



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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SUNTEP Regina: Touching Lives

By James Oloo

On May 4, 2012, Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Regina held its 29th annual graduation ceremony. This article examines SUNTEP Regina, some of its remarkable achievements and the many unsung heroes that make it all happen.

SUNTEP Program began in 1980 at two centers: Regina and Saskatoon, with the center in Prince Albert opening in 1981. SUNTEP is administered by GDI and is affiliated with the Universities of Regina and Saskatchewan.

SUNTEP Regina graduates receive a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Regina and a Professional Teaching Certificate from the Ministry of Education. Graduates complete the program with two specializations: English Reading Language Arts Education and Cross-Cultural Education. In 1980, when SUNTEP was started, there were eight Aboriginal teachers in Saskatchewan urban schools. To date, there have been 234 Bachelor of Education graduates from SUNTEP Regina.

While a great majority of the SUNTEP Regina graduates have taken up teaching positions in the k-12 system where they continue to touch the lives of thousands of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students, many have pursued higher education in graduate schools across the country. To date, 17 SUNTEP Regina graduates have gone on to attain graduate degrees including MBA (Monica Goulet), Master of Library Science (Deborah Pelletier), and Master of Arts in Indigenous Governance (Renee Racette). 14 have received Master of Education degrees from the UBC, University of Regina and University of Victoria some of whom have taken up positions as members of faculty in SUNTEP Regina. These include Russell Fayant, Christina Johns, and Lorri Melnechenko. Joanne Pelletier, the coordinator of SUNTEP Regina, is also a graduate of the SUNTEP Regina. Three SUNTEP Regina alumni, Ali'i LaFontaine, Riva Farrell, and Renee Racette received their law degrees in Saskatchewan and BC. The graduates have continued to excel in their communities and chosen careers. Not only

see Aboriginal peoples as professionals - teachers, lawyers, and leaders, but, as Dr. Eric Howe noted, the economic benefit of SUNTEP Regina, as measured by the value of its 234 graduates, is about \$1.95-\$5.29 billion. In perspective, the GDP of Belize is C\$3.1 billion (2011).

During the 2011/2012 school year, SUNTEP Regina had 43 students – 16 in first year, 13 in second year, four in third year, and 10 in the fourth year.

Students are supported with a number of scholarships such as the SaskEnergy 'Sharing the Warmth' Award; the Lebrét Métis Cultural Days Scholarship, a \$1,000 annual award that recognizes academic achievement and community involvement of SUNTEP Regina Métis students. In 2012, the award was presented to Shyloa Jarrett and Dallas Montpetit; and the 'Spirit of SUNTEP' award (presented to Mandi Elles in 2012).

The David Amyotte Memorial Scholarship, named for David Amyotte, a SUNTEP Regina graduate, is awarded to SUNTEP student who promotes Aboriginal culture and demonstrates teaching potential. In 2012, the scholarship was awarded to Teresa Thrun.

For information about SUNTEP, please contact Erma Taylor at (306) 347-4110 or

Erma.Taylor@uregina.ca 



Aboriginal Peoples and the Labour Market

By Jim Edmondson

The Statistics Canada *Perspectives on Labour and Income* Summer 2012 edition has been published. It provides some very encouraging information regarding the participation of Aboriginal people in the Canadian Labour Market.

The report outlines annual employment rates for various age groups and categories between 2007 and 2011. The Statistics Canada numbers are derived from the "Labour Force Survey (LSF)" that they conduct on a monthly basis from the civilian, non-institutionalized population 15 years of age and over.

To ensure as accurate a sampling as possible, Statistics Canada surveys 54,000 households in Canada and each household surveyed remains in the sample set for 6 consecutive months. To gain higher probability samples, Statistics Canada separates this sample down to 4 specific categories: Non-Aboriginal, Aboriginal, First Nations living off reserve, and Métis. The further separation into age groups provides specific employment rate numbers.

In every category recorded in the report, all

ages, ages 15-21 years and ages 25-54 years, the employment rate for Aboriginal people, specifically Métis, has risen significantly over the employment rate achieved in 2010. The Statistics Canada report presents an overall employment rate percentage increase of 2.9% over 2010, with an impressive increase of 7.1% realized in the 25-54 age group.

These positive numbers are extremely welcome news for Métis communities across the province and reflect well on the programs that Gabriel Dumont Institute and Dumont Technical Institute provide as we all strive for a better today and future. 



Mandi Elles receiving The Spirit of SUNTEP Award from Russell Fayant during SUNTEP Regina graduation, 2012. See story on page 1. Photo credit: Erma Taylor



Joint Task Force members Gary Merasty and Rita Bouvier at the Gallagher Centre in Yorkton May 29, 2012. Photo credit: Yorkton This Week



Don Hoium, a member of the Joint Task Force
Photo credit: www.jointtaskforce.ca

Joint Task Force Update

By Lisa Wilson

The Joint Task Force on Improving Education and Employment Outcomes for First Nations and Métis People (JTF) was formed by agreement between the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration (AEEI) and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) in May 2011.

Since spring 2012, the JTF has been meeting with organizations, holding public consultations, and meeting with individual groups across Saskatchewan to fulfill their purpose of finding ways to increase First Nations and Métis peoples' participation and success in advanced education and the labour force. 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, grass-roots solutions for eliminating the current gaps in education and employment outcomes for First Nations and Métis people.

The JTF will identify current issues, challenges, and evidence-based best practices and recommend policy changes or eliminations.

The JTF is focusing on several desired outcomes, including:

- Improved early childhood outcomes and transition to school;
- Improved high school and post-secondary completion rates;
- Improved labour market participation and attachment;
- Improved quality of life and enhanced self-sufficiency; and

-Stronger education systems with improved return on investment in PreK-12 and postsecondary education and training.

JTF members are Gary Merasty, Vice President Corporate Social Responsibility of Cameco; Rita Bouvier, researcher/writer and community-learning facilitator; and Don Hoium, Executive Director, League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents of Saskatchewan (LEADS). Hoium served as Director of Education for Regina Public Schools.

The JTF is scheduled to meet with GDI representatives in September 2012. For more information please visit

www.jointtaskforce.ca/ 



Community Profile: Western Region IIA

By James Oloo

In this month's analysis of the socioeconomic and demographic profiles for a Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) region we highlight the performance of the Métis population in Western Region IIA (WRIIA) against such indicators. The article uses 2006 Census of Canada data.

Each of the 12 Métis regions is represented by an elected Regional Director who is also a member of the MN-S Provincial Métis Council. The Regional Director for WRIIA is Bob McLeod and the Region Office is in Saskatoon with Local Offices at Biggar, Fiske, and Kindersley. WRIIA is represented at the GDI Board of Governors by Shirley Ross.

There are 10,755 Métis people in WRIIA, about 40% of whom are under 20 years of age. Of the WRIIA Métis population aged 15-24 years, 46% did not have high school diploma, while 54% had successfully completed high school or equivalent. Of those with high school diploma, 67% had Grade 12 as their highest level of education and 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 or equivalent. Of those who had completed high school, 32% had completed postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree.

Thus, educational attainment for the WRIIA Métis population aged 15-24 years was similar or better than that for the general population of Saskatchewan in the same age group.

There are 4,875 Métis individuals aged 25-64 years in WRIIA. Of this, 21% did not have high school diploma (compared to 19% of the general population of Saskatchewan in the same age group) while 79% had at least high school diploma. Of those with high school diploma, 32% had high school as their highest level of formal education (compared to 33% for the general population of Saskatchewan in the same age cohort); 18% had a postsecondary diploma or certificate in apprenticeship or trade (versus 17% for Saskatchewan); 28% had a non-university certificate or diploma from a college (versus 23% for Saskatchewan); and 22% had a university certificate, diploma or degree compared to 27% for the general population of Saskatchewan in the same age group.

Thus, among those aged 25-64 years, the proportion of Métis population in WRIIA with high school as their highest level of education and those with postsecondary training in apprenticeship or trades was similar to those for the general population in Saskatchewan – 32% versus 33% and 18% versus 17% respectively. However, proportionately more WRIIA Métis population aged 25-64 years had non-university postsecondary credentials than did the general population of Saskatchewan in the same age group at 28% versus 23% respectively. This is perhaps due to the work of Aboriginal - focused non-university

postsecondary institutions such as GDI which have continued to help bridge Aboriginal education gap in Saskatchewan.

For those with university education, proportionately more non-Métis than their Métis counterparts aged 25-64 years had a university certificate, diploma or degree at 27% versus 22% respectively.

Labour force activity for the WRIIA Métis and the general population of Saskatchewan aged 15-24 years were similar. 67% of the Métis aged 15-24 years were in the labour force while 33% were not. Of those in the labour force, 87% were employed while 13% did not have jobs but were looking for employment. For the general 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 WRIIA Métis individuals aged 25 years and over, 75% were in the labour force while 25% were not. Among those in the labour force, 94% were employed while 6% did not have jobs but were looking for employment. Within the general population, 69% were in the labour force and 31% were not in the labour force. Of those in the labour force, 95% were employed and 5% were not. Thus, proportionately more WRIIA Métis population than the general population of Saskatchewan aged 25 years and over was in the labour market. 🌐



Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation Golf Tournament
May 31, 2012



IT Update

By Gareth Griffiths

Website

In the month of June 2012, the website has received over 160,000 page hits (81,000 excluding the main news feeds). Excluding the RSS news feeds, the highest activity has been seen on the Home Page, Programs, DTI Application Form, Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation and SUNTEP pages

IT Support System

The closure rate has been significantly affected by staff annual leave and holidays from work. In June 2012, we received 20 new requests to the support system, of which 10 have been completed and closed (50% closure rate). Overall, we closed eight calls during this period. There are currently 37 open Work Orders.

Sophos Anti-Virus

The testing of the v10 upgrade at DTI Regina has been completed, and no real issues have been experienced. Sophos is actually going to release this version as a regular update. Our Enterprise Console should begin upgrading machines to v10 in early

August. This upgrade will require a reboot of the computer.

Web Filter

The testing of the web filter has also gone extremely well. This is unobtrusive and silently monitors and logs web activity. For students, we were actually able to define a policy that blocks Facebook and Twitter at all times except during breaks and lunch. For all staff, only recognized categories that do not conform to the Acceptable Use Policy such as pornography, abusive activity, arms trafficking, gambling, etc will be blocked outright. All other activities may be allowed but will still be monitored. The rule sets will be discussed further and defined as we progress through this implementation.

IT Network Upgrades

The network upgrades for Prince Albert and Regina are on order. This includes switches and a Computer rack for PA, and switches and a new server for Regina. The Regina server will initially be installed at DTI to improve services delivered to students before being transferred to the new building

as part of the move, allowing all staff access to shared and secured network resources.

Management Reporter

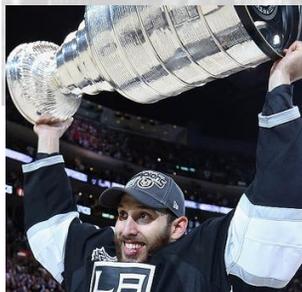
Work continues on the management reporting upgrade. The DTI reporting structure is created and is ready to go, apart from a few minor tweaks and budget realignments. We are now in the final pilot stage of getting the DTI Program Coordinators setup to access and test this. Management Reports for DTI Period 1 (July 2012) will be available by mid August with a view to be operational in GDI and GDIT&E in September.

Email Accounts

We are beginning to trial a new method of accessing emails. Currently, most machines are setup to receive using a POP (Post Office Protocol) connection. We are testing the use of IMAP (Internet Message Access Protocol) accounts instead. We will send an email to staff with more information on this.



Dwight King



Dwight King and the LA Kings won their first NHL championship
Photo credit: www.kings.nhl.com

Dwight King, a MN-S Citizen, Gets the NHL Crown

By James Oloo

Dwight King, a proud Métis hockey player from Meadow Lake, SK was a key player during the NHL playoffs. King (#74) helped the Los Angeles Kings win the franchise's first ever Stanley Cup, becoming the first ever 8th seeded team in North American professional sports to win a championship.

King's five playoff goals and nine assists last season for the

Los Angeles Kings tied with Calder Trophy finalist Adam Henrique of New Jersey for the most post-season goals among rookies.

King's parents - Donna, a secretary and Dwayne, a truck driver - and older brother D.J., who plays in the Washington Capitals' system, were in Los Angeles to cheer him.

The Los Angeles Kings have re-signed their restricted free agent playoff hero Dwight King for two more years. The 23 year old 6'3, 227lb left wing joined Los Angeles Kings in 2007. He previously played with the Beardy Blackhawks and the Lethbridge Hurricanes. Congratulations to King and the Los Angeles Kings. 🌐



Amy Pilon: A Success Story

By Tammy Cummins

Amy Janice Marie Pilon is a 28 year old Métis woman from Duck Lake, SK. Being raised in a family of nine meant there was not much money; therefore her parents stressed the importance of education as a way to a better future for their children and their families.

Amy joined the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) in September 2001, where she completed a two year Pre-Medicine program. She then joined the work force in the summer of 2003. In 2007, Amy went back to the U of S to pursue a degree in Psychology and a

Certificate in Crime, Law, and Justice.

Amy completed her studies in April 2012 and convocated on June 5, 2012 with a Bachelor of Arts with High Honours in Psychology and a Certificate in Crime, Law, and Justice. Her thesis, 'The Effectiveness of the Aboriginal Offender Substance Abuse Program on Post-Release Outcomes at Three Federal Institutions,' has been presented at a conference.

Amy recently joined Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services' Program

Effectiveness, Statistics, and Applied Research department as a Junior Statistics Officer. She plans to do graduate studies in Forensic Clinical Psychology.

Amy is grateful for support she received from GDIT&E: "The sponsorship program that GDIT&E provided allowed me to fully concentrate on my studies and successfully complete my degree. I am truly thankful to my Employment Counsellor, Tammy Cummins, and to all of GDIT&E for their support and assistance over the last two years of my education." Congratulations Amy and best wishes as you settle in Ontario. 🌐



Amy Pilon

Regina Office Education Graduation

By Chantelle Gagnon

On Friday, June 15th we celebrated the Office Education graduation at the Delta Regina Hotel. A wonderful brunch buffet was enjoyed by graduates and their family and friends, with about 60 people in attendance. This year, 10 students successfully completed the busy 10 month program. They participated in many cultural activities, community events, and DTI Wellness Club while maintaining their studies.

The program combines Office Education and health courses such as Medical Terminology and First Aid/CPR to provide a well-rounded base of knowledge and skill set related to the health administrative environment. Graduates are also prepared for

employment as administrative assistants or receptionists in such fields as government, education, and business.

The Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region (RQHR) was a partner in this program and offered all students a two week practicum at various departments within the Region. Many of the graduates have already secured employment. Indeed some were hired by the RQHR before completing their practicum.

SGI was also involved in the program and invited students to do SGI tests and mock interviews. SGI representatives attended the graduation ceremony and gave each student gifts that included a \$75 gift card. Partnerships provide great opportunities for our

students and we plan to maintain as well as establish new ones in the upcoming year.

Congratulations to the Office Education Class of 2012! Best wishes in your new career! DTI is excited to be offering another Office Education program during the school year commencing September 2012. Application deadline is August 1, 2012. For more information please call 242-6070. 🌐



Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation Annual Golf Tournament May 2012

Regina Office Education 2012 graduation Photo credit: Gisele Hagele



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[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



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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
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