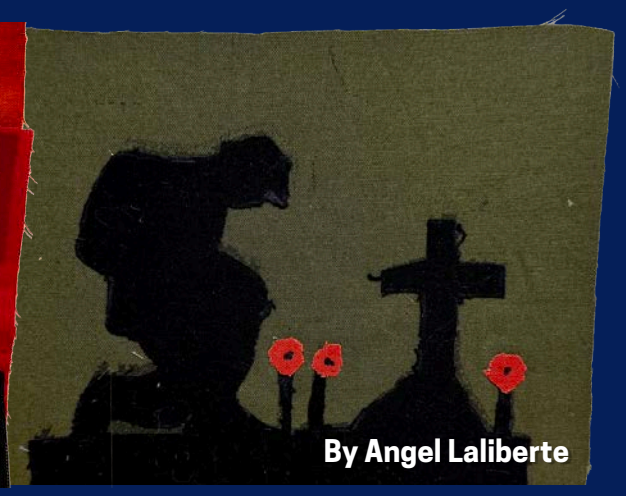
THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
COMMUNICATOR


By Andrea Durocher


By Angel Laliberte

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

REMEMBERING AND HONOURING VETERANS

By Bailey Harvey, Communications Coordinator

In recognition of Indigenous Veterans Day and Remembrance Day, Saskatoon Adult Basic Education (ABE) students at Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) created a display honouring the service and sacrifices of veterans, including Métis veterans who have served in Canada's military.

Métis people have a long history of military service, with many serving in the First and Second World Wars. Despite their contributions, many Métis veterans faced discrimination and were denied the same recognition and benefits as other veterans after returning home. Recognizing their stories is an important part of ensuring their service and sacrifices are never forgotten. Their contributions reflect the ongoing commitment of Métis people to serving and protecting their communities and country.

As part of the display, students created fabric landscapes and other artwork featuring poppies and Remembrance Day imagery. Their artwork surrounded a military uniform and a striking poppy-covered dress installation, creating a meaningful space for reflection and remembrance.

Through their creativity, Saskatoon ABE students helped honour veterans past and present and recognize the important place Métis veterans hold in our shared history.


By Brianna Horvath


ABE Saskatoon Art Installation

MICHIF WORDS OF THE MONTH

FAAMII – Family

LA NIIZH – Snow

AEN GROO FESTAEN – Feast

LII PCHIT MITENN – Mittens

ENN SHAANDEL – Candle

TAANBOOR – Drum

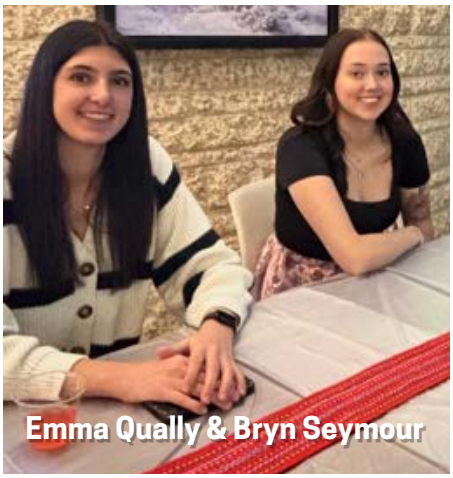
LOUIS RIEL COMMEMORATIVE DINNER - GORDON OAKS STUDENT CENTRE (SASKATOON)

By Sheila Pocha, Program Head SUNTEP

In honour of Louis Riel Day, members of our Student Representative Council at SUNTEP Saskatoon, planned a Commemorative Dinner at the Gordon Oaks Red Bear Student Centre on the University campus. It was wonderful to see such a great amount of students, alumni and various members of the greater community share a meal with us in honour of our great hero, Louis Riel. This annual event signifies the importance of our Métis identity on campus and in the greater community, while preserving our cultural heritage and heralding the history of our people.

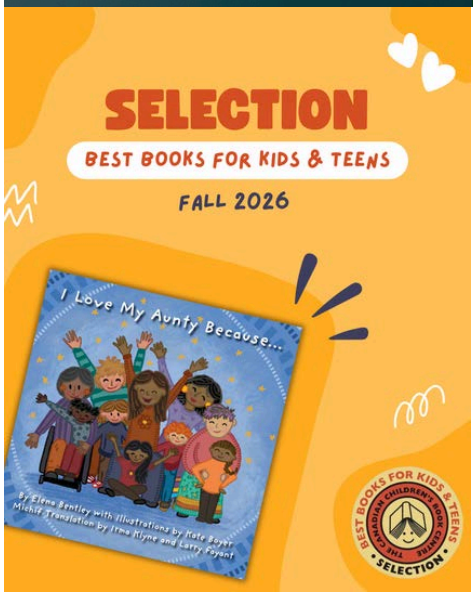
We invited Karon Shmon to be our guest speaker. She shared information about why the Métis chose Riel to be their advocate and the sacrifice he made by leaving his family, his work, and the safety of his community to lead the 1885 Resistance at Batoche. He knew full well that he may not return. His refusal to enter an insanity plea kept this part of our history from simply being known as an incident by an unstable person. Karon also spoke about the lesser-known Métis heroes like the founders of the Gabriel Dumont Institute and the Métis individuals who sustained our language and culture in their homes so we can reclaim and revitalize it today. In closing, she encouraged the SUNTEP students to ensure they give students multiple and balanced perspectives on our history once they become teachers.


Dean Paulson and Karon Shmon


Emma Qually & Bryn Seymour


Janae Budd & Kelley Fineday





PIXELS, SASHES, AND SASKATOON BERRIES: HOW DTI'S ONLINE ECE PROGRAM BRINGS MÉTIS HERITAGE TO LIFE IN MINECRAFT

By Megan Roger and Katherine Moon, Instructors

Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) is making it easier for working adults across Saskatchewan to build a career in early childhood education. Through its 2026–2027 Early Childhood Education (ECE) Level 2 Certificate program, DTI has removed the hurdle of mandatory daily classes. Instead, students move through coursework at their own pace with daily check-ins from instructors, weekly live virtual sessions, and a flexible practicum window that fits around jobs and family life.

That flexibility is paying off: as of November 16, the program has achieved an 80% retention rate, and supervising centres have been quick to praise the students' professionalism and initiative.

Alongside core classes, such as Lifespan Studies and Art, Music & Movement, students are exploring Métis culture in a whole new way through Minecraft Education.

Originally developed by the Rupertsland Institute and tailored by DTI's ECE instructors, this interactive Michif Minecraft world gives online classmates a space to hang out, collaborate, and build together while learning through hands-on gameplay.


Gathering Resources

Outside the game, students practice Michif words and phrases, explore Métis-themed ECE resources for lesson planning, and discuss ways to authentically incorporate Métis culture into their future classrooms.

Inside the game, students explore Métis history, language and land-based teachings through interactive activities, including:


Glenda's Garden

Historical Mentors: Interactive characters Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont share stories and introduce traditions such as the Buffalo Hunt.

Harvesting & Resourcefulness: Students explore how Métis ancestors used every part of animals, including buffalo and beaver hides, bones and meat, and making pemmican.


Taylor's Garden

Symbols, Clothing & Travel: Discover Métis cultural items such as capotes, sashes, beaded jewellery, flower banners, fiddles and the Infinity Flag, while travelling by Red River cart and York boat.

Caring for the Land: Students practise land stewardship by building virtual river gardens and planting native prairie plants, including Saskatoon berries.

By bringing Métis culture into a shared virtual space, DTI is giving future educators a fun, collaborative way to learn—and plenty of fresh ideas to take into their own early learning programs.

DTI PROGRAMS STILL ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS...



Practical Nursing

Regina

Ongoing



Adult Basic Education

Various

Ongoing



Primary Care Paramedic

Prince Albert

Ongoing



Career Cooking Program

Saskatoon

Ongoing

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

WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS



TRIBUTE TO JEANNE PELLETIER

By David Morin, Director of Culture & Heritage

The staff of the Gabriel Dumont Institute are heartbroken to share that Jeanne Pelletier passed away on November 17, 2026.

Jeanne spent a lifetime sharing Métis history and culture and we will be forever grateful for all that she did. Jeanne's work with GDI spanned decades. In the 1980s, she developed the instructional resource, Steps in Time, which has taught countless people the essence of Métis dance. Jeanne followed the original with Steps in Time II, a DVD teaching the Red River Jig and two square dances, the Quadrille and la danse du crochet. Jeanne shared her knowledge with many students of the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program in Regina, and with many more members of the community.

In 2004, Jeanne joined many Métis Elders and Old Ones for a storytelling project. Jeanne was interviewed with Clementine Longworth by Maria Campbell and shared stories about Michif, living on the Crooked Lake Road Allowance, celebrations, and so much more. The interview can be found at: metismuseum.ca.

Jeanne's stories from this project became part of Stories of Our People: A Métis Graphic Novel Anthology, with the stories How Michif was Lost and Whistle for Protection.

In 2007, we had the pleasure of publishing Jeanne's children's book, The Story of the Rabbit Dance, a charming story of a Métis Trapper named Jacques who witnessed the creation of the Rabbit Dance.



In 2018, GDI Press published Jeanne's autobiography, Let Me See Your Fancy Steps: Story of a Métis Dance Caller. This book shares Jeanne's work and life story. Jeanne was the first woman Métis dance caller and that story needed to be preserved! One of the beautiful pieces to this book was the inclusion of many quotes from people who Jeanne reached through her lifetime of sharing Métis history and culture.

As Jeanne said, "I had no intention of becoming a caller, but someone needed to pass down our traditions." That was Jeanne. She saw the need and worked a lifetime to make it happen.

We send our most heartfelt condolences all of Jeanne's family and many friends.

Maarsii for everything Jeanne. You will be greatly missed.

SHARE YOUR MÉTIS PRIDE WITH GDI!

We are looking for photos and stories about GDI staff and students out in your local community. Whether it's an event your class attended, or a milestone your department reached, we want to celebrate you!
You can send your photos and stories to:
communications@gdins.org

GDI PRESS TITLE TO EXPLORE THIS MONTH



LETS GET SOCIAL

Stay in touch on our socials:
Gabriel Dumont Institute
@GDINS_ORG
WWW.GDINS.ORG

TRIBUTE TO ROSE RICHARDSON

By David Morin, Director of Culture & Heritage

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Métis cultural keeper and Elder, Rose Richardson. Rose was many things, but she is perhaps best remembered as a medicine person and healer who shared her knowledge and wisdom with countless people throughout her life.

Rose's connection to Gabriel Dumont Institute dates back to its founding in 1976 at the Association of Métis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan education conference. She was a strong advocate for Métis rights and provided unwavering support for the Métis community throughout her life. Later, she became a respected educator, healer and mentor, sharing her knowledge as a cultural keeper and Elder.

Rose also made lasting contributions to GDI's work. She provided validation for Christi Belcourt's Medicines to Help Us, a collection of study prints and an accompanying booklet highlighting traditional Métis medicines. The Institute's Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture also preserves several videos and resources featuring Rose's teachings on traditional medicines, Métis history, political activism and cultural lifeways.



These video files can be accessed at these links: https://www.metismuseum.ca/resource.php/05817; https://www.metismuseum.ca/resource.php/06757; and https://www.metismuseum.ca/resource.php/06760.

Rose was also a beloved instructor at both Dumont Technical Institute and Gabriel Dumont College.

The Gabriel Dumont Institute extends its heartfelt condolences to Rose's family and loved ones. Her knowledge, generosity and lifelong dedication to Métis and First Nations people will not be forgotten.

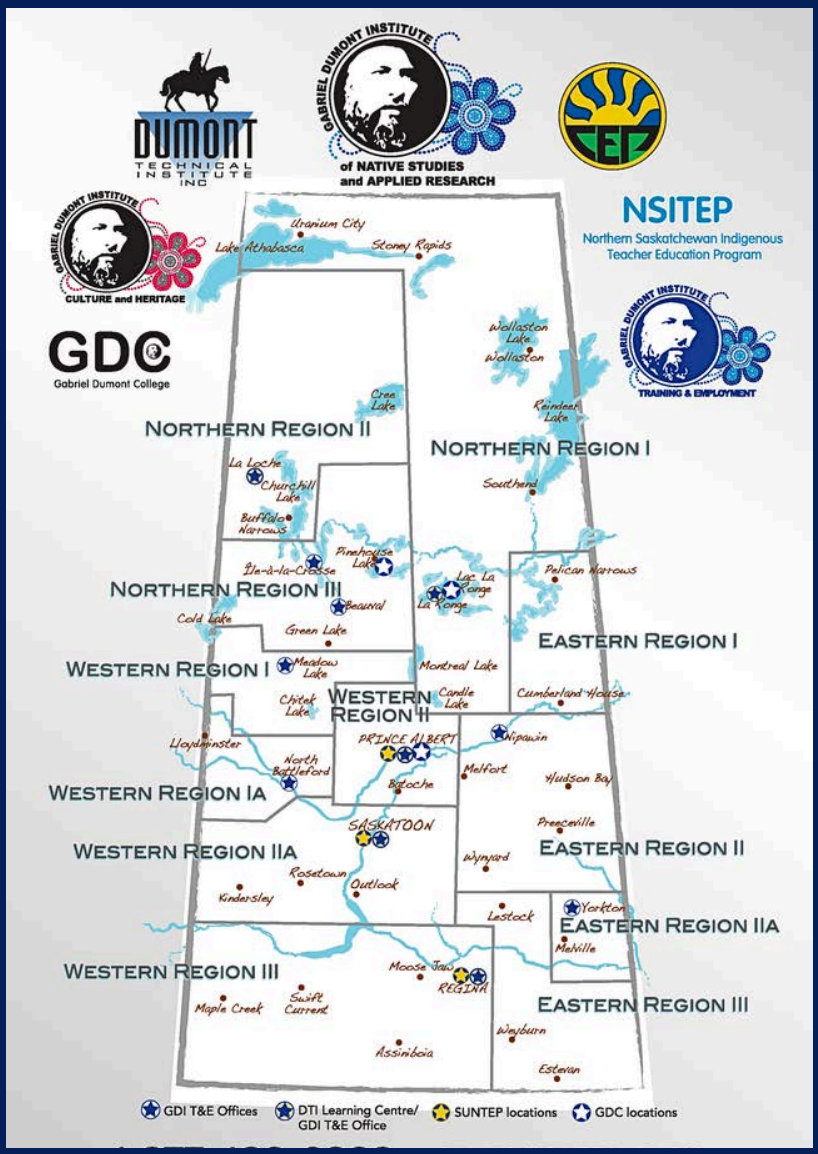
Maarsii, Rose. Rest in peace.

DECEMBER 2026 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on MNU Student Dec 4 Direct Deposits	Accounts Payable Payment Run - Noon for Friday Pmts		MNU Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Dec 11 Accounts Payable	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Pmts on ISETS Student Dec 11 Direct Dep Cutoff @ 4:30 for TMS & Payroll Revisions for Dec 15 Payday	Accounts Payable Payment Run - Noon for Friday Pmts		ISETS Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Dec 18 Accounts Payable	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Staff Payday Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on MNU Student Dec 18 Direct Deposits	A/P Payment Run - Noon for Friday Pmts Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheets & Payroll Revisions for Dec 31 Payday		Cutoff @ 4:30 for Dec 23 A/P Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Pymts on ISETS Student Dec 23 Direct Deposits MNU Student Payday	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Accounts Payable Payment Run - Noon for Wednesday Pmts		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on MNU Student Dec 31 Direct Deposits	ISETS Student Payday	**Christmas Day Stat Holiday**	**Boxing Day Stat Holiday**
27	28	29	30	31		
				MNU Student Payday **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



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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 submit to communications@gdins.org by the 20th of the month.