



THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



Limitless Workshop for DTI students in Saskatoon, photo submitted by Karianne Morin

The GDI Communicator is an internal newsletter intended to document the achievements of management and staff of the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research

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WWW.GDINS.ORG

LIVING A LIMITLESS LIFE

By Karianne Morin, DTI Program Coordinator

Dumont Technical Institute (DTI), with the help of their Program Support team, had Cody Demerais do a presentation to students on mental health, addictions and the potential to living a “Limitless” life. The students in Prince Albert and Saskatoon were able to listen to Cody speak about his story from incarceration, addictions, and mental health issues. Mental health challenges and addiction struggles are widespread, particularly in university and college settings, where the pressures of academic achievement, social expectations, and personal transitions can take a heavy toll. This presentation is about opening the conversation, offering resources, and inspiring students to see the limitless potential within themselves, despite the barriers they may face.

The first step is creating a safe, supportive environment where students feel comfortable discussing mental health and addictions issues without fear of judgment. Acknowledging that these issues affect many people, including peers, faculty, and staff, helps normalize the conversation. It’s essential to share that mental health is just as important as physical health and that addiction is a complex issue that affects both the mind and body. Students should understand that struggling with these issues does not define them, but how they respond to these challenges can shape their future.

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DEADLINE EXTENDED!



Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NSITEP)

La Ronge

Ongoing



Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP)

Saskatoon, Regina, or Prince Albert

Ongoing



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

WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS

MICHIF WORDS OF THE MONTH

KAKWAYAKISHIW

Abominable

LII SOOYII D'IVAYR

Winter boots

PASHISHAYWACHIW

Frostbite

LII PCHIT MITENN

Mittens

GDI WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

by Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

On January 20, 2025, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) was pleased to welcome Marlee Proulx as the new Director of University Programs and Services. Chantelle Jule has been serving as the Interim Program Head and has been working closely with Proulx to manage a smooth transition for GDI students and partners. Proulx was welcomed by all the SUNTEP and NSITEP Program Heads in her first week as they gathered in Saskatoon to discuss plans for next year. She distinguished herself as a team player willing to learn from all the TEP centers.

The search for a new Director of University Programs and Services was rigorous and intensive. Proulx is responsible for SUNTEP, NSITEP, the Community-Based Indigenous Master of Education Program, and the new Indigenous Education Doctorate. Brett Vandale, GDI CEO, expressed that it is critically important to find someone who is connected to our community and understands the community-based delivery of education programs that are rooted in culture and use a cohort model of delivery.

Proulx was born and raised in the Métis Homelands of Buffalo Narrows, and she has family roots in Métis communities at Regina Beach. She is also a member of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band. She is a NORTEP (Northern Teacher Education Program) alumna (2013) in La Ronge, and she completed the GDI Indigenous Community-Based Master of Education (2021) in Prince Albert. Proulx has over a decade of experience in the education sector, including seven years teaching



K to 12 in La Ronge and four years in Post-Secondary Leadership at Northlands College and the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT). She served as the Vice President of Adult Basic Education and Student Affairs at Northlands College in La Ronge before moving to Saskatoon in 2023. Proulx worked in various roles at SIIT, including supporting professional development for specialized workforces, helping build the Extensions department, and supporting the development and delivery of the Virtual Health Hub sector.

As an educator, Proulx focused on teaching Cree language and culture, bringing First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives into the classroom, in resource development and staff support. She understands the challenges GDI student teachers will face in the classroom and brings knowledge of teaching in Northern Saskatchewan communities. Proulx believes in delivering high quality Indigenous programming to respond to the needs of the Métis people in Saskatchewan. 🌍





UPCOMING APPLICATION DEADLINES



Practical Nursing
Saskatoon, P.A., or Ile-à-la-Crosse
Feb 28





Heavy Equipment Truck, Transport, and Technician
Prince Albert
Feb 28





Heavy Equipment Operator
Indian Head
Mar 3





Office Administration
Regina
Apr 1





Early Childhood Education Level 3
Online
Ongoing



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

WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS

CANNEXUS25: DECOLONIZING CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND THE PATH FORWARD

By Audrey Hestand, Director of GDI Training & Employment

A few short weeks ago, I had the privilege of attending CANNEXUS25, Canada’s largest national career development conference to represent Gabriel Dumont Institute Training & Employment (GDITE). The event brought together career practitioners, educators, and policymakers from across the country to share insights, strategies, and innovations in our field.

The Power of Gathering

CANNEXUS25 was an inspiring convergence of professionals who are deeply committed to fostering meaningful and equitable career development. Walking into the conference space, I felt an immediate sense of belonging among colleagues who share a passion for being in service to others. From workshops on future workforce trends to discussions on the role of AI in career counseling, the conference provided a dynamic mix of forward-thinking topics and practical strategies. One of the highlights of my experience was participating as a panelist on Decolonizing Career Development, a crucial conversation about transforming career services with Indigenous practices.

Decolonizing Career Development

The Decolonizing Career Development panel was an opportunity to explore how we can rethink conventional career guidance to respect Indigenous knowledge, values, and lived experiences. Presenting on this panel was both an honour and a responsibility. Alongside fellow experts Nisa Kennedy and Jordan Squires, we delved into three unique but spiritually similar career development approaches that move employment services beyond colonial ways of business.

Nisa discussed JEDI’s approach, which centers on Two-Eyed Seeing and cultural safety, while Jordan shared K5T’s Five-Tier System, emphasizing a collaborative, partnership-based model that supports self-directed participant growth. I introduced GDI Training & Employment’s Relentless Support model, which is rooted in meeting people where they are—without judgment or time limits—while helping them discover their miyoo pimachihoohk (good living).

Our discussions delved into the ways colonial frameworks continue to shape career development practices and how these structures often fail to serve Indigenous clients effectively. Too often, career development is presented through a Eurocentric lens, prioritizing linear career trajectories, individual success, and mainstream economic models that do not always align with Indigenous perspectives on work, purpose, and community.

We discussed the importance of moving beyond these traditional models and embracing a strengths-based, culturally responsive approach. This includes recognizing the significance of community, land-based learning, and the holistic understanding of success. The conversation highlighted the need to integrate Indigenous worldviews into career services and to shift from deficit-based approaches to ones that uplift Indigenous strengths and aspirations.

Story continued Page 4...



Conference photos submitted by Audrey Hestand





NEW RELEASE FROM GDI PRESS



GDI Press is proud to announce the release of their latest board book, *Five Senses for Métis Babies*, written and illustrated by Leah Marie Dorion with a Michif translation by Irma Klyne and Larry Fayant!



In the book, Leah Marie Dorion shares authentic and age-appropriate Métis culture, language, music, and heritage, little ones learn about who they are at an early age. It's never too early to share meaningful cultural experiences with your faamii so they form a strong sense of Métis identity as they grow up.

You can find this book online and in the GDI store. Be sure to browse our other board books!

WWW.GDINS.ORG/SHOP-GDI

CANNEXUS25: DECOLONIZING CAREER DEVELOPMENT...

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Key Takeaways

One of my biggest takeaways from CANNEXUS25 was the growing momentum for meaningful change. There is a clear recognition that decolonizing career development isn't just an option—it's a necessity if we are to provide truly inclusive and effective support to all clients. To see our breakout room packed—with the overflow seating opened and attendees still having to stand at the back while seeing some of the top names in career development and prominent researchers taking notes during our conversation—this truly gave me hope for our future.

Our message was being heard. Career success should not be defined solely by job titles, income, or Western capitalist ideals. Instead, we should embrace broader definitions of success that include well-being, community contributions, and cultural fulfillment.

Career practitioners must actively create spaces where Indigenous clients feel safe, respected, and understood. This means educating ourselves about historical and systemic barriers while actively challenging those barriers within our own organizations.

One of the most powerful tools in decolonization is listening—truly listening—to Indigenous clients, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and community members about what career development means to them and how they envision our collective future.

Moving Forward

The conversations we had at the panel were just the beginning. As an organization that serves Métis clients, we are uniquely positioned to lead the way in integrating our own perspectives into career development.

Our work at GDITE already incorporates a strengths-based approach, but there is always room to grow. We must continue to ask ourselves: How can we better embed Métis knowledge in our programs? How can we amplify Métis voices in career services? And most importantly, how can we ensure that our clients see themselves reflected in the support we provide?

CANNEXUS25 reinforced my belief that decolonizing career development is not just about changing practices—it's about transforming mindsets, systems, and relationships. I am grateful for the opportunity to have been part of this dialogue and look forward to continuing this important work with my colleagues and our community. 🌐



STUDENT SUCCESS STORY

Dani LaValley, SUNTEP

SUNTEP Regina graduate, Dani LaValley's beadwork has been included in the exhibit "Of A Place" in the Dunlop Art Gallery. The artists included in the exhibition have special connection to the prairies that they celebrate in their artwork.

"I beaded these pins in my backyard, while camping with my family, during Michif gatherings." Dani said, "I chose identity pins to reflect the origins of my beading journey and to represent my under appreciated kin." Their piece is called "Kinship" and it is part of the exhibition running until June 4, 2025. Find them on Instagram @deadly.beads





Volunteer Opportunity

GDITE West-Central Selection Committee Member

Gabriel Dumont Institute Training & Employment has established four Selection Committees to target training resources for eligible students and labour market priorities. This is a three-year term and the deadline to apply is

12 p.m. March 5, 2025



More info:

gdins.org

LIVING A LIMITLESS LIFE

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The message of living a “limitless” life should be the final takeaway. Overcoming mental health and addiction struggles is not about perfection, but about creating a life that is full of possibility, despite the setbacks. Remind students that they are not alone, and that there are resources available for them to seek support—whether it’s mental health services on campus or community resources. Emphasize that their future is still wide open, and they have the strength within them to shape it.

By the end of the presentation, students felt equipped with knowledge, inspired by personal stories, and were ready to act towards living a life without limits. Through open conversations and collective support, students can overcome barriers, heal, and embrace the “limitless” potential of their future.

“I enjoyed the presentation. I related to a few things and to see him up there inspires me because one day, I can see myself up there telling my story.”

— Saskatoon ABE Student

“Cody spoke with such positivity and enthusiasm, that it was easy for you to feel that your dreams are obtainable and you can overcome anything. He seemed to have such a personality that you could feel he was talking directly to you, about problems that you’ve both been through. Like sitting down with an old friend.”

— Prince Albert ABE Student



12TH ANNUAL
GABRIEL DUMONT SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

∞ GOLF ∞
MAY 30, 2025

TOURNAMENT

MOON LAKE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
905 VALLEY ROAD, SASKATOON

Registration opens Monday, March 3, 2025.

REGISTER ONLINE AT: WWW.GDINS.ORG/GOLF

Notice of Gabriel Dumont Institute 2025 Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Gabriel Dumont Institute Board of Governors has called an annual meeting of the membership. There are no bylaw changes for consideration, and prior registration is not required.

Date: Friday, March 28, 2025
Time: 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Place: Delta Bessborough
601 Spadian Cres. E. Saskatoon

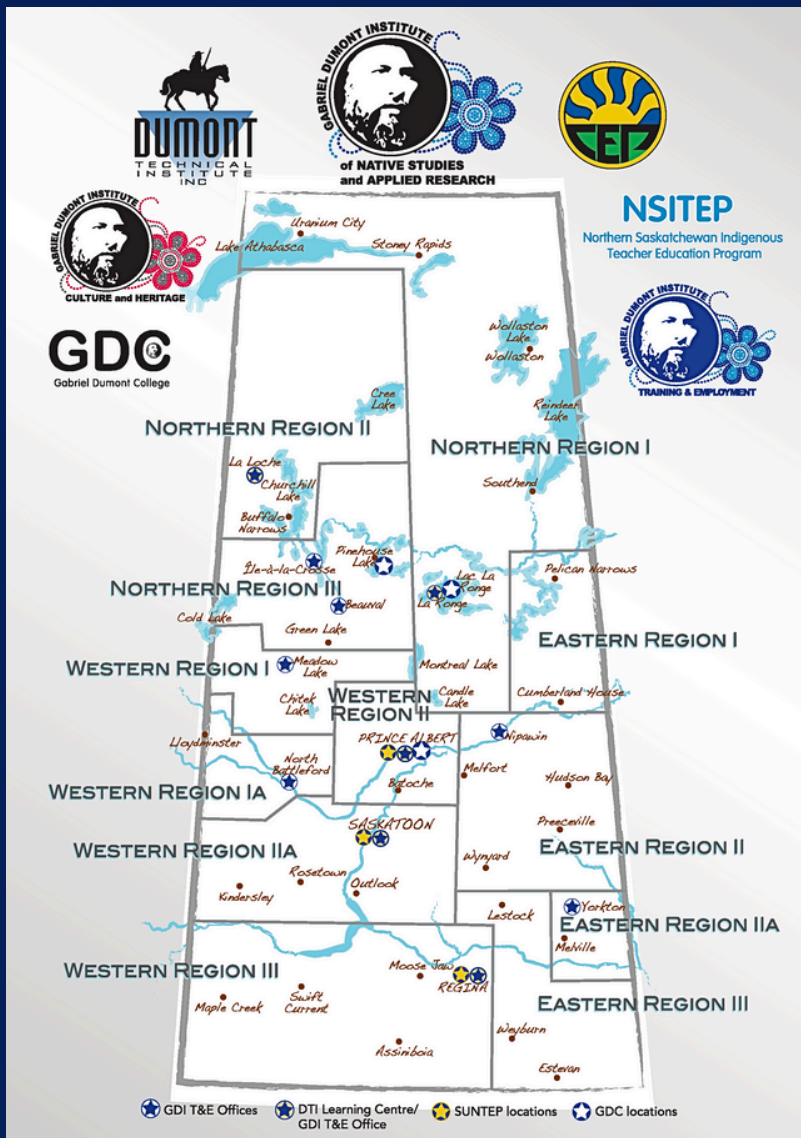
MARCH 2025 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

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

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



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Previous issues of the *Communicator* can be found online at www.metismuseum.ca

If you would like to submit an article for the *Communicator* please contact Bethani Groat communications@gdins.org

