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Pride Perseverance Possibilities



# 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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## Welcome to The 100th Edition of the GDI Communicator

By James Oloo

The August 2015 Communicator marks the 100<sup>th</sup> edition of the Gabriel Dumont Institute Communicator. The GDI Communicator is an internal newsletter that is aimed at increasing communication between the Institute management and staff. The monthly newsletter is designed to keep all GDI employees up to date on events, initiatives, and the Institute's strategic directions. It was first published in May 2007.

Gracing the front page of the May 2007 Communicator was an article titled, 'GDI Training & Employment – Open for Business.' A previous announcement and signing ceremony on January 10, 2007 marked the launch of the GDI Training & Employment. The article also noted that the introduction of the GDI Training & Employment "signaled significant growth for the Institute," and that "over 700 Aboriginal teachers had graduated from the (Institute's) Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program."

100 months and 100 Communicators later, a lot has changed. Between 2007 and 2014, 5,940 Métis individuals accessed GDI Training & Employment programs including employment assistance, apprenticeship subsidy, student subsidy,

wage subsidy, and individual sponsorships. Many of the clients found employment or returned to school after interventions. About one out of every four (24%) GDI employees work for GDI Training & Employment. Approximately 70% of GDI Training & Employment employees (or 35) are self-declared Métis and more than three of every four (76%) GDI Training & Employment employees are female.

To date, SUNTEP program has graduated over 1,150 Aboriginal teachers, and this summer, the first cohort of the GDI-University of Regina Master of Education program offered in Prince Albert graduated. Among the graduates were 13 who are Métis.

GDI Training & Employment has continued to open space for public and private investment in Métis training and employment through a scholarship partnership program. The scholarships include GDI-Cameco Scholarship, SaskTel Métis Scholarship, SaskEnergy Scholarship, GDI-Saskatoon Health Region Scholarship, and the BHP Billiton-GDI Scholarship.

In the 50<sup>th</sup> edition of the Communicator, published in

July 2011, was an article by Finance Director Cory McDougall titled, 'GDI Surpasses \$1M in Scholarship Awards.' Cory noted that the Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation (GDSF) had awarded over 1,800 scholarships to Métis students, with 70% of the recipients being female.

To date, those numbers have increased significantly. GDSF has awarded a total of 2,684 scholarships worth \$1,606,075. This does not include \$107,000 in graduate student bursaries issued by the Gabriel Dumont College over the past three years.

In 2012, GDI launched the annual GDSF Golf Tournament. To date, a total of \$185,900 has been raised towards scholarships.

As well, online payslip system replaced the paper payslips; resulting in savings on staff time, paper, and associated cost. It has also been good for the environment.

As we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Communicator, we would like to recognize and thank the group that was involved in putting together the first newsletter in May 2007. These include Geordy McCaffrey, Lisa Wilson, Karon Shmon, Darren Préfontaine, and David Morin. 



## IT Update

By Gareth Griffiths  
**CommunityNet**



Michael Relland (right), the Master of Education Program Coordinator, shares a joke with the graduates  
Photo by James Oloo

We are working with SaskTel and the Ministry of Advanced Education to provide Enterprise-grade high speed connections to our main campuses. Agreements have been signed for Saskatoon, Regina and Prince Albert. La Loche will follow soon.

These connections are currently using a 50Mb/s synchronous (same speed uploading and downloading) connection. As a point of comparison, SaskTel Basic High Speed is up to 5Mb/s download and 128kb/s upload.

Major works have already been undertaken to bring fibre optic connections into the buildings. The connection is operational in Saskatoon and Regina, with Prince Albert scheduled for August.

### SaskTel Select Wi-Fi

We have partnered with SaskTel to install their Select Wi-Fi system in our premises. The system allows any SaskTel mobile device to connect automatically to Wi-Fi from locations across the province.

### HO/1003 Network Link

As mentioned above, the network link between two Saskatoon buildings is complete. The buildings now operate as one continuous network, meaning data can easily be shared between them. The IT Team (especially Gordon and Brody) has done a commendable job in merging the computers onto one domain.

### Home Directories

If you are on one of our networked locations, don't forget you usually have access to a home directory on the

fileservers to save data. This location is usually marked as drive H: and is added through the login script each morning. Data saved to this location is automatically backed up, and is on a server that has mirrored disks to combat disk failure.

Also, a substantial amount of files on the desktop will affect the startup performance of a computer, and these are better off located on the home directory, with a shortcut to the location on the desktop. Please contact IT at [support@gdins.org](mailto:support@gdins.org) if you have a question.

### IT Support System

In July 2015, 34 new Work Orders were received into Track-IT. Of these, 31 are now closed (91% completion rate). Overall, we closed 41 Work Orders in the month.

As part of the work to decommission Windows Server 2003, we migrated the Track-IT system to a new server. At the same time, the upgrades from v9.0 to v11.4 were performed. More on this will follow next month.

### Website

The Institute website had 4,127 Pageviews (3,485 Unique Pageviews) in July. Highlights include: 25% of visitors to the home page clicked on What We Offer, 18% used the search function, and 17% each scrolled through the News and Events items, with 9% going to the Contact Us page.

### Social Media

Social Media stats for July were as follows:  
Facebook: Total number of people liking the page grew by 42 to 952. Total Engagements

(number of links clicked, likes or comments) in July was 663. Total reach of posts (number of people that saw a post in their feed) was 6,768 with 16,223 impressions (number of times a GDI page appeared in others' news feeds). The most popular post was the DTI Security Officer program ad, reaching 3,450 people and 147 likes, comments, and shares

Twitter: 27 tweets earned 8,712 impressions. There were 17 new followers in the month, 40 mentions and 933 profile visits. The top tweet was <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CKlgHvJUMAIGXH3.jpg:large> (Apprentice at the New Mosaic Stadium), earning 1,203 impressions. Top mention was the same tweet, with 139 mentions. We currently have 459 followers.

### Windows 10

Microsoft launched their new Operating System, Windows 10, in July. It reintroduces a Start Menu, and looks more like the version everyone is used to.

Some of you may have noticed a popup on your computer about upgrading to Windows 10. This came as part of the normal updates to Windows 7, and offers a free upgrade. The link that pops up is valid, and not spam or malicious software. However, as an organization we are not ready for Windows 10. Please do not install this upgrade on your computers at this point. Further details will follow in the coming weeks. Please contact IT for assistance with this.

### Closing Thought

On the keyboard of life, always keep one finger on the Escape key. 🌐



DTI Medical Device Reprocessing Technician students Cara Sparvier and Chelsea Poitras at their graduation party  
Photo by Chantelle Julé



## J. Britton: GDI Apprenticeship Client Becomes a Red Seal Chef

By James Oloo and Dwayne Docken

Joselyn Britton was featured in the 2012-2013 GDI Training and Employment Operations Report, and in the January 2014 Communicator. She joined the GDI Aboriginal Apprenticeship Initiative under the previous federal Skills and Partnership Fund in 2012 as a Year II Apprentice Cook.

When we last spoke with Joselyn in 2014 about her experiences as a client in the GDI Apprenticeship program, she noted that "I enjoy my work, and have fun with what I am doing both at school and at [my workplace]. Her favourite aspect of the job was seeing the customers who come through the door. "It is such a good feeling when people leave the restaurant happy after having something that we made." Joselyn first heard about the GDI Training and Employment opportunities from her father Harvey Britton, who is the Vice President of the Métis local of Batoche. Her goal then was to become a Red Seal-certified chef.

Joselyn points out that "unlike in many other trades where apprentices are often released from work for a block of time to attend in-class training at an educational institution, in the culinary trade, in-class training usually involves attending school once a week." This made it possible for her to benefit from hands-on cooking in the kitchen and the text book aspect of culinary in the same week."

Joselyn wrote her Red Seal exams in June 2015 and got

the good news the following month that she had passed the exams. She says, "It still feels surreal!"

Most of the GDI Aboriginal Apprenticeship Project clients always say that their goal is to get Red Seal certification in their chosen trade. What is Red Seal certification? The Red Seal, which is short for Red Seal Interprovincial Program, is a universally recognized and very prestigious certification of apprenticeship in Canada. It is a recognition and endorsement of the skills and expertise that apprentices have acquired in a designated trade. The Red Seal is administered jointly by the federal, provincial and territorial governments.

Joselyn works at Wanuskewin Heritage Park as a sous chef. She describes her workplace as a "great place to work; it has spectacular views and a magnificent kitchen." Joselyn says that she has a lot of freedom and flexibility to experiment with various foods and recipes. When we (@gdins\_org) posted a tweet congratulating Joselyn on her Red Seal certification, Wanuskewin Heritage Park (@Wanuskewin\_Park) responded by tweeting (Joselyn is one of our leaders and we are proud!), and the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trades Certification Commission (@SKApprentice) expressed its congratulations to Joselyn by tweeting "Fantastic!"

Joselyn thanks GDI and her Employment Counselor Dwayne Docken: "GDI has been very helpful." She explains, "Our trade is unique

in that we are not paid as much as other trades during the apprenticeship training." She continues, "GDI helped me with tuition and cost of living. Quality kitchen knives and cutlery are essential but can be very expensive. I thank GDI for all the help." Joselyn remembers that GDI gave her the encouragement that she needed.

Joselyn likes the fact that as a chef she has the opportunity to be self-critical. "When you taste your own food, you can learn quickly on how to improve." Plus, the Saskatchewan restaurant industry offers great incentives for growth.

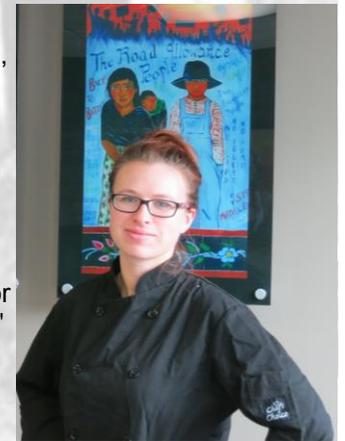
There "are chef associations including the Canadian Culinary Federation and the Saskatoon Chefs' Association. The latter, for example, holds an annual Chefs' Gala and Showcase. Chefs are able to enter into a number of competitions, showcase their work, and network with others." Saskatchewan also offers numerous volunteer opportunities for chefs.

Joselyn enjoys her job and is happy to live her childhood dream of becoming the best cook she can be. She notes that even when at high school, she "always made my own food. I could not do pizza pops or junk foods. My parents instilled in me the love for cooking, and I thank them for that." Joselyn hopes to someday own a restaurant.

Joselyn has an apprentice who works under her. Incidentally, the apprentice is in the GDI Aboriginal Apprenticeship Project. She asserts that, "while the kitchen is fast paced, we are still able to explain what we do, and why; and to be able to be effective mentors to the new (apprentices)." 🍳



Joselyn Britton as Apprentice Chef  
Tusq Restaurant,  
Saskatoon, 2012



Joselyn Britton, Red Seal Chef  
2015



Joselyn Britton says,  
"Thank you GDI for  
helping me achieve my dreams."

Photos by James Oloo



## First Cohort of GDI Master of Education Graduates

By James Oloo



Brian Linn of the Master of Education Class of 2015 receives a Métis sash from Cory McDougall as his son looks on.  
Photo by James Oloo

"Awesome! Wonderful experience ... it was a great two years," said Brock Skomorowski when asked about his experience as a student in the Master of Education (MEd) program.

It is not often that a group of educators sitting in the shade in a beautiful acreage on a gorgeous summer afternoon sipping cold drinks as the seductive aroma of smoke rises from the BBQ grill are unanimous in their satisfaction with an experience. But that was the case on July 30, 2015 when 23 members of the inaugural GDI-University of Regina MEd

in Prince Albert held a celebration to mark the successful completion of the program.

Michael Relland, the MEd program coordinator, congratulated the graduates and thanked GDI for bringing the program to Prince Albert. Cory McDougall, the Director of

## Medical Device Reprocessing Tech Prog Graduation

By Chantelle Julé

Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) is proud to have offered another Medical Device Reprocessing Technician (MDRT) Program in Regina, SK over the past year in response to the labour market demands. The program was delivered following a request by Joyce Racette, the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region (RQHR) Representative Workforce Coordinator and a supporter and partner of DTI, to help meet the health region's need for qualified technicians in the sterile processing department.

Finance, stated that the graduation was "a testament to how far GDI has come. In 1980, there were less than 10 Aboriginal teachers in Saskatchewan. Today, SUNTEP has graduated 1,158 Aboriginal teachers, and among today's graduates 14 are Aboriginal; including 13 who are Métis."

Cory, whose brother was among the graduates, asserted that the 23 graduates will be able to get into education administration roles and help influence policies around Saskatchewan (Indeed one of the graduates has already been offered a Vice Principal position at a school in the Prince Albert Area). Cory congratulated the graduates and thanked Michael for his dedication and hard work.

About two thirds (15) of the graduates were individually asked to sum up their experiences. The responses included: awesome (26%), fantastic (20%), wonderful (13%), beyond my expectations (13%), very good (7%), good

(7%), I liked it (7%), and I enjoyed it (7%). Fifteen is a representative sample, implying that the majority of the inaugural MEd cohort had positive things to say about the program. Out of 25 students who enrolled in the program, 23 completed successfully - a completion rate of 92%.

So, what exactly did they like about the MEd program? One of the graduates said he liked the smaller classes and the cohort system in which the whole class starts the program together and graduate together as a group. It meant "tight knit community of learners, making good friends, networking, plus I felt that the professors were able to dedicate more time and attention to us (students)."

Another graduate noted that, the "(classroom environment) provided an opportunity for a shared learning experience. For two years, we were all students and teachers at the same time. Everyone's participation was encouraged, respected, and appreciated."  
*Continued on Page 5.*



Prudence Bergen, DTI Medical Device Reprocessing Technician Program Instructor, receiving a Star Blanket from her students for being 'a wonderful instructor.'  
Photo by Chantelle Julé

The DTI program is unique in that the RQHR programming, which had hitherto been offered in Saskatchewan as a distance course by the Saskatchewan Polytechnic, is delivered by DTI in a face-to-face classroom setting. It is offered in partnership with the RQHR and the Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

Under the guidance of Prudence Bergen, a full time instructor, the program registered 100 percent graduation rate as all 10 students who began the program, successfully completed.

As well as the 100 percent graduation rate, all the graduates have been offered jobs by Health Canada and the RQHR, making the program one of the most successful anywhere. We celebrated the achievement at a luncheon on August 18. The graduates thanked GDI for the opportunity, and indicated that they are excited for their new careers that will help them build brighter futures for themselves and their families. For more about DTI, please call visit [www.gdins.org](http://www.gdins.org).



# GDI Master of Education Graduation ... *continued from Page 4*

One graduate liked the fact that because of the way the program is structured, she knew ahead of time when the studies would end. This enabled her “to make plans regarding professional and personal aspects of (her) life.”

One of the professors who attended the graduation party, Dr. Carol Fulton, praised the students and said she enjoyed the classes she taught. She also commended GDI and Michael for ensuring that the program ran smoothly.

Michael brought graduation gifts worthy of the students’ hard work through the two year program. These included a Métis sash and a

traditional Métis fire kit. Referring to the Métis traditions, Michael said he regarded the “graduates as fire starters.” Cory said that “one day the fires will all burn together.”

Brian Linn, one of the graduates, and his family hosted the graduation party at their acreage just outside Prince Albert.

The second cohort of 23 students commenced the Master of Education program in July. As we congratulate the graduating class, we would like to extend a warm welcome to the new students and wish them the best in their studies. 🌟



GDI-University of Regina Master of Education Class of 2015  
 (The first graduating class of the Master of Education program)  
 Of the 23 graduates, 13 are Métis and one First Nations  
 13 of the 23 (56%) are graduates of the Saskatchewan Urban Natives Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP)

Photo by Janice DePeel

## Payroll Cutoff Calendar – September 2015

By Carmala Thiessen and Veronica Verzonowski

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
		Cutoff @ 3:00 for Stop Payments on Student Sep 4 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque Run	<b>Student Payday</b> Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/C Payable Invoices	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	<b>Labour Day Stat Holiday</b>	Cutoff @ Noon for Sep 18 Student Payroll	Cutoff @ 4:30 for TMS & Payroll Revisions for Sep 15 Payday	Accounts Payable Cheque Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/C Payable Invoices	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		<b>Staff Payday</b> Cutoff @ 3:00 for Stop Payments on Student Sep 18 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque Run	<b>Student Payday</b> Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/C Payable Invoices	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Oct 2 Student Payroll			A/P Cheque Run Cutoff @ 4:30 for TMS & Payroll Revisions for Sep 30 Payday	Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/C Payable Invoices	
27	28	29	30			
		Cutoff @ 3:00 for Stop Payments on Student Oct 2 Direct Deposits	<b>Staff Payday</b>			



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

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

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[http://gdi.voyager.uregina  
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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**  
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