



**GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
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Media Release

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GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE CELEBRATES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS WITH SASKENERGY AND SASKTEL

SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN—The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) will celebrate its partnership agreements with SaskEnergy and SaskTel respectively at a special ceremony on April 25, 2009 in Saskatoon. At the ceremony, GDI will celebrate its long-standing partnership with SaskEnergy which includes a scholarship renewal program, an induction program as well as student work placements. GDI and SaskTel will sign a new Métis scholarship agreement.

GDI is pleased to celebrate its special partnership and collaborative agreements with SaskEnergy. Together, GDI and SaskEnergy have successfully put dozens of Métis students through the *SaskEnergy Induction Training* program. Furthermore, GDI celebrates its *Métis Incorporated Scholarship* partnership with SaskEnergy and affirms this partnership by renewing this agreement. Since 1998, SaskEnergy has provided scholarships to those Métis students who demonstrate leadership, academic achievement, and community involvement.

Under the new *SaskTel Métis Scholarship* agreement, GDI will administer awards annually to Métis students who are training in accredited post-secondary courses related to SaskTel operations. SaskTel mentors the scholarship recipients and informs them of summer-student employment opportunities. The *SaskTel Métis Scholarship* partnership is a three-year pilot project.

“These partnership agreements are significant because they reflect the commitment of these employers to support Métis training and employment in Saskatchewan,” said Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN—S) Minister of Education, Gabe Lafond. “They represent proactive steps to address labour force demands and recognize the importance of the Métis population in filling shortages in the job market.”

GDI was incorporated in 1980 to serve the educational and cultural needs of Saskatchewan's Métis community. GDI offers certificate, diploma and degree programming in communities across the province. The Institute has been administering scholarships for Saskatchewan's Métis since the early 1980s through the *Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation*. A Scholarship Trustees and Selection Committee awards scholarships twice per year.

"GDI plays an important role within Saskatchewan's Métis community," said the Honourable Ken Cheveldayoff, Minister of Crown Corporations. "By supporting GDI and its students, SaskEnergy and SaskTel will benefit from a larger pool of graduates to choose from, with the skills both companies need for the future."

"SaskEnergy is very pleased to support the important partnership objectives of our various agreements with the Gabriel Dumont Institute," said Gillis Lavalley, Manager of Aboriginal Relations, SaskEnergy. "Our on-going partnerships for induction training and scholarship support have proved valuable to relationship building and human resource development with the Métis community."

"This new scholarship agreement with GDI is the latest example of SaskTel's ongoing commitment to supporting education and training in Saskatchewan," said SaskTel President and CEO Robert Watson. "We look forward to watching GDI students excel in their studies, and eventually in the workforce."

GDI has capacity to enter into such partnerships by way of its various entities, including GDI Training & Employment, a service delivery organization that enters into business and industry partnerships to link Métis workers with employers and training. Furthermore, the Dumont Technical Institute forges partnerships with business, industry, and trades to provide targeted training related to labour market demands. The partnerships with SaskEnergy and SaskTel are two fine examples of successful collaboration.

Details: Partnership Celebration and Scholarship Signing
Time: 9:00 AM
Date: Saturday, April 25, 2009
Location: Canadian Room, Saskatoon Inn Hotel & Conference Centre
2002 Airport Drive, Saskatoon, SK

For more information:

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