



THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



National Indigenous People's Day Celebration at Batoche National Historic Site, Photos by George Gingras

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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LEGEND

DTI—Dumont Technical Institute
GDC—Gabriel Dumont College
GDI—Gabriel Dumont Institute
GDITE—Gabriel Dumont Institute Training and Employment
GDSF—Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation
NSITEP—Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program
SUNTEP—Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH AND PRIDE MONTH: CELEBRATING IDENTITY, HISTORY, AND BELONGING AT GDI

By Bethani Groat, Communications Coordinator

June is both National Indigenous History Month and Pride Month in Canada—a time to celebrate the diverse identities, histories, and experiences that enrich our communities. It is also an opportunity to reflect on the journeys toward recognition, inclusion, and self-determination that continue to shape our country today.

The histories of the Métis people and the 2SLGBTQIA+ community share common themes of resilience and advocacy in the face of adversity. Both communities have fought to have their identities recognized and respected by the Canadian government. In 1982, the Métis were recognized as an Aboriginal people of Canada (along with Indians and Inuit) in The Constitution Act, thanks in large part to the efforts of Harry Daniels

and many other advocates. Similarly, members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community spent decades advocating for equal rights and protections under Canadian law. In 1985, the Parliamentary Committee on Equality Rights released its landmark report, Equality for All, recommending protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation. It would take another decade before those protections became law.

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NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH AND PRIDE MONTH: CELEBRATING IDENTITY, HISTORY, AND BELONGING AT GDI

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June offers an opportunity to reflect on intersectionality, a framework introduced by scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw to describe how systems of power and oppression overlap. For Indigenous people who are also members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, experiences of discrimination or exclusion cannot always be understood through a single lens. Understanding these intersecting experiences helps us move beyond simple narratives and encourages us to build communities, classrooms, and institutions that recognize the full complexity of human experience. In doing so, we foster a deeper understanding of the diversity that has always existed within Indigenous communities and create stronger, more inclusive spaces for everyone.

Preserving these stories is an important part of reconciliation, education, and community building. In 2019, the University of Winnipeg opened the Two-Spirit Archive, the largest collection of Two-Spirit and queer Indigenous histories, artifacts, and cultural materials in Canada. The archive helps ensure that future generations can connect to their history and that these stories are never erased.

Similarly, the Gabriel Dumont Institute's Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture preserves Métis stories, voices, and experiences for future generations. The online archive has been accessed countless times by researchers from around the world. Both collections contain invaluable primary source materials that support research and help build knowledge grounded in Métis and Two-Spirit perspectives.

At the Gabriel Dumont Institute, we teach anti-oppressive and anti-racist educational approaches that support diversity, inclusion, and culturally responsive learning environments. National Indigenous History Month and Pride Month remind us that celebrating diversity is also an act of decolonization. By recognizing histories and identities that have too often been overlooked or excluded from mainstream narratives, we create space for more complete and authentic understandings of who we are.

This June, we celebrate the people, stories, and communities that continue to shape our shared future. We have always been here. We are still here. And our stories deserve to be told, preserved, and celebrated. 🌍

Sources:

The University of Winnipeg Two-Spirit Archives:
<https://cdm15931.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/two-spirit/search>

The Gabriel Dumont Institute Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture:
<https://www.Metismuseum.ca>

Harry Daniels Biography:
<https://www.metismuseum.ca/media/document.php/11902.Harry%20Daniels%20final.pdf>

History of Canadian Pride:
<https://www.queerevents.ca/canada/pride/history>

The Urgency of Intersectionality TED Talk by Kimberlé Crenshaw:
<https://youtu.be/akOe5-UzQ2o?si=nDI7Xu8Vns0mSBwN>

MICHIF WORDS OF THE MONTH

AEN MILOOND DOO

Watermelon

SHAAPWAPIMIHT

X-Rays

KIIYA PIKO

Yourself

CHIIKAYHTUM

Zest

AYISHIINOO

Aboriginal

LII BLOOAY

Blueberries

ENN KABAAN

Cabin



UPCOMING DTI PROGRAM DEADLINES



Continuing Care Assistant
Regina, Saskatoon,
Prince Albert

Ongoing



Heavy Equipment, Truck, and Transport Technician
Prince Albert

Ongoing



Office Administration
Regina or Saskatoon

Ongoing



Adult Basic Education
Various

Ongoing



Early Childhood Education Level 2
Online

June 30



Mobile Crane Operator
Regina

Ongoing



Heavy Equipment Operator
Various

Ongoing



For a full listing of all current programs and to apply online visit
WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS

MISHKA LI SHMEN – FINDING THE ROAD – SUNTEP REGINA MICHIF LANGUAGE CAMP

By Russ Fayant, SUNTEP Regina Faculty

Feminist writer Rita Mae Brown once said, “Language is the road map of a culture. It tells you where its people come from and where they are going.” This sentiment echoes what many Indigenous scholars agree upon; that is, a culture is not truly whole without its language intact. Historically, Métis people were multilingual. Our kinship with the Nehiyewak, Nahkaway, Nakoda, Scottish and French settlers necessitated our learning and usage of multiple languages. Yet it is Michif which makes us distinct, unique and special. It is Michif which provides the road map to our true and authentic Michif selves.

For almost ten years, SUNTEP Regina has facilitated a one-of-a-kind, six credit, three-week, land-based, Michif immersion camp. When we first began, we did not have to beat the bushes too hard to find willing speakers to work with us and guide the camp’s development. As the years have passed, so have some of our most important language mentors. In the last five years, we have lost Roy Poitras, Edwin St. Pierre, Alex Pelletier and Clarence Fayant. Each of these fluent speakers left us with important teachings and memories, yet they took with them to the spirit world, volumes of untold linguistic and cultural knowledge.

The passing of the Old Ones has shaped the way I view Michif language reclamation. We no longer have the luxury of time. The fluent speakers who remain are of an advanced age and we are now looking ahead to a future where within 10 years, most of our first language Michif speakers will be gone. This is why SUNTEP Regina’s

Michif language camp operates with a sense of urgency and willful intention. This is not a culture camp with Michif words. This is a Michif language camp where culture is learned through the words and through the interactions with the Old Ones. At our camp, Michif is not a sight along the road. It is the road.

Our camp is organized into theme-based modules which have significance to Michif people. Over the course of three weeks, students engage in language learning around visiting, cooking & eating, harvesting from the land, work, and celebrating. The assignments focus on group and individual presentations which builds group accountability. As students work on assignments, they are supported and encouraged through interactions with the Old Ones who teach with kindness and high expectations. The land itself is linguistic medicine and serves to make everyone (students and teachers) feel relaxed which nurtures positive risk-taking. The Old Ones and I are astonished every year as we see the students go from a bundle of nerves on day one, to singing, dancing, and introducing themselves in Michif with confidence and pride by day 14.

No one is becoming fluent in a language in 14 days. What we hope our students take away from camp is pride in their accomplishments, motivation for their cultural and linguistic journey, and the knowledge that our Old Ones are precious, our language is unique and beautiful, and Michif language reclamation must be conducted with urgency, intention, informed planning, and love. Ekoshi, 🌐



GDSF GOLF TOURNAMENT ANOTHER SUCCESS!

By Bethani Groat, Communications Coordinator

On May 29, 2026, supporters from across Saskatchewan gathered at Moon Lake Golf and Country Club for the 13th annual GDSF Golf Tournament fundraiser. Thanks to the generosity of sponsors, volunteers, golfers, and donors, the event raised more than \$38,000 to support Métis students pursuing post-secondary education.

The tournament welcomed 34 teams of golfers for a day of friendly competition, networking, and community building. More than 30 sponsors contributed to the event, while over 20 volunteers helped ensure that the day ran smoothly. Their collective efforts demonstrate the community's ongoing commitment to investing in Métis education and creating opportunities for future generations.

The day began with a BBQ lunch provided by Métis Nation—Saskatchewan. Golfers paused to enjoy bannock provided by SMEDCO and get their photo taken by Juli Labrecque Photography Studio. The day concluded with a banquet presented by SIGA and Cameco and included a video which featured students indicating how receiving the GDSF scholarships helped them to reach their educational goals. Their stories served as a powerful reminder of the impact community support can have on students and their families.

One particularly memorable moment came during the 50/50 draw. After claiming the prize, John Lagimodiere donated \$500 back to GDSF as an act of unexpected generosity and goodwill. The spirit of giving was infused throughout the day, as golfers gave back through raffles, games, and private donations.

For 13 years, the annual golf tournament has brought together individuals, businesses, and organizations that share a common belief in the transformative power of education. The funds raised help reduce financial barriers for Métis students as they pursue careers in education, healthcare, skilled trades, business and other vocations.

The GDSF Golf Tournament Planning Committee extends our sincere gratitude to every golfer, sponsor, volunteer, donor, and supporter who made this year's tournament possible. Your generosity is helping Métis students achieve their educational goals and build bright futures for themselves, their families, and communities.

To find out more about sponsoring next year, please contact golf@gdins.org



Photos by Juli Labrecque



GDITE CLIENT SUCCESS STORY: ELEVATE COUNSELLING & THERAPY

By Brendon Demerais, GDITE Pathways to Entrepreneurship Coordinator

Kenny Bodvarson, founder and owner of Elevate Counselling and Therapy, is a powerful example of how Métis entrepreneurship can create meaningful community impact. As a client of the Gabriel Dumont Institute's Pathways for Entrepreneurship program, Kenny transformed his vision of accessible, holistic mental health care into one of Saskatchewan's growing counselling practices.

With support through GDI's Pathways for Entrepreneurship program, Kenny was able to strengthen the business planning, operational structure, and growth strategy needed to successfully launch and expand Elevate. What began as a vision to provide inclusive, client-centred counselling has grown into a thriving practice that now supports 17 staff members, including counsellors and administrative professionals, creating both economic opportunity and expanded access to care in Saskatchewan.

Based in Saskatoon, Elevate Counselling and Therapy was founded on the belief that counselling is about more than simply sharing your story — it is about healing the whole person. The practice takes an anti-oppressive, client-led approach, recognizing that each individual is the expert in their own experience.

Elevate offers individual, couples, family, teen, and child counselling, with specialized evidence-based therapies including Cognitive Behaviour Therapy, Dialectic Behaviour Therapy, Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing, narrative therapy, and Accelerated Resolution Therapy. The practice is committed to creating a safe, respectful, and empathetic environment for clients of all backgrounds and lifestyles.

Kenny's entrepreneurial success reflects the strength of Métis business leadership and demonstrates how GDI's Pathways program supports ventures that deliver both economic growth and lasting social impact. GDI is proud to celebrate Kenny and the continued success of Elevate Counselling and Therapy as a business that is helping build stronger, healthier communities across Saskatchewan.



Kenny Bodvarson

LET'S GET SOCIAL



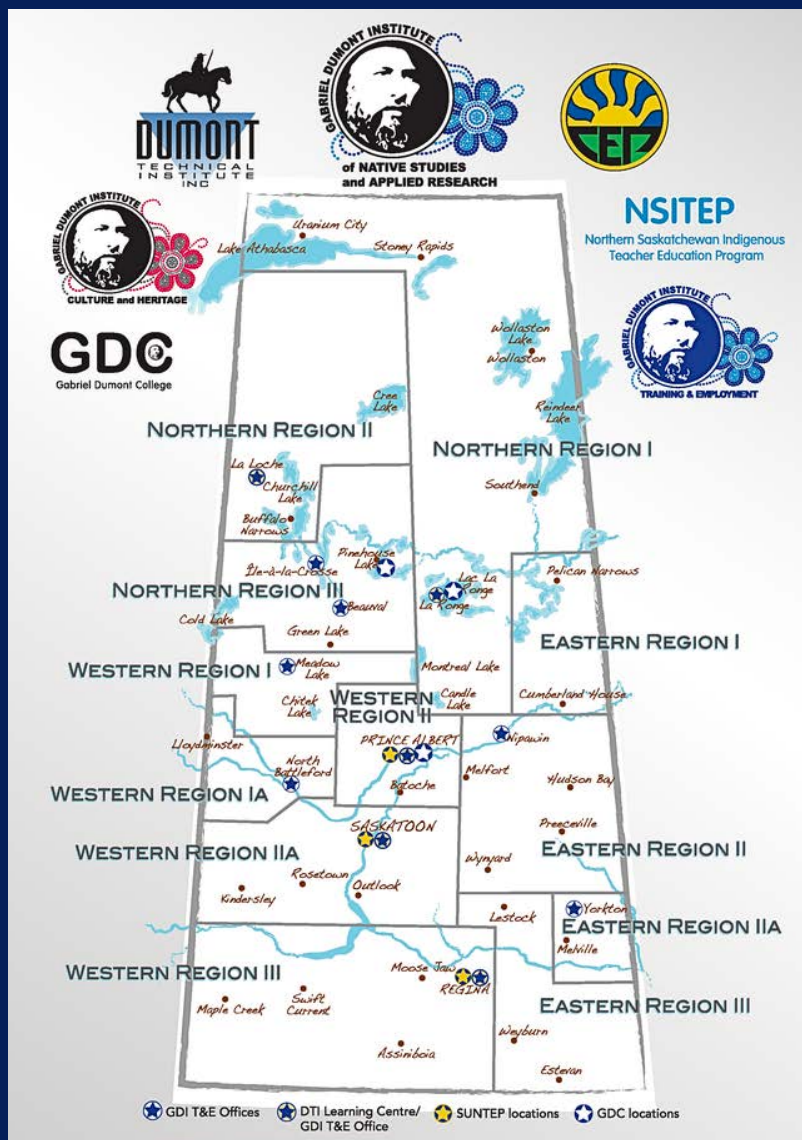
Stay in touch on our socials:
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JULY 2026 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Canada Day Stat Holiday		MNU Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Jul 10 Accounts Payable	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on ISETS Student Jul 10 Direct Deposits	A/P Payment Run - Noon for Friday Pmts Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheets & Payroll Revisions for Jul 15 Payday		ISETS Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Jul 17 Accounts Payable	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on MNU Student Jul 17 Direct Deposits	Staff Payday Accounts Payable Payment - Noon for Friday Pmts		MNU Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Jul 24 Accounts Payable	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on ISETS Student Jul 24 Direct Deposits	Accounts Payable Payment Run - Noon for Friday Pmts		Cutoff @ 4:30 for Jul 31 A/P - Timesheets & Payroll Revisions for Jul 31 Payday ISETS Student Payday	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on MNU Student Jul 31 Direct Deposits	Accounts Payable Payment Run - Noon for Friday Pmts		MNU Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Aug 7 Accounts Payable 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

CONTACT US



WWW.GDINS.ORG
1-877-488-6888
info@gdins.org

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

