

Helping Build Brighter Futures



**Dumont Technical Institute
2010-2011 Annual Report**

"We must cherish our inheritance. We must preserve our nationality for the youth of our future. The story should be written down to pass on." - Louis Riel

Mamihcisô is the Michif word for proud, which describes the feeling I get when I talk about the success of Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) for the 2010-2011 year. I am both pleased and excited to talk about the successes and growth that DTI, a division of Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), has experienced during the 2010-2011 programming year.

Dumont Technical Institute was first established in 1991. The institute was developed to improve the quality of education, training opportunities, and services to the Métis people of Saskatchewan. The program's rapid success in offering basic education and skills training to Métis people across the province has been crucial in helping to reshape the lives and communities of our people. DTI has worked to fulfill its mandate in "Helping Build Brighter Futures" for the Métis people by adopting the philosophy that "Learners Come First" for almost 20 years.

The 2010-2011 program year brought forth another tremendous year of success for DTI. DTI was able to offer services to 731 students and deliver 46 programs across the province. The focus of Dumont Technical Institute continued towards Health, Industry/Trades, and Business Training. Over the past year, DTI has had an enrolment of 274 students in the Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs; 155 learners graduated and/or completed their programs, with an overall ABE graduation /completion rate of 57%. There was an enrolment of 457 students in the skills training programs, with 362 learners graduating/completing their respective Skills Training program. This shows an outstanding skills training completion rate of 79%.

DTI is proud of the partnerships and direct links to employers that it has developed, allowing our learners to obtain employment and lifelong careers. DTI hosted a SaskEnergy Career Fair in Regina, while maintaining our partnership with the Ministry of Highways for the Heavy Equipment Truck & Transport Mechanic program which continues to be a core program for DTI in Prince Albert. DTI has also been instrumental in the delivery of training for the "GDI Health Sector Aboriginal Human Resource Initiative."

Through funding received by GDI from the federal Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund (ASTSIF), DTI was able to deliver 24 programs. These programs were designed to increase employability and integration of Aboriginal people into the labor market by providing recognized and accredited training. Along with the accredited training, students were provided with skill development that linked them to job and career options.

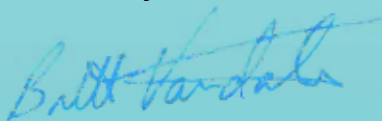
Retrospectively, over a seventeen month span, DTI partnered with nine different health regions under the ASTSIF program to provide training to 366 people and aided at least 166 people gain employment. In total, 24 programs were completed with 287 graduates and a success rate of 78%.

In September of 2010, the GDI Board of Governors adopted a new strategic plan for GDI. This plan was designed to emphasize a cooperative and collaborative approach with our organization, the Métis community, and our educational partners. The strategic plan is an expression of DTI's role and mandate in Métis education; it also reflects the strategic directions set out in the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration's(AEEI) goals and directions.

In March of 2011, the GDI Board of Governors approved the following strategic goals for DTI: (1) to achieve equity in Core Operational Funding; (2) to recognize that culture will remain a cornerstone of all DTI programs and services; (3) to provide the appropriate array of programs and services; and (4) to solidify, grow and expand partnerships with other organizations. The 2010-2011 DTI annual report reflects back on the past strategic plan, and provides a solid foundation for DTI to work toward the new goals set forth by the GDI Board of Governors.

DTI management and staff extend their thanks to the GDI Board of Governors for their leadership and ongoing support of the organization, and look forward to another successful year delivering programs that meet the needs of the Métis people and their communities.

Sincerely,



Brett Vandale
Director



“Helping Build Brighter Futures” DTI Annual Report 2010-2011

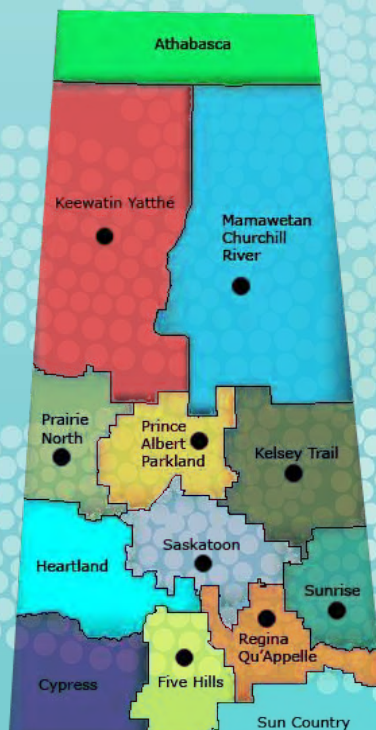
Reflecting on the Past...

Various key highlights from 2010-2011 for DTI are as follows:

- ∞ DTI delivered 46 of the 50 programs it offered
- ∞ DTI offered 816 training seats
- ∞ DTI had an enrolment of 731
- ∞ DTI had 155 students graduate/complete their training in Adult Basic Education
- ∞ DTI's two year Practical Nursing Program graduated 16 students, bringing the overall total to 190 DTI PN graduates since inception
- ∞ DTI had 362 students graduate/complete skills training programs, 188 of which graduated /completed the ASTSIF Health Programs

Partnerships

- ∞ DTI partnered with nine Health Regions across the province in order to deliver the ASTSIF programs.



Dumont Technical Institute partnered with 9 Health Regions across the province to deliver the ASTSIF programs. These regions are indicated on the map.

∞ DTI continued responding to ongoing requests from Métis communities either by delivering specific training programs or by helping to establish partnerships to ensure that Métis communities are provided with quality training programs.

∞ DTI continued to strengthen partnerships with various employers such as the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure (MHI), Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools and SaskEnergy. In our partnerships with Ministry of Highways to offer Heavy Equipment Truck & Transport Mechanic programs, the Ministry provides support by offering training space and employment opportunities for our graduates.

Achieving our strategic goals from 2009-2010

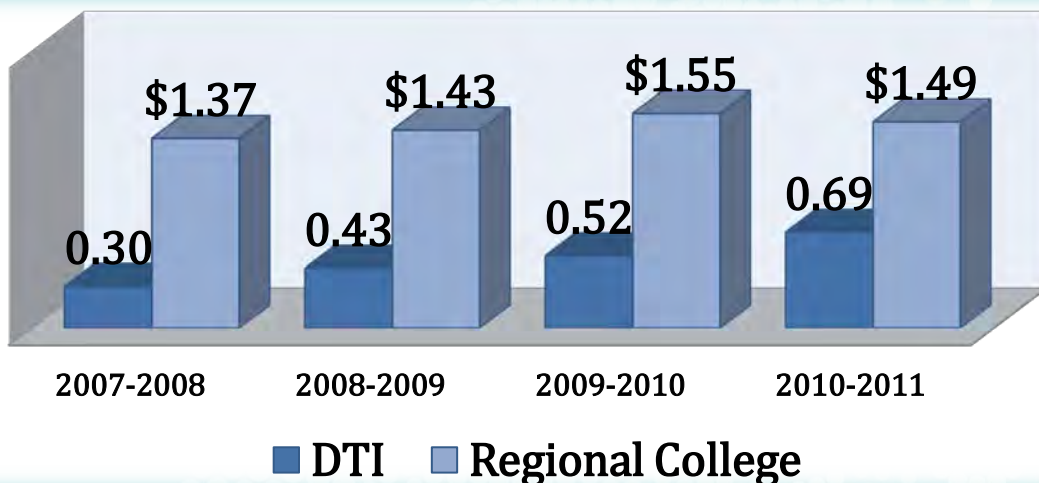
• To achieve equity in core operational funding.

∞2009-2010

DTI remains significantly underfunded in core operational funding received from the Provincial Government when compared to Regional Colleges. For every training dollar DTI receives, fifty-two cents was received for core operations. On average, for every training dollar a regional college received, a dollar and fifty cents was received for core operations.

∞2010-2011

DTI remains significantly underfunded in core operational funding received from the Provincial Government when compared to Regional Colleges. For every training dollar DTI received, sixty-nine cents was received for core operations. On average, for every training dollar a Regional College received, a dollar and forty-nine cents was received for core operations.



This chart indicates the operation funding allocated to DTI each year vs. the operational funding allocated to regional colleges in SK.

- *To provide an appropriate array of programs and services.*

∞DTI offered programs in all 12 Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) regions, and delivered programs in the following 11 regions: Northern Region 1, Northern Region II, Northern Region III, Western Region I, Western Region IA, Western Region II, Western Region IIA, Western Region III; and Eastern Region I, Eastern Region II and Eastern Region IIA.

∞There were 315 people enrolled in DTI's ABE programs during the year 2009-2010 program year. During the 2010-2011 program year, 274 students were enrolled, for a total of 589 over two years.

∞DTI has regularly engaged all twelve MN-S Regions in its yearly program planning process.

∞DTI developed north, central, and southern Métis cultural resource kits for use in all DTI programming.

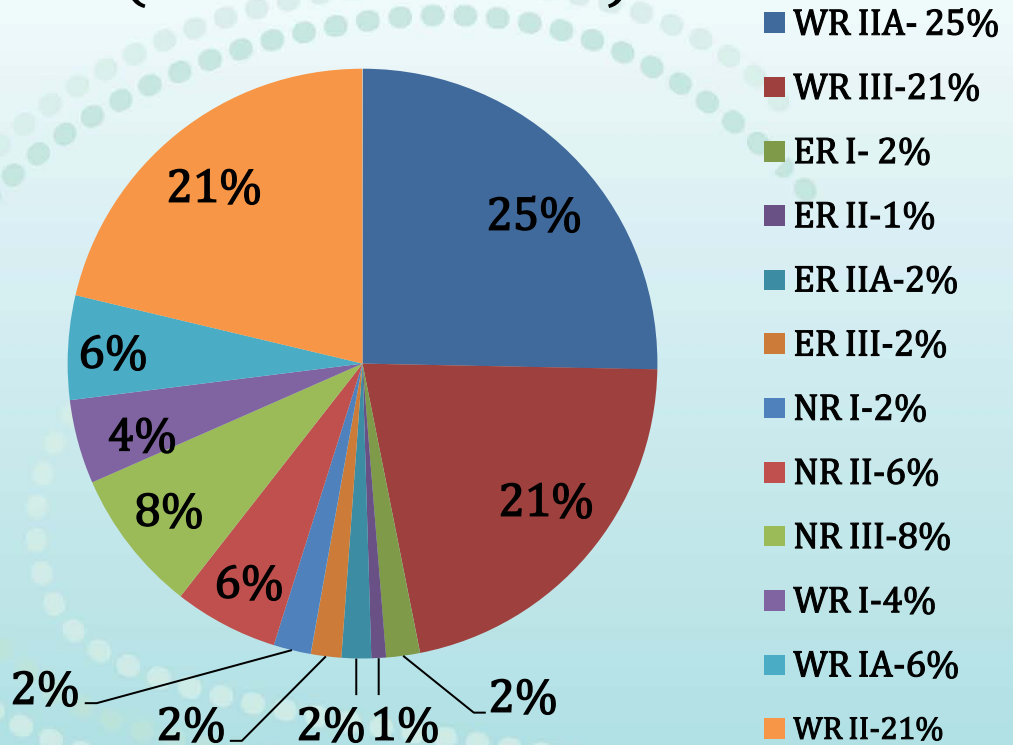
∞ DTI delivers Métis cultural content in all program offerings as per GDI Board policy.



Photo Credit: Delaney Tait

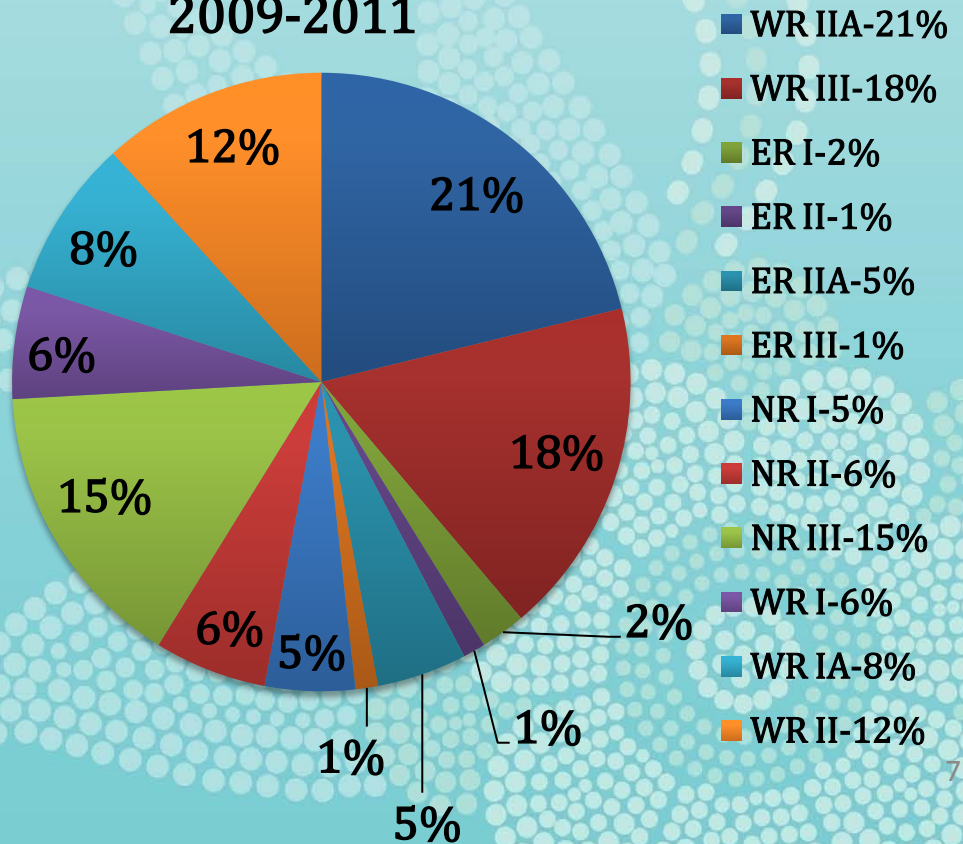
Students in the Prince Albert Adult Basic Education Program created a Trading Post.

MN-S Population % by Region (2006 Census Canada)



Note: Calculations are based on 2006 Census Data from Statistics Canada, and basic mathematical assumptions related to proportions in order for a regional breakdown of the Métis population per MN-S Region to equal the overall population numbers used by statistics Canada. (N= 48,115)

Programs Offered within the Métis Regions 2009-2011



∞ DTI established an internal Adult Basic Education Redesign Committee. The objective of the committee was “To ensure that DTI is meeting the expectations and objectives outlined in the Levels One & Two Benchmarks, and Level Three Curricula.”

∞ DTI prioritised health, trades/industrial, and business as primary areas of skills training.

∞ In 2009-2010 DTI delivered 28 practical nursing training seats and 42 seats in 2010-2011 for a total of 70 seats over two years. DTI offered 12 seats in the pre-employment Heavy Equipment Truck and Transport Mechanic Program in 2010-2011.

∞ In 2009-2010 DTI offered 190 health related training seats and another 329 in 2010-2011 for a total of 519 health related training seats over two years.

∞ DTI offered 83 trades/industrial training seats in 2009-2010 and another 101 in 2010-2011 for a total of 184 over two years.

∞ DTI offered 30 business related training seats in 2009-2010 and another 80 in 2010-2011 for a total of 110 in two years.

∞ In 2009-2010 DTI had an enrolment of 174 clients in its three established ABE Learning Centers (La Loche, Prince Albert, and Saskatoon). In 2010-2011, DTI had an enrolment of 153 students. In addition, 16 clients were enrolled in the Levels One & Two Essential Skills for the Workplace Program in Saskatoon. This is a partnership between DTI and the Learning Disabilities Association of Saskatchewan.

"Deeds are not accomplished in a few days, or in a few hours. A century is only a spoke in the wheel of everlasting time."

- Louis Riel (Montreal Star), 1885

∞ *Enhance communication and marketing efforts internally and externally.*

- ∞ In 2010-2011 DTI provided ten articles in the *GDI Communicator*.
- ∞ Ten staff meetings occurred throughout the year.
- ∞ DTI hosted an all-staff meeting in Candle Lake that focused on cultural development, team building, information sharing, provincial training allowance updates, and basic education development sessions.
- ∞ DTI participated in the GDI 30th Anniversary Cultural Conference and had staff meetings as part of that celebration.
- ∞ During the 2009-2010 program year, DTI staff attended professional development at AWASIS, SABEA and Adult Basic Education Redesign which was held by DTI's Task Team. In 2010-2011 staff attended SABEA, AWASIS, and DTI ABE Workshops.
- ∞ DTI had 0.5 FTE dedicated to marketing and communication initiatives.
- ∞ DTI incorporated a Marketing and Communications committee to support communication; seven staff members participated on the committee.
- ∞ DTI was represented at 17 career fairs across Saskatchewan.
- ∞ DTI was actively engaged with all twelve MN-S Regions.



Photo Credit: Peter Beszterda

Above : participants were involved in a beading workshop put on by Gregory Scofield & Sherry Farrell Racette at the GDI 30th Anniversary Cultural Conference.

DTI Skills Training Programs 2010-2011

Program	Location & Length	Enrolled	Completed	Certificates Achieved	Program Funding
Continuing Care Assistant	Canwood, SK October 18, 2010-June 4, 2011	14	14	14	NWRC DTI SKILLS PAPHR
Emergency Medical Responder	Ile-a-la-Crosse, SK June 15, 2011-July 22, 2011	12	11	3	KYRHA DTI SKILLS
Chainsaw Safety	Ile-a-la-Crosse, SK November 1, 2010-November 25, 2010	16	15	15	DTI SKILLS
Health Entry	La Ronge, SK January 4, 2011-March 25, 2011	15	14	14	DTI SKILLS
Aboriginal Police Preparation	Meadow Lake January 31, 2011-August 12, 2011	14	11	11	DTI SKILLS
Construction Readiness	Meadow Lake July 26, 2010-December 17, 2010	11	10	10	DTI SKILLS
Continuing Care Assistant	Regina, SK September 7, 2010-April 29, 2011	14	11	10	RQHR DTI SKILLS
Educational Assistant	Saskatoon, SK August 25, 2010-June 30, 2011	11	7	5	GSCS DTI SKILLS
Medical Lab Assistant	Saskatoon, SK December 13, 2010-June 17, 2011	7	7	7	DTI SKILLS
Heavy Equipment Operator	Beauval, SK April 26, 2011-July 8, 2011	12	12	12	DTI SKILLS
Heavy Equipment Truck & Transport Mechanic	Prince Albert, SK January 24, 2011-June 24, 2011	12	7	7	GDIT & E
Practical Nursing- YR 2	Prince Albert, SK September 10, 2010-April 27, 2011	15	10	10	GDIT & E
Practical Nursing- YR 2	Saskatoon, SK September 7, 2010-May 20, 2011	16	6	6	GDIT & E
Health Entry	Moose Jaw, SK February 14, 2011-April 8, 2011	19	15	15	ASTSIF
Health Entry	Nipawin, SK January 17, 2011-April 8, 2011	17	16	16	ASTSIF
Health Entry	Prince Albert, SK February 1, 2011-March 31, 2011	17	15	13	ASTSIF
Health Entry	Regina, SK January 31, 2011-March 25, 2011	32	29	24	ASTSIF
Health Entry Security Officer	Saskatoon, SK January 10, 2011-March 31, 2011	11	11	11	SHR ASTSIF

Health Entry	Yorkton, SK October 4, 2010-December 24, 2010	19	14	14	ASTSIF
Construction Readiness	Beauval, SK May 3, 2010- July 2, 2010	14	14	14	DTI SKILLS Beaver River Housing
Aboriginal Police Preparation	Meadow Lake, SK March 1, 2010-August 27, 2010	11	11	11	DTI SKILLS
Office Education-Health Link	La Ronge, SK February 22, 2010-March 18, 2011	15	12	12	ASTSIF
Office Education-Health Link	Regina, SK April 6, 2010-February 15, 2011	20	16	9	ASTSIF
Medical Device Reprocessing	Regina, SK January 25, 2010-September 10, 2010	12	8	8	ASTSIF
Continuing Care Assistant	Regina, SK December 7, 2009-July 31, 2010	22	14	14	ASTSIF
Office Education- Health Link	Saskatoon, SK April 6, 2010-February 15, 2011	16	8	7	ASTSIF
Continuing Care Assistant	Saskatoon, SK April 26, 2010-December 17, 2010	17	9	9	ASTSIF
Health Entry	Lloydminster, SK February 22, 2011-March 31, 2011	12	11	11	ASTSIF
Early Childhood Education	Saskatoon, SK May 9, 2011-July 29, 2011	10	3	3	SIASST DTI SKILLS
Health Entry	Meadow Lake, SK January 31, 2011-March 11, 2011	13	10	10	ASTSIF
Summer Session APHY & SOCI	Saskatoon, SK May 2, 2011-June 30, 2011	11	11	11	
TOTALS		457	362	336	

“Aboriginal peoples are diverse in their histories, environments and cultures, but their deep commitment to education cuts across all boundaries.”-RCAP Report

KEY:

ASTSIF- Aboriginal Skills Training Strategic Investment Fund
 NWRC- North Western Regional College
 GSCS- Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools
 SHR- Saskatoon Health Region
 RQHR- Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region
 KYRHA- Keewatin Yatthe Regional Health Authority
 NLC- Northlands College
 AEEL- Advanced Education, Employment, & Immigration
 PAPHR-Prince Albert Parkland Health Region

DTI Adult Basic Education Training Programs 2010-2011

Program	Location & Length	Enrolled	Completed	Certificates Achieved	Program Funding
Level 1 & 2	La Loche, SK August 25, 2010-June 30, 2011	14	11	3	DTI ABE
Level 3	La Loche, SK August 25, 2010-June 30, 2011	21	14	3	DTI ABE
Level 3	Saskatoon, SK August 25, 2010-June 30, 2011	11	7	0	DTI ABE
Level 4 A	Saskatoon, SK August 25, 2010-June 30, 2011	31	16	12	DTI ABE
Level 4 B	Saskatoon, SK August 25, 2010-June 30, 2011	27	12	8	DTI ABE
Level 3	Prince Albert, SK August 25, 2010-June 30, 2011	21	11	6	DTI ABE
Level 4	Prince Albert, SK August 25, 2010-June 30, 2011	28	22	16	DTI ABE
Level 3	Ile-a-la-Crosse, SK August 25, 2010-June 30, 2011	17	4	0	DTI ABE
Level 4	Ile-a-la-Crosse, SK August 25, 2010-June 30, 2011	14	7	0	DTI ABE NLC Ile-a-la-Crosse School Division
BE Programming	Sandy Bay, SK	14	5	5	DTI BE
BE Programming	North Battleford, SK	15	8	6	DTI BE NWRC
GED/ Work Readiness	Regina, SK February 28, 2011-June 17, 2011	15	9	9	DTI BE
Essential Skills Intake 1	Pinehouse Lake, SK November 1, 2010-February 25, 2011	15	12	0	AEEI
Essential Skills Intake 2	Pinehouse Lake, SK February 28, 2011-June 17, 2011	15	14	14	AEEI
Essential Skills LDAS	Saskatoon, SK November 1, 2010-June 30, 2011	16	3	0	AEEI
TOTALS		274	155	82	

Looking Towards the Future...

DTI Three Year Strategic Plan

2010-2013



GOALS

∞To achieve equity in Core Operational Funding.

∞Culture will remain a cornerstone of all DTI programs and services.

∞DTI will provide an appropriate array of programs and services.

∞DTI will solidify, grow, and expand partnerships with other organizations.

1.0 To achieve equity in core operational funding.

Objectives:

1.1 Provide AEEI, the GDI Board of Governors and other stakeholders with up-to-date information on the inequity that exists.

1.1.1 Provide a detailed report and analysis outlining the extent of the inequity.

Performance Measure: Updated report produced comparing DTI and the Regional Colleges that demonstrate the inequity.

1.2 Develop a multi-year operational plan that is in line with the GDI/DTI Strategic Plans.

1.2.1 Development of a three year Operational Plan.

Performance Measure: Incorporation of a three year operational plan into the DTI Business Plan process.

“Based on the funding letters for 2011-2012, DTI receives seventy-six cents in core operations for every training dollar it receives. The Regional College average is one dollar and forty-six cents per training dollar. On average, the regional colleges receive seventy cents more per training dollar than DTI. This is a significant inequity.”
(DTI Business Plan 2011-2012)

2.0 Culture will remain a cornerstone of all DTI programs and services.

Objectives:

2.1 DTI will continue to incorporate Métis cultural activities and/or information in all training programs.



Photo compliments of Bonnie Hryciuk- metisportraits.com

“Culture is a critical feature of the GDI mission and forms a basis for the work that we do. GDI has distinguished itself as the organization that can deliver unique programs and services to the community. GDI is in a position to promote Métis culture, to retain the language, the history and the stories, and to deliver this legacy to generations of Métis in Saskatchewan and beyond.”

(DTI Business Plan 2011-2012)

3.0 To provide an appropriate array of programs and services.

Objectives:

3.1 Enhance client/student support services.

3.2 Primary focus of DTI's skills training programs will be in the following areas:

Health, Trades/Industry, Business, and other programs with direct connections to employment.

3.3 Strive to enhance recruitment and retention rates in the delivery of Adult Basic Education programs.

"Aboriginal people are an integral part of Canada's society. Our goal is to have the best educated, most skilled and flexible workforce in the world."

**-Kelly Block, MP for Saskatoon –
Rosetown - Biggar**





Photo Credit: Peter Beszterda

In 2010-2011 DTI offered the Medical Lab Assistant Program brokered from SIAST under the DTI-SIAST Federation Agreement. In the photos: the students are working hard to increase their knowledge and skills in the SIAST lab.



Photo Credit: Peter Beszterda

4.0 DTI will solidify, grow, and expand partnerships with other organizations.

Objectives:

4.1 DTI will continue to offer Heavy Equipment Truck & Transport Mechanic Program in Prince Albert in partnership with the Ministry of Highways.

4.2 DTI will develop partnerships with public and private sector employers.



Photo Credit: Peter Beszertda

Heavy Equipment Truck & Transport Mechanic is a DTI program in partnership with the Ministry of Highways and GDI Training & Employment.

“DTI makes effective use of its resources by leveraging funds through partnerships. DTI has participated in a variety of partnerships with Government, Industry and with other educational institutes. All partnerships entered into by DTI must meet the mandate, vision and values of the organization.”



Photo Credit: PA Daily Herald

Heavy Equipment Truck & Transport Mechanic student Andy Larson exceeded his own expectations in the course offered in partnership with the Ministry of Highways.



Photo Credit: Chantelle Gagnon

Continuing Care Assistant students Melanie Burgess & Kelly Okanee successfully completed the program that DTI offered in partnership with the Saskatoon Health Region.

Some of Our Many Successes...

Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region

JOYCE RACETTE, the Representative Workforce Program Coordinator at Regina-Qu'Appelle Health Region (RQHR), began her collaboration with Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) in June, 2009. The goal of the collaboration was to advance Aboriginal employment initiatives within the RQHR. Joyce considers this incentive to be of utmost importance as they strive to build a representative workforce.

The RQHR is not in the business of training potential employees; therefore they were most interested in forming collaborative ventures with Aboriginal training institutions that were well-known and well-established with a successful record of training Aboriginal people.

Joyce acknowledged the need for employees in the RQHR, specifically: Licensed Practical Nurses, Home Care/Special Care Aides, Medical Lab Assistants, Medical Device Reprocessers, Office Assistants with a Medical Specialty, and people who would be trained for entry level positions. She also acknowledged that there is a large and growing Aboriginal population that needs to be trained to compete for these employment opportunities. Joyce believed that Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) held the potential to train these people. Joyce stated that the future with DTI includes continuing to train First Nations and Métis people, as it is of utmost importance.

The collaboration with DTI has benefited RQHR in the following ways: increased employment and ultimately the representation of Métis and First Nations people in the RQHR workforce; in turn, it is assisting the region to work toward one of its corporate strategies, that of building a representative workforce. The most important aspect of the collaboration is the opportunity to build relationships between the Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal communities. Joyce feels a sense of pride when she brings people from the region to DTI, and is proud to be associated with the institution.

"The collaboration with DTI has benefited RQHR in the following ways: it has increased employment and ultimately the representation of First Nations and Métis people in the RQHR workforce; in turn, it is assisting the region to work toward one of its corporate strategies which is to build a representative workforce."- Joyce Racette, RQHR

Saskatoon Health Region

Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) and the Saskatoon Health Region (SHR) developed a partnership in 2000 when DTI worked with the SHR to bring Practical Nurse training to Saskatoon. The partnership was strengthened in 2008 when CanSask, DTI, and SHR joined forces to offer a Step Into Health Careers Pre-Employment Program which targeted Aboriginal youth. Over an 11-week period they provided knowledge, skills enhancement, and experience in support services within a healthcare environment. All 14 of the students involved in the program were offered employment with SHR as Food Service Workers, Environmental Service Workers, and as Porters. DTI & SHR joined forces again in 2010, offering for the first time ever a Security Officer Training Program. Both organizations worked together to develop and deliver a Security Officer Training program that would provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to become employed at SHR in Security Services. The students participated in a 12-week course jam-packed with workouts, verbal judo, PARE training, and a firearms course - just to name a few components of the exciting course. Given the success of the course, it was offered again in the spring of 2011.

The purpose of the partnership was not only to provide individuals with a career path but also for SHR to build a work force that represents the community they serve. Working towards this goal, SHR connected again with DTI to tap into the capable Métis and First Nations people of Saskatoon whom were seeking an opportunity to succeed and emerge as role models for their community. In collaboration with DTI, the students were provided with the training and supports required to successfully obtain employment within SHR.

The Saskatoon Health region feels that their partnership with DTI directly contributes to their goal of building a representative workforce. "To provide patient and family centered care, it is important that anyone who enters our facilities feel comfortable and safe." By being able to recruit and retain a diverse group of employees that have the required training, they are able to create that environment. Not only does this benefit the community but it also gives participants the ability to support themselves and their families as a result of these programs. SHR hopes to continue their partnership with DTI and perhaps offer the Security course annually.

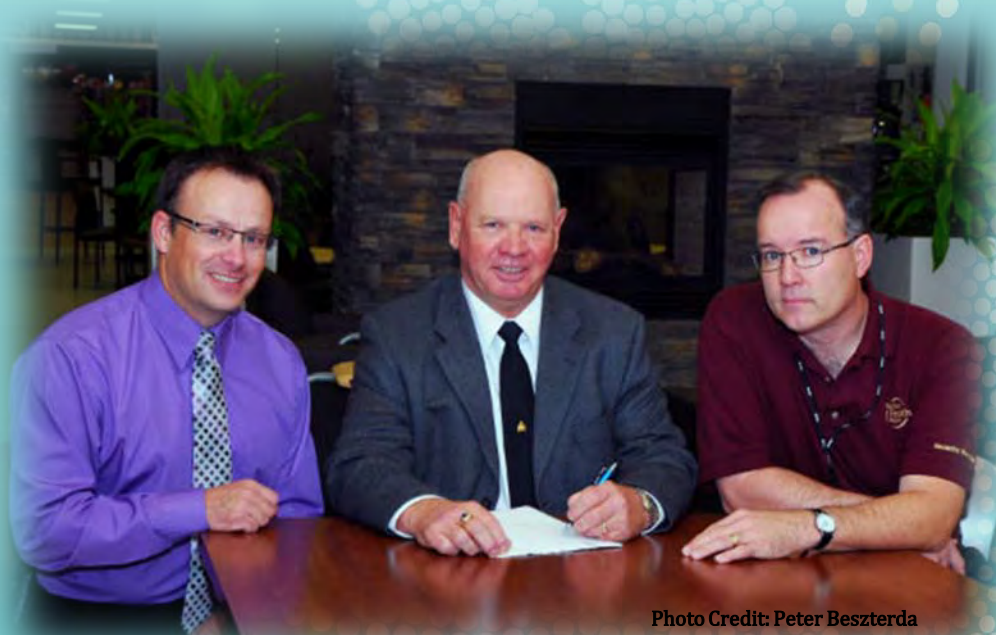


Photo Credit: Peter Beszterda

Above: DTI Director Brett Vandale, Bill Briscoe Manager of Security Services & Dennis Rose, Facilities and Engineering Services - Security Services.

Mike Palmer

As Theodore Roosevelt said, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." Mike Palmer, a student in the Security Officer Program at DTI, was a great example of someone who never gave up, and instead tried again. Mike participated in Dumont Technical Institute's first ever Security Officer Program offered in partnership with the Saskatoon Health Region (SHR) in the spring of 2010. The three month course consisted of a wide variety of activities such as First Aid/CPR, PART training, fitness classes, PARE testing, verbal judo, self-defence, and much more. Mike worked hard throughout the program but was unable to complete the PARE test under the 4 minutes and 45 seconds required to pass. Therefore he was not eligible to become an employee of the SHR Security Team.

Mike didn't give up. When he found out that DTI was offering the course again in the spring of 2011 he applied right away. Mike trained very hard in order to be prepared for the PARE test, which he had been unable to pass on his first attempt in 2010. Then there was only one thing stopping Mike from his security dream, and that was a valid class 5 driver's license. Mike held his learner's license at the time of the course but immediately booked an appointment; within a couple of weeks he had his license, passing on his first try. He was then set to become SHR's newest employee as a Security Officer.

Mike became a student at DTI because of interest in the program being offered and because he had heard good things from others about being a student at DTI. Mike enjoyed his experience at DTI stating that, "I learned some new things about my heritage, had some great times with my classmates, and made some new friends. Some of those friends I work with now." Mike feels that through the course he was able to get into good shape as well as into a great career which opens many doors for career advancement. He would personally like to advance to security in a psychiatric centre here in Saskatoon. Meanwhile, he is very eager to work and finds it exciting to use his training and skills to work in the higher danger situations. Mike is currently employed for the Saskatoon Health Region as a security officer and states that, "This is the best job I have ever had!" Congratulations, Mike, on a job well done; we are very proud of you and are happy that you are helping to keep people safe.



Mike Palmer is currently employed with SHR Security Services.

Arrick Forsythe

ARRICK FORSYTHE became a Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) student after speaking with staff about the DTI Medical Device Reprocessing (MDR) program in Regina. He was informed about the Grade 12/GED prerequisite for the program. He knew he would have to complete his Adult 12 or GED before the program start date of January 2010, so Arrick applied to the GED program and was accepted in November 2009. Arrick adjusted quickly to the world of academics, where he knew what he wanted and believed he could do it.

According to one of DTI's GED instructors Arrick "flew through" the GED material often requesting additional materials in math and science for reference, or securing his own for additional home study. He knew he would need to learn above and beyond in order to prepare himself for the MDR program. Arrick was successful in a very short period, passing all portions of his GED exam and securing himself a spot in the MDR program. With the pressures of the GED behind him, Arrick was free to show the MDR class what he was made of, and achieved an overall MDR program score of 90%.

With his insightful questions, brilliant academic performance, and genuine interest in ongoing learning, Arrick made a great impression upon the MDR instructors, the SIAST Program Head, the DTI Program Coordinator, as well as the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region personnel. He was employed by the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region as a MDR as soon as the program was completed. Arrick exemplifies the ideals of hard work, determination, and academic performance which allowed him to excel in the MDR program, and will enable him to continue to excel in his new career.



Above: Director Brett Vandale (Left) and GDI Board Member Glenn Lafleur present Arrick Forsythe with the Bronze Medal Award at the GDI 30TH Anniversary Celebration

Debbie Dueck

Debbie Dueck attended the Saskatoon DTI Continuing Care Aid (CCA) program, graduating with distinction in December of 2010. She chose DTI because of the smaller class sizes which allowed for a better teacher/student ratio. Debbie faced many challenges before and during her attendance in the CCA Program.

Prior to starting the course she was informed that she would need to complete an entire Grade 12 Equivalency and not just the one course she was lacking. After starting the course she faced the challenges of finding the time to study and complete assignments while balancing the roles of mother, foster parent, hockey mom, and a one hour commute in all types of weather just to attend class everyday. When asked if she could identify a positive that she brought away from her experience at GDI, Debbie said she realized that, "With enough determination anything is possible."

Overall, Debbie states that she was very happy with her experience at DTI and has continued some of the friendships that were started there. Debbie completed her practicum at Oliver Lodge in Saskatoon and made enough of an impression there that they agreed to hire her upon completion of her course. She is currently employed there, enjoying her work and the experiences she has with her fellow employees.



Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools

In February of 2009, Dumont Technical Institute was approached by the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division (GSCS) with the intention of forming an educational partnership. Three months later, an agreement was signed. The GSCS recognized a lack of Aboriginal Educational Assistants (EA) within their classrooms. Both GSCS and DTI hoped that by offering an Educational Assistant program, they would provide training and employment opportunities to the Aboriginal community. They also hoped that by training Aboriginal Educational Assistants, they could expect to see a cultural component brought into their classrooms and these EAs would become representatives of a culture that the GSCS serves.

Both DTI and the GSCS plan to continue the partnership as long as it remains beneficial to both parties. To date, the Educational Assistant program has been a tremendous success for DTI, GSCS, and for the graduates of the program. Gary Beaudin of the GSCS states, "We have hired almost every graduate and have had the opportunity to participate in student selection, curriculum development, supplementary training, and interviews. Our students and parent communities are the main beneficiaries because these graduates bring a 'grassroots' perspective and many other competencies that are very unique to Saskatchewan's Métis culture and people. In turn, this rich history is passed on to our pupils through role modeling and leadership".



Above (L-R): Gabe Lafond, GDI Chair; Diane Boyko, GSCS Chair; and Doris Turcotte, CUPE Representative, signed the partnership agreement.

DTI's Practical Nursing (PN) Program

Dumont Technical Institute is proud to highlight the shining success of its Practical Nursing programs located in Prince Albert and Saskatoon. DTI first began delivery of these programs in Prince Albert in 1999, adding Meadow Lake Practical Nursing in 2001, and Saskatoon Practical Nursing in 2003. This program continues to run successfully in Saskatoon and Prince Albert.

The Practical Nursing program was created to establish a stronger Métis and Aboriginal presence in the health communities around Saskatchewan. DTI recognized the opportunity for growth for the Métis of Saskatchewan, with the Practical Nursing program and the ability to deliver a program that would give back to the community. The program's success has been solidified with strong partnerships with SIAST and the Prince Albert Parkland Health Region & Saskatoon Health Regions, which offer an optimal learning environment for all students. The Practical Nursing Program creates knowledge and skill development in providing professional nursing care independently or as a member of a multidisciplinary health care team.

The success of the program has been attributed to the unique preparatory program where students learn medical terminology, update math and writing skills, and focus on particularly challenging practice areas. This has been recognized as a best practice for Aboriginal people for nursing. The course also includes a cultural component where students learn about Métis culture to help build their sense of pride, confidence, and a better understanding of the past and present. Lastly, the program aims to foster a sense of community within the class, and with partners in the broader community (partners supply living allowances, housing, and child care support programs to contribute to student success). To date these programs have graduated 190 students with an overall graduation rate in excess of 80%. DTI strives to promote the Métis presence in the community by providing a measure of equity for Aboriginal people towards training, and finding employment, in the health care field. Dumont Technical Institute is excited for possibilities presented to the students who graduate every year from this program, and looks forward to many more years of success in the delivery of this program.



Photo Credit: Bonnie Hryciuk

The Saskatoon 2011 PN graduating class.

Dumont Technical Institute Wellness Club: Renewing Métis Spirit Through Active Living

Dumont Technical Institute staff and students in Regina, SK, have been busy with their involvement in the new healthy initiative that has taken the building by storm. The Public Health Agency of Canada approved DTI's Proposal for its progressive idea of a wellness club, through the Achieving Healthy Weights Canada grant. The purpose of the Wellness program is to create a path for Saskatchewan Métis people to reconnect with traditional lifestyles and blend these healthy habits into their current lifestyles.

The initiative began in February 2011 and will continue until January 31, 2012. The program challenges students and staff to take on new and positive lifestyle choices by eating healthy, engaging in physical activity, and setting new goals. The program fits into everyday class time and allows the students access to options such as the You Make it You Take it Café - where students and staff can have a healthy lunch right at school. Here they learn to not only prepare the food but also to shop economically, feeding their families on a budget. The Food Bank partners with DTI to provide food for the kitchen.

Participants also have the opportunity to exercise during school hours. A trainer from the YMCA works with the students three days a week, and they are also able to participate in the walking/running club at lunch time on alternate days. There have been various guest speakers who foster new types of learning for the students to try when exercising and in their everyday lives. Family feasts are also a fun and exciting part of the program where students prepare feasts for family and friends.

The Wellness Club was created to increase knowledge of physical activity, and to provide the information and tools necessary for people to make healthier lifestyle choices. This goal seems to be reflected in what the students have to say about the program. One student explained, "It is a great way to combat stress. It gives you a positive outlook on life." Another stated, "It has given me a lot of access to better opportunities. The exercises and workouts have given me more confidence in myself. It has added more positives in my life overall." Our hope was that the benefits of this program would have a ripple effect and students would take their healthy habits home to their families. Our goal seems to be accomplished as one student claims that what she likes about the wellness club is, "I can take what I have learned home and do it with my kids."



Photo Credit: Kristen Rutten

Heavy Equipment Truck & Transport Mechanic Program

In February 2008, DTI created a partnership with the Ministry of Highways in Prince Albert, SK., which welcomed GDI T&E into the partnership in June 2010. The program takes place from January to June each year. Since the program began in 2008, DTI has had 38 participants. Of those, 26 students have graduated for a graduation rate of 68%. The employment rate is 88%, equating to 23 of 26 graduates being employed full time.

The program has an upfront prep program that provides the students with an opportunity to brush up on academic skills and to prepare for the class work. The students also have the advantage of seeing an actual work environment, in the training lab on-site, at the Ministry of Highways work bay. The training lab allows the Ministry of Highways to see the students in action so that the students go into their practicum having developed a working relationship.

The program is very fortunate to have a great instructor which plays a role in the program's success. Richard Bremner, HETTM instructor, is a past employee of the Ministry of Highways. His connections with the industry help in setting up practicums, as well as securing supplies and dealing with any concerns that may arise. Two students from the first HETTM group are on their way to completing their journeyman status, a four year process, in the next year. Congratulations on a job well done!



Tristen Wood took the HETTM program in 2008, the first year it was offered. He is on his way to completing his four year journeyman ticket.

Tracy Daniels



Photo Credit : Bonnie Hryciuk

Tracy Daniels attended the Heavy Equipment Truck & Transport Mechanic (HETTM) Program from January 24th to June 24th, 2011 in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Prior to the HETTM Program, Tracy successfully completed DTI's Adult Basic Education Level 3 and Level 4 Programs.

Tracy describes her experience at DTI as excellent and fulfilling, stating that “(there is) no other place like it.” During her time at the Institute, she experienced excellence from DTI's Instructors, stating that each instructor that she has taken a course with “will go out of their way, above and beyond the teacher's duties, to help you to succeed and give you that little extra push or challenge that one needs occasionally when you feel that you can't go on.”

The main challenge Tracy faced while attending the HETTM Program was getting over her own personal hurdles such as standing up to stereotypes of being a woman in a male dominated workforce. Tracy feels that her overall achievement can be measured by her successful completion of the program as well as gaining full-time employment as an Entry Level Apprentice Mechanic with the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure. Tracy is greatly anticipating the next four years of learning in, and experiencing, her chosen career. She hopes to successfully challenge the Trades Qualification Exam in the future.