



Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research (306) 242-6070

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GDI Training & Employment - Open for Business

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) officially launched its new Training and Employment Services program with an announcement and signing ceremony on January 10, 2007 in Saskatoon.

Tavia Inkster, the event's Master of Ceremonies, is also the new Director for GDI Training and Employment Services. In attendance were Peter Bishop, Métis Elder, the Honourable Carol Skelton, Minister of National Revenue, Doyle Vermette, GDI Vice-Chair, Geordy McCaffrey, GDI Executive Director, and several other distinguished guests.

The launch of the new program signals significant growth for the Institute, effectively doubling GDI's size. In the implementation of the agreement, the Institute expects to add over forty new staff to its complement. GDI Training and Employment offices have been established in ten Métis communities across the province.

The new program's objectives are to provide Métis people with the training and employment opportunities necessary to be fully competitive in the labour force. The Métis population is young and growing. This fact places the Métis in an advantageous position to fill in a gap in the labour market that the aging Baby Boom generation will leave open. Specific programs and services include career counselling, tuition support, training allowance support, wage subsidies, self-employment assistance, apprenticeship subsidies, and job referrals.

With its proven track record, GDI is in an excellent position to be able to deliver these services to Saskatchewan's Métis. The Institute has a 25-year history of program delivery to Métis communities: over 700 have graduated from the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education

Program (SUNTEP); more than 500 Métis students per year attend the Dumont Technical Institute (DTI); the Institute's Publishing Department produces award-winning books and learning resources; and a Métis scholarship foundation administers dozens of scholarships each year.

Métis control and responsibility for Métis human resources development are critical factors to this agreement's success. Through such agreements we can begin to address the economic and social disparities between ourselves and the mainstream population. Everyone benefits from a highly-trained and skilled Métis labour force.

A full listing of GDI Training and Employment regional offices can be found on the back page of this newsletter. 



New Scholarship Program Promotes Health Careers for Saskatchewan Métis



DTI Practical Nursing students at "career day" at Father Vachon Elementary School in Saskatoon

"Awards available include Entrance, Continuation, Graduate-level, Completion, and Loan Remission scholarships."



DTI Practical Nursing graduates, Prince Albert, 2005

In December 2006, GDI, the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN – S) and the Métis National Council (MNC) signed an agreement for the provision of scholarship and bursary funds for Saskatchewan Métis involved in health-related training. The funding is being provided under a multi-year (2007-2010) contribution agreement from Health Canada to the MNC.

The GDI – Health and Wellness Program offers both scholarship and bursary support to encourage Saskatchewan Métis to enter into health-related careers associated with the advancement of Métis people.

Initial priorities for health-related training have been identified at the national level and include such fields as Nutrition, Pharmacy, Nursing, Dental Assisting, Environmental Health Officer Training, Medicine, Practical Nursing,

Physical Therapy, Dentistry, Pre-medicine studies (Year 1 or 2), Dental Hygiene, and Health Administration. For a [comprehensive list](#), please see the GDI website at www.gdins.org.

The awards available include *Entrance, Continuation, Graduate-level, Completion, and Loan Remission* scholarships. All scholarships are also available in bursary format. Bursaries are available based on assessment of financial need and available resources.

The *Entrance Scholarship* is designed to encourage Métis high school students and adult upgrading students to enter health-related careers. The *Continuation Scholarship* is intended to encourage retention of Métis students in health-related training programs. The *Graduate-level Scholarship* is available to students

enrolled in graduate-level programming in a health related field of study. The *Completion Scholarship* is intended to encourage and reward students who have completed a certificate, diploma, or degree program at an approved institution within a prescribed time frame. The *Loan Remission Scholarship* is designed to offset large debt burdens for Métis students who have taken health-related training programs.

Other criteria to qualify for the scholarship program include being Métis, a Saskatchewan resident for at least one year, acceptance into a recognized training institution, a high level of academic standing, letters of support, community involvement, and an intention to work with Métis people. Full details, can be found on the GDI website. [Deadline for applications: June 28, 2007.](#)


Contact J.J. Johnston at 306-934-5927 for more information. 

What's New at GDI?

GDI Newsletter – Welcome to the inaugural edition of the *GDI Communicator*. The purpose of this newsletter is to communicate with all Institute staff on a regular basis about events, initiatives, and the Institute's strategic directions.

Inquiries and feedback about the newsletter can be directed to Geordy McCaffrey at 306-657-2249. Items for inclusion in the newsletter can be sent to Lisa Wilson at lisa.wilson@gdi.gdins.org

Advice and assistance by the following individuals in

the production of this newsletter are gratefully acknowledged: Geordy McCaffrey, Content Direction Karon Shmon, Layout Assistance Darren Prefontaine, Copyediting David Morin, Design and Technical Assistance 



Staff Updates

New Director of Finance

— In February 2007, GDI's new Director of Finance and Operations was hired. Stacey Bucsis took on her new role with enthusiasm. Stacey's professional background includes designation as a Certified General Accountant and experience as Director of Finance for a non-profit corporation. Welcome to GDI, Stacey.

GDI Employment and Training Director

— In December 2006, Tavia Inkster was hired as the Director of the Institute's newly-incorporated

Training and Employment program. Tavia previously spent several years as a DTI Program Coordinator, and had recently returned from education leave, completing an MBA. Congratulations and best wishes to Tavia on her new position.

GDI Employment and Training

— With the creation of the new GDI Employment and Training program, several Institute employees took on new challenges, leaving positions with other parts of the organization to join the staff of Training and

Employment. Among the changes, Donna Ross leaves her position at DTI Head Office to become a Program Coordinator in Training and Employment, and Cecile O'Neil leaves her Counselling position at DTI Prince Albert to take on the role of Program Coordinator for Training and Employment. Best of luck in your new roles. 🌐



GDI Representative Invited to Prestigious Indigenous Education Conference

Michael Relland, SUNTEP Prince Albert Program Coordinator, has been invited as one of two representatives for Saskatchewan Learning and Saskatchewan Advanced Education and Employment at the Organisation for Economic and Co-operative Development's seminar on Indigenous education in Australia. The conference is scheduled for May, 2007.

The invitation comes from the Deputy Minister of Advanced Education and Employment, Bonnie Durnford, who states, "We would be honoured to have Michael Relland, Program Coordinator, SUNTEP Prince Albert, represent Advanced Education and Employment and make a presentation".

At the conference Michael will be making a

presentation on Aboriginal teacher education programs.

In addition to attending the conference, the Saskatchewan representatives will be touring school facilities and meeting with Australian education officials.

Congratulations to Michael for being selected for this honour. 🌐

"We would be honoured to have Michael Relland ...represent Advanced Education and Employment."



GDC Graduate Bursary Program

One of the Institute's strategic directions is to develop the capacity for Métis people to enter and complete graduate-level programs. Based on this strategic direction, GDI established the *Gabriel Dumont College Graduate Student Bursary Program*. The objectives of this program are: (1) to provide financial assistance and encourage Saskatchewan Métis to pursue full time graduate studies and conduct research in fields related to Métis people; and (2) to increase Métis employment in Saskatchewan and within GDI.

The program is a three-year pilot based on an annual contribution from Gabriel Dumont College (GDC). The value of each award is up to \$10,000 for

each academic year of study at a recognized university in Canada or abroad. Applicants are eligible for a maximum of two awards, which may be in consecutive or non-consecutive years. Bursary recipients who are undertaking graduate studies at the University of Saskatchewan may be able to access office space and equipment at SUNTEP. If qualified, they may also be considered for teaching opportunities with SUNTEP or GDC.

To be eligible for the program applicants must be Métis; have resided in Saskatchewan for at least 5 years prior to the date of application/acceptance into a graduate program; have applied to, been accepted, or are already enrolled in a full-time graduate degree program

at the Masters or Doctorate level at a recognized university in Canada or abroad; plan to undertake, or already be engaged, in a major research project or thesis which relates to Métis people; be committed to working in a Métis work environment upon the successful completion of their studies; demonstrate need for financial support during the study period, and; demonstrate a commitment to the advancement of Métis people.

Application forms and further information are available on the GDI website at www.gdins.org.

Deadlines for receipt of applications are **April 6** and **October 6** annually.



10 Tips for writing business emails

Retrieved April 23, 2007 from www.mftrou.com/writing-business-emails.html

What do your emails say about you? Here are 10 tips to ensure that when you write business emails you give people the right impression...

1. Stop, think then write (or don't!)

Is a phone call more appropriate? Choosing the right communication medium will increase your chance of being listened to.

2. Prevent premature sending

Wait until you have written the email before you key in the recipient's names. Hitting send too early is a painful, toe-curling experience.

3. Be professional

You lose control of your email as soon as you hit 'Send' so stick to professional language. Even your own brand of humour can cause offence in the wrong hands.

4. If in doubt, spell it

out!

How well you know your audience will dictate whether you use short hand, abbreviations and jargon. If in doubt, spell it out! Always err on the side of being too polite and respectful. Use the spell-check and re-read your email before it goes out.

5. Be precise, concise and clear

- Keep it brief
- Use the subject header
- Get to the point, quickly
- Use "urgent" flags sparingly

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"...encourage Saskatchewan Métis to pursue full time graduate studies and conduct research in fields related to Métis people."

"10 tips to ensure that when you write business emails you give people the right impression..."



Board Highlights

GDI is governed by a twelve-member Board of Governors. The Board of Governors oversee the Institute as a whole and are responsible for its operation and governance in all matters including: adopting policies; formulating and overseeing the implementation of a strategic plan; approving annual budgets, audits, and programs; acting as ambassadors for the Institute; representing GDI to governments, the public, and the Métis community; and appointing the Institute's Executive Director.

Board members are appointed to represent the twelve MN – S regions. The Chair of the Board is the MN – S Minister of Education.

Current Board members are as follows:

Doyle Vermette, Vice Chair, Northern Region I

Vacant, Northern Region II

Bernice Aramenko, Northern Region III

Michael Bell, Western Region I

Ron Gagnon, Western Region IA

Terry Boyer, Western Region II

Sheila Pocha, Western Region IIA

Darrel Hawman, Western Region III

Brian Chaboyer, Eastern Region I

Kathy Palidwar, Eastern Region II

Gerald St. Pierre, Eastern Region IIA

Guy F. Blondeau, Eastern Region III

The GDI Board is working to ensure that the Institute has a compatible governance model. One example of the way the Board continues to develop its governance strategy includes members' recent attendance at the third in a series of workshop on governance techniques in post-secondary institutions. The workshops are hosted by Advanced Education and Employment. 🌐



Beadwork by Isabelle Impey (Dorion) of Cumberland House (www.metismuseum.ca)

10 Tips for writing business emails (Cont'd from Page 4)

6. Tailor emails to your audience

Always open emails with a hello and use the name that they signed off with. If you must send the same email to loads of people, put their address in the bcc box and use just one email address in the To box .

7. Most people can't read minds

The more specific you are, the more likely you are to get a response. If responding to multiple questions embedded in a large email, copy the questions into your email and write your answers

next to them.

8. Keep your cool

Your emotional state can slip into an email with curt sentences, skipped pleasantries and blunt asks.

TAKE OFF THE CAPS LOCK KEY. It's rude to shout.

9. Need to know basis.

A common business email warfare tactic is to cc in senior managers in the vain thought that this adds weight to the communication. Fight your fights in private so that when you really need someone else to step in, they know you mean it.

10. Be clean and tidy!

Attachments clog up networks and spread viruses. Could the salient points be pasted into the email? If you value your PC, only open attachments if you trust the source. Use spam filters and delete chain emails.

Oh, and finally always sign off professionally.

Best Regards

Lyndsay

By Lyndsay Swinton
Owner, Management for the Rest of Us

www.mftrou.com 🌐

"TAKE OFF THE CAPS LOCK KEY. It's rude to shout."



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