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GDI 30th Anniversary
1980-2010



GDI Communicator

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 and Northlands College Partner on Community Programming

By Patti Byers, ECE Instructor, Northlands College

Gabriel Dumont Institute Training and Employment Inc. (GDIT&E) initiated a partnership with Northlands College to offer an Early Childhood Education Certificate Program in Pinehouse Saskatchewan. There are fourteen students enrolled in the community-based early childhood education program. The program is offered through Northlands College and delivers the First Nations Early Childhood Education certificate program from Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT). The students are being prepared for a full range of child and youth services through courses that include child development, learning environment, curriculum planning and guiding children's behavior. Throughout the year the students assume responsibilities of child care professionals as they participate in practicum experiences at the Daycare, the Teen Infant Daycare, the Preschool, and the Elementary School.

The program is a bicultural approach, which allows the students to learn about the theories and practices of the early child and youth care field while integrating the values and culture of their own Aboriginal community in regard to childcare. Community resources are accessed often and include guests from KidsFirst, Mental Health, Wellness Workers, Victim Services, and Public Health. Elders are invited to support understandings of Aboriginal cultures and provide information about the Medicine Wheel and the Circle of Courage.

The students in the early childhood education program are all Pinehouse residents with a variety of backgrounds and experiences. Some students are recent high school graduates or mature students with an interest in the range of occupations available in the area of child and youth care. Others have been provided education leave from their current employment to obtain the certificate level required

for government standards in childcare facilities. The students are dedicated and enthusiastic about their studies and practicum experiences. They are very aware of the need for understandings related to childcare so they can support the children and families in their community.

Pinehouse has a growing population of young children who are being cared for in childcare facilities. The community has realized the significance of quality childcare and the need for educated personnel to fulfill the responsibilities in their facilities. It is essential for those with the responsibility of young children to have the knowledge and ability to provide families with the appropriate care and support. Trained early childhood educators are an investment that will increase the chances for young children to be successful in school, which in turn, leads to success in adulthood.



GDC Graduate Student Update

By Lisa Wilson



GDC Graduate Student Bursary Recipient Amy Cosgrove

Since 2006, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) has taken a proactive role to encourage and support Métis graduate studies. Based on the Institute's strategic direction to develop capacity for more Métis people to enter and complete graduate-level programs, GDI launched the *Gabriel Dumont College Graduate Student Bursary Program* in 2006. The program provides financial assistance to encourage Saskatchewan Métis people to pursue full-time graduate studies, to conduct research in fields related to Métis people, and to increase Métis employment in Saskatchewan and within the Institute.

The Graduate Student Bursary Program is independently funded by the Institute with a \$50,000 annual contribution from GDC.

Métis graduate students who undertake a major research thesis or project that relates to Métis people are eligible for the program. A review of available graduate bursaries shows that there are very few scholarships/bursaries specifically for Métis students at the graduate level in Canada and no others in Saskatchewan (Catherine Littlejohn, *Review of GDC Graduate Student Bursary Program*, 2009).

What follows is the profile of one of the graduate students and her research. GDI is proud of the Métis graduate students and pleased to have helped facilitate their studies and research.

Amy Cosgrove, a SUNTEP Saskatoon alumnus, received a GDC Graduate Student Bursary

in 2009 and again in 2010 in support of her Master's program in Curriculum Studies. Her thesis research focuses on initiatives to integrate Aboriginal perspectives and ways of knowing into Saskatchewan curriculum. The following is her description of her research:

"As an Aboriginal teacher working within different aspects of the Education profession, I continue to be intrigued by the ever-growing achievements in cultural awareness and implementation in schools as a result of efforts made both at the curriculum and instructional levels. Being a recent graduate of SUNTEP and first-year graduate student, I have continued my work in education at the master's level with focus on Curriculum Studies.

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Lloyd 95.9 FM Radio Morning Show Hosts Kurt Price and Heather Klages with DTI Program Coordinator (r) Patrick Kazuska

DTI Promotes Lloydminster Health Program

By Patrick Kazuska

On February 11, 2011, DTI Program Coordinator Patrick Kazuska was interviewed on the "Morning Show" on Lloyd 95.9 FM radio by the show's hosts Heather Klages and Kurt Price. Patrick did the interview in order to promote a new DTI Health Entry training program scheduled to start in Lloydminster on February 22, 2011. The

program is in cooperation with the Prairie North Health Region and will train ten individuals to work in the Health Region in a variety of entry-level positions such as Maintenance, Laundry, and Food Services. DTI is pleased to be able to work in partnership on this new program. While DTI has

formed many enduring partnerships with health regions across the province, the Lloydminster Health Entry program represents the first time DTI has partnered with the Prairie North Health Region. The students will complete their program on March 31, 2011.




GDI Payroll Cut-Off Calendar

MARCH 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
				Accounts Payable Cheque Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
			Cutoff @ Noon for Stop Prnts on Student Mar 11 Direct Deposit Cutoff @ 4:30 for TMS & Payroll Revisions for Mar 15 Payday	Accounts Payable Cheque Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Mar 25 Student Payroll	Staff Payday		Accounts Payable Cheque Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			Cutoff @ Noon for Stop Payments on Mar 25 Direct Deposits	Accounts Payable Cheque Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/P Invs - Timesheets & Payroll Revisions for Mar 31 Payday	
27	28	29	30	31		
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Apr 8 Student Payroll			Staff Payday Accounts Payable Cheque Run		

Please Note:

- Employee contracts due at payroll upon job acceptance
- Payroll must receive contracts prior to payroll cutoff date
- If received after the cutoff date the employee will be paid on the following pay period
- MRTS due by the 15th of every month


For more information contact Jim Edmondson at 657-2272 or Cory McDougall at 657-2257. 

GDI Annual Report


By Lisa Wilson

It's almost here! The GDI Annual Report for the 2009-2010 fiscal year is at the printers and looking better than ever. Within the next couple of weeks the report will be sent out to the various GDI centres around the province. Keep your eyes peeled for

copies of the report coming soon!

This year's report focuses on the theme of the "Year of the Métis" as a time for opportunity and reflection. Next year's report will focus on the 30th Anniversary of GDI and on the history of the Institute. 

Thanks to everyone who submitted reports and photos to help make this year's Annual Report look amazing.

To request extra copies of the Annual Report please contact April at 242-6070. 



GDC Graduate Student Update

(continued from page 2)

The next application deadline for the GDC Graduate Student Bursary Program is **April 6, 2011**.

Because my major teaching area and interests are in Native Studies and Aboriginal perspectives in education, I have chosen to centre my project work on Aboriginal content and perspectives in curriculum and in teacher practice.

"In my research, I am looking at the scope of learning that occurs when Aboriginal students are presented with curricula in relevant, familiar forms. I will be asking questions regarding student success, learner confidence, teacher confidence (in content presentation), and how culturally inclusive

learning environments enhance student achievement. Upon graduating from the program, I would like to take part in curriculum planning. I feel inspired to be a part of this development process and am taking great pride in contributing not only to the successes of Métis and First Nations students attending Saskatchewan schools, but in encouraging meaningful and relevant programming that is reflective of cultural representation in our province."

Each year there are

approximately 5 awards available for qualified Saskatchewan Métis students. Applicants are eligible for a maximum of two awards, which may be consecutive years or non-consecutive years.

Annually, the application deadlines are **April 6** and **October 6**. Application packages must be received by the Secretary of the Selection Committee by these dates. Application and Financial Declaration forms can be downloaded from the GDI website at www.gdins.org.



... All that was left was the cleanup (l-r) DTI Graduate Amanda Lafontaine, Instructor Janelle Bellegarde, and DTI Graduate Daveena Vongkhaophet

DTI Regina Office Education 2011 Graduation

By Daniel A. Downs

From humble beginnings to a humble ending, the DTI Regina Office Education class graduated on February 12, 2011 amongst friends, family, and invited guests. The program started on April 6th 2010 with 20 students. Most of them had no clerical experience, but they were all eager and willing to learn. Throughout the course, the students showed a tremendous work ethic, determination, and willingness to help out their fellow classmates whenever they could.

This Office Education program had the students learn the fundamentals of

office/administrative work, as well as the Medical Terminology necessary for careers with the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region (RQHR), DTI's collaborative partner in this program. Students as well were given the opportunity to do on-site work experience with RQHR, which saw them use the new skills and training they received from their program.

The graduation ceremony included 16 graduates, and 110 attending friends, family, and DTI staff and program partners. Guests witnessed the graduates receiving awards and certificates, with special

accolades given to DTI's top academic student, top attending student, and two SIAST Instructor awards.

In the end, after all was said and done, students returned to the fundamentals they had learned... hard work, determination, and a willingness to help. In sashes, dresses, and high heels, the participants helped clean the hall, load up vehicles, and help their guests to their cars.

DTI faculty and staff wish the graduates all the best.



GDI Launches New Website

By Lisa Wilson

For those of you who may have the GDI website set up as your home page when you launch your internet, or if you regularly use the GDI site, you will have noticed something new within the last day or so. Effective March 2nd the new GDI website was launched by our IT department, headed by Gareth Griffiths. Several entities in GDI met and discussed the look of the new website and the content and features that would be necessary in a new design.

The new look of the home page is much simpler with flower beadwork buttons in the centre providing quick reference points for popular topics. On the left there are links with drop down boxes from which users can select a variety of topics. Between the left side links and the buttons in the centre of the page,

those searching for information about GDI should be able to quickly and easily find the information they are looking for. On the right side of the home page there is a "News" section where the latest news of the Institute can be posted.

An interesting new feature is the "Apply" beadwork button in the centre of the home page. Users can click on this button to apply not only for programs and scholarships but also to apply on-line for externally advertised employment opportunities with the Institute. There are a few sections of the website that are currently under construction and should be in place in the very near future but overall the user-friendly feel of the website can be considered a big improvement.

IT Coordinator Gareth Griffiths says, "It is designed using Drupal, MySQL and other Open Source Packages to offer easier updating and content delivery." That's IT-speak for "we updated the technology," I think. Gareth also acknowledged the hard work put in by Gordon Holtlander on the website project.

New features of the website, aside from those described above, include a search function, up-to-date program listings and information, and a breadcrumb trail near the top of the page. Go online and check it out! Updates to the website will be made frequently and comments, questions, etc can be directed to Gareth Griffiths.



Communications and Marketing

By Lisa Wilson

GDI recently signed a two-year contract with the Community Network Canada as part of the Institute's strategy to increase its public profile and to market its programs widely. Under the contract, GDI has digital 20-second ads that play on a ten-minute loop in two Saskatoon medical clinics. One clinic is the Family Medical Clinic on 20th Street West, and the other

is the brand new Medical Clinic in Confederation Mall.

"The objective is to try another means of advertising, that is environmentally conscious, and able to reach hundreds of people in a very short amount of time," says Jessica Sandell, Chair of the DTI Communications and Marketing Committee.

The Community Network has been in business producing such ads since 2001. You may have seen the Community Network's televised advertising and information systems at work in a wide range of locations that include the waiting rooms of medical offices such as the ones where GDI's ads can be seen.



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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



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of Native Studies and Applied Research



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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