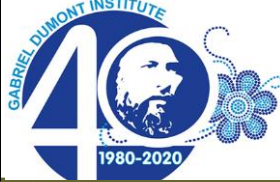


September 2019
Volume 13, Issue 9
Gabriel Dumont Institute
40th Anniversary
1980 – 2020



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:

Pathways for
Entrepreneurship
Update

GDI Teams
Participate in
Annual Wheelchair
Relay

Payroll Cutoff
Calendar

Highlights:

Métis Professional
Development 1

Indigenous Birth
Support Worker
Program Update 3

Métis Professional Development

By Lisa Bird-Wilson

You won't want to miss the opportunity to attend a once-in-a-decade Métis cultural experience—the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Culture Conference! For two days in February, we will be bringing some of the best, brightest, and most-talented Métis in Canada to host workshops, discussions, and keynote addresses. You will be able to take part in small interactive workshops on Métis embroidery, jigging, Métis beadwork, sash finger-weaving, Métis ribbon skirts, genealogy, square dance, song writing, fiddling, memoir writing, and Indigenous plants.

You can also sign up to hear the latest from pre-eminent Métis researchers and scholars, learn about homelessness from a Métis perspective, access new Michif resources, or make a model Red River cart. There are so many culturally-themed sessions to choose from you'll wish you could participate in all of them.

Keynote addresses include renowned Métis author, playwright, and Elder, Maria Campbell who will share her inspiring message with attendees, as well as Jesse Thistle, author of the 2019 national bestselling book, *From the Ashes: My Story of Being Métis, Homeless, and Finding My Way* (published by Simon & Schuster

Canada), who will share his incredible story of overcoming homelessness and finding his way back to his Métis culture through education.

The GDI Culture Conference will take place on February 7 & 8, 2020 in Saskatoon and will include a celebration of the Institute's 40th Anniversary (1980-2020). A gala evening complete with banquet and entertainment will pay homage to those who have made outstanding contributions to the Métis with the Order of Gabriel Dumont silver and gold medal awards.

A special student banquet will be held on February 6th to honour GDI students - who have distinguished themselves through their perseverance, centre and community involvement, leadership, cultural pride, and overall student performance - with the Order of Gabriel Dumont bronze medals. (Note that deadline for nominating a deserving person for the Order of Gabriel Dumont is October 31, 2019. For more information, including application form, please visit: <https://gdins.org/metis-culture/the-order-of-gabriel-dumont-call-for-nominations/>).

GDI staff have the privilege of access to a full conference pass at no charge (a \$450

value) and the chance to sign up early for conference sessions (keep an eye on your email), thereby ensuring your spot in what will be a sold-out event. It is our hope that as many staff as possible will register to attend, in the spirit not only of celebrating Métis culture and heritage, as well as the Institute's accomplishments over the past four decades, but also as an estimable professional development opportunity.

As already stated, there will be a broad variety of professional development sessions to choose from. Get ready to learn, reconnect with some cultural activities, and have fun.

Blocks of rooms have been reserved for out of town staff at the Saskatoon Inn and at the Travelodge. The 40th Anniversary is a time to celebrate Métis culture, our accomplishments, and our future successes. The support and attendance of the staff shows the strength and pride we have for GDI and our Métis heritage.

Here is some trivia. In 1980, the Gabriel Dumont Institute had total revenue of \$690,692 (including \$1,875 in staff parking). The Institute expenditures were \$631,577. In 2017-2018, the Institute's total revenue was over \$31.7 million (a 4497% increase from 1980) while the expenditures increased by 5045% to \$32.5 million. 🌐



Gabriel Dumont Institute

GDI Board of Governors approves motion for 2019 Christmas Break:

18/19 - MOVED BY:
Viola Bell;
SECONDED BY:
Dennis Langan

"That the GDI Board of Governors approve the following dates as the Christmas break:

The Institute will be CLOSED from Monday December 23rd, 2019 to Wednesday, January 1st, 2020 (inclusive). To return on Thursday January 2nd, 2020."
CARRIED.

Pathways for Entrepreneurship Update

By Brendon Demerais

GDI Training and Employment's Pathways for Entrepreneurship program aims to create and expand Métis-owned businesses across Saskatchewan. It does this in various ways, including its popular Digital Marketing Certification training. GDI partnered with Blue Moose Media to offer digital marketing training workshops to Métis entrepreneurs.

The overall goal of these workshops is to empower Métis entrepreneurs with skills and knowledge to utilize social media and digital marketing to achieve business results. The workshops provide training on photography, graphic design, as well as social media fundamentals, such as

Facebook, Instagram, and Google Ads essentials.

In today's world, social media plays an increasingly critical role in the way we interact with each other, consume content, and network with our groups, hobbies, and interests. The information age has brought about a plethora of data about individual likes, dislikes, and demographic intelligence. Marketers use technology and related algorithms to efficiently target advertisements and enable businesses to reach potential customers much more effectively than ever before.

Social media for advertising is also big business. In 2017, Facebook [reported](#) over 40 billion USD in advertising revenues. Compared to

traditional marketing channels, social media shines in its ability to engage specific target markets in a cost-effective manner. Social media platforms also provide campaign management tools and real-time data updates – information that are useful for the success of businesses.

Since 2011, [more people across the globe](#) own cell phones than toothbrushes. Smartphone users worldwide spend an average of 3.3 hours per day on their device with this number steadily increasing at the expense of other platforms (TV, newspapers, and desktop computers). Leveraging the advantages of social media in their marketing strategy allows businesses to have a competitive advantage.

Continued on Page 4

GDI Teams Participate in Annual Wheelchair Relay

By James Oloo



Back from left: Terry Muller, Christina Desjarlais, Randi Ross, James Oloo, and David Werner. Front: Sarah McCallum, Bill Lehne, and Justin Basaraba (Photo courtesy of GDI T&E)

On September 21, 2019, several dozen people of different age groups gathered at the Saskatoon Civic Square in downtown Saskatoon on a warm autumn morning for the 20th annual Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan (SCIS) Wheelchair Relay. Gabriel Dumont Institute has been a strong supporter of the SCIS over the years.

The relay race, which featured nine teams of four participants competing to see who would be the first to cross the finish line, started with a celebrity competition involving CTV News Saskatoon/ CTV Morning Live presenters Janella Hamilton and Mike Ciona; Saskatoon Mayor Charlie Clark; City Councilor Bev

Dubois, who is also a member of the Accessibility Committee at the Saskatoon City Hall; and Bill Lehne. Bill is an Employment Services Manager at Gabriel Dumont Institute Training and Employment in Saskatoon, and also serves as the president of the SCIS.

Gabriel Dumont Institute had two teams at the relay: the all-female Sassy, Sashy, & Salty comprising Terry Muller (Accounting Clerk), Sarah McCallum (Accounts Payable), Christina Desjarlais (Administrative Assistant, Dumont Technical Institute), and Randi Ross (Employment Counsellor at GDI Training and Employment in Saskatoon), raced for the first time in the SCIS wheelchair relay.

Continued on Page 3



GDI Staff Participate in Wheelchair Relay ... *Continued from Page 2*

The Sashy Wheelers were back for third straight year. The team included Justin Basaraba (Accounting Clerk, Gabriel Dumont Institute Training and Employment), Bill Lehne, James Oloo (Research Coordinator), and David Werner (instructor in the Adult Basic Education program in Saskatoon).

Team Gabriel Dumont Institute members received medals in recognition of their participation in the 20th Annual Wheelchair Relay.

This was the third year in a row that the Gabriel Dumont

Institute employees participated in the SCIS annual wheelchair relay.

In 2017, the Gabriel Dumont Institute was represented at the annual wheelchair relay by The Sashy Wheelers, whose members included Gary Kichula (Head of Human Resources), Brody Parent (Accounting Administrator), Dwayne Docken (Employment Services Manager, Indigenous Apprenticeship Program), James Oloo, and Bill Lehne. In 2018, The Sashy Wheelers team members included Justin Basaraba, Gary Kichula, Bill Lehne, and James Oloo.

The wheelchair relay is a fundraising event, and as part of its community engagement and social responsibility, Gabriel Dumont Institute was a sponsor of the relay. The annual event also promotes spinal cord injury awareness across Saskatchewan.

Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan assists over 1,600 spinal cord injury survivors and those living with other forms of physical disabilities to live more independent and productive lives. For more information about SCIS, please visit <https://scisask.ca/>.



Jayden Hingley,
First Year SUNTEP student in Saskatoon won 12 medals, at the 2019 Western Canada Summer Games
Photo Credit: LeaderPost

Indigenous Birth Support Worker Program Update

By Marilyn Black

"My great-great-grandma Poundmaker (Beaudry - name changed in Residential School) was a midwife and my great grandma Chapan Neva Mirasty worked at the "Indian Hospital" in North Battleford, where she got recruited by the nurses to deliver and help with the babies on the tipi side of the hospital. Because of the DTI Indigenous Birth Support Worker Program, I am able to carry on the legacy of caring for our mothers and our children." - Dalanie Wahobin.

Dumont Technical Institute (DTI), Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) and Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC) have partnered to deliver an Indigenous Birth Support Worker Program (also called Doula program). This exciting and innovative program, which answers the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action through increased support for Indigenous expectant mothers, families and communities.

The rationale for naming this program 'Indigenous Birth Support Worker' is due to the certification process and criteria which are intended to provide consistency throughout the SHA regions. The term, birth support worker, is also more culturally responsive based on the feedback during conversations with Indigenous women.

The impetus behind the program included media reports on forced/coerced tubal ligations cases involving Indigenous women (see for example, a CBC [feature](#), "Indigenous women coerced into sterilizations across Canada: Senator Yvonne Boyer"). Several brave Indigenous women came forward with common birth experiences that included feeling powerless, silenced, isolated, and discriminated against. The SHA conducted an external review and as a response, began the process of developing ways to include traditional Indigenous birth

teachings, ceremonies and Indigenous representation within the maternal health-care team.

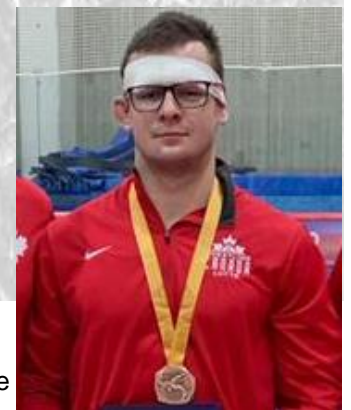
The six-week Indigenous Birth Support Worker Program, offered at DTI Saskatoon, admitted its first cohort of nine students this month. These include three Métis and six First Nations students. The SHA has committed to hiring up to eight Indigenous Birth Support Workers upon approval and successful completion of the program.

Birth support workers (or doulas) are also known as birthing coaches and postpartum supporters. They are non-medical personnel who assist women before, during and after childbirth. The goal is to help the pregnant mother to feel safe, comfortable, and be well-informed to voice opinions, ask questions, make requests or participate in cultural traditions and ceremonies.

Continued on Page 4



Tristen Durocher,
First year SUNTEP student, placed 9th in the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddler Competition this summer. He also won the Peoples' Choice Award.
Photo Credit: PA Herald



Hunter Lee,
Second year SUNTEP student, earned a bronze medal at the World Junior Wrestling Championships in Tallinn, Estonia
Photo credit: Winnipeg Free Press



Grand Opening of the Métis Culture and Heritage Department and GDI New Building Addition

When: November 14, 2019
 @ 1:30 pm
 Where: 917 22nd Street West
 Saskatoon



DTI Indigenous Doula Program ... Continued from Page 3

The birth support workers also provide the much needed emotional, and physical support and advocacy to not only the mother but also the father and surrounding family.

Historically, Indigenous birth support workers were integral to the labour, delivery and postpartum care for women and their babies. With the incorporation of European child birthing practices, Indigenous birth support and midwifery practices diminished significantly and in some cases were lost, mostly in urban populations. Today there is an increasing acknowledgement, within the SHA, of inadequate support for Indigenous women and parenting. SHA identifies this and is supportive of what DTI has to offer for training and support in this field. Below are some of the voices of the IBSW students about their experiences:

Angela Tomkins
 "I am a mother of two daughters and one day I will hopefully be blessed as a grandmother, but until then I

will live my life assisting all my sisters. A strong support system is a major benefit for our Indigenous women. These teaching will spread to our men and children. We are paving the way for the next generation, and connecting the bridge between the clinical and traditional worlds for our women, our sisters."

Delores Dumais
 "I am really happy. It is fulfilling for myself to see how far we have come within this short time! I am happy that there is such an amazing and awesome program because a lot of women out there need this type of support."

Kiona Sanderson
 "As a Nehiyaw eskiewew, who is a new mother, I am super excited to be a part of this program that will spark change in health care for our Indigenous mothers and families. I'm excited to be that support network for mothers."

Keara Laverty
 "I have a learning disability and I got teased in school because I learn differently than others. Not having kids myself, my

only experience with kids was through my nieces and nephews, as well as babysitting. With no actual experience in the birthing process I thought long and hard about taking this course.

This program has inspired me to learn more and teach others about how you can help someone just by being there and sitting with them, listen to what they are saying and help them heal from things that happened to them. A big part of this program that impacted me was the healing ceremony. Just being able to sit and tell my story, about what happened to me, made it feel like I was being heard and listened to. This program is very memorable, not on how many new friends you make, but on the amount of knowledge you learn, and that you further your knowledge even more with each day. Also, the support system you develop on this incredible journey that I am on with all the instructors and coordinators who have made it possible for ladies to be a part of this incredible experience."

Continued on Page 5



Indigenous Birth Support Worker Program class. From Left: Delores Dumais, Raegan Stanley-Nippi, Jennifer Gardiner, and Kately Gamble
 Photo courtesy of M. Black

Pathways for Entrepreneurship ... Continued from Page 2

In early 2018, GDI hosted its first entrepreneurship workshop in Saskatoon with 12 Métis entrepreneurs completing. Feedback from the participants was overwhelmingly positive. Across 2018-19, GDI hosted four additional workshops (Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, and Meadow Lake) for 48 Métis entrepreneurs with a 94% completion rate.

Qualitative results show that 100% of the 20 survey respondents rated the

workshop as *Very-to-Extremely Helpful*.

In order to have successful workshops and programs, attracting high-quality students is necessary. For the digital marketing workshops, custom ads and photos were developed. A unique landing page with in-bound marketing strategy was implemented to generate potential client leads and build awareness about the Pathways program. In total, the campaign ads were viewed 564,008 times and

2,706 individuals were driven to the landing page. Approximately 140 solid client leads were generated, and all 48 seats were filled with qualified Métis entrepreneurs.

These campaigns have also benefited clients as they are able to learn about the many other supports offered through the Pathways program. Details about the Pathways for Entrepreneurship program is available at gdins.org/entrepreneurship.



Indigenous Birth Support Worker Program Update ... *Continued from Page 4*

Dumont Technical Institute

Jennifer Gardiner wrote, "If I have learned anything on this journey it is that 'To be a helper you must have a hollow bone,' which means that we needed to be healed to help others and that is why this opportunity is so amazing. We are not only learning incredible skills and knowledge to enable us to be amazing advocates and supports for women during birth, but we are also able to become free of our own trauma and pains so that we can fully be there for our clients. This program is the missing piece for Indigenous women in our province who require health services. We are bridge between our people and health care."



Indigenous Birth Support Worker Program Class of 2019. From left: Erin Tenney (Instructor), Delores Dumais, Jennifer Gardiner, Keara Leverty, Katie Gamble, Kiona Sanderson, Raegan Stanley-Nippi, Christine Theoret, Angela Tomkins, Dalanie Wahobin
Photo courtesy of Marilyn Black

Payroll Cutoff Calendar, October 2019

By Carmala Thiessen and Veronica Verzonowski

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
				Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/P Invoices	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Pmts on Student Oct 11 Direct Deposit Cutoff @ 4:30 for TMS & Payroll Revisions for Oct 15 Payday		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/P Invoices	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Thanksgiving Day Stat Holiday	Staff Payday Cutoff @ Noon for Oct 25 Student Payroll		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/P Invoices	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Oct 25 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/P Invoices – TMS & Payroll Revisions for Oct 31 Payday	
27	28	29	30	31		
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Nov 8 Student Payroll			Staff Payday Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run		

Employee contracts due at payroll upon job acceptance
 Payroll must receive contracts prior to payroll cutoff date, otherwise the employee will be paid on the following pay period.
 MRTS due by the 15th of every month.

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

Visit us at
www.gdins.org

Back issues of this newsletter
can be obtained at:

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

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@gdins_org



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