



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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T&E Employment Counsellor: "Why I love my job"

By John Klyne and James Oloo

GDI is the employer of choice for over 120 employees. GDI is not only well-positioned to attract and retain the best employees in the future, but it is also a workplace wherein many employees are satisfied, the Institute's mission is being achieved, and Métis people are proud to call their own. Even Saskatchewan is reaping the benefits of GDI success from over 200 practical nurses and 1,000 SUNTEP graduates working, raising families, and investing in the province.

One of such satisfied employee is John Klyne, an Employment Counselor at GDIT&E. John covers Carrot River, Cumberland House, Hudson Bay, Melfort, Tisdale, Nipawin and all surrounding areas. He is well received and appreciated by these communities that he gets free radio announcements and what the locals call the moccasin telegram 'word of mouth' when he is around.

John continually goes beyond "I'm just doing my job" cliché to surprising, and often delighting, his clients as he walks with them along the journey to graduation and career. In the process, GDI, through John has impacted several lives and families in the Northern communities.

John works with people of all ages to help connect them to GDI services which may

enable them to make a better life for themselves and their families. Two key issues stand out in these communities: numerous challenges such as lack of education opportunities, driver's license and remoteness from more populated areas where employment and schooling are readily available; and despite the challenges, the young people are very motivated to have a better life for themselves and their families and they know that education is the key to having a career, better opportunities, and ending the cycle of disadvantage.

And that is where John comes in. He tries to help them find out what their goals are and how they can succeed to achieve them. For some of the clients, it is help with writing an effective résumé, some it is ABE programs and others it is how to find out what they would like to do and then how to apply for schooling. Despite the vastness of the area, John visits the communities at least once every month.

Often, John finds it easy to relate to the people in the communities and just talk with them to let them understand that they are not the only ones trying to make a better life for themselves and their

families. That usually enables mutual respect and understanding and creates an environment that is conducive to working with the clients.

John states that once a client has started working or going to school, "I try to keep in touch with them as much as I can to let them know that they are not alone. They can always email me with any questions or concerns they may be having with school or work." He continues, "It makes for a better bond with clients and helps to maintain a long term trust. I always try to make sure that I follow through with anything that I have told them that I will do."

John loves to hear from past clients. Such clients include the "Mayor of Cumberland House Val Deschambeault, a few practical nurses, as well as a couple of social workers that let me know how they are and keep in touch once a month at least." John says, "I love my job. I enjoy going out and meeting people in their home communities. Almost all my clients say thank you." In all this, John maintains that the most valuable players are the clients and he is only cheering for them to succeed.

To John's question, "Isn't it nice to be a part of an organization with such an impressive record of success and reputation as an employer of choice for many?" we say, "Yes, it is!"



Success Story: Colin Azure, RN

By James Oloo and Sheena Yew



Colin Azure
Photo by James Oloo

At GDI, fostering the success of our students and clients is at the very core of our mission and service delivery. While it is a well established fact that in general, Aboriginal people often face multiple barriers to their meaningful participation in education and the labour market, GDI believes in the highest standards of achievement for all our students and clients, and our students and clients share the same expectation for themselves.

David Brinkley once said that “A successful man is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown at him.” Society may have thrown bricks at some of our clients. Some may have stumbled or been discouraged and needed a little push, a new mindset, to get back on their feet. GDI is always there for them. And at the end of their journey, when the clients look back with pride and say that ‘despite the challenges and the bricks, I have made it!’ GDI is still there to celebrate their success.

One such client is Colin Azure, a Registered Nurse with Saskatoon Health Region. Colin has worked with T&E Employment Counsellor Sheena Yew since 2009. He recently sat down with us to chat about his journey.

Colin, a married father of two, left school before finishing Grade 12. His wife had gone through school a few years earlier funded through METSI. So when he felt that it was time to go back to school, he knew that “GDI would be a good fit for me because of being a mature student I did not feel comfortable in a regular classroom at a high school.” He completed upgrading in the DTI Adult 12 program in 2009. At the time, Colin had already set his goals on being a nurse, but needed to talk to someone.

Colin took his nursing degree at the University of Saskatchewan while working part-time at the Saskatoon Health Region. He successfully completed his degree program and is now working full time as a registered nurse. His duties include providing bedside nursing care, carrying out medical regimens, supervising licensed practical nurses and aides. He also takes nursing home roles such as managing nursing care for residents and assessing residents’ medical condition. The

best part about his job is “interacting with and helping the patients and their families.” In all this, he has learned the importance of patience and tolerance in one’s life

Colin’s career goal is moving on to a management position. He states that his secret to success is “set your goals, work hard, establish networks in the industry and never never give up.” He continues, “Do not be too proud to ask for help because there are always people to help you.”

Colin is grateful for the support he received through GDI. He declares that “Plain and simple: I never would have done this if it was not for GDI.”

He points out that “I am proud to be Métis (and) through my dealings with GDI, I would be happy to help them in any way that I can in the future so that they may be able to help others as they have helped me. Thank you GDI for your existence, support, guidance and making me believe in myself and what I could accomplish.” You are very welcome Colin. Congratulations and very best wishes in your career.

For more information, please contact Sheena Yew at sheena.yew@gdite.gdins.org or (306) 683-3634.



John Klyne, Employment Counsellor
GDI Training & Employment
Photo courtesy of John Klyne



Sheena Yew
Employment Counsellor
GDI Training & Employment
Saskatoon
Photo by Angie Yew

Second Annual GDSF Golf Tournament

It's finally happened - spring has arrived! On Friday May 31, 2013, you can join us for a day of golf to support a great cause.

The Second Annual Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation Golf Tournament

will take place at the Moonlake Golf and Country Club in Saskatoon (www.moonlakegolf.com).

The goal is to raise \$20,000, which will be matched by the Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunity Scholarship

fund. All money raised will be awarded as scholarships to Métis students.

There is a banquet-only option for those who would like to attend and support the event but do not wish to golf.

Please see www.gdins.org



IT Update

By Gareth Griffiths

New Staff

We would like to welcome a new member of staff into the IT fold. Brody Parent is joining us from the Apprenticeship Program, and taking on an IT Support role. Initially he will be based in Saskatoon before relocating to Prince Albert in June. Welcome Brody.

Website

In February 2013, the website, www.gdins.org, received over 80,000 page hits (excluding the main news feeds). The highest activity was on the Home Page, Apply to DTI, DTI Programs and Contact Us pages.

The RSS News feeds add another 45,000 hits to the counter; with the Employment Vacancies (both internal and external) pulling in around 10,000 hits each.

IT Support System

In February 2013, we received 20 new requests to the support system, of which 16 are completed and closed (80% closure rate). Overall, we closed 32 calls in this period. There are currently 34 open Work Orders. Please email support@gdins.org for any concerns.

Website Redesign

After finalizing work on the design specification, we contacted six companies as a Call for Proposals. So far we have received three good responses, and will meet with companies over the coming month before we reach a decision and begin the design phase of the project.

Online Payslips

We are in the extended test phase of the online payslip project. Training has been delivered to around 10 Regina

staff who can now use it to retrieve their own information and to stress test the server.

A Security Certificate request has been implemented, and will be installed to encrypt all data sent on public networks. Until this time, the information will only be available on the internal networks.

We will parallel run the online processes with paper based payslips for the first six months, with a view to phasing out paper payslips at the end of the year.

Server Update

Upgrading works have commenced in a few of our sites. In Regina, we have a new fileserver that has become the Primary Domain Controller for the network. The server is operational and we will be migrating data to this serve over the coming month. This will result in faster response times and an improved experience.

In Saskatoon, the recently installed Virtual Server is now operational. This is a powerful fileserver with multiple redundant disks able to run multiple "Virtual" Machines at the same time. This is ideal as it eliminates the need to have separate physical boxes taking up room in the server cabinet. We have implemented two virtual machines – the Online Payslips webserver, and a new Windows Server 2008 Domain Controller to replace the aging Head Office server.

Sask 10 Digit Dialing

Saskatchewan is adopting a second area code (639) starting May 25th. As a

result, 10-digit dialing will become mandatory starting on May 11th. Customers will need to add the area code before dialing the usual seven digits.

Before May 11th, all stored local fax and phone numbers will need to have the 306 area code added to them. This will affect all telephones, fax machines and other automated dialing functions. This can even be done now, as it has worked for the last 12 months. Please bear in mind this will even affect text messaging and other functions that refer to a phone number

We have developed a changeover work plan to ensure all major systems are addressed. You can start now on your own personal devices, such as phones, address lists, etc. An email will be sent out shortly to discuss this

Digital Signs

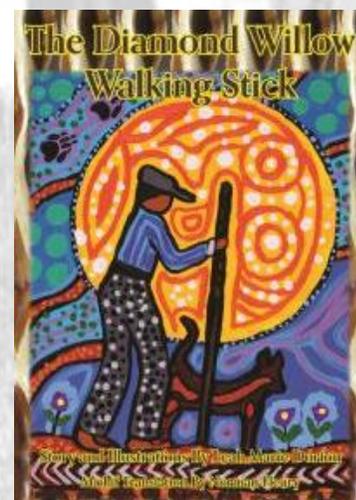
In order to improve how we communicate with prospective clients, we are undertaking the installation of digital signs in most of our reception areas. The installation has just been completed in GDI Regina and Prince Albert with more to follow in other locations.

Content will be uploaded advertising scholarships, programs, as well as informational video clips. The sign is run on a digital media player connected to a HD TV mounted on the wall.

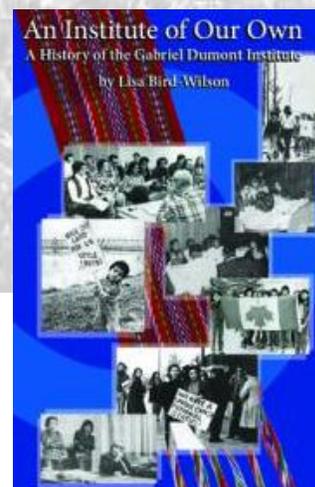
For more information, please contact Gareth at gareth.griffiths@gdi.gdins.org



A plaque in honour of the late Métis leader Clifford LaRocque



SUNTEP Prince Albert Instructor Leah Dorion's book received Aboriginal Peoples Publishing Award



GDI Director Lisa Wilson's book was nominated for the Aboriginal Peoples Publishing Award



GDI AGM and Grand Opening of Regina Facility

By Jim Edmondson

Gabriel Dumont Institute held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday April 20, 2013 in conjunction with the grand opening and dedication of our newly purchased facility in Regina. Both events were well attended and were a resounding success.

This year's AGM meeting followed a slightly different agenda than the previous ones with the Directors of the functional Institute areas, GDI, GDI T&E, DTI, Publishing, Human Resources and Finance presenting details of the past year to attendees. The presentations were very well received and generated thoughtful discussions among attendees and presenters.

GDI recently purchased the property located at 1235-2nd Avenue North in Regina from the Regina Métis Sports & Culture Inc. The grand opening and dedication of the new building which took place on April 20, 2013, was a special moment. The new GDI facility was dedicated to the late Métis leader Clifford LaRocque and a plaque in honour of Mr. LaRocque (1940-2008) was installed near the front entrance of the building.

Mr. LaRocque was a respected leader in the Saskatchewan Métis community and recipient of the Order of the Métis Nation. His daughter Karen served on the Gabriel Dumont Institute Board of Directors.

GDI will be using the building for a number of purposes including classes for Licensed Practical Nursing, Culinary Arts, and GDI Training and Employment programs as well as for Métis community and sporting events.

The AGM reconfirmed the Institute's commitment to informing, involving and gaining input from the Métis communities that it serves. The AGM and grand opening/dedication of the Regina facility was followed by a soup and bannock lunch that allowed for attendees to share a meal and the continued success of GDI. 🌐



Janice Thompson, Program Coordinator, SUNTEP Regina, Jim Edmondson, HR Director, and Cory McDougall, Director of Finance at the GDI AGM in Regina



Karen LaRocque at the GDI AGM



Collette Robertson at the GDI AGM in Regina
Photos by Karon Shmon

Task Force on Aboriginal Education Releases Report

By James Oloo

In May 2011, the Government of Saskatchewan (Province) and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations established a joint task force on Aboriginal education and employment (JTF) with the aim of increasing First Nations and Métis participation and success in education and the labour market. The Métis were invited to submit their views to the JTF. GDI's submission focused on early childhood education, K-12, postsecondary and labour market participation.

On March 26, 2012 the three-member JTF was announced: Gary Merasty, Rita Bouvier, and Don Hoium. The JTF published its report on March 31, 2013. Key recommendations of the report are summarized below.

The report recommends that the Province proclaim First Nations and Métis languages as the original languages of

Saskatchewan (note that in Manitoba, the Aboriginal Languages Recognition Act (2010) recognizes seven Aboriginal languages that are spoken and used in the province).

That the Province and the Federal government, working with First Nation and Métis authorities, articulate an integrated comprehensive Early Childhood Strategy both on- and off-reserve.

That the Province support early years literacy development through the provincial library system with emphasis on Northern, rural and inner city communities with significant First Nations and Métis populations.

That the Province strengthen its policies for First Nations and Métis content, perspectives and

ways of knowing in curriculum, instruction and student assessment.

That the Province engage with Métis and First Nations institutions of higher learning to expand their capacity to deliver programming to meet the needs of Aboriginal communities and the growing demands of the Saskatchewan economy.

That all post-secondary institutions continue to work closely with employers to provide better alignment between industry employment needs and program offerings, and that the Provincial and Federal governments articulate a strategy for First Nations and Métis people to facilitate one-stop access and supports for training and employment.

Access the full report at <http://www.jointtaskforce.ca>



GDI Wins Saskatchewan Book Award

By Lisa Wilson

At the 2013 Saskatchewan Book Awards, April 27th in Regina, GDI was pleased to accept the Aboriginal Peoples' Publishing Award for the publication *The Diamond Willow Walking Stick: A Traditional Métis Story about Generosity*, written and illustrated by Leah Marie Dorion with Michif translation by Norman Fleury.

The Aboriginal Peoples' Publishing Award, sponsored by the First Nations University of Canada, is presented to the Saskatchewan publisher of the best book, based on literary or artistic value, the quality of editing, book

design, production and content.

Of Leah's book, the jurors remarked, "It is a beautifully rendered book that will appeal to everyone."

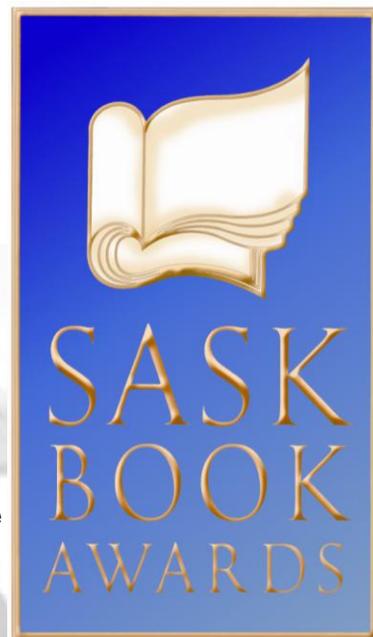
GDI Publishing also had books competing as finalists for four other awards, including a second title for the Aboriginal Peoples' Publishing Award, *An Institute of Our Own: A History of the Gabriel Dumont Institute* by Lisa Bird-Wilson, and Leah's book, *The Diamond Willow Walking Stick*, for the Aboriginal Peoples' Writing Award; the Publishing Award; and the Award for Publishing in Education. Both Leah and Lisa are

employees of the Institute and collaborated with the staff of GDI Publishing to bring the books to print.

The day started with GDI's Darren Prefontaine, a previous book award winner, invited to share his book *Gabriel Dumont: Li Chef Michif in Images and in Words* at the Festival of Readings.

"We are celebrating the win, the nominations, and the fact that both our traditional stories and our more contemporary ones are being preserved for all to enjoy," said Karon Shmon, Director of GDI Publishing Department.

The awards generally receive about 250 entries for 14 prizes. Congratulations to Leah and GDI Publishing for the award. 🌐



Payroll Cutoff Calendar, May 2013

By Carmala Thiessen and Veronica Buschnyski

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
				Accounts Payable Cheque Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/c Payable Invoices	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for May 17 Student Payroll			A/P Cheque Run; Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheet & Payroll Revisions for May 15 Pay Day	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		Cutoff @ 3:00 for Stop Payments on Student May 17 Direct Deposits	Staff Payday	Accounts Payable Cheque Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Victoria Day Stat Holiday	Cutoff @ Noon for May 31 Student Payroll		Accounts Payable Cheque Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheet & Payroll Revisions for May 31 Pay Day	Cutoff @ 3:00 for Stop Payments on Student May 31 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque Run	Staff Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices Student Payday	

Employee contracts due prior to payroll cutoff date.
MRTs due by 15th of every month.



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can be obtained at:

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

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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
of Native Studies and Applied Research