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GDI (1980-2018)

Proud Past, Bright Future



GDI Communicator

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:

Mishi Atoushkay,
Moochikihtaw,
Ooshihtaw Iii
Zistwaar

Continuing Care
Assistant Program
Update

SUNTEP Saskatoon
Holds Graduation
Ceremony

Payroll Cutoff
Calendar

Highlights:

SUNTEP Helped Me
Navigate My Identity
- Ms. Pelletier 1

Na'tsa'maht —
Working Together
as One 3

SUNTEP Prince
Albert Celebrates
Class of 2018 5

SUNTEP Helped Me Navigate My Identity - Ms. Pelletier

By James Oloo

We caught up with Deanna Pelletier, a graduate of the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP), to hear about what she has been up to since graduating. Deanna, who is from Regina, Saskatchewan, is a proud Métis mother of two. She works as an Indigenous Advocate/Teacher with the Regina Public Schools.

Reminiscing about her career as an educator, Deanna stated, "As long as I can remember I've always wanted to be a teacher! I constantly annoyed my little sister and made her play school with me. My parents bought a large chalkboard and I made a locker for my sister out of cardboard. I taught her the ABC's and to write her own name."

Meeting a supportive school guidance counsellor reinforced Deanna's interests in the teaching profession. "I was fortunate enough to hear about SUNTEP through my high school guidance counsellor. The counsellor set up a meeting with a previous graduate of the program for me to meet and ask questions." After meeting with the SUNTEP graduate, she liked "how supportive and motivating the atmosphere was at SUNTEP and decided it would be a perfect fit for

me." In 2003, Deanna graduated with a Bachelor of Education degree from SUNTEP Regina. She was 21 years old.

Even at a young age, Deanna was decided to be successful in life, and the way to do that was through education. As she puts it, "When I finished high school, I was the only one of my family members to get my grade 12 diploma and apply for university. My younger sister then followed in my footsteps and graduated from the SUNTEP program as well five years later. I like to think that I was a positive role model in her life showing her that she was able to succeed in her education just as I did."

Years later, Deanna is still very intentional in her quest to reach out and be a positive role model to her students. "I learn from them as much as they learn from me," she noted. "One particular memory stands out for me, I had a student move, but through social media stayed in touch with his friends that still attend my school. He messaged his friend to show me a text saying: 'I just want to thank you, Ms. Pelletier. I went from failing every class except math, to passing grade 10, and getting all my credits, I owe it all to you because to be completely honest I probably wouldn't have passed if it wasn't for you motivating me the whole time. Thank you.'"

Deanna continued, "When I get to watch the students I work with

walk across the stage at the grad ceremony it literally brings tears to my eyes. I have had the pleasure and opportunity to watch them grow over the many years, earn their diplomas and become fantastic young adults."

But the journey to the teaching profession was not always easy. As Deanna recalls, "University was a learning experience in itself, having to navigate new academic classes in a scary and large environment. In the meantime, I had to mature and find myself as a young woman."

Deanna pointed out that "growing up in the city, I always felt like something was absent from me as a whole! I often felt like I did not belong, feeling like I was trying to live in two completely separate worlds. I was constantly struggling with my own identity and where I fit in." However, "SUNTEP helped me navigate the identity I was lacking and enabled me to be the person I am today. I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to attend the program. SUNTEP Regina was a second home to me."

SUNTEP students have the opportunity to work on their genealogies as well as study Métis history and culture.

Continued on Page 2



2018 Women of Distinction



Audrey Hestand, Acting Director GDI Training & Employment received the 2018 YWCA Saskatoon Women of Distinction Award (Education) in May 2018. Her nomination stated:

"Audrey's leadership and passion for education has enriched many lives [and] has helped preserve and promote Métis culture."

"We are very proud of you Audrey! GDI and the Métis community are extremely fortunate to have you work with us."

- Geordy McCaffrey
Executive Director, GDI.

Mishi Atoushkay, Moochikihtaw, Ooshihtaw lil Zistwaar

By Janice R. Thompson

Work Hard, Have Fun, Make History was the theme of the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Regina graduation ceremony which was held on May 4, 2018. More than 160 guests attended the event at the Delta Regina Hotel to honour and celebrate his year's twelve graduates.

Reminiscent of their pre-service teacher training experiences over the four years were highlighted through the evening's Emcee, Taylor Frei, a 2017 SUNTEP Regina graduate. Frei is a teacher with the Regina Public School Division, teaching in the Structured Learning Program at Glen Elm School. The guest speakers and keynote address delivered by Faculty member, Russell Fayant shared snapshots of the graduates' experiences reflecting on their academic,

professional, personal, and community milestones demonstrated through their hard work, their fun, and memorable history.

The graduates included: Marsha Ash, Gary Burgess, Chad Fisher, Lesley Hanson, Hayley Unrau, Haylie Bedore (Distinction), Tara Loreth (Distinction), Garrett Legare (Distinction), Crystal Norris (Distinction), Marissa Poitras (Distinction), Elsa Ramos-McKenzie (Great-Distinction), and Kaitlyn Skilliter (Great-Distinction).

Unforgettable memories shared by each of the graduates spoke to journeys of reclaiming Indigeneity, being supported by the unwavering kindness of others, involvement with the Métis community, and the lifelong relationships showcased gratitude and evidence for the importance of

SUNTEP contributing to their success in postsecondary education.

As the evening progressed, smiles, laughter, and tears remained ever present. Family members, guests, dignitaries, students, staff, and alumni shared congratulatory sentiments. The GDI Executive Director Geordy McCaffrey, the GDI Board of Governors representatives Dr. Earl Cook (Chair) and Juanita Tuharsky, University of Regina Faculty of Education Associate Dean Dr. Val Mulholland, and 'Métis Old Ones,' Norma Welsh and Joe Welsh were also present.

Special awards presented included: the Lebret Métis Cultural Days Scholarship to Year Three student Doug Jarvis. The Spirit of SUNTEP Award to Crystal Norris, and the 30th anniversary of the David Amyotte Memorial Award to Haylie Bedore. 🌐

Deanna Pelletier's SUNTEP Experience ... Continued from Page 1

"I gained the knowledge about my Indigenous heritage and my traditional cultural background," Deanna stated, noting that "I now have a chance to pass on my knowledge and experiences on to Indigenous youth who might feel as I did. I felt comfortable enough to ask questions and fortunate enough to learn from my mistakes."

After graduating with her education degree, Deanna worked in England as a substitute teacher for a year and a half before coming back home and taking a position with Regina Public Schools. "I worked in the elementary school system for

10 years teaching a variety of grades and roles within the school. Currently, I am an Indigenous Advocate with Regina Public Schools working at the high school level and could not love my job more!"

Asked what she likes about her job, Deanna responded, "It is very rewarding working with youth and helping to guide them through grade 12 and transition to life after high school. In my current role, I have had the opportunity to talk to Indigenous youth about the importance of pursuing post-secondary education. I have introduced my students to current SUNTEP students. I'm proud to give them an opportunity to learn more and

make an informed decision on post-secondary education, just as I did." She continued, "Some of my students are the first in their families to finish high school, and to hear about the possibility of higher education. I can relate to them, so I can reach them and encourage them."

Deanna concluded that, "I am most passionate about working with at-risk youth. I strive to be a role model and encourage them to follow their dreams, whatever that may be. I believe in building an honest trusting relationship with the students, families and their community. I always try to communicate with the caregiver to ensure they are aware of what is happening within the school with their child." 🌐



Deanna Pelletier
SUNTEP Regina graduate and Indigenous Advocate/Teacher
Regina Public Schools
(Please see page 1)
Photo courtesy of D. Pelletier



Continuing Care Assistant Program Update

By Chantelle Julé

The labour market demand for qualified healthcare professionals is high and is expected to grow as Saskatchewan's populations grows and ages. This includes demand for continuing care assistants. At Dumont Technical Institute, we are excited to be offering the Continuing Care Assistant program this fall in both Saskatoon and Regina.

This will be the first time since 2010-2011 that the Continuing Care Assistant program has been offered in both locations. DTI will be brokering the program from Saskatchewan Polytechnic, which allows

graduates to have nationally recognized certification upon program completion. Obtaining CCA Certification opens several doors for employment in long term care, private and public homecare, as well as special care facilities, and job opportunities are plentiful here in Saskatchewan in both private and public sectors.

Someone once said that "When you are a caregiver, you know that every day you will touch a life or a life will touch yours." Throughout the program, students will learn to help clients with mobility, assist them with eating as well

as personal care. Those who aspire to become CCA's have a desire to improve the quality of lives for others. It is a very people-focused job, with lots of hands on and face to face interaction with clients.

The program combines theory, practicum placements, and preceptorship to give the students a great overall learning experience. We are happy to be able to offer this exciting opportunity to 16 students in each location this coming fall! To apply online, please visit www.gdins.org.



Na'tsa'maht — Working Together as One

By Karon Shmon

I recently had the opportunity to attend a professional development conference hosted by the Colleges and Institutes of Canada (CICan) in Victoria, BC. The conference theme was Na'tsa'maht, a Salish phrase which means "Working Together as One." The conference organizers felt this would be "Our time to come together as one—as one community committed to excellence in education delivery, community building, innovation and leading change locally, nationally and globally.

I was drawn to this theme for its respectful inclusion of Indigenous world views and themes. One of the sessions I most looked forward to was *Situating yourself to indigenize curriculum – applying Indigenous pedagogy to educator development* because it is based on the foundational

work of Dr. Martin Brokenleg who brought the *circle of courage* forward to mainstream thinking on human development. The circle of courage is a Lakota model of human development that identifies four basic human needs; the need to belong, the need to master, or become proficient at, the things we do; the need to have the independence to make choices and direct our lives as much as possible, and the need to feel we have something to give back to the community through being generous (not materially, but with our skills and abilities). Camosun College, the host college for the CICan Conference, delivered the session. It was refreshing to see that they saw this as supporting both student development and staff development.

The next most impactful session I attended was the keynote address by Chief

Chief Dr. Robert Joseph, O.B.C., a hereditary Chief of the Gwawaenuk First Nation, who has dedicated his life to bridging the differences brought about by intolerance, lack of understanding and racism at home and abroad. His insights into the destructive impacts these forces can have on peoples' lives, families and cultures were shaped by his experience with the Canadian Indian Residential School system. An estimated 950 people attended the conference.

Chief Joseph's keynote was in a huge room that must have housed the entire group. You could have heard a pin drop when he was sharing his residential school experience, including the part where he said each child was assigned a number and were called by the number and not their name.

Continued on Page 4

SUNTEP Regina Graduation



Jacki Amyotte-Litke (Right) presenting the 30th Annual David Amyotte Memorial Scholarship to graduate Haylie Bedore

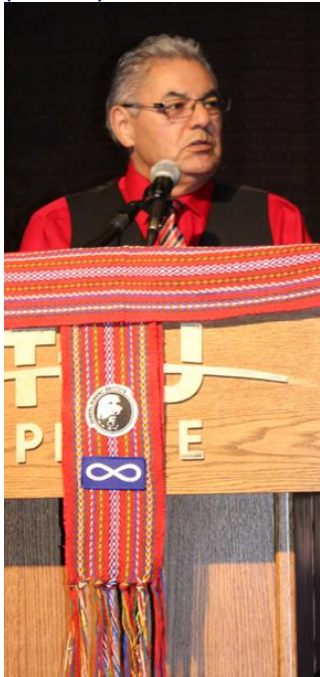


Spirit of SUNTEP Award presented to graduate Crystal Norris by SUNTEP Regina Faculty Members, Brenna Pacholko (left) and Jennifer Reid-Vandevord, and Métis Old One, Joe Welsh.

Photos courtesy of B. Pacholko



Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Graduation



Dr. Earl Cook, Chair
GDI Board of Governors

Working Together as One ... Continued from Page 3

I can't say how others felt, but I was awestruck at how someone who had gone through such a painful and enduring experience as 12 years of residential school could heal enough to bring the outstanding leadership and positive perspective Chief Joseph shared. He was introduced by another Elder, Alex Nelson, a proud member of the Musgamagwx Dzawada'enuwx First Nations in Kincome Inlet. Mr. Nelson was gregarious and informative at the same time, using his language at times and sharing humorous anecdotes at other times.

Once Elder Nelson took the stage after Chief Dr. Joseph's keynote, his voice faltered as he shared, "I was number 23." We were witnessing two survivors of residential schools, each one had survived and contributed to

their community, but even half a century later, the trauma to both men was clearly evident in their emotionally charged voices. The room was again filled with silence. I thought of the conference theme and recognized how far we have to go to make the theme of "working together as one" a reality. I personally feel this keynote exemplified the kind of truth that will have to precede any chance of reconciliation in Canada.

On a lighter note, the opening reception started outside the Royal BC Museum with "Voices of the Land: A night of cultural sharing" which showcased and celebrated the cultural diversity of Vancouver Islands' First Nations Peoples mostly through traditional singing, drumming, and dancing. Following this showcase, we entered the Museum and were treated to a number of different food

stations, each with a different type of cuisine. After overseeing the well-being and preservation of GDI's museum for years, my head was spinning as I wondered how they could allow food and drink to be so freely moving among their exhibits. It's a risky practice.

Overall, the conference was very enjoyable. The most important thing I came away with was an even stronger belief that GDI has been on the cutting edge of student engagement, student retention, and student development. While we will always have more to learn, so much of what we are doing is working well for the Métis of the province. Much of it is just being learned by other colleges and post-secondary education providers. GDI staff and students — hold high your heads! 🌐



Sheila Pocha, Head
SUNTEP Saskatoon,
congratulating Dylan Menard
on his graduation with a
Bachelor of Education degree
May 5, 2018
Photos by James Oloo

SUNTEP Saskatoon Holds Graduation Ceremony

By James Oloo

The Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program in Saskatoon held its graduation ceremony on May 5, 2018 at TCU Place. The Class of 2018 included 11 graduates: Tatum Albert, Vanessa Gardiner, Shaylyn James-Messier, Santana Kennedy, Brittany McKay, Genevieve McKay, Dylan Menard, Aimey Parent,

Renée Prefontaine, Robert Sayese, and Brooke Van Damme.

Most of the graduates had received job offers, including Dylan Menard who had accepted a teaching position at a school in England. SUNTEP reputation and impact continues to expand across Saskatchewan and beyond.

Dr. Earl Cook and Dr. Michelle Prytula congratulated the graduates on their Bachelor of Education degrees. SUNTEP Saskatoon Head Sheila Pocha and Ms. Angela Caron, a principal at the Saskatoon Public School Division, presented the graduates with gifts. Dr. Carmen Gillies gave the keynote address. 🌐

SUNTEP Regina Graduation ... Continued from Page 2

Entertainment was provided by Métis fiddler Nathaniel Baker and Thom Collegiate High School First Nation Drum Group, Napewsak. Seven Stones Jiggers, led by SUNTEP Regina Alumni Alison Kimbley, also performed at the event.

As the evening drew to a close, we all extended heart-felt pride to the 12 graduates and those who supported them throughout their journey. There were hugs, handshakes, and tears. Once again, reminding us, that *Work Hard, Have Fun, Make History* will remain

memorable for each of the graduates as a testament to their hard work and dedication. A total of 269 Indigenous men and women have graduated with bachelor of education degrees from SUNTEP Regina to date. Many of the graduates work as educators. 🌐



SUNTEP Prince Albert Celebrates Class of 2018

By James Oloo

On May 18, 2018, families, friends, loved ones, together with invited guests and dignitaries, gathered at the E. A. Rawlinson Centre for the Arts to celebrate the graduation of the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Prince Alberta Class of 2018.

The graduates included Amanda Adams, Kelsey Ayd, Kayla Blanchard, Mika Carriere, Adam Daigneault, Tara DeBray, Kim Deschambeault, Michelle Ferland-Murphy, Ysabel Gallegos, Jason McKay, Brittany Morin, Kylie Morin, Liz Northey,

Taylor Palidwar, Kelly Regnier, Tammy Stonestand, Jason Vandall, Daisy Villeneuve, and Lori Wintringham. The main auditorium at the E. A. Rawlinson Centre for the Arts was filled to capacity.

Common themes across the speeches by the graduates included struggles, dedication, and being thankful. Mika Carriere, for example, stated that "I lived a good life as a SUNTEP student. However, the struggle was real; but my parents told me that I could do it ... I thank the Creator for the opportunity to be a

teacher." Adam Daigneault received a thunderous applause for his speech that was in Cree.

Gabriel Dumont Institute Board of Governors Chair Dr. Earl Cook and Dr. Michelle Prytula, Dean of the College of Education, congratulated the graduates. Michael Relland, Head of Gabriel Dumont College, thanked the Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division (SRPSD) Superintendent of Schools Mr. Alan Nunn for supporting SUNTEP over the years. Relland noted that an average of eight SUNTEP graduates is hired by the SRPSD each year.



Kelsey Ayd
Each of the 19 graduates had a personalized teacher pencil sign in memory of Corey Lee Teeter, who was a faculty member at SUNTEP Prince Albert.
Photo by James Oloo

Payroll Cutoff Calendar, June 2018

By Carmala Thiessen and Veronica Verzonowski

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
					Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student June 8 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for TMS & Payroll Revisions for June <u>15 Payday</u> Cutoff @ 4:30 for June 22 Student Payroll			Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Staff Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student June 22 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for TMS & Payroll Revisions for June <u>29 Payday</u> Cutoff @ 4:30 for July 6 Student Payroll			Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Staff Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	

Employee contracts due prior to payroll cutoff date.
MRTS due by the 15th of every month, and employee contracts are due prior to payroll cutoff date.



Gabriel Dumont Institute/Dumont Technical Institute

917 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK
S7M 0R9

PHONE:
(306) 242-6070

FAX:
(306) 242-0002

E-MAIL:
general@gdi.gdins.org

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can be obtained at:

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index.php/833](http://www.metismuseum.ca/browse/index.php/833)

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GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research

GDI Locations

GDI Central Office Saskatoon

917 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9
Phone: (306) 242-6070
Fax: (306) 242-0002

GDI Publishing Saskatoon

2-604 22nd Street West
Saskatoon SK S7M 5W1
Phone: (306) 934-4941
Fax: (306) 244-0252

GDI Finance and Operations

917 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9
Phone: (306) 242-6070
Fax: (306) 975-0903

DTI Central Office Saskatoon

917 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9
Phone: (306) 242-6070
Fax: (306) 242-0002

Toll Free (DTI):
1-877-488-6888

SUNTEP Prince Albert

48 12th Street East
Prince Albert, SK
S6V 1B2
Phone: (306) 764-1797
Fax: (306) 764-3995

SUNTEP Saskatoon

Room 7 McLean Hall
University of
Saskatchewan
106 Wiggins Road
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5E6
Phone: (306) 975-7095
Fax: (306) 975-1108

SUNTEP Regina

Room 227 College West
University of Regina
3737 Wascana Parkway
Regina, S4S 0A2
Phone: (306) 347-4110

GDI Training and Employment Central Office

917 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9
Phone: (306) 242-6070
Fax: (306) 683-3508

Toll Free (T&E):
1-877-488-6888
Fax: (306) 347-4119

GDI Library Regina

Room 218 College West
University of Regina
3737 Wascana Parkway
Regina, S4S 0A2
Phone: (306) 347-4124
Fax: (306) 565-0809

[https://gdins.org/student-
services/library/](https://gdins.org/student-services/library/)

GDI Library Prince Albert

48 12th Street East
Prince Albert, SK
S6V 1B2
Phone: (306) 922-6466
Fax: (306) 763-4834



GDI Mission:

To promote the renewal and the development of Métis culture through research, materials development, collection and the distribution of those materials and the development and delivery of Métis-specific educational programs and services.



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research