



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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Community Profile: Eastern Region I

By James Oloo

Between January and August 2012, we featured each of the 3 Northern and 5 Western Regions of the 12 Métis Nation-Saskatchewan regions in the monthly edition of the *GDI Communicator*. For the rest of the year, we will explore the socioeconomic and demographic profiles for the 4 Eastern Regions beginning with Eastern Region I (ERI) this month. The purpose of this series is to highlight the performance of the Métis population against such indicators. The article uses 2006 Canada Census data.

Each of the 12 regions has an elected Regional Director who is also a member of the MN-S Provincial Métis Council. Lennard Morin is the Regional Director for ERI. Region office is in Cumberland House with local offices at Flin Flon and Sandy Bay. The Region is represented at the GDI Board of Governors by Paul Trottier.

ERI has a Métis population of 985, about 40% of whom are below age 20 years. 45% of the ERI Métis aged between 15-24 years did not have high school diploma, while the other 55% had completed at least Grade 12 or equivalent. Of those with

high school diploma, 85% had Grade 12 as their highest level of education and 15% 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.

There are 435 Métis people in ERI aged between 25-64 years. Of this, 40% do not have high school diploma (compared to 19% of the general population in the same age group) and 60% had at least high school diploma. Of those with Grade 12, 40% had Grade 12 as their highest level of education (compared to 26% for Saskatchewan); 21% had a postsecondary diploma or certificate in apprenticeship or trade (versus 14% for Saskatchewan); 29% had a non-university certificate or diploma from a college (versus 18% for Saskatchewan); and 10% had a university certificate, diploma or degree compared to 22%

for the general population in the same age group

Thus, among those aged 25-64 years, proportionately more ERI Métis had postsecondary diploma or certificate in apprenticeship or trades and in non-university postsecondary training than did the general population in Saskatchewan at 21% versus 14% and 29% versus 18% respectively.

The relatively better performance by the ERI Métis is perhaps due in part to the work of Aboriginal-focused institutions such as GDI. Such efforts should be enhanced even as we strive for improved performance in other areas.

Among the ERI Métis aged 15-24 years, 45% were in the labour force while 55% were not. Of those in the labour force, 65% were employed while 35% had no job. For the general population, 66% were in the labour force while 34% were not. And of those in the labour force, 88% were employed. Thus, while a similar proportion of the ERI Métis and the general population aged 15-24 years was in the labour force, employment rates were higher for the latter.

For the ERI Métis aged 25 years and over, 65% were in the labour force while 35% were not. Of those in the labour force, 80% were employed. Among the general population in the same age group, 69% were in the labour force. Of those in the labour force, 95% had jobs.



2012 MN-S Election Results

By James Oloo



Photo credited to www.mn-s.ca

On September 8, 2012, the citizens of Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) went to the polls to elect Regional Representatives and Provincial Métis Council of the MN-S. The Chief Electoral Officer, Ian Craven, has announced the official results of the 2012 MN-S General Election.

The newly elected MN-S Executive is as follows:

Robert Doucette, President; Gerald Morin, Vice President; May Henderson (pending recount), Secretary; and Louis Gardiner, Treasurer.

In addition, Area Directors were duly elected for the 12 MN-S Regions of the province. For full results of the elections, please visit <http://2012.mnsvote.ca/>. Congratulations to all the

newly elected officials. GDI looks forward to developing positive relationships and working with the MN-S representatives toward the common goal of providing relevant and accessible education to Métis people.

Education is widely recognized as a key factor in the economic and social well-being of Métis people. 🌐

OH&S Northern Pilot Safely Rolling

By Daniel Downs

September 4, 2012 marked another first for DTI, the start of an Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S) Practitioner Program in Buffalo Narrows. This Applied Certificate program is the first to be offered outside of a SIAST Campus, and the first to be delivered in Northern Saskatchewan with a Northern emphasis.

The program is set for 13 weeks and comprises several courses including the Principles and Practices of Adult Learning, Risk Analysis and Hazard Control, Safety Systems, OH&S Programming, Communication Strategies, , and a Practicum component, which sees students working with business and industry in a Safety Officer capacity.

This program is only the beginning for students into a lifelong career in OH&S. Students can progress from the Applied Certificate program to the full Certificate Program (offered online-only through SIAST), and then onto supplemental training in safety through institutions

such as the University of Alberta and Ryerson University, ultimately leading to their Canadian Registered Safety Professional (CRSP) designation through the Board of Canadian Registered Safety Professionals. This designation will allow them to practice their career across North America and Europe.

There is a substantial amount of pressure on the students to perform... and perform at a level beyond what is normally expected in post-secondary level studies; but what they are studying for is a profession of stress and serious consequences. The course is designed in such a way as to test the students' ability to deal with a constant bombardment of information and scenarios, all the while having to make decisions that affect the health and safety of others.

Above all however, this program teaches students the value of safety in everyday life, and the

importance of such things as punctuality, attendance, and precision. Students soon learned that striving for 80% attendance isn't good enough, because nobody would want to step on a ladder with only 80% of its rungs and be told to climb. They learned that a minimum passing mark of 60% isn't good enough, because nobody would buy a hardhat or helmet that works only 60% of the time. And they learned fast that arriving 10 minutes late to class isn't good enough... because danger is never late... and safety always needs to arrive ahead of danger.

No matter where their training and careers take them, these students will have learned invaluable tools to help not only themselves and their families, but their coworkers and employers form a culture of safety. From changing a light-bulb to changing the pistons in Bulldozer, students are taught that safety is paramount, and that in the grand scheme... safety isn't expensive... it's priceless. For more information please contact Daniel Downs at 306.242.6070. 🌐



IT Update

By Gareth Griffiths

Website

In the month of August 2012, the website has received over 163,000 page hits. Excluding the RSS news feeds, the highest activity was on the Home Page, Programs, DTI Programs and Contact Us pages.

IT Support System

In August 2012, we received 30 new requests to the support system, of which 23 have been completed and closed (76% closure rate).

Sophos Anti-Virus

Testing of v10 is completed, and planning is proceeding on how to roll this out. This has been delayed due to recent issues affecting our networks and computers that we are addressing as a matter of priority.

Web Filter

This is still in its pilot phase, and cannot be progressed until the v10 upgrade is completed fully. More details to follow next month.

IT Network Issues

Recently, we have had 2 major issues affecting our networks. First, the Head Office firewall started

showing signs of wear. As it was in the process of failing, we temporarily replaced this with a spare device, and ordered a permanent replacement. This has now been delivered and installed. We are currently re-establishing all of the remote links we had in place.

We also experienced a problem with Sophos. There is an issue that is causing multiple valid programs to be identified as malicious. This is affecting any program that automatically checks for updates, such as Firefox, Java, and Adobe products. Sophos have issued a fix through the normal update channels, and this will soon be propagated through the virus updates.

Management Reporter

Management Reports for DTI are now available through Management Reporter. The testing phase is completed. Reports for GDI and GDIT&E are available internally, and the rollout process to other departments is ongoing.

Email Accounts

The trial of the new method of accessing emails through IMAP has gone extremely well. This method uses a

remote mailbox connection, and synchronizes these remote folders to the local machine rather than downloading a copy. All new email accounts will be created as IMAP and existing accounts will be converted over time.

Shared Address Book

We are working on a shared email address book for the organization. This is using a protocol called LDAP (Light Directory Access Protocol), and will be hosted by our mail hosting company Quadrant. This will provide all users with a standardized global address book in all email clients.

There will be a facility for us to be able to maintain this ourselves, ensuring that only current addresses are listed. We have sent a test export file to them, and they have successfully converted this. They have also given us test access and it appears to work successfully. The next stage will be to iron out any issues with the export, and send them a complete address listing to upload. After the testing phase, this will be rolled out to all user accounts, with instructions on how to set this up. 🌐



Sylvia Moss, Program Coordinator,
GDIT&E Saskatoon
Photo by Angie Yew

Christmas Break 2012

By James Oloo

Summer is passing by and golden leaves of fall fly by gently hiding the path and crowning the glory of 2012.

This year, GDI acquired priceless artifact, a new building in Regina, hosted a highly successful inaugural golf tournament that raised over \$20,000 for scholarships. The Institute

published its first Community Progress Report and also signed a new Collective Agreement for unionized staff.

T&E celebrated its fifth birthday and its Director, Tavia Laliberte, attended the Governor General David Johnston's Canadian Leadership Conference in Quebec

and the Maritimes. Also, GDI Publishing, its authors and publications won several awards this year.

2012 Christmas break dates as passed by the GDI Board of Governors in April 2012 are from Monday December 24 to Tuesday January 1, 2013 (inclusive). Plan for a well deserved glorious holiday season! 🌐



SUNTEP Regina Class of 2012
Photo Credit: Erma Taylor





Logo Credited to
www.Clarencecampeau.com

New Funding for Aspiring Métis Entrepreneurs

By James Oloo

In August 2012, the Clarence Campeau Development Fund (CCDF) announced the establishment of two new funding programs in Saskatchewan to help Métis women and youth realize their dreams of venturing into business and being self employed.

The Métis Women's Equity Program and the Métis Youth Equity Program are intended to empower Métis women and youth who wish to become

entrepreneurs "overcome barriers and enhance their ability to leverage financing and support services from financial institutions and business support agencies."

The CCDF helps interested Métis applicants with the process of preparing business plans and provide an interest-free equity contribution of up to \$10,000 to be used to purchase an existing business, start a new business, or expand or

renovate an existing business. If the client demonstrates a satisfactory record of repayment of the principal amount, they can be forgiven up to 25% of the loan.

CCDF was established by The Métis Society of Saskatchewan Inc. in 1997 and is named after Clarence Campeau, a Métis leader who believed in promoting Métis self sufficiency through economic development. For more information, see <http://www.clarencecampeau.com/> 

Métis Residential School Survivors Seek Justice

By James Oloo

Early this month, the head of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) reiterated his call for the recognition of former students at two Métis boarding schools in Timber Bay and Île-à-la-Crosse as residential school survivors.

The two boarding schools were excluded from the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. The schools were not included in the June 11, 2008 national apology to former

students, and federal government has never accepted responsibility for the inhuman and traumatic experience and its subsequent impacts among the Métis peoples.

Clément Chartier, the Métis National Council president, was a student at one of the two schools, the Catholic-run Île-à-la-Crosse Mission School. He said that it is unfortunate that the Métis are excluded from the mandate of the TRC that flows from the Residential

Schools Settlement Agreement.

Chief Commissioner Murray Sinclair posits that "It's almost impossible to establish a process of reconciliation when such a large population of students is excluded." Justice Sinclair says that the Métis residential school survivors are not motivated by compensation, but rather recognition that their treatment was the same as others. For more information at the TRC, please visit <http://www.trc.ca> 

Senate Committee Explores Métis Identity

By James Oloo

Members of the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples is holding public hearings in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, BC and the Northwest Territories as part of the Committee's ongoing study on Métis identity.

The senators are also visiting Métis settlements, rural and urban communities and

meeting with Elders and leaders of various Métis organizations.

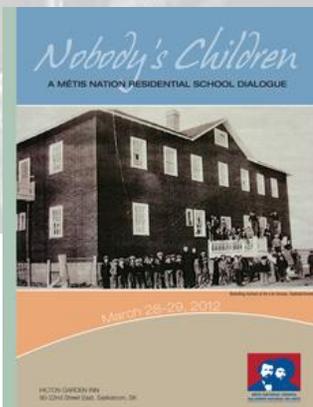
The Committee visited Saskatoon on September 26 for a public hearing in which GDI gave a well received presentation. The senators then visited Île-à-la-Crosse and Duck Lake where they held fact finding meetings

and activities in what is the first study of its kind on Métis identity in Canada.

We hope that its findings will lead to a better understanding of the Métis as well as the challenges that the Métis people face and the optimism and promise that abound in the Métis community despite the challenges. 



Source: www.cfne.org



Source: www.metisnation.ca



GDI Apprenticeship Initiative Update

By James Oloo

Apprenticeships have a very long history in Canada especially among Aboriginal peoples. A key characteristic is the combination of employment and training. In the recent years, GDI and its partners have invested a lot of time and resources in its Aboriginal Apprenticeship Initiative in part due to the strength of Saskatchewan's economy that, coupled with an aging population, has increased demand for skilled labour.

The GDI Aboriginal Apprenticeship Initiative enables our clients to master not only relevant occupational skills but also other work-related skills, including communication, problem solving, and interpersonal skills such as how best to relate to supervisors and a diverse set of co-workers. We offer support to both the employer and apprentice through to journeyman status.

At the end of 2013, we will have developed 60 employer partnerships in 17 different trades; at least 120 Aboriginal persons will be registered in the program; improved service delivery to our clients; and prepared an Aboriginal apprenticeship best practices document.

We have achieved significant milestones thus far. To date, we have accepted 89 clients into the program. About 90% of the clients are male. Of the 89 clients, 62 (6 females and 56 males)

were working as on September 15, 2012; 17 had quit or were fired; 7 were laid off, and 3 had completed the program. That is, 70% of our clients were still working as on September 15, 2012. Our employment counselors continue to work with the suspended clients to enable them resume their apprenticeship as soon as possible.

GDI has been collecting and maintaining data on clients' and employers' satisfaction with their experience since the Apprenticeship Initiative was started in 2011. Over the past 2 months, we received 24 client surveys and 14 employer surveys. These are summarized below.

96% of clients agree or strongly agree that the work they are doing is related to their chosen designated trade. 96% agree or strongly agree that they are satisfied with the training they are receiving while 92% agree or strongly agree that they are satisfied with how they are treated at work. 100% of clients strongly agreed with the statement that "I am planning on completing this apprenticeship program and getting journeyman certification." 88% of clients agree or strongly agree that overall, they are satisfied with the program.

Clients further commented that "I am getting good experience," "The support cannot be compared to anything I have (ever) experienced. It is positive and professional," "My co-workers are always glad to help with questions," "I am in

a good environment," and "I'm thankful for this opportunity." Other comments included, "All my friends thought said I would quit during the first month, well it has been one year and (my employment counselor) says that I am one of the best clients he has ever worked with ... thank you GDI," and "I am getting to experience with different types of welding processes... it feels great!"

Among the employer partners, 93% agree or strongly agree that clients are punctual for work; 79% of employers agree or strongly agree that apprentice is meeting expectations and requirements of the job; 86% of employers are satisfied with the quality of the apprentices' work; and 84% of employers stated that overall, they are satisfied with the support they receive from partnership with GDI.

Other comments included: "It is great to be partnered with GDI. Financially I would be unable to hire Korrie by myself and I thank you for your support," "GDI helped us find Leroy. We are very satisfied with his work and the financial help from GDI," "He completes all assignments in timely manner and is willing to find more work," and "She is a very good worker, punctual, very good learner." Employers also noted that: "Our relationship with GDI is absolutely great...," "The performance and attendance record of the apprentices that we have has exceeded by expectations." "It feels good to mentor a young Aboriginal person and see them doing their best to become a journeyman." For more information, contact Jason DeBack, at (306) 242-6070 or jason.deback@gdite.gdins.org

Call for Apprentices...

"Learning and Earning"

Gabriel Dumont Institute and its strategic partners are recruiting Aboriginal apprentices.



To enhance Aboriginal participation in apprenticeship and trade related employment, we help Aboriginal apprentices find employers willing to train and supervise you, and we give you support throughout the program.

For more information please contact the GDI Apprenticeship Office located at:
917 82nd Street West
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7M 0B9
Phone: 306-818-6070
apprenticeship@gdi.gdins.org
1-877-488-6888
www.gdins.org



A GDI Apprentice Recruitment Poster



Donovan Delorme,
Carpentry Apprentice at
JABA Construction, Saskatoon



Gabriel Dumont Institute/Dumont Technical Institute

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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



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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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