



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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GDI Director Wins Big at the 2014 Sask Book Awards

By James Oloo

On April 26, 2014, hundreds of people gathered at the Conexus Arts Centre in Regina for the 21st Saskatchewan Book Awards celebration. The awards ceremony which featured guest speaker Warren Cariou had 186 entries from 25 finalists were shortlisted for 13 award categories including Saskatchewan's literary luminaries and publishers.

GDI Training and Employment Director Lisa Bird-Wilson was one of the biggest winners at the 2014 Saskatchewan Book Awards for her groundbreaking book *Just Pretending* (see February 2014 Communicator for the review of 2014 Saskatchewan Book Awards finalists including *Just Pretending*).

Lisa's book won in four categories. She was presented with the prestigious University of Regina Book of the Year Award, the SaskPower Fiction Award, and the Rasmussen, Rasmussen & Charowsky Aboriginal Peoples' Writing Award. As well, the publisher, Coteau Books received the First Nations University of Canada Aboriginal Peoples' Publishing Award for *Just Pretending*.

Six books were shortlisted for the 2014 University of Regina Book of the Year Award. Finalists included respected Métis scholar and GDI author Cathy Littlejohn's *Métis Soldiers of Saskatchewan:*

1914-1953; Lisa's *Just Pretending*; critically acclaimed poet and science writer Mari-Lou Rowley's *Unus Mundus*; *Architecture of Saskatchewan: A Visual Journey, 1930-2011* by Bernard Flaman, a Regina architect who specializes in the field of heritage conservation; University of Saskatchewan professor of drama Dwayne Brenna's *Stealing Home: Baseball Poems*; and *A History of Breathing* by Daniel Macdonald. Macdonald is a two-time recipient of the Regina Writer's Award and the Enbridge National PlayRites Award and his play *Velocity* premiers in London England this month. No doubt, this was a tight race and *Just Pretending* was declared the best book.

Lisa also won the SaskPower Fiction Award for her book *Just Pretending*. Three books had been shortlisted for the award including *Dollybird* by Anne Lazaruko, and *Swedes' Ferry* by the 2005 Anne Szumigalski Poetry Award recipient Allan Safarik.

Lisa's book *Just Pretending* also won her the Rasmussen, Rasmussen & Charowsky Aboriginal Peoples' Writing Award. Two books by Aboriginal female writers were finalists in this category: *Just Pretending*

and Marie Battiste's *Decolonizing Education: Nourishing the Learning Spirit*. Dr. Battiste, a Mi'kmaw scholar, is the founder and Director of Aboriginal Education Research Centre at the University of Saskatchewan and the winner of the 2000 Saskatchewan Book Award for First Peoples' Publishing.

It was a great night for Lisa, GDI, and Aboriginal people as Lisa's highly acclaimed book *Just Pretending* was one of the favourites. Only one other author, James Daschuk, a historian and professor at the University of Regina, took home four awards for his book *Clearing the Plains: Disease, Politics of Starvation, and the Loss of Aboriginal Life*. For many writers, it is an honour to be shortlisted for any book award. Winning three awards including the coveted Book of the Year Award is a great literary achievement. Congratulations Lisa!

Also Macte virtute! Factum optime! To GDI authors Dr. Cathy Littlejohn and Leah Marie Dorion, and GDI Publishing on being finalists in the Saskatchewan Book Awards.

The Saskatchewan Book Awards was established in 1993. It recognizes and celebrates excellence and diversity in Saskatchewan writing and publishing. It also promotes greater awareness among the Saskatchewan public of books, writers, and publishers based in the province. Please see

www.bookawards.sk.ca



SUNTEP Students Promote Disability Awareness

By Cynthia Fey

Second Year SUNTEP Saskatoon students recently had a taste of the 2014 Sochi Paralympics Winter Games by playing sledge hockey with Grade 8 children from Wildwood School in Saskatoon. The event was part of disability awareness section of their Health course.

Research shows that children with visible physical disabilities are more likely to experience a cycle of negative peer interactions. Playing the sport taught the future teachers a lesson about special needs, inclusion and that people with physical disabilities can still live an active lifestyle.

SUNTEP Saskatoon students also set up health awareness booths along the perimeter of the rink to educate children about nutrition and fitness.

Sledge hockey is the Paralympics version of ice hockey. Instead of wearing skates, each player sits strapped to a two-blade sledge. Two short hockey sticks with spikes on one end are used to propel the sledge across the ice while handling the puck.

There are various kinds of disabilities. If all students, teachers, and everyone reflect on what it could be like to

have a disability, perhaps respect and empathy for those with disabilities would increase. If kids learn about disabilities at a young age, it is likely that they will be more accepting of people who are different and have positive interactions with other children who have disabilities.

According to Government records, an Aboriginal female with a disability is three times more likely to live in poverty than other Canadians. Watch Canada Vs USA Sledge Hockey semi-finals at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LELQQYOWF_s



SUNTEP Saskatoon student Mitchell Morin in action
Photo by Cynthia Fey

SUNTEP Regina Shines at UofR Education Awards!

By Janice R. Thompson

As the 2013-2014 academic year wraps up at the SUNTEP Regina Centre, the acknowledgement and recognition of our students' hard work has resulted in receiving significant post secondary awards and accolades.

While our student body may be small, tight-knit and steady

as we progress, the level of academic achievement continues to grow exponentially, and we are very proud of all our hard working students in the program.

March 11, 2014 was earmarked for the University of Regina (U of R), Faculty of Education annual Academic Awards celebration in the Teacher Prep Centre. This event recognizes outstanding academic achievement in which a number of our students were called upon, and in attendance with family, friends, and SUNTEP staff to receive their awards. The students excitedly accepted their awards from the U of R, on the Faculty of Education Dean's List.

Award recipients were as follows: Year One - Elsa McKenzie and Marsha Ash; Year Three: Cassandra Fisher, Sydney Lemieux, and Trena Beauregard; and Year Four: Dallas Montpetit, Leah Novak,

Melissa Bergbusch, Patrick Unrau, and Shyloa Jarrett.

The five Year Four students have maintained their Dean's List status for more than two consecutive semesters. All of them will be graduating with Bachelor of Education degrees on May 9 at a SUNTEP Regina graduation ceremony.

Our recent post secondary level award winning list includes scholarships, bursaries, and awards such as; the Napoleon Lafontaine Undergraduate Award, the University of Regina Athletic Entrance Scholarship, the Crown Investment Corporation Aboriginal Bursary, and numerous Indspire awards.

In total over two-thirds of our student body have received postsecondary awards worth a total of over \$115,000. It has been a very rewarding year for the SUNTEP Regina students. Congratulation on your hard work, we are very proud of your achievements!

CORRECTION

In the March GDI Communicator, we attributed SUNTEP Regina photos on pages 2, 3, and 5 to J. R. Thompson. The photos were taken by Brenna Pacholko.



SUNTEP Regina students and University of Regina Faculty of Education Academic Awards recipients: Elsa McKenzie (L), Shyloa Jarrett, Patrick Unrau, Sydney Lemieux, Dallas Montpetit, and Cassandra Fisher
Photo by Brenna Pacholko



IT Update

By Gareth Griffiths

IT Support System

In March 2014, we received 79 new IT requests to the support system. Of these, 69 have been completed and closed (87% closure rate). Overall, we closed 76 work orders in March.

Don't forget to email support@gdins.org for any new requests. In the event that an email cannot be sent for any reason, you can also call any member of the IT Team: Brody (306 922-0499), Gareth (306 347-4118), or Gordon (306 657-2238) who will be glad to help you.

New Website

The new website continues to be well received. Content is being changed regularly, with the latest being some modifications to the scholarships section to reflect the new offerings.

One point to note: It is critical that we keep the information on the website and our Social Media sites up to date. If you have any events or newsworthy items in your program, please share them with us. The easiest way to do this is through the support system by emailing attachments to support@gdins.org

Online Payslips

As we are now four months into the adoption of the

online payslips system, let us take a look back at the history of this project, and review the benefits seen so far.

Discussions around an Online Payslip system began in October 2012. We contacted our Microsoft Dynamics GP account rep, who gave us two options - the self service module and Penny from Joe Software.

After some evaluation, it was decided that Penny was the easiest and most cost effective solution to implement. A project plan was drawn up, and the decision was made in December 2012 to go ahead with this.

This system was installed in February 2013, with internal testing, configuration and training happening in March. In May/June 2013, we ran some training courses, and gave staff access to the system in order to check performance and operation. For the rest of 2013, we continued to parallel run the Online Payslips with printing paper based slips in order to ensure there were no issues.

Since January 2014, Payroll has switched over to producing Payslips solely online, and it has been a great success. This year's T4's have been released to the website as well as printing, enabling you to be able to reprint these as many times as you wish.

Since switching over to this system, considerable savings have been made. It has freed up at least a day in staff time that was used in printing, sorting and mailing. Also financially (and environmentally), significant savings are seen in postage, paper and consumable costs.

You may access your payslips anytime from the intranet or <http://services.gdins.org>. Should have any question, please contact IT at support@gdins.org.

Heartbleed Bug

You will have all seen this on the news, and the widespread panic that has gone along with this. The Heartbleed problem is not a virus as such, but a vulnerability in OpenSSL - the security encryption system used on a range of websites to protect your confidential information.

The vulnerability has existed for a while, but has only recently come to light. The Heartbleed bug can allow anyone on the Internet to read the memory of the systems protected by the vulnerable versions of the OpenSSL software. This compromises the secret keys used to identify the service providers and to encrypt the traffic, the names and passwords of the users and the actual content.

Continued on Page 5.

Third Annual GDSF Golf Tournament – May 30, 2014

By James Oloo

The Third Annual Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation (GDSF) Golf Tournament will be held at the Moonlake Golf and Country Club in Saskatoon (www.moonlakegolf.com)

on May 30. Last year's GDSF Golf Tournament was a success. It raised about \$21,000 which was matched by the Provincial Government under the Advantage Scholarship Program. All proceeds from the

tournament go towards Métis scholarships. In 2012-2013, GDSF awarded the largest amount of scholarships to the biggest number of Métis students in the history of GDI.

www.gdins.org/events



GDI Training & Employment Director Lisa Wilson is all smiles after being presented with three Sask Book Awards



Congratulations Lisa! Photos by Karon Shmon



Gabriel Dumont Institute presents . . .
Andrea Menard's LIFT Off!
An evening of new music & old friends
Broadway Theatre
715 Broadway Avenue, Saskatoon
Sunday, May 11, 2014 - 7:00 pm
Tickets: \$22 at box office or www.broadwaytheatre.ca



Weather Days

By Jim Edmondson

We live and work in Saskatchewan and as a result, we experience a wide variety of different weather systems from one season to the next and often a wide range of weather conditions on any given day depending where in the Province we are. This presents us with a never-ending supply of topics for conversation and also presents some challenges in the workplace. These occurrences are called “weather days”.

Two of the major challenges we face involve dealing with snow storms or icy conditions prior to or during work hours. In Saskatchewan, especially in northern communities, some weather systems are so extreme it could be dangerous for employees to even try to get to the office. This winter has presented numerous challenges and has prompted some questions, including: What do employees need to do if they consider conditions to be too dangerous to travel to the office? What happens if the Institute decides to close an office due to weather? What if schools are closed or the buses are cancelled and the employee is a single parent?

In Saskatchewan, employers are not required to pay employees who do not report for work when they are scheduled to do so because of adverse weather conditions when the office is open. This

is a discretionary matter that is often determined on a case by case basis by us as an employer. For example; if an employee shows up for work but is perhaps late due to weather conditions, we are very accommodating with respect to our absentee/late policies because the lateness is likely not culpable. As with any absence, it is imperative that the employee inform us of the absence as soon as possible prior to the commencement of the workday, where feasible.

The Institute wants its employees to be safe; if an employee deems weather conditions too dangerous to travel they must contact their immediate supervisor as soon as possible to inform them of the pending absence. We encourage employees who travel any distance to attend work, to consult the Provincial Highways hotline (please see more information including regional phone numbers at <http://www.highways.gov.sk.ca/road-conditions/>) prior to traveling during winter.

Articles 9.1.1 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement and Institute Policy have a provision that allows for adjusted office hours in case of winter driving conditions. These provisions were put in place specifically in relation to our offices in the North West corner where Institute related travel is frequent. Where conditions are so poor during

work hours and it is deemed appropriate that an office close early to allow employees in that office to get home safely before conditions get worse, we would be obliged to pay employees for the actual hours worked or at least “report in pay” as set out in Saskatchewan Labour Standards, whichever is greater. GDI has some discretion regarding paying our employees for the balance of the day if the majority of the workday has been worked prior to cancellation/closure. This decision is at the discretion of the immediate supervisor in consultation with the Director.

Many of our employees are parents of school age children. Many of these individuals would be at a loss regarding care for their children if school or bus service was cancelled due to weather and thus would need to remain at home. Employees would be able to use Pressing Necessity days (sick accruals) if available in these instances. Employees may also access unpaid leave for these occurrences as per the Saskatchewan Labour Standards Act provisions.

The important thing to remember is, Saskatchewan weather is unpredictable so drive carefully and keep yourself safe! 🌍

Christmas Break 2014

By James Oloo

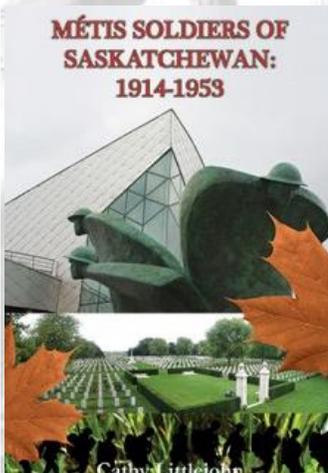
Spring time in Saskatchewan! The sweet smell in the air, birds singing, and flowers blooming. It is a time of rebirth and new beginnings.

But it is never too early to think about Christmas! The 2014 Christmas break dates as passed by the Gabriel Dumont Institute Board of Governors at the March 26,

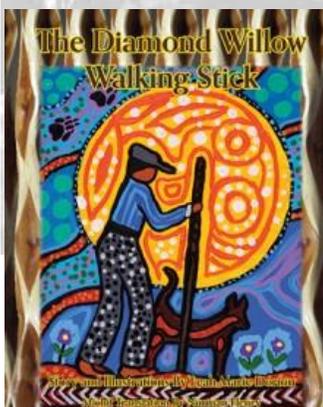
2014 meeting are from Wednesday, December 24, 2014 to Friday, January 2, 2015 (inclusive). The Institute will reopen on January 5, 2015. 🌍



GDI Training and Employment Director Lisa Wilson's highly acclaimed book is available wherever books are sold



GDI author and Métis scholar Cathy Littlejohn's book was shortlisted for two 2014 Saskatchewan Book Awards



SUNTEP PA Instructor and award-winning author Leah Marie Dorion's book has received rave reviews



IT Update ... *continued from Page 3*

This allows attackers to eavesdrop on communications, steal data, or impersonate services and users.

There is a fixed version of OpenSSL that most reputable website owners should be applying to their websites to fix the problem. This should be addressed as a matter of urgency.

With regards to the Institute, the only server we have that would have been in jeopardy is the website, which is hosted by Varial Hosting. We have contacted our web developers who confirmed the version of OpenSSL used by them is not vulnerable to this attack. We are as a matter of course going to upgrade

our other servers to a patched version of OpenSSL even though we are not currently using it.

The online Payslips system, Penny, is on a Microsoft IIS server which does not use OpenSSL so is not vulnerable.

As far as your own personal data is concerned, this threat should be taken seriously. Any banking or secure traffic may have been compromised, as it is impossible to tell if someone has 'listened' to the connection.

While the risk posed by the Heartbleed bug has been fixed, the recommended approach to resolving this is to change all passwords used on important systems such as

banking, taxes, etc. If you have any queries related to this, please don't hesitate to contact IT.

Windows XP

Windows XP is now officially at the end of its support life. This means that no more security patches or updates will be issued. This in theory will put XP machines at risk, and could be a risk to the organization.

We are embarking on a project to ensure these machines are either upgraded or replaced in the next couple of months. Watch this space for further details.

Closing Thoughts

I put my root beer into a square cup. Now it's just beer. ☹️



SUNTEP Saskatoon students playing sledge hockey with Wildwood School team
Photo by Cynthia Fey

May 2014 Payroll Cutoff Calendar

By Carmala Thiessen and Veronica Verzonowski

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

Employee contracts due prior to payroll cutoff date.



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www.gdins.org

Back issues of this newsletter
can be obtained at:

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

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<http://gdi.voyager.uregina.ca/>

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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