



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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Facilities Operations Update

By Greg MacLeod

Gabriel Dumont Institute Facilities Management is responsible for maintenance, renovation, and construction of the Institute's physical fabric. Below are current and most recent projects at the Institute.

Central Office Expansion

Expansion of the Institute Central Office in Saskatoon is on target for a completion date of June 2019. The new space will house the Métis Museum, Publishing Department, a boardroom, and office space. We have recently punched through from the existing building to the new structure providing a better visual on how the two structures will be tied in. The mechanical, plumbing and electrical rough in are currently underway. Window and door frames are being installed with glazing arriving soon. The elevator system is currently being installed as well as front entrance features such as timber beams. The stucco finish has also been completed.

Inspections are being carried out by the architects, engineers, and the City of Saskatoon Inspectors to ensure compliance with the design drawings, existing by-laws and building code requirements.

As the temperatures begin to rise, we will be starting landscape work around the

new building and develop a new parking area located across the back alley.

1003 Warehouse Expansion

Last fall, we added a 500 square foot space onto the existing garage structure located at the Dumont Technical Institute building on 1003 22nd Street West Saskatoon. This project has now been completed and the permit closed. This space will be utilized for GDI Publishing storage.

La Loche Campus

The Campus is fully functional with students, clients, and staff all settled in. Over the past year, we have worked on completing various deficiencies and landscaping work utilizing the carpentry training program for the construction of fencing and walk-ways. We also installed central air conditioning systems which should help out in the summer months. The La Loche addition provided the much needed classroom and training space and is a huge asset for the Community.

La Loche Staff Housing

Dumont Technical Institute staff housing project is about 98 percent completed. We will be looking at the landscaping items as well as fencing in the spring of 2019. We are planning to work with the carpentry training program again this year with

the construction of fencing around the staff housing units.

We were experiencing water infiltration problems into the basement area at the duplex project. The La Loche-based Methy Construction provided additional landscape work and barriers to prevent further intrusion. We will carry out another assessment after the snow around the building starts melting in the spring.

Planned Projects

The Institute facilities as a whole are functioning well. We have had no major issues this winter and continue our regular maintenance and planning. There are a few larger items that we will be addressing over the summer and fall of 2019. In particular, the roof at the Prince Albert facility has reached its full life and we will be seeking estimates for the roofing replacement. This has been identified in the budget process along with other replacement items. We painted the exterior on this facility about five years ago and experienced a major paint failure. I was able to somewhat resolve this issue with the general contractor by means of re-imburement which covered the majority of the new scrape and paint. For any questions or concerns regarding the Gabriel Dumont Institute facilities, please contact Greg MacLeod, Facility Manager, at greg.macleod@gdi.gdins.org.



Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP)

Riel: Heart of the North Premieres in Regina

By Brenna Pacholko



Regina Symphony Orchestra presented the world premiere of *Riel: Heart of the North* on Saturday March 9, 2019 at the Conexus Arts Center, Regina. The production was composed by Neil Weisensel and Dr. Suzanne Steele. It was developed as an imaginative musical interpretation of Louis Riel's life in the early 1870's. The storyline, narrated by Riva Farrell-Racette, is based on an extensive research by Weisensel and Steele over the past several years.

Riel: Heart of the North includes Louis Riel's battle

with settler Canada, relationships with beautiful Métis women, kinship with neighboring Indigenous groups and, of course, his love for the Métis Nation. This production uniquely intertwined a number of languages throughout, including two dialects of Michif, French, Saulteaux, and English. It also included, at center stage, sixteen year old traditional fiddler Jordan Daniels from the Mistawasis First Nation who stole the hearts of everyone in the audience.

Pelletier, Brenna Pacholko, Marilyn E. Belhumeur, Heather Witherspoon, and Dallas Montpetit – joined the *Riel: Heart of the North* choir. The choir, recruited from the community for this special project, was led by Dr. Dominic Gregorio who believed that the power of song could build bridges between people. With the help of Métis academic Dr. Jesse Archibald-Barber, Dr. Gregorio worked to build relationships with our community members, Old Ones, and students.

A group of Michif women from the SUNTEP family – Tyra

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Irma Klyne with SUNTEP Regina student Tristan Frei
Photo by Russ Fayant

SUNTEP Regina Student Athletes Shine

By Russell Fayant

At the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Regina, we have a long history of supporting student athletic goals as well as academic accomplishments. Our list of alumni includes many former members of the University of Regina Cougar basketball and hockey teams. We can even brag about former Saskatchewan Roughrider Neal Hughes being one of our alumni! Following in that tradition of athletic achievement, we are proud to highlight two current student athletes who are making their mark on athletics in Southern Saskatchewan.

basketball in high school for F.W. Johnson Collegiate and returned to the high school as a SUNTEP student to help coach the junior basketball team. This month, Kaleb and the F.W. Johnson Wildcats emerged as victors in the City of Regina Junior Basketball Championship. Kaleb said, 'We didn't win cities when I was a student so it's nice that I got to go back there and help them win one'. Kaleb's experience as a coach has been invaluable and will prove useful in his future career as a teacher.

The competition is likened to an Olympics for university students from around the world. Tristan performed exceedingly well at the competition and returned to Regina with a bronze medal in hand! The medal is in addition to Tristan's already long list of athletic and academic accomplishments. These include three years in the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League where he helped the Melfort Mustangs win two Canalta Cup titles in 2015 and 2016. He also served as captain of the Mustangs.



SUNTEP Regina student Kaleb Desjarlais (middle)
Photo by Shannon Fayant

Kaleb Desjarlais is a second year SUNTEP Regina student. Kaleb hails from the Michif community of Lebret and is incredibly proud of his Métis heritage. Kaleb was very active in high school athletics and distinguished himself in the Saskatchewan Premier Baseball League as a youth. Kaleb played

Tristan Frei is also a second year SUNTEP Regina student and is currently the captain of the University of Regina men's hockey team, the Cougars. Tristan is a superstar on and off the ice and when he's not engaged with hockey, he's volunteering in the community or hard at work maintaining a 90% GPA.

SUNTEP Regina is extremely proud of these two gentlemanly scholars who manage to volunteer, participate in sport, perform well academically all while maintaining focus on their field experiences and cultural involvement. Congratulations Tristan and Kaleb. Your community is very proud! Nee kischeetaymoonawn por keyyawow. 🌟

Early this year, Tristan was named to Team Canada for the 2019 Universiade held in Krasnoyarsk, Russia this month.



GDI – Pinehouse Partnership for Apprenticeship Programming

By Walter Smith

On March 22, 2019 nine apprentice carpenters in Pinehouse celebrated the successful completion of their training. Lawrence Mispounas, Trent Tinker, Shawn Ratt, Marlin Lariviere, Jordan Lariviere, Dustin Lariviere, Valmore Lariviere, Ricky Lariviere, and Matthew McCallum started their training in the carpentry program together. During the first year of the program, the students took training for Level 1 here in Pinehouse hosted through the Saskatchewan Polytechnic. Levels 2 and 3 were hosted on campus at the Saskatchewan Polytechnic in Prince Albert.

The fourth and final level of the program was held in Pinehouse. In fact, the instructor, Ivan Remillard, has been the consistent supervisor of the entire program, hence having rapport with the students and providing continuity that they have found beneficial. We were able to add three trade routed carpenters: Robert Alcrow, Greg Natomagan, and Allan T. Natomagan, who used the Level 4 program as an upgrader.

We want to congratulate all of our apprentices and staff who work with them for their

perseverance and dedication and for the time away from their families.

With the cooperation of the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission (SATCC), all nine apprentices are expected to write their journeyman examinations in Pinehouse.

Pinehouse started an apprenticeship program for Carpenters, Heavy Duty Mechanics, Industrial Mechanics and Welders shortly after the signing of the Collaboration Agreement between the Village of Pinehouse, Cameco, and AREVA in 2013. All the programs were successful with the largest number coming from the carpenters. Mayor Mike Natomagan was instrumental in making this possible.

Apprenticeship programs in Saskatchewan are based on partnerships. Employer partners provide job placements, training, and mentorship for participants. There is technical training provided in class. These, and other partners, including Gabriel Dumont Institute have been very helpful.

We commend the Aboriginal Initiatives Group of the

SATCC for opportunity to enable us to host the training program in a Northern Indigenous community. Indigenous peoples have wanted opportunity to acquire relevant knowledge and skills in trades of their preference. Whenever possible, the programs should be delivered in our home communities, where we have the most support.

A special thanks to the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (especially Shelley McNaab and Sylvia Hamilton) for hosting the Level 4 program here in Pinehouse and acting as the Joint Training Committee for some of the apprentices. Also, Conrad Misonas of Pinehouse Housing Corporation who enabled the apprentices to build 13 beautiful homes, a 12 unit Elders complex, six unit homeless shelters, and the interior of the Pinehouse Community Ice Arena.

We're grateful to Cameco and AREVA for the labour services portion of the agreement which allowed Pinehouse to develop required skill and infrastructure for our community.

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Max Morin, Marina Morin, and Dwayne Docken

Photo courtesy of GDI Training & Employment

Riel Production ... *Continued from Page 3*

It was important to Dr. Gregorio that Métis people from this homeland had a voice in this work. He also worked with Michif language carrier Erma Taylor, to ensure that all Michif words were pronounced correctly. In addition to the SUNTEP women, the choir was made up of members of First

Nations and the Fransaskois communities. As well, several GDI representatives attended the performance as audience members.

A few days before the opening night, the performers of *Riel: Heart of the North* were informed of the unexpected passing of our friend and choir director Dr. Dominic Gregorio.

The *Riel: Heart of the North* performance was dedicated in Dr. Dominic Gregorio's honour and recognition of his extensive and important work in the choral, academic and cultural communities in Regina and throughout North America. Dr. Gregorio will be dearly missed by all who knew him. 🌟



For more information on GDI Indigenous Apprenticeship, please contact Dwayne Docken at apprenticeships@gdins.org or call: 1-877-488-6888.



DTI Responds to Shortage of Preschool Educators

By Tracy LaPrise



A young Métis boy
Photo courtesy of
GDI Publishing Department

Finding a reliable, quality, and affordable childcare can be a challenge for many families. For those entering or re-entering the work force or those returning to school, the challenge may be even greater. Over the years, Dumont Technical Institute students have discussed their experiences with finding child care spaces. The Institute not only offered support, but also started offering Early Childhood Education (ECE) program to train those who work with our children.

To ensure that children receive quality care, guidelines were put in place for qualifications for childcare workers. Effective January 2002, all staff employed in a childcare centre for at least 65 hours per month had to meet the qualifications of an Early Childhood Education Level 1 (ECE I) certification. The credential involves 120 hour childcare orientation

course or equivalent provided through regional or community colleges. Licensed childcare facilities were required to have 30 percent of their staff to have completed a one year certificate in Early Childhood Education or equivalent by January 2005. A further 20 percent of staff must have a two year diploma or equivalent by 2007. Individuals must apply to the Ministry of Education for certification. (Source: Childcarecanada.org)

With this new standard of certification, the demand for ECE's has increased significantly. Dumont Technical Institute is currently offering Early Childhood Education Level 1 program in North Battleford. The program has a cohort of 12 students who are expected to graduate on April 12, 2019. Upon completion of the program, the graduates will be able to find employment in child care centres, preschools, family day homes, and

elementary schools. The 12 students will have completed their in-class ECE courses: ECE 106 – Role of Play in Early Childhood Education; ECE 142 – Health, Safety and Nutrition; and HUMD 183 – Child Guidance along with First Aid/CPR, Food Safe and WHMIS by March 29, 2019 before going on a two week work placement.

With the need for certified Early Childhood Educators increasing, Dumont Technical Institute has also decided to run the program in La Loche starting April 1, 2019. Many applicants are currently working in the pre-school, daycare, elementary, and high schools and need to get their certification to match their employment requirements. Dumont Technical Institute is proud to provide the ECE program and to help address the growing need for childcare in our Métis communities. 🌐

The 8th Annual
Gabriel Dumont Scholarship
Foundation Golf Tournament



When: May 31, 2019
Where: Moon Lake Golf & Country Club, Saskatoon
More information:
Angie Rathgeber
golf@gdins.org

GDI – Pinehouse Partnership ... *Continued from Page 3*

The final group we want to thank and recognize for their assistance, their continued support is the Gabriel Dumont Institute and the Dumont Technical Institute. On behalf of Pinehouse, I'd like to thank the leadership of Gabriel Dumont Institute for believing that a community such as Pinehouse could succeed in developing from start to finish, an apprenticeship program.

We thank Gabriel Dumont Institute Training and Employment for supporting the community through wage subsidy for the Levels 2 to 4 for over three years. We are

especially thankful to Gabriel Dumont Institute staff for their assistance: Max Morin for the continuing support through constant communication, and Marina Morin, a person who understands the real issues faced by Indigenous communities when they are trying new initiatives. She was rock solid and making sure we completed all the required documentation and the paper work we needed to continue the program from start to finish. Marina was always supportive through all the challenges and had great advice, through it all.

From the bottom of our heart and spirits we want to thank our

partners, our community, and our apprentices. This is testament to the fact that when communities like Pinehouse are given the opportunity, they can build training models that leaves families intact, and provide real solutions to the need for skills and training opportunities in our Indigenous communities. We are blessed and we can look forward to continuing this very successful journey.

Walter Smith is the Manager of Training and Labour Services at Pinehouse Business North, Pinehouse, Saskatchewan. 🌐



Smudging at Gabriel Dumont Institute

SUNTEP Regina

As a cultural institution with a cultural and education mandate, the Gabriel Dumont Institute encourages traditional cultural practices including smudging, which involves the burning of sage, cedar, or sweetgrass in a traditional cultural ceremony. The Institute encourages smudging as part of our cultural mandate and will endeavor to create safe spaces to do so, while at the same time being mindful of the effect these activities may have on staff, students, and others in the immediate vicinity.

Smudging within Institute facilities will be scheduled in advance to allow any staff,

students, and guests of the Institute who may have medical sensitivities, the opportunity to leave the area while the ceremony is taking place. Each facility will have a method to advise staff in the location of when and where the ceremony is scheduled to occur.

Staff holding a smudging ceremony will endeavor to confine the activity to a designated area within the facility. This will allow assessment to determine the feasibility of a ventilation system to assist with the removal of any odor/smoke and prevent it from being disseminated throughout the facility. 



The Michif choir from SUNTEP Regina (from Left): Brenna Pacholko, Faculty; Marilyn E. Belhumeur, Librarian; Heather Witherspoon, Year 1; Dallas Montpetit, Alumni (2014); and Tyra Pelletier, Year 4. Photo by Dr. Heather Phipps

Payroll Cutoff Calendar, April 2019

By Carmala Thiessen and Veronica Verzonowski

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Cutoff @ 4:30 for April 12 Student Payroll	2	3	4 Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	5 Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/P Invoices	6
7	8	9 Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Pmts on Student Apr 12 Direct Deposit Cutoff @ 4:30 for TMS & Payroll Revisions for Apr 15 Payday	10	11 Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	12 Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/P Invoices	13
14	15 Staff Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for April 26 Student Payroll	16	17 Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	18 Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/P Invoices	19 Good Friday Stat Holiday	20
21	22 Easter Monday Stat Holiday	23 Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student April 26 Direct Deposits	24 Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheets & Payroll Revisions for April 30 Payday	25 Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	26 Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/P Invoices	27
28	29 Cutoff @ 4:30 for May 10 Student Payroll	30 Staff Payday				

Employee contracts due at payroll upon job acceptance
 Payroll must receive contracts prior to payroll cutoff date, otherwise the employee will be paid on the following pay period.
 MRTS due by the 15th of every month.

Gabriel Dumont Institute/Dumont Technical Institute

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www.gdins.org

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can be obtained at:

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

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[https://gdins.org/student-
services/library/](https://gdins.org/student-services/library/)

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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