



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

In this issue:

- Community Profile: WRIII
- MN-S Votes 2012
- Leadership Changes at DTI and GDIT&E
- Apprenticeship Initiative Update

Highlights:

- Guidelines for GDI During MN-S Elections 2
- 2012 Ânskohk Festival 3
- Heavy Equipment Operator Program Partnership 4
- APCMA Awards Nominees 5

Community Profile: Western Region III

By James Oloo

Since January 2012, we have been featuring the socioeconomic and demographic profiles for a Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) region each month to highlight the performance of the Métis population against such indicators. This month we look at Western Region III (WRIII). The article uses 2006 Census Canada data.

Each of the 12 MN-S regions is represented by an elected Regional Director who is also a member of the MN-S Provincial Métis Council. The Regional Director for WRIII is Karen Larocque and the Region Office is located in Lumsden with Local Offices at Maple Creek, Moose Jaw, Regina, Regina Beach, Swift Current, Viceroy, and Willow Bunch. Ms. Collette Robertson represents WRIII at the GDI Board of Governors.

WRIII has a Métis population of 9,360 people about 50% of whom are under 25 years of age. Of the WRIII Métis aged 15-24 years, 52% did not have Grade 12 diploma, while 48% had successfully completed high school or equivalent. Of those with high school diploma, 79% had Grade 12 as their highest level of formal

education and 21% had completed postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree. Within the general Saskatchewan population in the same age group, 48% had not completed Grade 12 while 52% had high school diploma. Of those with Grade 12, 32% had completed postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree.

There are 4,335 WRIII Métis people aged 25-64 years (46% of the population). Of these, 23% did not have Grade 12 diploma (compared to 19% of the general population in the same age group) while 77% had at least high school diploma. Of those with high school diploma, 38% had Grade 12 as their highest level of formal education (compared to 33% for Saskatchewan); 17% had a postsecondary diploma or certificate in apprenticeship or trade (versus 17% for Saskatchewan); 23% 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.

Thus, of those aged 25-64 years, the proportion of WRIII Métis with

postsecondary training in apprenticeship or trades and those with non-university certificate or diploma from a college were similar to those for the general population – 17% versus 17% and 23% versus 23% respectively. However, proportionately more WRIII Métis aged 25-64 years had Grade 12 as their highest level of education than their non-Métis counterparts at 38% versus 33%. Also, relatively fewer WRIII Métis aged 25-64 years had university credentials than did the general population in the same age group at 22% versus 27% respectively.

Labour force activity for the WRIII Métis and the general population aged 15-24 years was similar. 65% of the Métis aged 15-24 years were in the labour force while 35% were not. Of those in the labour force, 83% were employed while 17% were not. For the general population, 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 WRIII Métis aged 25 years and over, 77% were in the labour force (verses 69% for Saskatchewan) while 23% were not. Of those in the labour force, 94% were employed (versus 95% for Saskatchewan). Thus, proportionately more WRIII Métis than the general population of Saskatchewan aged 25 years and over was in the labour market. 





Métis Nation-Saskatchewan Votes 2012

By James Oloo

Citizens of Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) aged 16 years and older will be going to the polls on September 8, 2012 to elect Regional Representatives and Provincial Métis Council of the MN-S.

Election Period announced by the Chief Electoral Officer Ian Craven officially began on August 3, 2012 with the nominations for candidates for the Provincial Executive as well as Regional Representatives

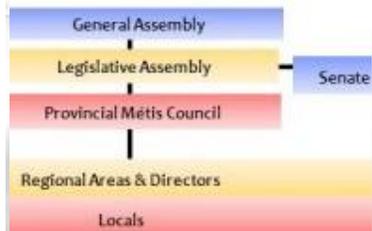
for all 12 MN-S Regions. Advance polls will be held on Saturday September 1, 2012. Election Day on Saturday, September 8, 2012.

The MN-S has retained MNP LLP to manage the 2012 elections as well as act as Chief Electoral Officer for the elections. MNP reports to the MN-S Election Committee which consists of members of the Provincial Council that are not running in the 2012 Election.

Ensure your voice is heard by casting your ballot. This will help strengthen the Métis Nation democratic process towards self governance as well as help formulate policies and positive change for the Métis people.

For detailed information about the candidates, election process, regulations, voter eligibility and location of polling stations, please visit MNSvote.ca, call toll-free at 1.877.780.VOTE (8683), or send email to: questions@MNSvote.ca.

MN-S Governance Structure



Source: www.mn-s.ca

Guidelines for GDI During MN-S Election

On August 1, 2012, MNP LLP, the Electoral Office for Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S), announced that election period for the 2012 MN-S elections begins August 3, 2012 and ends with Election Day on Saturday, September 8, 2012.

Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) is an affiliate of, and owned by the MN-S. GDI has a 12-member Board of Governors that is selected from each of the MN-S Regions plus a Chairperson who is the MN-S Minister of Education. Therefore, elected officials of the MN-S and its Provincial Métis Council influence the Institute's governance and operation.

To effectively serve the Métis population, GDI must act, and be perceived to act, in a politically neutral manner. If GDI were thought to be partisan in the MN-S political process, conflicts and accusations of favouritism could arise.

Moreover, our students and clients attend GDI for specific educational, cultural, and human resource programs and services. They do not come to participate in politics. By remaining non-partisan we maintain our ability to work with any candidates successfully elected in the MN-S election process; avoid any conflict of interest, real or perceived; and effectively maintain our high quality and level of services to the Métis population.

To protect the Institute's image and credibility as well as protect the rights of our students and clients, GDI shall, in line with its values of accountability, respect, and responsiveness, maintain political neutrality during the MN-S election period by observing the following guidelines:

- No election posters or campaign materials will be allowed to be displayed on or in any GDI facility or property;

- No GDI property, including photocopiers, telephone, or other resources will be made available to candidates seeking election or their staff;
- No political campaigns will be allowed in GDI facilities during the election period; and
- Candidates for election will not be allowed to address or engage with students, staff, clients, or the general public at any GDI facility or event during the declaration of election period. This includes but is not limited to speaking roles, graduations, or any other presentation role at Institute functions.

Staff, students, and clients are encouraged to take part in the MN-S democratic process. However, this must be done on the individual's own time, off Institute premises.

For any questions regarding these guidelines, please call 1-877-488-6888.



Photo credited to www.mn-s.ca

Leadership Changes at DTI and T&E

By James Oloo

Tavia Laliberte, the Director of Gabriel Dumont Institute Training and Employment (GDIT&E), went on maternity leave this summer. This has led to changes at the helm of GDIT&E and Dumont Technical Institute (DTI). DTI Director, Brett Vandale, is on an 8-month leave of absence having been seconded to GDIT&E as Director. Brett will head GDIT&E from August 7, 2012 until March 15, 2013 after which he'll resume his position as the Director of DTI. Tony Blacklock, a Senior Program Coordinator at DTI, is now the Acting Director of DTI, a position he will hold until March 2013.

Brett joined DTI in 1999 as a Program Coordinator. He served as Assistant Principal and Acting Director and has been the Principal/Director of DTI since 2004. Over the past seven years, Brett has represented the Métis community at the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship

and Trades Certification Commission (SATCC). SATCC is GDIT&E's project partner in the GDI Aboriginal Apprenticeship Initiative.

Brett brings a wealth of experience to this position and hopes to ensure that GDIT&E continues with providing quality services in helping Métis people achieve their employment and career choices while remaining accountable to our stakeholders.

While appreciating the "dynamic nature and complexities at GDIT&E," Brett is impressed by the fact that "GDIT&E has a good system and process, which definitely makes my life easier." Brett hopes that the knowledge and experiences he had at DTI will help him bring a fresh perspective to GDIT&E with the hope of enhancing the quality services that are already being provided.

Tony joined GDI in 2007 as Program Coordinator. In 2009, he moved to DTI Skills Programming as Team Lead before becoming a Senior Program Coordinator at DTI.

Tavia has been working for GDI for over 10 years the last six years as the founding director of GDIT&E. Under her direction, GDIT&E has been recognized by the Office of the Federal Interlocutor, Service Canada, and Saskatchewan Ministry of Social Services for its contributions in creating opportunities and funding for Métis peoples.

Brett, Tony, and Tavia represent a new generation of selfless Métis leaders who seek to empower Métis peoples through education and employment.

Congratulations. Good luck for a smooth transition, and success in your new roles.



Tony Blacklock
Photo by Angie Yew



Tavia Laliberte
Photo credit: Angie Yew

2012 Ânskohk Festival Coming to Saskatoon

By James Oloo

The 2012 Ânskohk Aboriginal Literature Festival will be held in Saskatoon from October 25th to 27th! This year's festival will feature a number of noted Métis writers including GDI's Darren R. Prefontaine, Eagle Feather News publisher John Lagimodiere, and poet Marilyn Dumont.

The festival's keynote speaker will be Daniel David Moses, a Delaware Indian poet, playwright, and professor at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. Louise Halfe, a Cree writer and recipient of the

Canadian Peoples Poet Award and an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree from Wilfrid Laurier University, will be hosting the event. This year, the Ânskohk festival will be held in partnership with the Saskatchewan Writers Guild.

Ânskohk Aboriginal Literature Festival was launched in 2004 to promote and celebrate the work of Aboriginal writers from Saskatchewan and across Canada. One of only two literary festival of its kind in

the country, Ânskohk Aboriginal Writers Festival displays the diversity of writing by Aboriginal authors and enhances public understanding of Aboriginal peoples, culture, and writing.

The festival is intended to promote the diversity of Aboriginal writers and will appeal to a broad audience. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. For further information, please visit <http://anskohk.com> and the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild at www.skwriter.com.



Brett Vandale
Photo by Tavia Laliberte





GDI Apprenticeship Initiative Update

By Brody Parent, Jason DeBack and James Oloo



Darren R. Prefontaine

This article reviews the developments at the GDI Aboriginal Apprenticeship Initiative during the first half of 2012.

As at June 30, 2012, the total number of Aboriginal clients who had been recruited into the program was 64 or 53% of our goal of 120 apprentices. Of this, 31% or 20 clients had been laid off, fired, or quit. Among the 20 clients who were laid off, fired, or quit, 8 or 40% had been indentured. The 8 are currently working for other companies. Thus, even though the 8 indentured former clients are no longer in the program, the knowledge and skills they gained from the Apprenticeship Initiative continues to benefit them.

During the first half of 2012, we entered into 20 new partnerships with employers. We have been reaching out to potential employers via a number of ways that we have

not used previously. These include unsolicited community door to door outreach and targeting employers who have advertised for apprentices and journeypersons.

Jason DeBack, Apprenticeship Coordinator, participated in two apprenticeship conference calls on June 20, 2012. Jason and/or Brody Parent visited GDI offices in Yorkton, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Lloydminster, and Meadow Lake and took part in employer outreach sessions. Region offices, especially those that had hitherto experienced difficulty getting clients or employer partners, benefited significantly from employer outreach sessions.

We held two open houses to reach out to potential clients and employers in Regina on April 12 and in Nipawin on May 3. The open houses were well attended and featured presentations by Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways and

the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission. We participated at a number of meetings and conferences including the Contact Conference (April 24-25), Can-Sask Meeting (May 16), and the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum CAF-FCA 2012 conference in Regina (June 3-5). Our presentation at the CAF-FCA conference is available on the CAF website at http://www.caf-fca.org/index.php?page=2012-conference-2&hl=en_CA

Evaluation is on-going in the form of monthly and six-month surveys of clients and employer partners. The surveys will be used to prepare 'Complete Interim Evaluation Report' that is due in September. For more information please call 1-877-488-6888 or email jason.deback@gdite.gdins.org.



Louise Halfe



John Lagimodiere

Heavy Equipment Operator/Class 1A Program

By Dwayne Docken, Warren Isbister, and James Oloo

Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO)/Class 1A is a pre-employment training program in the safe operation and maintenance of heavy machinery. At the end of the program, clients graduate with a HEO certification and Class 1A drivers' license.

The 13-week program was started in 2010 as partnership between GDI, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies the City of Saskatoon, and Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC) to provide training opportunity for Aboriginal people. It includes classroom teaching at SIIT and practical field training.

This years' graduation ceremony was held on August 17, 2012 at the White Buffalo Youth Lodge in Saskatoon where eight proud Aboriginal clients had the opportunity to gain their individual ticket as certified Heavy Equipment Operators and Class 1A drivers. One client, Lance Rekve, was sponsored by GDI.

The graduation ceremony was attended by representatives of partner organizations including Brett Vandale, the Director of GDIT&E, Saskatoon Deputy Mayor Councillor Ann Iwanchuk, and Chief Felix Thomas of STC.

GDI also partners with the City of Saskatoon in the ATOSKE Program to increase the representation of Aboriginal workers applying for jobs with the City of Saskatoon by building their employability skills. .

Courses offered include First Aid, Playleadership certification, WHIMS, job shadowing at City of Saskatoon sites, tours of educational institutions, coaching certification, and Paddle Canada's – canoeing and water safety training.



Marilyn Dumont



Daniel David Moses
All photos above credited to <http://anskohk.com>



Parenteau, Fiddler Quartet Nominated For APCMA

By James Oloo

Prince Albert-based Métis singer-song writer Donny Parenteau has done it again! Donny has been nominated for three Aboriginal Peoples' Choice Music Awards (APCMA) in the category of Best Producer/Engineer for the album 'To Whom It May Concern,' Best Music Video for 'Fiddleback,' and Best Songwriter for 'Play On.'

Donny attended the first annual Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation Golf Tournament at the Moonlake Golf and Country Club in Saskatoon in May.

Also nominated for APCMA is the Toronto-based

bilingual family ensemble the Métis Fiddler Quartet. The Quartet, made up of four siblings, three brothers and a sister, is nominated in the Best Fiddle CD category for their album 'North West Voyage Nord Ouest.'

Earlier this month, the Métis Fiddler Quartet gave a superb performance at the 2012 Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly as part of the 'Sharing Our Pride: Métis Storytelling and Cultural Performance' celebration in Sault Ste. Marie, ON.

The seventh annual Aboriginal Peoples Choice

Music Awards will be presented on November 2, 2012 in Winnipeg, MB. To vote for your favourite nominees, please go to www.aboriginalpeopleschoice.com and select the Sign Up page. Voting closes on September 3, 2012.

Congratulations and best wishes to Donny Parenteau and the Métis Fiddler Quartet.

For more information on Donny Parenteau and the Métis Fiddler Quartet, please go to <http://www.donnyparenteau.com> and <http://www.metisfiddlerquartet.com> respectively.



**ABORIGINAL
PEOPLES
CHOICE
MUSIC AWARDS**

APCMA logo courtesy of

<http://aboriginalpeopleschoice.com>



Donny Parenteau

Photo credit: donnyparenteau.com

Call for More Funds for Aboriginal Apprenticeship

By James Oloo

The Saskatchewan Provincial Building and Trades Council has called on the Government of Saskatchewan to increase investment in the skills training sector.

In its policy paper "Trades Training: Investing in Saskatchewan's Economy" released this summer, the Trades Council posits that the current skilled worker shortage coupled with the province's strong economy and an aging population could soon become a crisis.

Saskatchewan Mining Association made a similar point last year when it stated that the growth of the province's mining industry is threatened by the looming skills shortage. The Trades

Council made six recommendations to increase skills training in Saskatchewan, including increasing funding for Aboriginal apprentices through the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission (SATCC).

According to SATCC data, the total number of Aboriginal apprentices in the province was 1,174 in 2008-2009, 1,216 in 2009-2010, 1,272 in 2010-2011, and a projected 1,297 in 2011-2012.

While there has been "significant improvement in the number of Aboriginal journeypersons" in recent years, the report notes "the number remains very small." About 120 Aboriginal journeypersons were certified in 2010, up from

about 60 in 2006 – a 100% increase in 4 years.

Although the Trades Council paper does not acknowledge the effort by Aboriginal institutions such as GDI in enhancing Aboriginal participation in the apprenticeship and trades sector, in the year ending June 2012, GDI, through its Aboriginal Apprenticeship Initiative, increased the number of Aboriginal apprentices in Saskatchewan by over 50. By the end of 2013, we expect the number to be 120, a 10% increase in the total number of Aboriginal apprentices in the province over the 2009-2010 numbers.

The Trades Council paper is available at <http://www.saskbuildingtrades.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/trades-training.pdf>



The Métis Fiddler Quartet

Photo credit: metisfiddlerquartet.com



Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation Golf Tournament
May 2012



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research

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

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



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.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