

# SUNTEP

## Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program

### **Gabriel Dumont Institute**

Lower level - 917 22nd Street West

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### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research Inc. (GDI) is the official education, research and development arm of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan.

*The mission of the Institute is to promote the renewal and development of Métis culture through research, materials development, collection and distribution of those materials and the design, development and delivery of Métis-specific educational programs and services.*

The Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP), established in 1980, is one such program. Since 1984, more than 500 students have graduated with a Bachelor of Education degree.

SUNTEP is a four year fully accredited Bachelor of Education program, offered by the Gabriel Dumont Institute in cooperation with Saskatchewan Education, the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan. The program is offered in three urban centres - Prince Albert, Saskatoon, and Regina.

For the first two years of their studies, SUNTEP students attend classes at a SUNTEP location. The final two years include a four month internship and may include class work at one of the university campuses in an elementary, middle years, or secondary program.

The SUNTEP program includes Native Studies and cross-cultural education with an emphasis on Métis and First Nations history and culture. A substantial amount of time is spent in schools working with teachers and students. Most of this field work is done in urban centres.

The program provides a solid foundation in the theories and skills of teaching.

SUNTEP graduates have gained excellent reputations as teachers and role models in schools across western Canada. Their training combines a sound academic education with extensive classroom experience and a thorough knowledge of issues facing students in our society.

### **FUNDING**

For qualified students of Métis and Non-Status Indian ancestry, University tuition fees are covered by the program. Most SUNTEP students borrow money from the Canada and Saskatchewan Student Loan programs while attending University. Sixty weeks of this debt is forgivable for eligible students who are academically successful.

### **ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants who meet the following standards are considered for admission into the SUNTEP program.

- Regular university entrance requirements:
  - Grade 12 with a 65 percent average in 7 approved courses including Fine Arts and/or a Language at the 30 level.
- Adult or special admission requirements:
  - 21 years of age or over; ABE or GED 12 preferred.

## **APPLICATION**

To apply to the SUNTEP program:

- Complete an application form and submit three letters of reference, as described on the application form.
- Submit a handwritten statement declaring your reasons for applying and outlining abilities you have to enter a professional training program.

## **SELECTION**

Applicants will be interviewed by a screening committee. Successful applicants should demonstrate:

- A commitment to the program and a strong desire to work toward becoming an effective teacher.
- A desire to work with children and adults in educational settings.
- The ability and willingness to work full-time in a teacher training program and continue the program to its completion.
- Experience working with Métis and First Nations children as a teacher associate or previous involvement in education (e.g., as a member of an education committee, a coach, or parent-teacher group) or other relevant work experience.
- Interest in learning about Aboriginal cultures and working with and for Métis and First Nations peoples.

## **PRIMARY GOALS**

The primary goals of SUNTEP are:

- To ensure that people of Métis ancestry are well prepared to fill their just share of teaching positions in the province.
- To ensure that SUNTEP graduates are educated to be sensitive to the individual educational needs of all students, and those of Métis and First Nations ancestry in particular.

*“Movements and great causes can only advance when they produce leaders of integrity ... Teaching ... the value of education and struggle, our program must always be ... in close touch with ... the everyday life of our people ...”*

Jim Brady, Métis Leader (1940)



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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
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