alongside SUNTEP teacher candidates to paint a visual historical documentary of all the homes that Habitat for Humanity Saskatoon has built since its inception in 1991.

The house designs were originally sketched by 8 year old Jude Farthing, a child with

Autism. The images were later enlarged, transferred and painted by the children and forty SUNTEP teacher candidates under the direction of Monique Martin and Cynthia Fey. The 60-foot mural can be viewed at the Habitat for Humanity Building at 320 21<sup>st</sup> Street West, Saskatoon.

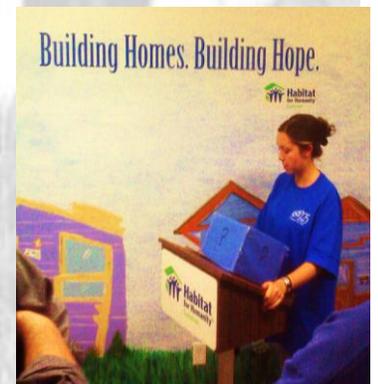
“For many years we have heard people talk about improving housing conditions for people, but have seen relatively few changes compared to the increasing need,” said Cynthia Fey, a SUNTEP Faculty member. Besides increasing awareness to issues of poverty, homelessness, and the need for affordable housing, SUNTEP students aim to “draw connections between these issues and learning in the classroom.”

The mural project was featured on CBC News, the *Saskatoon Star Phoenix* and the *Sun*. Sponsors for the project included Habitat for Humanity, SARCAN, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation, Colours Art & Framing, and Tipping Paint Graphics.

As an extension of the project, SUNTEP Art Education students have been working with Grade 4 students and Monique Martin to build 90 little clay houses that were exhibited at the Center Galleries (Royal) Center Mall in Saskatoon from February 12-March 18, 2012. The clay houses will be auctioned off at a Gala Dinner that Habitat for Humanity is hosting on May 3, 2012 at the Delta Bessborough. Proceeds from the auction will go to building homes for needy families. 🌐



SUNTEP students Danielle Smith, Elizabeth Hudon, and Jody Nolen painting the mural. Photo by Cynthia Fey.



SUNTEP student Randi Ross giving a speech at Habitat for Humanity. Photo by Cynthia Fey.

## SUNTEP Huskie Inspires On and Off Ice

By James Oloo

Craig McCallum is an inspiration and a role model. But this wasn't always the case. A member of Canoe Lake First Nation, McCallum was drinking and doing drugs at age 14. At 17, he decided he'd had enough of that lifestyle and turned his life around. Today, he is not only clean, but has also made a name for himself as an award winning hockey player, a SUNTEP student, and a role model for young hockey players.

In 2006-07, while playing with the Beardy's Blackhawks in the Saskatchewan Major Midget

League, McCallum was named co-Most Valuable Player (MVP).

McCallum then played in the WHL with Edmonton Oil Kings and Prince Albert Raiders. He was second in Oil King scoring in their inaugural 2007-08 season and was voted fan favourite.

McCallum moved back to Saskatchewan the following year and was named the Raiders' best defensive forward during 2009-10.

Success on the ice did not make McCallum let his love for education fizzle out.

Instead, the 22 year old joined the SUNTEP program in Saskatoon so that he may become a teacher in the future. He proved that one can have fun even without touching alcohol and drugs while at the same time going to school. In 2010-11, McCallum played in 23 games with the University of Saskatchewan Huskies, and was voted Huskie Athletics Male Rookie of the Year.

McCallum hopes to eventually become a teacher but also has ambitions to play pro hockey when he finished university. Congratulations and best wishes to this accomplished SUNTEP student. 🌐



Craig McCallum  
Photo credited to Josh Schaefer



# Upcoming GDI Book Launch and Métis Music Matinee

**Gabriel Dumont Institute  
Book Launch**



Please join the Gabriel Dumont Institute at the MacKenzie Art Gallery as they celebrate the launch of the Institute's newest resources:

*Gabriel Dumont: Li Chef Michif in Images and in Words*  
*Call of the Fiddle*  
*Relatives with Roots*  
*An Institute of Our Own: A History of the Gabriel Dumont Institute*

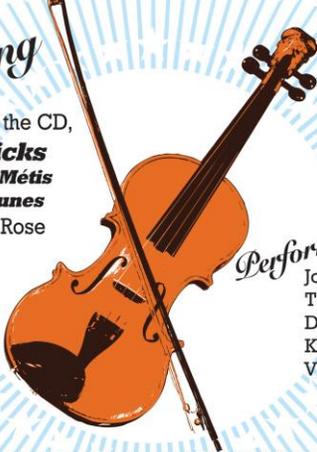
**Where:** MacKenzie Art Gallery, 3475 Albert Street  
**When:** Friday, April 27, 2012 at 7:00 PM  
**Why:** Join us for book readings, author book signings, and refreshments!  
**Who:** Anyone interested in Métis culture!  
**Contact:** 306-934-4941 [www.gdins.org](http://www.gdins.org)





## Métis Traditional Music Matinee

*Featuring*  
the launch of the CD,  
**Vic's Picks  
Old-Time Métis  
Fiddle Tunes**  
by Victor Rose



*Performances by:*  
John Arcand  
Trent Bruner  
Desmond Lagace  
Krystle Pederson  
Victor Rose

This show is being made free to the public by The Gabriel Dumont Institute  
For more information, you may call Bradley Brown, 306-687-8710, or toll-free at 1-877-488-6888


[www.gdins.org](http://www.gdins.org)

**Sunday, April 15, 2012  
2 - 4 pm  
Roxy Theatre  
320-20th Street West, Saskatoon, SK**

## DTI Practical Nursing Program 'Intense'

By Niki Manseau

The scope of practice for the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) has evolved, and job prospects appear to be increasing. As well, higher job expectations, coupled with an expanded role within the last few years, have pushed the hourly starting wage for an LPN to \$31.01/hr within the Saskatoon Health Region.

We are proud to report that 100% of the DTI LPN 2011 graduates (Saskatoon) passed the National licensing exam and got LPN jobs in the Province.

The LPN program is quite intense. With the recent completion of the first semester by the 2011-2013 cohort, we can reflect on the teachings of health rooted within a holistic model. The students studied anatomy and physiology, social

determinants of health, as well as health issues for the aging population. Over a period of five sessions, students interviewed senior citizens, enquiring of their personal history within a health perspective.

The efficacy of hands-on skills is quickly becoming honed. Physical practice commenced within a lab simulation environment, and progressed to their first 70-hour practicum in a long-term care facility. It was there that our practical nursing students fully practiced the art and science of nursing. The caring contributions of the nursing students made a positive difference in many residents' quality of life.

With semester two now underway, students are snug in their scrubs, with stethoscopes around their shoulders studying or at the lab. Our direction of growth this semester includes physical assessment, medication administration, and pharmacology. The students will soon be going for practicum within a rehabilitative inpatient environment.

In some respects, the learning and work of a nurse are based on very simple and ordinary experiences; it is this same view that may overwhelm you with its beauty and wisdom. Bravely, our LPN students continue to open their hearts in the direction of healing.



DTI LPN Students, 2012



## Golf Tournament for Scholarship Funds

By Lisa Wilson

On Thursday May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012 GDI will be hosting our inaugural **Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation Golf Tournament** at the Moonlake Golf and Country Club in Saskatoon (see [www.moonlakegolf.com](http://www.moonlakegolf.com)). The goal is to raise \$10,000, which will be matched by the Saskatchewan Advantage scholarship fund. All money raised will be awarded as scholarships to Métis students.

The tournament organizers are pleased to announce that Donny Parenteau, a Prince Albert native and one of Canada's most successful and versatile

country music singer-songwriters, will be the special guest golfer and will provide entertainment at the event. The award-winning Métis singer has hosted "Tele-Miracle" on CTV Saskatchewan and appeared on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno.

The tournament will consist of 144 golfers from a variety of corporations, communities, industries, and professions. There are three ways that people could be involved: via corporate sponsorship, team registration, or individual registration. The format for the tournament is a four-person Texas scramble. In addition, there

is a supper-and-entertainment-only (no golf) option for those who would like to attend and support the event but do not wish to golf. All prices and options are available on the GDI website at [www.gdins.org](http://www.gdins.org).

GDI has been administering scholarships for the Métis people of Saskatchewan since the early 1980s through its scholarship foundation trust. The scholarship fund is based on a \$2.5 million capital investment. A Scholarship Trustees and Selection Committee awards scholarships twice per year to Métis students.

We look forward to our first fundraising golf tournament!



Donny Parenteau

Photo credit [www.donnyparenteau.net](http://www.donnyparenteau.net)



David Carpenter (l), watches Darren Prefontaine sign his book, *Gabriel Dumont: Li Chef Michif*, to Arthur Slade (r), who won the book as a door prize  
Photo by Peter Beszterda

## GDI Author Reads at Book Awards Brunch

By Lisa Wilson

GDI author and staff member Darren Prefontaine was one of four invited readers at this year's *Saskatchewan Book Awards Shortlist Readings Brunch* held on Sunday March 11, 2012 in Saskatoon. Darren's book, *Gabriel Dumont: Li Chef Michif in Images and in Words* is nominated in four different categories, including Book of the Year Award and the Saskatoon Book Award.

Darren noted that while there has been a lot of discussion and analysis about 1885 and about Louis Riel, not much historical analysis has been done about Gabriel Dumont. Darren was motivated to help fill this and he acknowledged

community effort in the book's production.

Referring to Gabriel Dumont as "the people's hero" and Louis Riel as "the martyred hero," Darren said that his book contains every known image of Gabriel Dumont from 1875 to present.

Darren shared the little known anecdote that the 'cabinet cards,' sold for \$2 as part of the Wild West show, were Dumont's way of raising money for Métis and First Nations widows and orphans of the 1885 resistance. The cards feature the iconic photo of Dumont cradling his rifle, *le* and sell today for upwards of \$4,200. Darren also related he came across a ration the U of S Archives, dated October 1885 from the Duck Lake

Indian Agent. "Madeleine Dumont, Gabriel's wife, was one of the recipients of this aid. How galling and terrible for her that she had to accept assistance from the same government whose soldiers burned down her home and looted all her property," said Darren.

The 19<sup>th</sup> Saskatchewan Book Awards Gala will take place on April 28, 2012 at the Conexus Arts Centre in Regina. GDI Publishing is shortlisted for 11 awards. The other authors/books up for awards are: Leah M. Dorion (translated by Rita Flamand), *Relatives with Roots: A Story About Métis Women's Connection to the Land*; and Wilfred Burton and Anne Patton (Illustrated by Sherry Farrell Racette and Translated by Norman Fleury), *Call of the Fiddle*. Congratulations and best wishes to all the shortlisted authors. 



Darren Prefontaine  
Photo by Peter Beszterda



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Back issues of this newsletter  
can be obtained at:

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

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Regina, S4S 0A2  
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Fax: (306) 347-4119

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

### **GDI Library Regina**

Room 218 College West  
University of Regina  
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<http://gdi.voyager.uregina.ca/>

### **GDI Library Prince Albert**

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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.*



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