



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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## New Agreement Pending for AHRDA Holders

By Cecile O'Neil and Lisa Wilson

The Métis Human Resources Development Agreement (MHRDA) Working Group met in Saskatoon in July to discuss the successor strategy to the AHRDA and to learn more about the post-2010 plans for federal labour market programs and services for the Métis. Cecile O'Neil, A/Director of GDI Training & Employment was in attendance at the July meeting. Also in attendance were Keith Conn, Aboriginal Affairs Directorate; David Chartrand, MMF President and Chair of the MHRDA Working Group; Clem Chartier, MNC President; Robert Doucette, MNS President; France Picotte, MNO; Marlin Ratch, MNBC; and David Boisvert, MNA; as well as several others.

Keith Conn reported to the working group that stable funding has been secured for the post 2010 Aboriginal Training and Employment strategy. The unofficial name of the new strategy is reported to be Aboriginal Skills Employment and Training Strategy (ASETS) and the agreements will be referred to as Aboriginal Skills Employment

Training Agreement (ASETA). A global announcement is expected in August. Further to this, Minister David Chartrand indicated that GDI is expected to be the Saskatchewan ASET Agreement holder. The pending ASETS announcement is good news for AHRDA holders like GDI. Keith Conn stated the Agreements will move forward April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2015. Implications for GDI Training & Employment are that the Institute will have a new agreement in place until at least 2015 with no disruption in service to clients.

Keith Conn noted that the new agreement will not be a great change but rather a shift in the agreement. The agreement will be refined and agreement holders will build on what is being done currently and improve where needed. Some of the shifts include working more closely with Economic Development groups, developing more partnerships, and working more closely with the province.

There has been no announcement as to the

dollar amount of the new agreement but the sense is that it will be consistent with the current 1.6 billion nationally for the AHRDAs.

Nationally, it has been Métis practice to have a Métis template for the federal labour market agreements. David Chartrand indicated that a Métis template may be completed in early fall for negotiation and meetings with agreement holders. There is a MHRDA Joint Review Committee planned for August 17 & 18 to discuss the Métis template. The Métis template will be internally negotiated as it will not require federal Ministerial approval.

For GDIT&E, management and staff meetings will be held once the official federal announcement is made and the engagement sessions have started. At that time it is hoped there will be more details about the new agreements and the changes that will be taking place.



## Profile of *SaskTel Métis Scholarship* Recipients

By Lisa Wilson



Above, Naomi Corrigan, SaskTel Métis Scholarship Recipient, 2009



Above, Corry Umpherville, SaskTel Métis Scholarship Recipient, 2009

In the spring of 2009, Gabriel Dumont Institute Training & Employment (GDIT&E) and SaskTel entered into a joint partnership agreement to provide the *SaskTel Métis Scholarship*. The first deadline for applications to the scholarship was May 1<sup>st</sup>. The *SaskTel Métis Scholarship* had 34 applications. On May 26, 2009 the GDI Scholarship Selection Committee convened to review applications. Seventeen students received scholarships in the amount of \$500 each. Recipients have granted permission for the Gabriel Dumont Institute to

provide their name, photo, course of study and submitted statement for publication purposes. Profiles for some of the *SaskTel Métis Scholarship* recipients are as follows:

**Naomi Corrigan** is 20 years old and currently enrolled in the Office Education Program at SIAST Woodland Campus. Naomi has a one year old daughter named Trinity, who she credits as her inspiration to succeed in life and the reason she is in school. Naomi's goals are to improve her education and to get a steady job to help support her daughter through her life. Naomi wants to show her

daughter that education is the key to success.

**Corry Umpherville** is a single parent of two children, Tapanda and Tamika. She is currently attending SIIT for her second year of Management Studies. Corey will also be attending another year of Accounting in the fall of 2009. She is going to school to improve her prospects for herself and her two children. She wants to support her children without having to worry too much about being able to afford things for them.



## 2008-2009 Annual Report Submissions

By Lisa Wilson

Planning and preparation for the 2008-2009 Annual Report are currently underway. Program managers and Directors have been notified about plans for the Annual Report and information and reports on the various programs, departments, and entities of GDI have been requested. The 2008-09 Annual Report covers the fiscal year April 1 2008-March 31, 2009 for all programs except DTI and Scholarship Foundation.

The Institute will maintain the new format for the AR, which encourages a more personal perspective on students, staff, and accomplishments

of the Institute. Of particular interest are special events, student success stories, awards, stories of teaching excellence, and special innovations or initiatives of the Institute that can be highlighted in the 2008/2009 Annual Report.

Please consider submitting content ideas suitable for the Annual Report. For 2008/2009 I am particularly interested in any write-ups and photos related to the following: Awards and recognition to the Institute, it's staff and students; Training and Employment partnerships

and successes; Student success stories and photos; Teaching excellence stories, photos, awards; New initiatives of SUNTEP, awards, etc.; book launches, publishing awards, etc; New initiatives of DTI, successful partnerships, awards; Technology innovations; and noteworthy milestones.

Furthermore, if you have particular feedback/comments/suggestions about the most recent Annual Report please feel free to send your suggestions to Lisa Wilson at [lisa.wilson@gdi.gdins.org](mailto:lisa.wilson@gdi.gdins.org).



## GDI Board Update

By Lisa Wilson

GDI operates with a twelve member Board of Governors plus a Chair who is the Minister of Education for the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN—S). Several years ago the Institute staggered its board terms to ensure smooth transition when Board member terms expire and new appointments are made. Three terms are set to expire in September, as follows: Sheila Pocha, Vice Chair and Western

Region IIA representative; Darrel Hawman, Western Region III representative; and Brian Chaboyer, Eastern Region I representative. Area Directors have been notified of the impending expired terms and of their options. Regions can extend member appointments or the Region can begin the process of identifying a replacement. All Board members go through a three-step process for appointment: Regional Council nomination, PMC

ratification, and approval by the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour (AEEL).

The current GDI Board of Governors is as follows: Gabe Lafond (Chair); Sheila Pocha (Vice Chair); Glen Lafleur (Secretary); Kathy Palidwar (Treasurer); Bernice Aramenko; Michael Bell; Guy Blondeau; Brian Chaboyer; Darrell Hawman; Jackie Kennedy; Tammie Mah; Linda Pederson; and Gerald St. Pierre.



Photo credit Meredith Penner

## Plans to Amalgamate CTR

By Lisa Wilson

GDI operates as a parent company that owns five incorporated, non-profit companies: Dumont Technical Institute (DTI); GDI Training & Employment (GDI T&E); Gabriel Dumont College (GDC); *Gabriel Dumont Institute Scholarship Foundation*; and Community Training Residence (CTR). Plans are underway to dissolve the CTR corporation and

amalgamate it with GDI, resulting in the removal of the CTR from the provincial Register of Corporations and the obligations involved therein.

Originally, the CTR was set up as a service for female offenders being released into the community, but GDI turned the operation of the residence over to the justice department in the 1990's. Since that time

the Institute has operated and maintained the building which is locked in to a long-term lease with Saskatchewan Justice. It is no longer feasible or necessary to maintain the CTR incorporation since the original purpose no longer applies. Under the dissolution and amalgamation plan the Saskatchewan Justice lease, which is in place until 2016, would be transferred over to GDI. The Institute is seeking legal advice to draw out a road map for the process.

*Plans are underway to dissolve the CTR corporation and amalgamate it with GDI.*



Photo credit Meredith Penner

## DTI 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Staff Meeting

By Claudette Moran

Dumont Technical Institute will host its 4<sup>th</sup> annual staff meeting in Candle Lake on August 26 and 27, 2009.

Hi-lights of the agenda for this year's staff meeting include informative sessions on such topics as the new Métis Registry process; ABE updates

internally, as well as, from a provincial focus; Métis Studies Kit; revisiting the "What We Believe" workshop held at Duck Lake in 2006; and administrative updates.

Team building activities for this year's all staff will include: Barbecue from 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM the

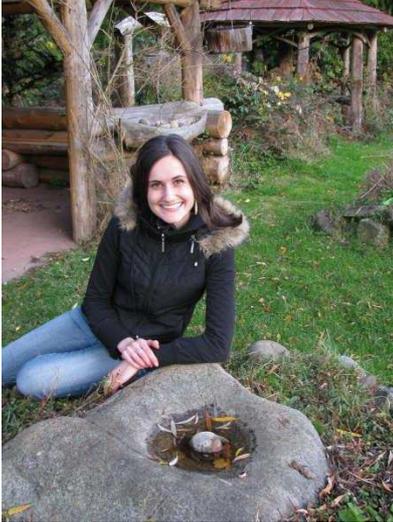
evening of the 25<sup>th</sup>(arrival day); Breakfast Trading Post (barter for your breakfast); Métis Summer Olympics; Annual Washu Tournament; Boat Tour; and other activities. For more information on the DTI All Staff and agenda please contact Tracy LaPrise or Christine Fiddler at 242-6070.

*Dumont Technical Institute will host its 4<sup>th</sup> annual staff meeting in Candle Lake on August 26 and 27, 2009.*



## GDC Graduate Students -- Update

By Lisa Wilson



Janine Akerman, GDC Graduate Student Bursary Recipient (above)

**Janine Akerman** is a SUNTEP alumnus who received a GDC Graduate student bursary in July of 2008 and again in 2009 in support of her master's studies in Elementary Education at the University of Alberta. Ms. Akerman's research focuses on the image of the child from the perspective of Aboriginal Elders and parents. The following is Ms. Akerman's summary of her research:

The purpose of my master's study is to articulate Aboriginal understandings of childhood in order to provide a culturally relevant education for First Nations, Métis and Inuit children. My research will explore the image of the child from the perspective of Aboriginal Elders and Aboriginal parents. This will be achieved in the spirit of the Reggio Emilia approach to early childhood education – an approach dependent on a particular understanding of the image of the child as both competent and capable. Understanding the locally created images of the child from an Aboriginal perspective is vital, as images determine the pedagogical work that teachers and students undertake in the early childhood setting. These understandings will establish a starting point for early childhood educators to acknowledge the complexity of Aboriginal childhoods and

provide culturally relevant community based education.

I would like to thank GDC for supporting my studies, and in turn, supporting the Aboriginal community as we continue to bring our values and worldviews into the context of the early childhood classroom. Most importantly, I would like to thank the Elders in my study for sharing their knowledge.

**Melanie MacLean** is a Saskatchewan Métis doctoral student studying at the University of Alberta. Ms. MacLean received a GDC Graduate Student Bursary in two consecutive years of study, 2008 and 2009. Ms. MacLean's research is in the area of Aboriginal literacy. The following is Ms. MacLean's summary of her research:

I am in my second year of doctoral studies in the Language and Literacy Program in the Department of Elementary Education at the University of Alberta. I plan to research the literacy lives of Aboriginal youth who are successful in school.

The Canadian Council on Learning (2008) reported that there is a literacy gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults in Canada and that better research is needed to more fully address the area of low literacy among Aboriginal people. It is

thought that the challenges that Aboriginal youth face in school can lead to low literacy skills as adults. My research will focus on the literacy development of Aboriginal youth in an urban centre, and how it is influenced by family and community literacy practices. I will examine Aboriginal youth that are identified by their teachers as highly successful in school literacies, to discover what influences their literacy development and learning that could potentially benefit all Aboriginal youth. This research will lead to insights into closing the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal youth.

I am thankful for the opportunity to conduct research that may benefit the lives of all Aboriginal youth. This would not be possible without the generous support of Gabriel Dumont College and its supporters.



Melanie MacLean, GDC Graduate Student Bursary Recipient (above)



## SIS Trial Run Planned for Mid-September

By Lisa Wilson

The Student Information System (SIS) database, purchased earlier this year by the Dumont Technical Institute, is moving forward with a trial run of the system in mid-September. The SIS system will replace the manual system of reporting and record keeping that DTI has done since its inception in 1992. The manual record-keeping system was, at one time, sufficient to meet the needs of both DTI and its stakeholders. However, DTI has grown over the years and now registers in excess of 700 students each year, making the manual system time consuming and inefficient. The use of the SIS does not change

or impact the unique, culturally-relevant, community-based programming of DTI.

The SIS is also to be synchronized with the Student Data System (SDS), which is the provincial K-12 database for registering and tracking students. DTI has used the SDS for several years to register and submit marks for students in its Adult 12 programs. It is anticipated that both systems will be synchronized and in-place for fall registration.

A student information database is identified as one of DTI's strategic goals and the Institute has done diligent research into the system. It is

anticipated that the implementation of the SIS will provide DTI with greater control over information and greater protection of individuals' information. DTI will sign on to a Data Sharing Protocol which speaks to the protection of client information and is based on respect for the privacy of individuals. The SIS has been used by similar education institutes in the province for many years and is part of a larger IT system used by the service agencies in provincial government called OCSM (short for One Client Service Model). OCSM is based on the principle of shared client information as a means to provide more efficient service and less data entry.

For further information on the SIS contact Brett Vandale, DTI Director, at 242-6070.



Young fiddler at Batoche, 2009  
Photo credit Meredith Penner

## GDI Hits the Road

By Lisa Wilson

The GDI Publishing department has had a busy summer organizing and attending numerous community and cultural events across the province. In June, Publishing staff organized and attended events for National Aboriginal Day at the Batoche National Historic Site. Events included author readings, dancers, musicians, and Michif language specialists. GDI staff were in attendance at Batoche Days in July, with a prominent display of GDI

books and materials. The colourful GDI displays formed the backdrop for the stage and the Métis Idol competition. In early August the Publishing department was on-hand for the John Arcand Fiddle Fest at Windy Acres southwest of Saskatoon. Also on schedule in August is the Saskatoon Folkfest Indian & Métis pavilion.

As a community-based publisher, the Publishing Department spends a great deal of time within

Métis communities and at community events. To date, the Publishing Department has been present at over seventy Métis cultural events across Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Alberta.



National Aboriginal Day (below left); John Arcand Fiddle Fest (above); and Back to Batoche (below).  
Photo credits Peter Beszterda



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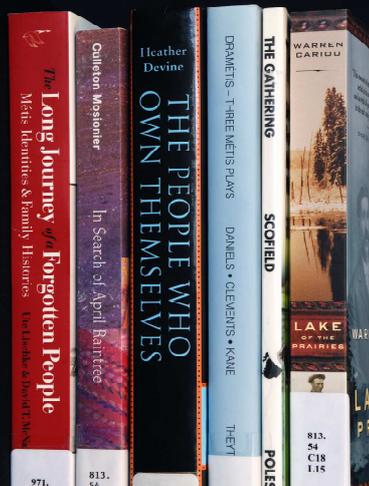
We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.gdins.org](http://www.gdins.org)



**GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE**  
of Native Studies and Applied Research



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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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