



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:

- Remembering Harry Daniels
- Santa is Métis
- Occupational Health & Safety Program Update
- Métis Regional Visitations

## Highlights:

- Court Grants Rights to Métis 1
- GDI Director Awarded a Medal 2
- IT Update 3
- GDI Publishing Incorporates New Technology 4

## Federal Court Affirms Rights of Métis

By James Oloo

On January 8, 2013, the Federal Court released its long-awaited decision in Daniels v. Canada. Judge Michael Phelan ruled that the federal government has jurisdiction for Métis under s. 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867*. S. 91(24) states that Canada has exclusive legislative authority with respect to "Indians, and Lands reserved for the Indians." The ruling thus recognizes Métis and Non-Status First Nations as 'Indians' within the meaning of s. 91(24).

For decades, Canada has only assumed jurisdiction for 'Status Indians' while debate has continued about which government – Ottawa or provinces – is responsible for Métis and Non-Status Indians. As the court noted Canada's own documents admit that Métis are more exposed to discrimination and other social disabilities and that "in the absence of Federal initiative in this field they are the most disadvantaged of all Canadian citizens."

In 1999, Métis leader Harry Daniels and others sought to have the court clarify whether Ottawa or the provinces had jurisdiction for Métis and First Nations living off-reserve. But Canada has strenuously resisted the claim of jurisdiction, first by denying access to its records and

then on the grounds that insufficient facts, the difficulty of the case and the definitional difficulties should preclude a remedy being granted by the court. The court rejected Canada's assertions on all of these grounds and held that the Métis have a right to know which government has jurisdiction over them.

The ruling on Daniels v. Canada "should accord a further level of respect and reconciliation by removing the constitutional uncertainty surrounding these groups," writes Judge Phelan. Similarly, Betty Lavallee, the national chief of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, said the "case was about fairness, dignity and self-worth."

While Judge Phelan's ruling does not go so far as to declare that the federal government has a fiduciary responsibility to the Métis, it says such duties would flow automatically now that Métis standing has been clarified. Phelan notes that the responsibility "is not an open-ended undefined obligation but must be focused on a specific interest."

That is, the court did not get specific about what the Federal Government should actually do following the court decision. MN-S

President Robert Doucette cites post-secondary education thus, "Presently Métis do not have access to the funding First Nations and the Inuit have where they get four years of funding to get an undergrad." He said, "I hope with respect to this ruling Ottawa will extend those obligations to the Métis."

Manitoba Métis Federation President David Chartrand wants to see early childhood education and the health benefits that are provided to on-reserve First Nations, extended to the Métis.

Judge Phelan said that the ruling should accord a further level of respect and reconciliation by removing the constitutional uncertainty surrounding these groups. "We are reviewing the court's decision to determine the next steps," said Jan O'Driscoll, spokesman for Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada Minister John Duncan. "Our government continues to work in partnership with all Aboriginals across Canada to address shared priorities such as education and economic development."

Whatever action the Federal Government decides to take, President Doucette said "I hope the Federal Government does not appeal this court ruling."

To view the Daniels v. Canada decision – full text, please click [here.](#)



## Harry Daniels: The Man and the Legend

By James Oloo



The late Harry Daniels  
Photo credit: Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan

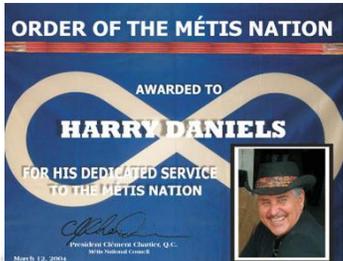


Photo credit: metisnation.ca

This month, many people across Métis Nation, First Nations Communities and indeed Canada celebrated the Federal Court landmark ruling in Daniels versus Canada. Judge Michael Phelan declared that the federal government has jurisdiction for Métis and Non-Status Indians. The ruling, according to the Métis Nation of Ontario President Gary Lipinski, "is part of what Métis people have been fighting for since Louis Riel. By acknowledging that the federal government is indeed responsible for the Métis, we are that much closer to finding our rightful place within the Canadian Federation."

The case, Daniels v. Canada, was filed by Harry Daniels and the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP). This article briefly examines the life and times of Harry Daniels, a Saskatchewan native and proud Métis citizen.

Born in Regina in 1940, Daniels got his undergraduate degree from the University of Saskatchewan (U of S), a master's degree from Carleton University, and a honorary doctorate in Law from the University of Ottawa.

Daniels was one of the founding members of the Saskatchewan Métis Society. He served as native peoples organizer in the North West Territories, coordinator of Field Operations for the Métis Nation of Alberta, and as chairman of the Métis and Non-Status Crime and Justice Commission. Daniels also taught Métis History at the U of S.

At the Constitutional talks in Ottawa in the late 1970's, the Native Council of Canada had two seats.

First Nations women formally requested a seat at the table, a request that was turned down by the federal government.

Daniels then gave up one of the seats to the First Nations women, thus giving the women a voice at the table.

Daniels held a number of elected positions including Vice President of the Métis Association of Alberta, President of the Native Council of Canada and its successor, the CAP; and President of the Métis National Council.

Thus the ground breaking court ruling in Daniels v. Canada nine years after Daniels' death in 2004 is a culmination of a lifetime of work by Harry Daniels and others and his struggle for social justice for Métis peoples.

A video tribute, Harry Daniels: A Métis Voice for the People is available online at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kg8rGQyOMus>



Karon Shmon  
GDI Publishing Director

## GDI Director Awarded Diamond Jubilee Medal

By James Oloo

Karon Shmon, the GDI Publishing Director, has done it again!

In December 2012, Karon was awarded the The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. Shmon was one of the 33 women nominated by the Native Women's Association of Canada for the Diamond Jubilee Medal because of her

"service to improve the lives of Aboriginal peoples."

2012 marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada. The Diamond Jubilee Medal honours the Queen for her service to Canada and at the same time, it serves to

honour significant contributions and achievements by Canadians.

In 2010, Karon's peers at the Saskatchewan Teachers Federation recognized her lifetime contribution to Aboriginal education in Saskatchewan.

Congratulations Karon!



Métis Santa Raymond Tremblay  
Source: canadapost.ca

## Santa Claus is Métis!

By James Oloo

During this past Christmas, Santa was Métis. Raymond Tremblay, a Métis Nation of Ontario citizen was a 'main' attraction at the Rideau

Centre in Ottawa, and in Canada Post commercials. The proud Métis Santa said "I don't hesitate to let people know that I am Métis."

The Métis Santa appeared in several Canada Post videos. To watch Tremblay, click <http://www.canadapost.ca/cpo/mc/personal/santa/video.jsf>



## IT Update

By Gareth Griffiths

### Website

In December 2012, the website received over 64,000 page hits (revised to exclude the news feeds). The highest activity was experienced on the Home Page, Apply to DTI, DTI Programs and Contact Us pages.

### IT Support System

In December 2012, we received 33 new IT requests to the support system, of which 27 of them are completed and closed (81% closure rate). Overall, we closed 19 calls in this period. There are currently 37 open Work Orders.

### Sophos Upgrade

After extensive testing, the AntiVirus upgrade to v10 will be rolled out over the coming months, starting with the Saskatoon locations in February. As part of this, we will also be cleaning up the database of all obsolete computers listed. After this is implemented, the web filtering rollout to Saskatoon will also be operational.

### Building Relocation

Previously, IT in Regina was housed in the same location as DTI. We have just completed an office move. This means that GDI, GDI

Training and Employment and Dumont Technical Institute are all under one roof. This move presented many challenges, including the lack of an elevator, and the merging of two separate networks; but everything went (reasonably) smoothly. As well as the move, two new programs have led to us doubling the number of computers used in this location.

### Management Reporter

GDI is continuing to develop Management Reporter for use in the organization. The system has been tested and checked against Great Plains for the last few months. The next phase of the rollout is due to start with remote links to GDI sites to be tested, starting in Regina over the next month.

### Shared Address Book

We are also working on a shared email address book for the organization. This is using a protocol called Light Directory Access Protocol (LDAP), and will be hosted by our mail hosting company Quadrant. This will provide all users with a standardized global address book in all email clients. There will be a facility for us to be able to maintain this ourselves,

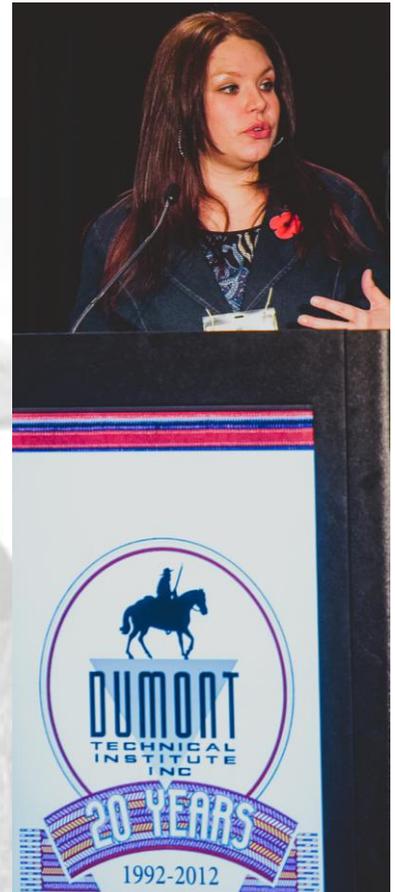
ensuring that only current addresses are listed. There is a mapping issue with Thunderbird to resolve and a final updated import to process before we move this to the final stages of testing, and a full rollout.

### Email Security

Just another reminder to be wary of clicking links in emails. If anything looks suspicious please do not click the link.

A key of concern is phishing attacks. This is where an email is received asking for personal information, such as passwords, or bank accounts. Delete such emails! Also there are emails from social media life Facebook to befriend or follow you. Often the link attached redirects to another site that is harmful if clicked. For all social media requests, the safest way to confirm them is not from the email link, but from the website itself.

GDI is now on Twitter. Follow us at @gdins\_org. We will be using this feed to follow and tweet conversations and announcements of interest to the GDI community. 🌐



Amy Briley  
Photo by Envoguephotography.ca

## Métis Regional Visits

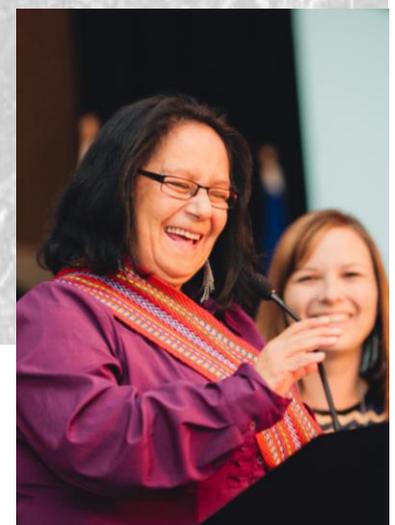
By James Oloo

Each year GDI managers and personnel visit the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan regions to provide information and strengthen the Institute's engagement in the areas. In December 2012, GDI Executive Director Geordy McCaffrey and DTI Acting Director

Tony Blacklock held a well attended meeting in Western Region I (WRI). The Area Director for WRI and other regional officials also attended the meeting held in Glaslyn. Regions visited to date are WRI, NRII, and NRIII. At the meetings, senior GDI

officials share information about the GDI Board of Governors, governor's roles and responsibilities, as well as the GDI board governance model. This information will help ensure that potential Board members are well-informed and are encouraged to seek nomination.

*Continued on Page 5.*



Claudette Moran  
Photo by Envoguephotography.ca



## GDI Publishing Incorporates New Technology

By David Morin

Being a small department /publishing office, it is often challenging to promote our resources as much as we'd like. To get some help doing this, GDI Publishing has decided to make our books available on *amazon.ca*. We anticipate that people who don't know about the Institute will be able to find our books on the Amazon site via general Internet searches.

Since joining the site in January 2012, we've received 80 orders with a total of 95 books being sold amounting to over \$3,000 in sales. In addition to the sales, the efficient work of Ryan Nordmarken and the quality of GDI's resources has garnered 10-five star ratings from customers happy with our items and service.

Comments received include: "Excellent service!" "Great resource, this book is awesome, very simple and detailed ... One of my favorite

books. DVD is very good;" and "I am surprised at how prompt this was shipped. Thanks, GDI!"

While the number of orders made through Amazon is comparable to our online shop at <https://shop.gdins.org>, the number of items ordered differs greatly. Since migrating to the new site in July 2011, we've had 109 orders for 704 items, worth over \$12,000 in sales.

Facebook has also been a part of Publishing's promotion strategy. GDI's page is currently up to 160 "likes," which translates to a reach of 43,625 unique people if each person were to comment or like a post. Twenty different communities are represented from Île-à-la-Crosse to Missoula, Montana, and from Vancouver to Montreal.

The majority of our fans come from Saskatoon (47%), Prince Albert (14%) and Regina (9%). Another online project that the

the Publishing Department has been able to track is the *Michif Dictionary Android App*. Since its release, it has been downloaded 85 times. Of those 85, there are 57 active installs with 50 from Canada, 5 from USA, and one each from the UK and Korea!

The app is currently in development for Apple platforms, which will see further features and more content, and is slated for release in March 2013. All the new features and content will be added to the Android version as well with the same timetable for release.

GDI Publishing is pleased to incorporate this technology to enhance access to its products. These efforts, together with word of mouth and printed catalogue promotion, help to keep up the public profile of our available resources. 🌐



Tony Blacklock



Elders Joanna Potyondi and Marg Harrison at the DTI 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations



Angie Yew and Tim Tetz  
Photo by Audrey Blondeau

## Occupational Health and Safety Program Update

By Daniel A. Downs

With recent changes in the Saskatchewan Occupational Health and Safety Act, DTI's Occupational Health and Safety Practitioner (OH&S) students are definitely at the forefront of change. DTI OH&S students are entering an emerging career, and to this end, emerging from their recent practicum placements having graduated from the OH&S program with a new appreciation for the world of safety in the workplace.

Fieldwork and practicum experience are not new to programs at DTI; it seems almost weekly that DTI has a new group of students

entering a hospital, or working with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure to develop the practical skills they had learned in class. With the OH&S practicum however, things were a tiny bit different.

To give the OH&S students the opportunity to gather information and experience from the greatest number of industries possible, a wide range of employers were chosen for students to complete their week-long practicum placements. Eight students were placed across

seven separate industries, some over 1,000 km apart. The industries included oil & gas, milling, manufacturing, agriculture, healthcare, construction, and mining.

Each student in the program was paired with at least one safety mentor and learned the industry safety systems. While one student was investigating hardhat violations on the top floor of a commercial tower in Saskatoon, another was some 2,100 feet underground, conducting

*Continued on Page 5.*



# Occupational Health and Safety ... Continued from Page 4

safety meeting and ensuring that employees were adhering to the company's 5-point safety system. And while one student was examining confined-space entry tickets and monitoring air quality control, another was performing a safety watch... in a 780,000 square foot manufacturing plant... on 152 acres of land.

were afforded different levels of interaction with employees, committees, and contractors. Each student gave presentation to his or her employer, conducted a company safety meeting, or assisted in the design of safety manual that would be used by the company. Students were able to catalogue incident reports and investigations, be actively involved in the screening of safety equipment and their observations to their

practicum supervisors. In the end, students gathered for a joint graduation and work-placement celebration. They got the opportunity to present to each other and guests, all that they had learned, witnessed, and done while on practicum.

The students realized that what they had learned in class was only a step in lifelong learning, and more importantly, theory is one thing, but the practical application of what you have learned is definitely

Depending on the practicum setting, students

## Métis Regional Visits ... Continued from Page 3

In addition, the meetings provide an opportunity for regional representatives and community members to learn more about the proposed GDI Act, legislation that would have many benefits for GDI and the Métis community. To date, GDI remains the only

post-secondary institution in Saskatchewan without an Act of Legislation.

The meetings provide a one stop forum to share and promote GDI's educational programming and learning resources and other initiatives that are geared

towards fulfilling its mission to the Métis citizens. The meetings strengthen GDI's relationship with the Métis community and provide an opportunity for Métis people to speak directly to someone about cultural knowledge and resources they may wish to share with the Institute.



Maria Campbell  
Photo by Envoguephotography.ca



Gordon Holtslander  
Photo by Envoguephotography.ca

## Payroll Cutoff Calendar, February 2013

By Carmala Thiessen and Veronica Buschnyski

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
					Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/c Payable Invoices	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Cutoff @ 3:00 for Stop Payments on Student Feb 8 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/c Payable Invoices	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Feb 22 Student Payroll			Accounts Payable Cheque Run	Staff Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/c Payable Invoices	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Family Day Stat Holiday	Cutoff @ 3:00 for Stop Payments on Student Feb 22 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Invoices, timesheets for Feb 28 payday	
24	25	26	27	28		
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Mar 8 Student Payroll			Staff Payday A/c Payable Cheque Run		

Employee contracts due at payroll upon job acceptance.



## **Gabriel Dumont Institute/Dumont Technical Institute**

917 22<sup>nd</sup> Street West  
Saskatoon, SK  
S7M 0R9

PHONE:  
(306) 242-6070

FAX:  
(306) 242-0002

E-MAIL:  
[general@gdi.gdins.org](mailto:general@gdi.gdins.org)

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



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

## **GDI Locations**

### **GDI Head Office Saskatoon**

917 22nd Street West  
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9  
Phone: (306) 242-6070  
Fax: (306) 242-0002

### **GDI Publishing Saskatoon**

2—604 22nd Street West  
Saskatoon SK S7M 5W1  
Phone: (306) 934-4941  
Fax: (306) 244-0252

### **GDI Finance and Operations**

917 22nd Street West  
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9  
Phone: (306) 242-6070  
Fax: (306) 975-0903

### **DTI Head Office Saskatoon**

917 22nd Street West  
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9  
Phone: (306) 242-6070  
Fax: (306) 242-0002

Toll Free (DTI):  
1-877-488-6888

### **SUNTEP Prince Albert**

48 12th Street East  
Prince Albert, SK  
S6V 1B2  
Phone: (306) 764-1797  
Fax: (306) 764-3995

### **SUNTEP Saskatoon**

Room 7 McLean Hall  
University of  
Saskatchewan  
106 Wiggins Road  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5E6  
Phone: (306) 975-7095  
Fax: (306) 975-1108

### **SUNTEP Regina**

Room 227 College West  
University of Regina  
3737 Wascana Parkway  
Regina, S4S 0A2  
Phone: (306) 347-4110  
Fax: (306) 347-4119

### **GDI Training and Employment Head Office**

917 22nd Street West  
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9  
Phone: (306) 242-6070  
Fax: (306) 683-3508

Toll Free (T&E):  
1-877-488-6888

### **GDI Library Regina**

Room 218 College West  
University of Regina  
3737 Wascana Parkway  
Regina, S4S 0A2  
Phone: (306) 347-4124  
Fax: (306) 565-0809

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

### **GDI Library Prince Albert**

48 12th Street East  
Prince Albert, SK  
S6V 1B2  
Phone: (306) 922-6466  
Fax: (306) 763-4834



#### **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