

**Gabriel Dumont Institute
Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP)
Operational Highlights
2010-2011**

SUNTEP Prince Albert

Location: GDI Centre, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

Staff Complement:

Michael Relland	Coordinator
Donna Biggins	Admin Support
Leah Dorion	Faculty
Bente Huntley	Faculty
Sandy Sherwin-Shields	Faculty
Corey Teeter	Faculty
Liza Brown	Faculty

Student Update:

As of September 1, 2010 we have a total enrolment of 90 students, enrolled as follows:

Year One	30
Year Two	24
Year Three	17
Year Four	19

Nineteen (19) fourth year students interned in the fall of 2010 with 17 successfully completing and graduating in the spring.

Centre Activities:

Third year students were out on field placements the week of November 1st to 5th. These placements occurred mainly at schools within the city.

In the first semester, the last day of classes was December 3rd with final and mid-term exams taking place December 6th to 17th.

This year Survivors' Banquet (a celebration honouring SUNTEP students who have successfully completed their first year) was held November 10th at Mid Town

Hall. In total we honoured 23 students at this year's celebration.

The Centre re-opened after Christmas Holidays on January 3rd. At this time full term courses resumed while 3 credit unit courses began.

All SUNTEP students were out on field placements the week of January 31st to February 4th. For first and third year students these placements occurred mainly at schools in or around the city. However, second year students completed their practicum placements at First Nations' schools or in the North.

The Students were out of the Centre for study week from February 21st to 25th and resumed classes again on February 28nd. The last day of term two classes was Friday, March 25th, 2011. After completing their final exams students completed a practicum placement in the schools before returning to class for spring session classes, which ran from May 2nd to June 22nd.

In 2010, SUNTEP Prince Albert started a longitudinal study in cooperation with the College of Education at the University of Saskatchewan designed to track how the program impacts its students' sense of cultural identity. This study will begin in the fall of 2011 and will focus on tracking first year students over a four-year period, from when they enter the program, until they have hopefully completed the program after their fourth year.

SUNTEP PA GRAD 2011

On May 20, 2011 the excited graduates entered the E. A. Rawlinson Centre to the sound of drummers Jamie Chekosis and Trevor Amyiotte, and received a single red rose from the SUNTEP third year students. Over 300 guests helped to kick start an exciting afternoon for the 26th SUNTEP Prince Albert graduating class. Métis Elder, Vivian Meabry, gave the Blessing and Coordinator Michael Relland welcomed family, friends and special guests.

A number of special scholarships were also presented. Mona Berg presented Carlea Stonestand with the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan Award, which is given to a student who has shown growth academically, personally and especially, professionally. The Sharing the Warmth Award (a Star Blanket made by the SUNTEP Cultural Committee) was given to Natasha Isaac presented by Trish Watier from SaskEnergy. This award winner is chosen by the graduating class and honors one who displays commitment to volunteering within SUNTEP and the community.

The evening ended with a slide presentation of the graduates during their internship followed by the graduates' speeches. After this, the third year

students presented the graduates with their plaques and sashes. Elder Vivian Meabry and Coordinator Michael Relland tied the sashes to the end the formal ceremonies. A wine and cheese followed and this gave the graduates a chance to get photographs taken with their families. Congratulations and best wishes to the graduating class of 2011:

Glenda Abbot	Vicki Laliberte
Brittany Boisson	Margaret Larocque
Cody Burns	Melissa Morin-Dubrulle
Tristan Crawford-Morley	Erin Nicolas
Kristina Gardipy	Lorna Regan
Patricia Gardipy	Jordan Reynaud
Lauriane Hudon	Glenda Scrimshaw
Natasha Isaac	Carlea Stonestand-Checkosis
Mary Ann Kkailther	

Overall, the 2010-2011 academic year presented a number of challenges, but it was a rewarding year for SUNTEP Prince Albert.

SUNTEP Regina

Location: University of Regina

Staff Complement:

Joanne Pelletier	Coordinator
Lorri Melnechenko	Faculty
Christina Johns	Faculty
Russell Fayant	Faculty
Erma Taylor	Administrative Support

Student Update:

	Total
Year 1	15
Year 2	6
Year 3	11
in Year 4	9
Total	41

Program Highlights

Métis Course Development

SUNTEP Regina, as a program of the Gabriel Dumont Institute, an affiliate of the University of Regina, celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2010. Currently students in SUNTEP take one specialized class in Métis History. The need for additional Métis specific courses has been an ongoing focus of discussion with the SUNTEP staff. The program began talks with the Faculty of Education in the fall of 2010, to find ways to improve offerings in the field of Métis Studies. In the winter of 2011, the first offering of *Education Social Studies 190—Métis Knowledge, Customs and Traditions*, taught by Faculty member Russell Fayant, took place. In order to meet the requirements of the Board of Education Teacher Certificate (BTEC) for a minimum of 39 arts and science credit hours, it was necessary to obtain approval to have the education course cross listed as an arts and science elective. Staff was successful in persuading BTEC that the course offered both sound educational practices and historical/contemporary Métis content.

It is expected this course will better meet the needs of Métis students to understand Métis knowings and practices. It is meant to celebrate the traditional and other evolved knowledge and practices of Métis people, through integration of hands-on, practical activities, coupled with theoretical and academic goals.

Course Intentions

Students will:

- explore and celebrate traditional and other evolved knowledge and practices of Métis people;
- gain an understanding of how Métis traditions have shaped both the Métis and Canadian experience; and
- engage in the construction/strengthening of Métis identity through hands-on activities with theoretical and academic goals.

Research in Support of Course

- To supplement the resource materials to support this course, a research project was undertaken, under the direction of the Saskatchewan Instructional Development Research Unit (SIDRU), with Dr. Sherry Farrell-Racette. Initial conversations resulted in highlighting the need for research on the Métis communities and families who live/lived in the Qu'Appelle Valley. Tasks undertaken to date include a literature review regarding historical development of Métis identity, and identifying and interviewing Métis knowledge keepers with respect to Michif language and Métis pedagogy.

The entire staff, community, students and program supporters, including the Faculty of Education, University of Regina and SIDRU, are very excited about the direction the research is going. We see an ongoing unmet need with respect to the Métis community and families in the Qu'Appelle Valley area, where many of SUNTEP Regina students have current/historical connections.

Field Trip to Qu'Appelle Valley

SUNTEP Regina faculty, students and sessional instructors participated in a semester opening field/cultural trip to the Qu'Appelle Valley. Students visited a variety of sites including the Lebret Church and graveyard, Lebret Museum, Métis farm and one of the sites where Métis families once lived on the road allowance, led by Joey Welsh. Joey spoke about the individual families (Amyotte, Blondeau, Poitras, Jeannott, to name a few), who once lived on those lands and, in some cases, were able to find remnants of the home foundations. Many of our current students and staff have direct connections to those families. Everyone found the trip to be very relevant and a powerful experience. The centre plans to continue this fall semester opening tradition.



Qu'Appelle Field Trip, Lebret



Qu'Appelle Field Trip, Road Allowance

2011 Graduates

The 27th annual SUNTEP Regina Graduation ceremony was held at the Delta Regina on Friday, May 6th, 2011 for seven SUNTEP students. The gathering included approximately 120 family, friends, students and invited guests. The theme for the graduation was "*Mothers, Sisters, Teachers*"

This year's graduates were:

1. Charette, Delee
2. Kimbley, Alison—with Distinction
3. Pelletier, Vanessa
4. Rettman, Tiu
5. Sunderland, Ashley
6. Toth, Laura
7. Yee, Kaitlen



SUNTEP Regina Graduates

Awards and Scholarships presented at the graduation included:

- The *David Amyotte Memorial Scholarship* was presented to graduate Alison Kimbley. This award was established by the Amyotte family to recognize those students who promote Aboriginal culture in the classroom, demonstrate teaching potential and leadership in the SUNTEP program, and promote the goals of cross-cultural education, much as David did during his time as a SUNTEP student and teacher.
- The *Spirit of SUNTEP* was awarded to Alison Kimbley. This award recognizes community leadership and involvement by SUNTEP students and is given to a member of the graduating class who has demonstrated the spirit of SUNTEP as visualized by the Métis people of Saskatchewan who

established SUNTEP 31 years ago.

- The *Lebret Métis Cultural Days* award was awarded to Teresa Thrun. This award is a 10 year scholarship project established at the request of the *Lebret Métis Cultural Days Committee*. The purpose of the scholarship is to recognize academic achievement, financial need and community involvement. It also seeks to recognize those Métis students who have a current or historical connection to the traditional MÉTIS settlement of Lebret.
- Métis sashes in SUNTEP and University of Regina colors, green, blue and gold, were presented to the fourth year students in recognition of graduation.
- Leather briefcases, each distinct and handmade by SUNTEP staff, were also presented to the graduates. The briefcases are a symbol of students moving on into the next stage of their professional development as teachers.

Student Employment

Of the seven graduates, four are working as full time classroom teachers and two are substitute teaching. All of the six SUNTEP graduates working as classroom teachers are employed in provincial schools.

Centre Activities

Orientation for 16 new students was held on August 31st, where they were given an opportunity to meet and interact with fellow students and faculty, were introduced to the University environment, given an overview of the program, and expectations for SUNTEP students.

Russell Fayant, Christina Johns, Lorri Melnechenko and third year students joined SUNTEP Prince Albert for the Off Campus Residential Experience (OCRE) at Christopher Lake. This was the fourth year Regina has joined Prince Albert for OCRE/Culture Camp and by all reports it was a great success. Students thoroughly enjoyed and eagerly participated in the sessions organized by SUNTEP Prince Albert. It was also a great way to get to meet students and staff from another centre and participate in joint activities. Students were also able to visit the Batoche Historical site, Duck Mountain Museum and Fish Creek.

Second-year students participated in a research trip to Winnipeg as part of the Métis history (INDG221) class. While in Winnipeg, students conducted research on their genealogies at the Hudsons' Bay Archives and St. Boniface Historical Society. Students also visited the many local historical sites, such as Riel House and gravesite, Lower Fort Garry, St. Boniface Museum and stopped at Connie's Corner Café for the famed BBLT (Bannock, baloney, lettuce and tomato) sandwich.

Elder Passing

On a final note, we are sad to acknowledge the passing of Elder Glen Anaquod on May 31, 2011. Glen has been involved with SUNTEP Regina for almost 30 years. He and his brother, Larry Anaquod, have instructed and counselled many students in the technical and cultural aspects of setting up, taking down, taking care of a large tipi, which was the traditional home for many Aboriginal people of the plains.



Elder Glen Tipi Raising Module

SUNTEP Saskatoon

Location: University of Saskatchewan

Staff Complement:

Murray Hamilton	Coordinator
Cynthia Fey	Faculty
Melanie MacLean	Faculty
Kenneth Kutz	Faculty
Ruth Daniels	Clerk Steno

This year was definitely one of change for SUNTEP Saskatoon. Two new faculty members were hired as Nicole Amiotte resigned to start a family and long-time faculty, Linda Lysyk, resigned to return to teach at SUNTEP P.A. The new faculty members are Cynthia Fey, a long-time sessional instructor for SUNTEP Saskatoon, and alumni member Melanie MacLean who graduated in 1996. Melanie is also working towards her PhD.

Program change continues with the implementation of a new College of Education, Bachelor of Education (B.ED.) which was granted approval by University Council in June 2010. The new program is slated to begin in September of 2012. The U of S program is a sequential model, which means students complete two years of Arts & Science and then request admission to the College of Education. The SUNTEP Saskatoon program remains a direct-entry program, however can still accommodate students with advanced standing.

This year also saw renewed interest and effort in the area of employment equity for our graduates. SUNTEP Saskatoon staff and faculty made presentations to both Saskatoon Public and Saskatoon Catholic School Boards in an effort to secure teaching positions for our students upon graduation. The number of School Boards presenting to our fourth year students also increased. SUNTEP Saskatoon also plans to begin reviewing school board employment equity and representative workforce plans which are required to be filed with the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission.

SUNTEP Saskatoon has also initiated two new research projects. The first headed up by Dr. Cathy Littlejohn is entitled "Li Michif Niyanaan" Exploring Métis Traditional Knowledge". Preliminary discussions will be undertaken with Michif Elders and Consultants. The research will provide a better understanding of the cultural implications of Michif worldview in the context of students and teacher experiences. SUNTEP Saskatoon also began preliminary discussions with U of S Economics professor, Eric Howe, who will conduct research on the economic

impact of Métis education including SUNTEP in the Province of Saskatchewan.

From a policy perspective the staff and faculty continue to advocate for Métis educational opportunities. The University of Saskatchewan has declared that "Aboriginal Engagement" is an Institutional imperative. We participate on a number of important committees including University Council, the Undergraduate Program Committee and the recently formed Aboriginal Engagement Committee.

Our student body continued to work closely with a number of community groups and schools. They volunteered and were participants in: SIMFC Native Graduates recognition Night, AWASIS and the Gabriel Dumont Institute 30th Anniversary Celebration in November. They organized a memorable Louis Riel Day Commemoration event as well as fall barbeques, Halloween and Christmas parties for SUNTEP students, their families and the Métis community. They also participated in the Back to Batoche Celebrations as contestants, judges and volunteers.

SUNTEP Saskatoon continued to implement a program with many highlights, which included our annual orientation trip to the Batoche National Historic Site and once again enjoyed an inspirational journey to Red River to visit the Hudson Bay Archives and the various Métis historical sites. As our scope and understanding of Métis history unfolds, we continue to explore new avenues and are laying plans to begin meeting and working with additional entities such as the Willow Bunch and Wood Mountain Historical Societies and to forge new relationships with Northern communities.

Graduates:

The 2010/11 Saskatoon graduates were: Jesse Baptist, Cara Bradbury, Bradley Brown, Katherine Clements, Marcy Davies-Both, Lisa Kasko, Tressa Kirstein, Rhonda Miller, Jana Ross, Ashley Sakowski, Lori Skjeie and Kendall Trotchie.

Li Michif Niyanaan!, who we are, what we are, and where we come from are at the core of all we endeavour to accomplish. Our students, no matter how able, will accomplish nothing without a sense of self and community.

"I'm Métis because I belong (and claim allegiance) to a set of Métis memories, territories, and leaders who challenged and continue to challenge colonial authorities' unitary claims to land and society" – Chris Anderson, U of A