



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

In this issue:

- GDI Wins Big at Sask Book Awards
- GDI to Publish History and Culture Quarterly
- GDC Student Star Wrestler

Highlights:

- New Confidentiality Policy 2
- CTR Dissolved 3
- ASTSIF Update 4
- GDC Graduate Studies Update 5

GDI Wins Big at Sask Book Awards

Source: Saskatchewan Book Awards Press Release and Karon Shmon

November 29, 2009, the Saskatchewan writing and publishing communities paid tribute to their own at the 17th Annual Saskatchewan Book Awards Gala.

"This year's winners represent not only excellence, but perseverance for the time and effort they put towards their endeavours as most do so with very little financial gain. In my eyes they truly are 'Stars in Their Own Write'," said Jackie Lay, the executive director of the Saskatchewan Book Awards.

Fourteen awards were presented, with the big winner of the evening being **Dancing in my Bones** written by Wilfred Burton and Anne Patton, published by the Gabriel Dumont Institute, which captured the Award for Publishing, the First Peoples' Publishing Award, and, new this year, the First Peoples' Writing Award.

Before the awards, Rudy Wiebe, multiple-award-winning author, delighted the crowd speaking about his connection to the

Saskatchewan writing community and Poet Laureate Robert Currie spoke on the importance of writers and poets.

Karon Shmon, Publishing Coordinator for GDI accepted the award on behalf of the Institute. "Every Gabriel Dumont Institute publication is the result of a great deal of effort by many people. We are honoured when authors with the writing and storytelling talent of Wilfred Burton and Anne Patton and the artistic talent of Sherry Farrell Racette want to work with us. *Dancing in My Bones* has provided us with a second opportunity to work with this team. Working on *Fiddle Dancer* with them last year was such a pleasure.

Our Publishing Department team works collaboratively to see that their sparkling stories and images make it to print. The project was lead by David Morin, who also did the layout for the publication and has organized the book launches and promotional activities. The rest of us take a hand in writing contracts, overseeing

financial and production matters, and doing whatever other work is required to ensure Métis focused stories of this calibre are available now and in the future.

Our work could not be done without the support of the Gabriel Dumont Institute Board of Governors who set the priorities for the Institute and guide the policies that enable us to fulfill it. We also thank the sponsor of this award, (sponsor name), and the Saskatchewan Book Awards, for enabling us to be recognized in such a prestigious way. Marsee!"

In addition to the three awards won by **Dancing in My Bones**, it was also short-listed for Publishing in Education award, which is presented to the Saskatchewan publisher of the best educational book, primary through post-secondary levels; and The Readers' Choice Award, which is chosen by readers who vote for their favourite new Saskatchewan' book .



New Confidentiality Policy

By Lisa Wilson



(Photo credit Meredith Penner)

At the December 4, 2009 Board of Governors meeting, the GDI Board passed a new Confidentiality Policy. The policy is broad and is intended to cover the many situations in which GDI employees come into contact or possession of confidential information. Such information may include Institute materials, business operations and proprietary material, employee information, client information, and so on. Employees of GDI are required to keep all proprietary information of the company, its clients and employees confidential both during

and after their term of employment.

A new "Confidentiality Agreement" forms part of the new policy. The agreement acknowledges the types of confidential information employees may come into contact with, and indicates that employees are required to use discretion and take all precautions to ensure that access to all confidential information is protected. In short, confidentiality of information is everyone's business. The Confidentiality Policy will be provided to all employees and if their position requires access

to confidential information they will be required to sign the Confidentiality Agreement. The Agreement states that for new employees the importance of confidentiality will be reviewed and the completion of the Saskatchewan Privacy Course will form part of employee orientation.

Further information on this new policy will be made available to all employees in the near future. For more information please contact Jim Edmondson, Director of Human Resources, at 657-2272.



DTI Partners with Casino Regina

By Lisa Wilson

In December, the GDI Board of Governors approved the delivery of a GED Program in partnership with DTI and Casino Regina. Casino Regina is looking for a GED program, to be delivered in Regina for Métis and First Nations employees of the Regina and Moose Jaw casinos. The employees will be provided time within their working hours to participate in the GED program. The program is to be offered by the Casino to entry-level employees who are interested in career advancement opportunities.

Casino Regina and Casino Moose Jaw operate under the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation under direction of Crown Investment Corporation (CIC). The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation reported an Aboriginal workforce of 42 percent in 2008 with a target of 50 percent. One of the SGC's business objectives is to be an employer of choice, developing a culture of inclusiveness that will help them to reach their target of 50 percent Aboriginal representation

in their workforce. The SGC also states its objective to support Aboriginal business.

The delivery of a GED program to Métis constituents in Regina also helps DTI reach its goal of increasing its presence in Regina.



GDI to Publish History and Culture Quarterly

By Karon Shmon

The GDI Publishing department will spearhead the development and publication of a quarterly magazine which will focus on Métis culture and history and promote the programs and activities of the Institute. The publication will provide an opportunity for each arm of the Institute to advertise and highlight its successes.

During the five years that the Institute temporarily published *New Breed*, it was able to promote the programs and activities of the Institute as well as those of the larger Métis community in the province with a strong focus on Métis history and culture. Community support for the publication was very favourable and filled a void

not being addressed elsewhere in the same way. It became a format, beyond the annual report, for the sharing of our successes. It acted as a seamless meeting ground for the business side of GDI (education, and training programs and learning resource production) and the cultural side (Métis cultural preservation and renewal and community support and engagement).

GDI holds in trust an extensive record of material for the Métis community on the GDI Virtual Museum. From this experience, we know that what we document today becomes the archival record of tomorrow. The new GDI magazine will fulfill the

role of archiving information about the thriving, successful, and first-ever Métis-owned educational and cultural institute.

Since the *New Breed* transfer agreement of April 2009 came in to effect, the Institute has heard from many people who tell us how much they miss reading about Métis history and culture. With 2010 being both the “Year of the Métis” and GDI’s 30th anniversary, the advent of the new magazine is timely. The magazine will likely include four seasonal issues: Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall.

For more information about the new publication, please contact Karon Shmon at GDI Publishing.



(Photo credit Meredith Penner)

“The new GDI magazine will fulfill the role of archiving information about the thriving, successful, and first-ever Métis-owned educational and cultural institute.”

CTR Dissolved

By Lisa Wilson

The GDI Board of Governors previously passed a motion to dissolve the Community Training Residence (CTR) incorporation and amalgamate it with GDI, resulting in the removal of the CTR from the provincial Register of Corporations and the obligations involved therein. The transfer of the property and associated bank account balance to GDI has been completed. GDI’s Director of Finance is in the process of providing

partial financial statement to the Corporations Branch for the 2009-10 year in order to finalize the Institute’s obligations for the CTR incorporation.

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

into 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, will be transferred over to GDI.

The Institute will recognize a financial benefit by way of reduced audit fees in coming years.



(Photo credit Meredith Penner)



ASTSIF -- Update

By Lisa Wilson



Above, former DTI Practical Nursing students

In September, 2009 GDI announced that two proposals submitted under the Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund (ASTSIF) were approved by Service Canada and contracts totalling more than \$3.75 million were awarded to the Institute.

The largest of the projects is the Health Sector Aboriginal Human Resources Initiative. The Health initiative is an innovative new partnership between GDI, eight provincial health authorities, Northern Health Strategy, Northern Health Sector Training Sub Committee, and government and community partners. The Health project will offer 11 new health-sector training programs in cooperation with Health Regions throughout the province. The Health initiative will provide training opportunities to 240 people

over 18 months. Jobs will be in all areas of the health sector, including Medical Laboratory Assistants, Continuing Care Aides, Sterilization Processors, entry-level positions, and office workers.

Several Health programs are already underway, including the Medical Lab Assistant program in Prince Albert, which started in mid-October 2009 and Continuing Care Aid in Regina. Additional training programs are slated for LaRonge, Saskatoon, Buffalo Narrows, North Battleford, Nipawin, Yorkton, and Regina, in partnership with the respective Health Regions. Below is a list of ASTSIF-funded programs and their start dates.

DTI is a significant partner in the new ASTSIF training initiatives and is the delivery institution for the health programs.

The intention of the

ASTSIF fund is to strengthen partnerships between Aboriginal employment service organizations and employers through training-to-employment programs linked to concrete job opportunities. The fund supports short-term, focused initiatives designed to help Aboriginal people obtain the specific skills they require to benefit from economic opportunities.

The fund will be an important step toward implementing the partnership- and results-based successor to the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy (AHRDS), to be put in place in April 2010.

For more information on the ASTSIF visit the HRSDC website at <http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca> or contact Tavia Laliberte, GDI&E Director, at 242-6070.



ASTSIF Health Training Programs

Medical Device Reprocessing Regina	program scheduled to start Jan 25, 2010
Medical Lab Assistant Prince Albert	program started October 13, 2009
Continuing Care Aide Saskatoon	program scheduled to start Feb, 2010
Continuing Care Aide Regina	program started December 7, 2009
Office Education La Ronge	program scheduled to start Jan 18, 2010
Health Entry Level Saskatoon	program scheduled to start Feb 2, 2010
Health Entry Level Buffalo Narrows	program scheduled to start Feb 15, 2010
Health Entry Level Prince Albert	program scheduled to start fall 2010
Health Entry Level North Battleford	program scheduled to start Jan 11, 2010
Health Entry Level Nipawin	program scheduled to start fall 2010
Health Entry Level Yorkton	program scheduled to start April 2010



GDC Student Star Wrestler

By Lisa Wilson

GDI Saskatoon staff may remember Daniel Olver as the summer student who helped out in the finance department this past summer, but the third year Gabriel Dumont College (GDC) Saskatoon student is also making his mark as a leader on the Huskies wrestling squad. Daniel is not only team captain but a gifted athlete. Ranked as one of Saskatchewan's top performers, Daniel is "one of the best" says U of S Head Coach Todd Hinds. Daniel has been on Canada's junior world team three years in a row and was nominated as Huskie male athlete of the year in 2009. Among Daniel's many wrestling

accomplishments are a silver medal at the 2009 Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championships and being a national medalist ever since he entered the CIS league. Daniel says his goal is to win CIS. He is a three-time defending Canada West champion in the 76 kilogram weight class. Daniel is a U of S All-Academic team member and medal hopeful in the Canada West conference.

In a recent article in the Saskatoon StarPhoenix, Daniel and his fiancée Lindsay Wickstrom were featured. Lindsay is also a wrestler with the

Huskies team. They met in high school, where they were both on the Holy Cross wrestling team. Daniel notes that being wrestling teammates means they spend a lot of time together. "We motivate each other to stay fit. We're both competitive. It makes for a good atmosphere." The two plan to get married in May.



Source: Saskatoon StarPhoenix, November 27, 2009. Article by Darren Zary.



Huskie wrestlers Daniel Olver and Lindsay Wickstrom. Photo credit Grea Pender Saskatoon SP.

Program for Métis Graduate Studies Continued

By Lisa Wilson

The GDI Board of Governors recently passed a motion to continue the GDC Graduate Student Bursary Program. The program was originally established as a three year pilot project in 2006. A Review of the program was completed in the fall of 2009 and findings and recommendations from the review were closely examined by the Bursary Selection Committee. Based on the Review findings, the Selection Committee recommended the continuation of the program.

The GDC Graduate Student Bursary Program is an independently funded initiative by GDC. The program offers \$50,000 per year as graduate student awards for Métis graduate students conducting research of value to the Métis community. The largest awards are \$10,000 for a year of studies, but award amounts vary depending on a number of factors, including the number of applicants.

GDC Graduate Students funded under the program include Master's and

Doctoral students studying in a variety of fields, including Special Education, History, Adult and Elementary Education, Educational Administration, Psychology, Business, and Cultural Studies.

Applications and information on the program are available on the website or by contacting Lorraine Amiotte at 657-5717.



(Photo credit Meredith Penner)

"The GDC Graduate Student Bursary Program is an independently funded initiative by GDC."



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[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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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