



# THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR

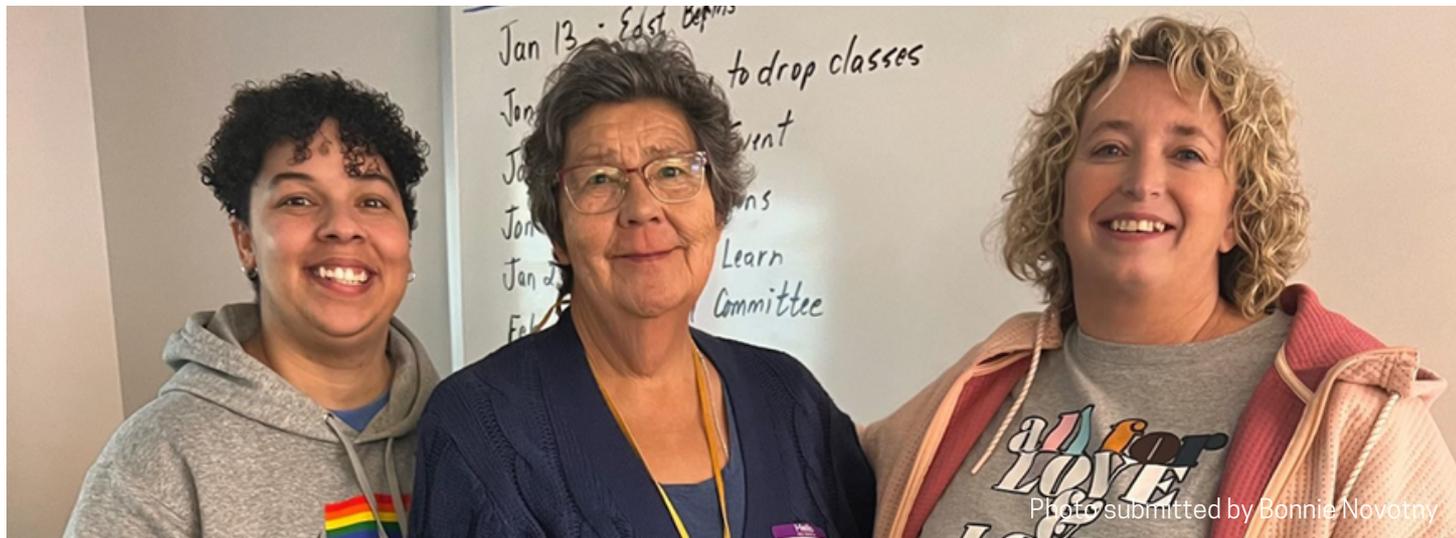


Photo submitted by Bonnie Novotny

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

## IN THIS ISSUE

- ∞ Welcome, Everyone
- ∞ Gabriel Dumont Institute National Michif Speakers Gathering
- ∞ DTI Health Care Training Upcoming Program Expansions
- ∞ Paying it Forward - Ribbon Skirts for the Kids
- ∞ Second Métis Veteran's Monument Engraving

## LET'S GET SOCIAL



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE



@GDINS.ORG



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE

[WWW.GDINS.ORG](http://WWW.GDINS.ORG)

## WELCOME, EVERYONE

By Bonnie Novotny, Program Head, SUNTEP Prince Albert

Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) strives to be a space where everyone feels welcome and safe to express themselves. A second year SUNTEP student passionately expressed,

**“I identify as Queer, and as a SUNTEP student, I believe it is important to have my peers understand me as a Queer person and not just as a label.”**

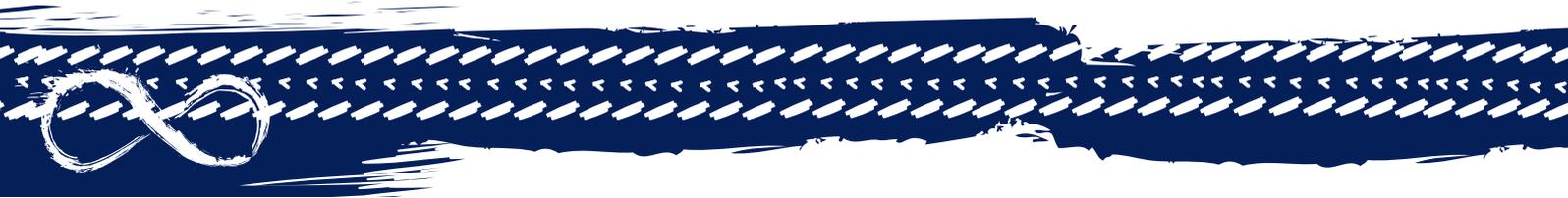
Many students highlight how they grow culturally, and gain a stronger identity throughout their four years in the program. To encourage growth, SUNTEP continues to evolve, reflecting the needs of the community, schools, and student body it serves.

With that, SUNTEP Prince Albert students participated in a two-part

workshop about diversity and inclusion, specifically addressing safe spaces and 2SLGBTQ+ challenges in education. Fourteen students from the SUNTEP Culture Committee, along with SUNTEP faculty, gathered with SUNTEP Saskatoon, Indian Teacher Education Program, University of Saskatchewan, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers from across Saskatchewan to learn how to make education more inclusive. Presentations took place at the SUNTEP center in Prince Albert.

Two 2Spirit Elders, Marie (Jojo) Sutherland and Majorie Beaucage, shared stories and teachings. Elder Liz Settee provided a smudge and prayer and reminded us all that each individual will have gifts within. From OUT Saskatoon, Dakota Adams-Beavereye, a SUNTEP graduate,

**Story continues on page 4**





# MICHIF WORDS OF THE MONTH

**SI KWAARAYK**

That's okay.

**KWAAYESH  
PAMINIKAY**

Drive safe!

**KISHCHITAYIMOOHK**

Be proud!

**KI SHAAKIIHITIN**

I love you.

## GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE NATIONAL MICHIF SPEAKERS GATHERING

By Karon Shmon, Director, GDI Culture and Heritage

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) will be hosting a National Michif Speakers Gathering from March 21st-March 23rd, 2023 in Saskatoon. The theme of the conference is “Michif is a Beautiful Language.”

The conference will bring speakers together to learn about the promising practices and initiatives individuals and groups are using to revitalize each of the three Michif languages spoken across the homeland. The speakers will also help this process by contributing to language banking activities for each Michif language. Michif is critically endangered and at

great risk. The majority of fluent speakers are elderly. Over two thirds of these knowledge keepers have passed on over the last 15 years. One part of the legacy of these precious knowledge keepers will be the language recordings they leave us with so Michif can be reclaimed and spoken across generations.

The gathering is by invitation only as we focus on inviting the speakers. If there is room for external registrants, the process and registration fee will be announced via the Institute’s social media channels once this is determined. 🌐

## DTI HEALTH CARE TRAINING UPCOMING PROGRAM EXPANSIONS

By Desirae Barker, GDI Senior Program Coordinator

On January 31, 2023, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Advanced Education announced an immediate initial investment of more than \$5.5 million to help create over 550 new post-secondary training seats across 18 health care training programs.

As part of this announcement, Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) will receive additional funding for program expansions starting in 2023-24. This expansion includes 28 combined additional seats for DTI’s Continuing Care Assistant program and Practical Nursing program.

“This Government of Saskatchewan investment will ensure the Institute can expand our health-related programming to Métis students specifically. As the second largest Practical Nursing provider in Saskatchewan, we must continue to train Métis students at the community level, contributing to a more diverse, culturally-sensitive

healthcare workforce,” said Tim Roussin, Chair GDI Board of Governors.

DTI is now recruiting for the additional program seats! The new Practical Nursing (two-year diploma program) cohort will start in September 2023 in Prince Albert, and the new Continuing Care Assistant (one-year certificate program) cohort will begin in September 2023 in Prince Albert as well. For more program information, visit [www.gdins.org/programs](http://www.gdins.org/programs).

Under the province’s Health Human Resources Action Plan launched in September 2022, this expansion will work to stabilize and grow the health care workforce in Saskatchewan. To read more about the Health Human Resources Health Action Plan and further opportunities for students looking to work in this field, visit <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/health/health-human-resources/action-plan>. 🌐



Sask Health Expansion Announcement Event  
Photo submitted by Desirae Barker



*welcome*  
Hon. Gordon S. Wyant, the  
Minister of Advanced Education, visited GDI  
on February 10th, 2023

Photo credit to Karon Shmon





## UPCOMING PROGRAM DEADLINES



**Educational Assistant**  
La Loche  
**Mar 31**




**Indigenous Community-Based Master of Education**  
Prince Albert  
**Mar 15**




**NSITEP**  
La Ronge  
**May 30**




**SUNTEP**  
Prince Albert  
Regina  
Saskatoon  
**Mar 30**



For a full listing of all current programs and to apply online visit

[WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS](http://WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS)

## PAYING IT FORWARD - RIBBON SKIRTS FOR THE KIDS

By Suzanne Depeel, GDC Administrative Coordinator

In Fall of 2022, the Metis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) announced a collaboration with various school divisions across Saskatchewan; a collaboration to bring Michif and Dene to young learners. In partnership with the Northern Lights School Division, MN-S introduced a Cree language course to the Pre-K and Kindergarten students at Pre-Cam School in La Ronge. We, as a community, are fortunate to be a part of this partnership.

More recently, Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NSITEP) Faculty member, Nancy Lafleur (also owner of Cree8tive Cree-ations), made an amazing, one of a kind donation of 10 ribbon skirts to our school. The donation showed appreciation to the Northern Lights School Division for supporting the NSITEP program and was an opportunity for students to practice what they are learning in the classroom.

Nancy creates amazing story skirts. If you have ever had the chance to

see one, you know you are in the presence of a master craftsperson. She tells stories through intricate images sewn onto panels of the skirts. Her inspiration come from a multitude of places, including dreams, conversation, nature, or just an idea of how different fabrics, textures, and threads might look; from there, wearable pieces of art are brought to life.

These skirts are a class set, which students will be able to wear during special events. The pride in having access to the ribbon skirts was evident in the students smiles and how quickly they chose their favorite skirt.

In addition, we are lucky to have a recent Community-Based Master of Education Program graduate, Abby McLeod, teaching the Pre-K students. She is passing on valuable knowledge, with respect to the Cree language. Beyond teaching about the Cree people, Abby also shares local history and history of the Métis people, as we are located on the homeland of the Métis. 🌐



Photo submitted by Suzanne Depeel





Photo submitted by Bonnie Novotny



Photo submitted by Bonnie Novotny



Photo submitted by Bonnie Novotny

## WELCOME, EVERYONE

*Continued from page 1*

presented to students on 2Spirit history and education. Elizabeth Hutton Kristiansen, from the Saskatchewan Teachers Federation, discussed policy, responsibilities, and rights. Jennifer Ferguson and Adie Schenk, a teacher and Principal from the Public School Division in Prince Albert, presented twice on creating safe places and ally ship in the school classroom. Students and staff engaged, had great conversations, and asked meaningful questions.

One valuable takeaway was the importance of recognizing privilege, bias, and status quo as first steps to creating a safe space. It can catalyze both personal and institutional growth and acceptance. With that, SUNTEP student representatives took the lead, deciding they want to prioritize 2SLGBTQ+ education and Elder connections this year. Inclusivity and diversity education will help student teachers feel confident to

**“The presentations really connected to my own family experiences. Learning about the history of 2Spirit people was interesting. Having the tools to make education a better place for students and teachers is empowering.”**

**-SUNTEP student**

create inclusive classrooms in the future. It also helps to create an inclusive and respectful environment in our SUNTEP community today.

Prince Albert SUNTEP students and staff are committed to make an inclusive space and program that recognizes and celebrates diversity. While we cannot guarantee that any space will be one hundred percent safe, we can work together, educate ourselves, become allies, and continue to maintain a space where everyone is accepted and welcome. 🌍

## Congrats QUEEN JUBILEE MEDAL RECIPIENTS

This winter, GDI Board Members May Henderson and Deanna Belhumeur, along with GDI CEO Lisa Bird-Wilson and Director of GDI University Programs Brett Vandale, were awarded with a Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal. This medal recognizes outstanding Saskatchewanians who have built and continue to build a strong, vibrant society and province through their service, contributions, and achievements.



May Henderson



Lisa Bird-Wilson



Brett Vandale



Deanna Belhumeur



# GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



March 23, 2023

1:30 PM

Sheraton Cavalier  
612 Spadina Crescent E  
Saskatoon, SK

## SECOND MÉTIS VETERAN'S MONUMENT ENGRAVING

By Karissa Johnson, Research and Communications

The Monument, installed at Batoche, was first engraved with 5, 418 names of veterans' when it was unveiled in 2014. In October 2022, a second engraving added 307 names to the monument. To date, there are a total of 5, 725 names engraved. The monument serves to honour and pay respects to Métis servicepeople.

To find names that have been engraved, visit: [www.metismuseum.ca/metisveteran\\_smonument/index.php](http://www.metismuseum.ca/metisveteran_smonument/index.php) or download the Métis Veteran's Monument app.

The second engraving was made possible by donations from individuals and families, and by the MN-S, who offered 50% of the cost. Donations are accepted on an ongoing basis for the maintenance and engraving of the monument. You can visit Shop GDI to make a donation and receive complimentary items, or purchase a tribute package, where contributions go towards the monument.

GDI is continually collecting names for future engravings. If you would like to honour a past or present veteran, contact Gabriel Dumont Institute at [veterans@gdins.org](mailto:veterans@gdins.org) with information such as their name, service number and dates, and how they were involved.



Photo submitted by David Moir

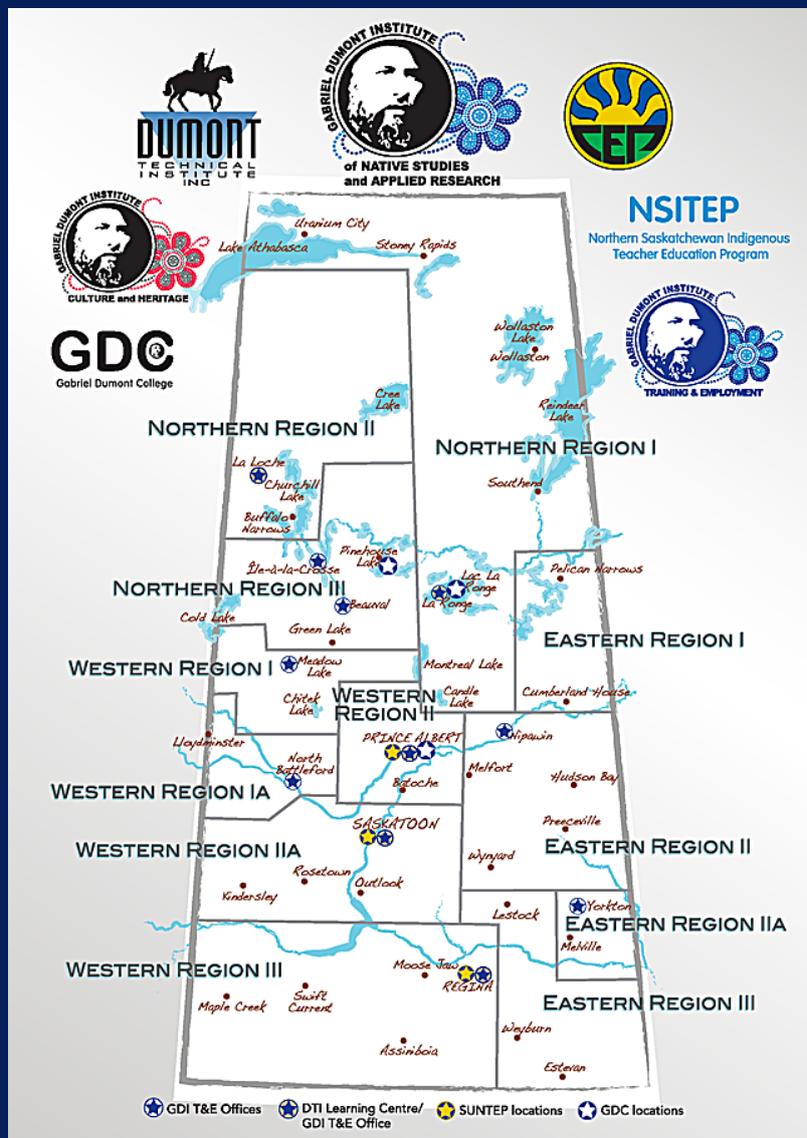
## MARCH 2023 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Mar 10 Direct Deposits		A/P Cheque/EFT Run Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheets & Payroll Revisions for Mar 15 Payday	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
			Staff Payday	Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Mar 24 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheet & Payroll Revisions for Mar 31 Payday			Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Staff Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	

EMPLOYEE CONTRACTS DUE AT PAYROLL UPON JOB ACCEPTANCE. PAYROLL MUST RECEIVE CONTRACTS PRIOR TO PAYROLL CUTOFF DATE  
IF RECEIVED AFTER THE CUTOFF DATE, THE EMPLOYEE WILL BE PAID ON THE FOLLOWING PAY PERIOD MRTS DUE BY THE 15TH OF EVERY MONTH



# CONTACT US



[WWW.GDINS.ORG](http://WWW.GDINS.ORG)

1-877-488-6888

[info@gdins.org](mailto:info@gdins.org)

Previous issues of the *Communicator* can be found online at [www.metismuseum.ca](http://www.metismuseum.ca)

If you would like to submit an article for the *Communicator* please contact Karissa Johnson at [karissa.johnson@gdins.org](mailto:karissa.johnson@gdins.org)

