



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:

DTI Students Hold
Suicide
Awareness Walk

2015 SUNTEP
Regina
Graduation

“All Students Can
Learn,” Says
SUNTEP Grad
Deirdre Boyer

Highlights:

YXE GED Speaker
Series Attaining New
Heights 1

SUNTEP Prince
Albert Graduation 2

Karon Shmon Wins
YWCS Women of
Distinction Award 2

Payroll Cutoff
Calendar 5

The YXE GED Speaker Series Attaining New Heights

By James Oloo

YXE stands for the International Air Transport Association's code for the Saskatoon John G. Diefenbaker International Airport. It has been widely used in the social media to refer to Saskatoon. DTI and GDI Training and Employment have joined hands to offer a General Educational Development (GED) Program in Saskatoon under the Institute's Aboriginal Apprenticeship Project. The GED program is unique in at least two main ways. First, it introduces the students to apprenticeship and trades as a possible career path; and two, it brings in distinguished individuals who are leaders in their fields of skilled trades and Aboriginal employment to share their views and experiences on innovative leadership. The series is organized by DTI Program Coordinator Michelle Suteau, Apprenticeship Coordinator Shawn Mahar, and GED instructors Cheng Teh and Mark Boyer.

Recently, two speakers gave very inspiring presentations. But it was who they were and the paths they have followed that was humbling and encouraging.

John Yarosloski is the Area Services Manager for Saskatchewan and Manitoba at the Aluma Systems Industrial Services. Like the

GED students, John (whose mother is Métis), left school before completing high school and later went back for his GED. The 34 year old married father became a dad when he was 15 years old. At age 18, John earned his GED which he told the students enabled him to go where he would not have otherwise gone in his career. By the time he was 23, John had received journeyman certification in two different trades. John encouraged the students to stay focused and do their best noting that “Today, Grade 12 is required for all trades.” He continued, “Companies are moving away from hiring labourers to those with skilled trades.”


Carlin Nordsrom, a former NHL player, is a Métis business owner who specializes in Industrial Scaffolding, Industrial Insulation, Industrial Coatings and Paint. Carlin spoke about what it takes to become a successful Aboriginal business owner, tradesperson and safety officer. His inspirational life story touched on when he worked in Alberta as a service person doing oil change on heavy equipment outside during winter before he became a construction safety officer.

Both Carlin and John spoke candidly about their struggles and frustrations,

and how despite the challenges they have each been able to achieve much success. Students got encouraged and participated in the questions and answers session that followed.

Other speakers have included Gunnar Passmore from the Saskatchewan Building Trades; Lyle Daniels, Aboriginal Labour Development Strategist at the Saskatchewan Building Trades; and Sheena Yew, Employment Counselor at GDI Training and Employment.

Passmore spoke about careers in the trades in Saskatchewan and noted that the labour market demand for skilled trades in the province remains strong. Lyle Daniels revisited his experience in working with Aboriginal people in the trades and building partnerships with employers across the province to make a strong case to the GED students to complete their studies then transition on to careers of their choice.

Sheena Yew has worked with several clients and often writes success stories of her clients who include an engineer, nurses, several apprentices and journeymen. Her presentation on interview skills was very interactive and engaging. Kudos to Cheng Teh and Mark Boyer for creating a warm and comfortable classroom environment where students feel welcome and appreciated as they are. The Speaker Series continues. 



2015 YWCA Saskatoon
Women of Distinction Awards



Karon Shmon, the Director of GDI Publishing was the Woman of Distinction Award (Education) recipient at the May 28, 2015 gala. Congratulations Karon!

(A write up will appear in next month's *Communicator*)

In 2014....



Lisa Wilson, Director of GDI Training & Employment won the Women of Distinction Award (Arts, Culture and Heritage).



Congratulations to all 34 SUNTEP students who graduated with Bachelor of Education degrees this year

DTI Students Organize a Suicide Awareness Walk

By Dylan Pelletier

Aboriginal people in Canada are up to six times more likely to commit suicide than the non-Aboriginal population.

According to Health Canada, suicide and self-inflicted injuries are the leading cause of death among Aboriginal people below age 45. Across the country, the suicide rate for First Nations males is 126 per 100,000 compared to 24 per 100,000 for non-Aboriginal males. For First Nations females, the suicide rate is 35 per 100,000 compared to five per 100,000 for non-Aboriginal females. The suicide rate in Nunavut is among the highest in the world at 11 times the national average.

Tragically, suicide is becoming an epidemic in the northern Métis community of La Loche, Saskatchewan. Jeannie Murray, Dumont Technical Institute La Loche Adult Basic Education (ABE) instructor, said, "Suicide was unheard of in the 1960s in La Loche. You never heard about it. There were only two suicides in the 1970s. Today, it is a very common problem." She noted

that "Since January, the community has lost three people to suicide."

DTI ABE students in La Loche decided that they needed to do something about this growing problem in their community. Led by Laureen "Lucy" Guetre, the students made posters of all of the people that have been lost through suicide in the community over the past 25 years. Sadly, there were over 45 posters made, most of the victims were under the age of 30. Lucy organized the class to carry the posters and banners they made and walk from the local church to the graveyard.

Lucy has been impacted by suicide. Her two sons, Desmond Montgrand and Randy Montgrand, committed suicide. She also lost her sister-in-law, Martha Guetre, to suicide. Lucy felt it was important to honour her loved ones while reminding the community how big of a problem suicide is in La Loche, since it is difficult to

find anyone in La Loche that has not lost a friend or loved one to suicide.

ABE Instructor Ernestine McNeil put in long hours working well into the evenings leading up to the Walk. She gathered names and pictures of the deceased and printed them off for the students.

I would like to thank all the staff and students that worked so hard on this important project. The turnout was very uplifting and positive. The Walk ended with a soup and bannock meal at the DTI Building. We are very grateful to the Northern Store and the Village Office for donating some of the food and drinks.

The DTI students want the Suicide Awareness Walk to become an annual event in the community and are already talking about next year's Walk. Hopefully, Awareness Walk will help reduce the amount of suicides in the community. We have lost far too many young Aboriginal people in La Loche and it cannot continue. 🙏

SUNTEP Prince Albert Graduation 2015

By James Oloo

On May 15, 2015, SUNTEP Prince Alberta held a very well attended graduation ceremony for its Class of 2015. The 15 Bachelor of Education graduates were Delanie Beavereye, Krystal Bartley, Chantelle Bear, Braden Bernier, Kim Delisle, Joel Hamilton, Caitlin Crawford-Morley, Chanel Panas, Shelby Parenteau, Kirk Pilon, Kelsey Pilon, Colleen Scarrow, Lindsay Selander, Tanya Vancoughnett, and Megan Walsh. The Program Coordinator Liza Brown received loud cheers when she

said that nine of the graduates already have teaching jobs. Liza was applauded when she talked about how SUNTEP continues to impact generations of Métis and First Nations families. The graduates included a bother and a sister whose parent is a SUNTEP alumnus.

The speeches by the graduates were both moving and inspiring. Delanie Beavereye thanked her family and SUNTEP for support and encouragement; and Kelsey

Pilon said "If it weren't for SUNTEP, I would not have achieved my dream of becoming a teacher." Describing SUNTEP as being "a family and community worth being a part of," Krystal Bartley noted that, "SUNTEP has made my passion of becoming a teacher come true." Colleen Scarrow stated that she came to SUNTEP as a mother and wife "full of doubt and a dream of becoming a teacher." She said, "SUNTEP has been a wonderful experience."

Continued on Page 4



2015 SUNTEP Regina Graduation

By Janice R. Thompson

Kahkeeyow kee weechihinaan zeusk ouma ka takowshiahk! 'Sharing in Our Learning Journey' theme with over 120 people on May 8, 2015, marked the 32nd annual Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) graduation at the Delta Regina Hotel.

Emcees for the evening, chosen by the graduates, were Fourth Year students

Trenna Beauregard and Dalton Burzminski. A sense of pride filled the air as SUNTEP Regina celebrated the post-secondary academic completion of six young professionals earning their Bachelor of Education degrees from the University of Regina. There were many celebratory visits with Elders, Métis Cultural Knowledge Keepers, special guests, families, friends, fellow colleagues, students, alumni, staff, and musicians who

celebrated the achievements of the graduates.

The graduates, Samuel Fayant, Cassandra Fisher (both graduating with Great Distinction), Samantha Gold, Sydney Lemieux, Victoria Parisien, and Mariah Rope, were glowing as each one of them provided us with fond memories of their personal and professional journey over the past four years.

Continued on Page 4



A New Book by Ashley!

Ashley Hayden-Ross
GDI Training & Employment
Has a new book out

Photo courtesy of A. Hayden-Ross

"All Children Can Learn," Says Deidre Boyer, A SUNTEP Grad

By James Oloo

This month, 13 students graduated from the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) in Saskatoon with Bachelor of Education degrees after four years of hard work. We caught up with one of the grads, Deidre Boyer, to discuss her experience at SUNTEP. Deidre is currently working as a substitute teacher in Saskatoon with the Public School Division.

Deidre has always enjoyed working with children. Although she had thought of becoming a teacher, Deidre took a different path after high school. She went to a career college and enrolled in the Medical Assistant program after which she worked in a couple medical clinics in Saskatoon.

Sometime after that, Deidre's desire to work with children peeked and she became interested in enrolling in to an Early Childhood Education program with the hopes to open her own daycare. It was then that Sheila Pocha,

an award winning Métis educator, former SUNTEP (Saskatoon) Instructor and current Principal of James L. Alexander School, encouraged Deidre to consider joining SUNTEP. She got into the program in 2011 after upgrading some of her high school marks and is so grateful for Sheila and her family's advice and encouragement. Today, Deidre is one of only two members of her own family to graduate with a university degree.

For Deidre, joining SUNTEP brought two sets of unique and related experiences. It meant going to university, something she had never imagined when growing up, which had challenges in itself. It also meant joining the SUNTEP family. The latter was a sweet surprise because until then, she was not aware of such a Métis-focused program. "Growing up," Deidre reminisces, "there was no emphasis on integrating Aboriginal perspectives in the curriculum." Plus, "I was struggling with my own identity and finding a place to fit in, something many Métis people, I'm sure, can relate to."

Deidre is the daughter of a German father and a Métis mother. Growing up, she lived with her mother and grandmother, Rose Boyer, a Métis elder and leader, who recently passed away after battling Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. Deidre was fortunate enough to have spent at least a week or so every year with her Dad who lives in Alberta. "I had no Aboriginal role models in the classroom or school setting and I did not know how to fit in," says Deidre. All that changed when she joined SUNTEP and "discovered a Métis community. I felt like I was home. There were people like me, and they were proud to be Métis." Deidre was fortunate enough to grow up in a strong Métis household and this new Métis community was a relief for her, something that resembled being at home in the comfort of family and similarity.

Deidre says, "I see myself in many Aboriginal students; the ones who are struggling with their identity, school, and family issues, yet are sometimes being ignored or misunderstood."

Continued on Page 5

SUNTEP graduates have gained excellent reputations as teachers and role models in schools across Canada. Their training combines a sound academic education with extensive classroom experience and a thorough knowledge of educational issues.

PROGRAM FEATURES

- a four-year, fully accredited Bachelor of Education program, offered by the Gabriel Dumont Institute in cooperation with Saskatchewan Learning, the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan
- the program is offered in three urban centres – Prince Albert, Saskatoon, and Regina
- focus on Native Studies and cross-cultural education with an emphasis on Métis and First Nations history and culture
- a solid foundation in the theories and skills of teaching enhanced each year with classroom experience



SUNTEP Prince Albert Graduation ... *Continued from Page 2*



SUNTEP Regina Class of 2015 (six graduates) Left-Right): Cassandra Fisher, Samuel Fayant, Samantha Gold – and...

Chantelle Bear thanked everyone who believed in her and assured her that she had what it takes to earn a Bachelor of Education degree. Shelby Parenteau reminded everyone that “You do not realize how far you have walked until you look back and see where you are from.”

All the graduates thanked their families, friends, cooperating teachers and mentors, as well as SUNTEP for contributing to their success.

Linda Lysyk introduced the SUNTEP Prince Albert partners and acknowledged their contribution in making the program a success. She expressed her gratitude to school divisions for providing space for SUNTEP student

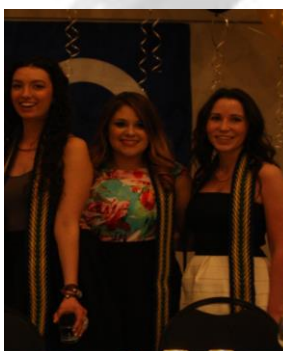
teachers to do their internship and to cooperating teachers for sharing their classrooms and expertise. Linda also thanked the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, GDI Executive Director Geordy McCaffrey, and the GDI family for their support. She then introduced GDI Board Vice Chair Glenn Lafleur who brought greetings and well wishes.

Glen thanked the Institute partners, University of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Advanced Education, and school divisions. He noted that SUNTEP has graduated 1,158 Aboriginal teachers to date and told the graduates that he was proud of them.

University of Saskatchewan College of Education Acting Associate Dean Dr. Bev Brenner

reminded the graduates of the importance of paying attention to all students without ignoring the ‘quiet’ ones who sometimes get picked on. A number of school divisions, including Saskatchewan Rivers and First Nations schools, were also represented.

In her keynote address, Leah Marie Dorion told the graduates that “Our children need you, the Métis and First Nations communities need you, and you have what it takes to make a difference in the life of at least one student.” Entertainment was provided by the father-son duo Phil Boyer and Dallas Boyer, and the Riverside Dancers. 🌐



Mariah Rope, Victoria Parisien, and Stacey Lemieux. Photos by Jennifer Reid-Vandevord

SUNTEP Regina Graduation ... *Continued from Page 3*

Listening to their experiences, as future plans and aspirations reminded us of how proud we are of their achievements.

Special awards were presented to recognize the graduates’ achievements during 2014-2015. The David Amyotte Scholarship is awarded to the senior SUNTEP student, who promotes Aboriginal culture in the classroom, demonstrates teaching potential and leadership in the SUNTEP program, and promotes the goals of cross cultural education. This year’s recipient, Victoria Parisien, worked consistently throughout her Internship to indigenize daily teaching into classroom routines, and understands that Indigenous perspectives transform curriculum, making it the center of learning that takes place in the classroom. It was a pleasure to have the Amyotte family congratulate and deliver the award to Victoria.

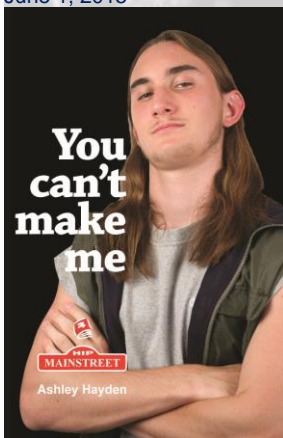
Thank you to the Amyotte family for supporting this award for over thirty years.

Cassandra Fisher was the recipient of the 2015 Spirit of SUNTEP Award – an annual award that recognizes community leadership and involvement by a senior SUNTEP student. The award is given to a student who has consistently demonstrated the spirit of belonging, mastery, independence and generosity in applying the Circle of Courage.

Cassandra consistently demonstrated leadership throughout her time in the program while tirelessly volunteering in the community, and taking pride in sharing her Métis identity with the people she worked with. Recently, Cassandra was nominated for the 2015 University of Regina President’s Medal Award. It is an honour to be nominated for this award.

Lastly, the Lebrez Métis Cultural Days Scholarship is awarded to a SUNTEP student in recognition of academic achievement, financial need, along with community involvement. The award also recognizes the student’s current and historical connection to the traditional Métis settlement of Lebrez, Saskatchewan. This year’s recipient was Samuel Fayant. Thank you Samuel for being true to yourself.

Entertainment for the evening was provided by Regina fiddler Nathaniel Baker and SUNTEP Alumni Alison Kimbley with her Seven Stone Steppers Jigging Group. These musical talents heightened a sense of pride at the annual graduation which was full of enthusiasm and excitement. Once again, congratulations to the 2105 graduates, you deserve it! 🌐



Congratulations Ashley!

GDI Training & Employment Employment Counselor Ashley Hayden-Ross Has published a **new book** Titled *You Can't Make Me*. The book will be released June 1, 2015



Deidre Boyer's SUNTEP Journey ... *Continued from Page 3*

She continues, "Students are unique, they come with different strengths, and different ways of knowing, and it is important that as teachers we meet them at their levels and build on their strengths and interests. Aboriginal students are so easily forgotten in the classroom and that needs to change."

Deidre discussed her teaching philosophy with me. "All children can learn, they should be told that they are capable to being successful. They should be viewed individually and not judged by the family or community they come from. I bring a sense of family to my classroom so every student feels welcomed and appreciated." She continues, "Every student,

Aboriginal or not, deserves to be at school, even if they come in late." She says, "As teachers, we are often not aware of what children bring with them to the classroom; if a student comes in late, we need to thank them for even showing up! That's so important. They need to feel they belong and that they are missed when they are not there."

Deidre believes that the relationship between the teacher and students does not have to be hierarchical where the teacher is the authoritative all-knowing figure, and the students are passive recipients of knowledge. "Rather, I offer guidance and facilitate learning, and encourage all students to learn and question everything.

Something we refer to as inquiry based learning. Students and teachers are actually partners in knowledge creation and learning." Such a pedagogy that empowers the student is very important, yet was unimaginable in Saskatchewan, just several years ago – in terms of the philosophy around residential schools, and even having Aboriginal content in the curriculum. That idea is somewhat new. Students, Métis, First Nations, and non-Aboriginal, need teachers like Deidre.

We wish you all the best in your teaching career. 🌟



Deidre Boyer
Photo courtesy of D. Boyer

Payroll Cutoff Calendar – June 2015

By Carmala Thiessen and Veronica Verzonowski

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for June 12 Student Payroll			Accounts Payable Cheque Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/c Payable Invoices	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Cutoff @ 3:00 for Stop Pmts on Student June 12 Direct Deposit Cutoff @ 4:30 for TMS & Payroll Revisions for June 15 Payday		Accounts Payable Cheque Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/c Payable Invoices	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Staff Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for June 26 Student Payroll			Accounts Payable Cheque Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/c Payable Invoices	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		Cutoff @ 3:00 for Stop Payments on Student June 26 Direct Deposits	Cutoff @ 4:30 for TMS & Payroll Revisions for June 30 Payday	Accounts Payable Cheque Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/c Payable Invoices	
28	29	30				
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for July 10 Student Payroll	Staff Payday				



Gabriel Dumont Institute/Dumont Technical Institute

917 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK
S7M 0R9

PHONE:
(306) 242-6070

FAX:
(306) 242-0002

E-MAIL:
general@gdi.gdins.org

Visit us at
www.gdins.org

Back issues of this newsletter
can be obtained at:

[www.metismuseum.ca/browse/
index.php/833](http://www.metismuseum.ca/browse/index.php/833)

Follow us on Twitter!
@gdins_org



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research

GDI Locations

GDI Central 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 Central 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

GDI Training and Employment Central 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
Fax: (306) 347-4119

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