

October 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:

A Minute for Your Health

Success Story: In Conversation with Jack Shorter

Payroll Cutoff Calendar

Highlights:

GDI and U of Regina Sign Affiliation Agreement 1

GDI-Corrections Canada Partnership Update 3

Inaugural Class of Indigenous Douلاس Graduates 4

GDI and U of Regina Sign Affiliation Agreement

By James Oloo

On October 23, 2019, senior leadership of Gabriel Dumont Institute and the University of Regina held an affiliation agreement signing ceremony at the University of Regina campus. The Institute was represented by Executive Director Geordy McCaffrey and Chair of the Board of Governors Earl Cook. Dr. Cook is also the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan Minister of Education. Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Dr. Thomas Chase and Dr. Nilgün Önder, the Associate Vice-President (Academic), appeared for the University of Regina. Saskatchewan Minister of Advanced Education Hon. Tina Beaudry-Mellor also attended the event.

The University of Regina and Gabriel Dumont Institute signed a new affiliation agreement that allows for post-secondary education programs delivered by the Institute to be recognized as university caliber, and accredited by the Senate of the University of Regina.

Further, the new agreement enables a joint development of other programs and educational initiatives to address the post-secondary education needs of Métis students in Saskatchewan.

The two also signed a renewed agreement for the Saskatchewan Urban Native

Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP).

“The affiliation agreements are a critical step in continuing our mandate of expanding educational opportunities for Métis students,” Dr. Cook said.


Advanced Education Minister Beaudry-Mellor commended the efforts that have been made by Gabriel Dumont Institute in recent years to expand educational opportunities for Métis students across the province, noting that “GDI is a leader in delivering programs to Métis students.”

Dr. Thomas Chase asserted that “The University of Regina is committed to serving our Indigenous communities,” adding that “This new affiliation agreement with the Gabriel Dumont Institute will make a broader spectrum of quality, post-secondary programming available to Métis students, with university classes often being offered right in the communities where they live.”

Professor Chase noted that the partnership with Gabriel Dumont Institute is “based on mutual respect, institutional autonomy, and a shared belief in the importance of increasing educational opportunities for Métis and other Indigenous people.” Noting that “It has been a

pleasure working with Geordy McCaffrey and Mike Relland on the new affiliation agreement,” Dr. Nilgün Önder said that “The University of Regina is proud to keep working with Gabriel Dumont Institute for future programming.”

Hon. Beaudry-Mellor said that the Government of Saskatchewan is “committed to increasing the participation and success of Indigenous students.” She commended the University of Regina for its Indigenous work stating that “the Ministry of Advanced Education values its partnership with Gabriel Dumont Institute and the University of Regina.”

In partnership with the University of Regina, the Institute has graduated 274 Indigenous teachers from its SUNTEP Regina program since 1980. Another 70 have completed the Community-based Master of Education program in Prince Albert. Other existing academic program agreements between the Institute and the University include the Justice Studies Diploma and Certificate program in Prince Albert; Liberal Arts Certificate program in La Ronge and Pinehouse; and the Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NSITEP) on the Lac La Ronge Indian Band reserve. These programs are delivered by Gabriel Dumont Institute. 

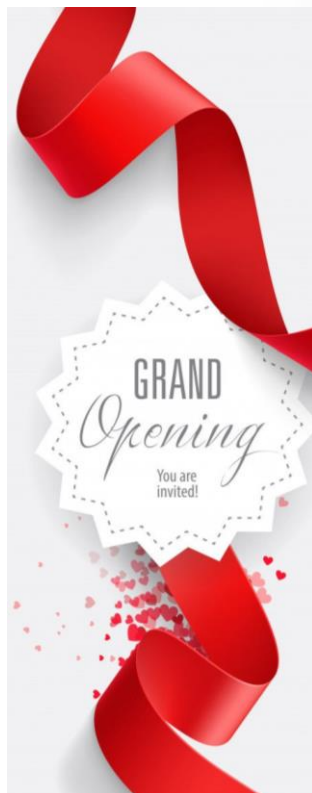


Grand Opening
of the GDI
Métis Culture and Heritage
Department



When: November 14, 2019
@ 1:30 pm

Where: 917 22nd Street West
Saskatoon



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.

A Minute for Your Health

By Janelle Schentag

Most of us spend a good part of our day sitting, whether it be on our commute or working in an office. Inactivity is a significant factor in developing heart disease as well as diabetes.

A [study](#) by the American Heart Association found that a lack of physical activity is a major risk factor for insulin resistance and cardiovascular disease, and that exercising can prevent or

delay the onset of type 2 diabetes, reduce blood pressure and help reduce the risk for heart attack and stroke.

So we all know we are at risk, what can we do?

In "[Physical activity tips for adults](#)," Health Canada recommends at least two and a half hours of physical activity per week. That is only about 20 minutes a day. We all have busy lives and many

responsibilities, but we can break this into 10-minute spurts to make it easier.

A quick walk, jog or bike ride can fit the bill. Try walking to work or joining an activity class. Did you enjoy a sport when you were younger, see if you can sign up again. Adding a little activity into our lives will reduce our risk of stroke, high blood pressure, cancer, diabetes, osteoporosis, and heart disease. 🌍

Success Story: In Conversation with Jack Shorter

By James Oloo

We recently sat down with Jack Shorter for lunch and a conversation. Jack is a 60 year old great-grandfather and retired farmer. He is currently completing his high school at the Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) Adult Basic Education program in Saskatoon. Jack is an affable and friendly person, and a joy to speak with about life.

He is among the [growing](#) number of retirees who seek to re-enter the workforce. Jack would like to earn extra income, and have something to look forward to each morning.

Jack attended public schools in Saskatchewan. He remembers how he was treated differently for being Métis. Despite being a good student who liked school, Jack was pushed out of school by negative experiences and the fact that there was disconnect between what he was learning at school and his life experience. So, in 1974 at age 16, he left his grade 10 classroom and did not return.

As he got older, Jack started thinking of returning to school to complete his grade 12. He fondly recalls how two years ago at Salvation Army in Saskatoon, he "realized how much times had changed. I had no idea how to use a computer. I got help preparing my resume and cover letter, but when I went to hand in one, they told me I had to email it. I was stuck again." It was then that he received what he describes as "life-changing advice." He was told that because he is Métis, he should visit DTI where he would get support to complete his studies or skills training.

Jack visited DTI and spoke with an employment counsellor. He applied for admission to the Adult Basic Education program and was accepted.

Though excited about his decision to return to school after decades, Jack was nervous and apprehensive. "I had been out of school for 44 years. Some of the instructors were young

enough to be my children. How would my classmates relate with me? Would it be the same math I learned in school? Back then there were no computers!"

Jack had another challenge. Because of arthritis in his fingers and knuckles, he had difficulty writing and typing on his keyboard.

However, his fears were allayed by kind treatment and personalized support he continues to receive at DTI through disability funding. "They bought me this machine, a voice-activated laptop, which is awesome. I don't have to write or type. I just speak and the machine types what I say."

He continued, "DTI belongs to Métis people. It is ours. They treat me like family. Everyone cares. They also teach about Métis culture and history. The classes are small and everyone is very friendly. Everyone calls you by name and tells you they are glad that you came to school today, and that they want you to succeed."

Continued on Page 3



Success Story - Jack Shorter ... *Continued from Page 2*

But, it has not always been easy for Jack. "Many times I was ready to give up. But with the help from the younger students and my instructors, especially David Werner, I persisted. When I came to Dumont Technical Institute, I was very intimidated to sit in front of the computer. But now, I feel very comfortable doing PowerPoint presentations,

making charts and graphs, and working on math and essays. I am more confident and happy."

Jack successfully completed his grade 11 last spring and is looking forward to graduating with his grade 12 in May 2020. He noted, "I never knew that school would be fun, and that I'd look forward to going to school each morning.

This is what I tell my grandchildren and my great granddaughter."

Jack concluded by stating, "My advice to young and old alike is to make a plan and stick to it. Things will work out in the end. I am glad I did and thankful for the support I have received at Dumont Technical Institute. I am looking forward to the future." 🌐



Jack Shorter, 60, is completing high school at Dumont Technical Institute. He is a retired farmer. A [study](#) by CIBC found that 25% of retired Canadians want to go back to work
Photo by James Oloo

GDI-Corrections Canada Partnership Update

By Bill Lehne and James Oloo

Since its founding four decades ago, Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) has always prioritized building and nurturing partnerships that create opportunities for our Métis students and clients.

Corrections Services Canada (CSC) has been working on Indigenizing its workforce by implementing policies to recruit more Indigenous employees. On the other hand, GDI provides Métis with relevant knowledge and skills they need for gainful careers. Plus, GDI is a respected organization that has partnered with several federal departments including Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD), Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), and Service Canada, among others.

In the summer of 2018, GDI Executive Director Geordy McCaffrey and GDI Training and Employment Acting Director Audrey Hestand signed a memorandum of understanding with Nick Fabiano, Acting Assistant Commissioner for Human Resources Management, CSC, which was aimed at working together to enable

Métis individuals gain employment with the CSC in Saskatchewan.

The MOU highlighted GDI commitment to providing "financial assistance to a maximum of 10 Métis qualified candidates with training allowances" for Correctional Training Program. The 12-week training is held in Kingston Ontario. GDI is complementing the \$400 per week allowance provided by CSC to those participating in the CSC Correctional Training Program with a 26-week wage subsidy to support employment success for our Métis candidates. GDI Training and Employment offers additional \$250 per week to Métis clients.

In April 2019, a senior civil servant at CSC, Director General Nathalie Dufresne-Meek, sent a letter to Geordy stating that she looks "forward to continued collaboration ... and to hire Métis candidates."

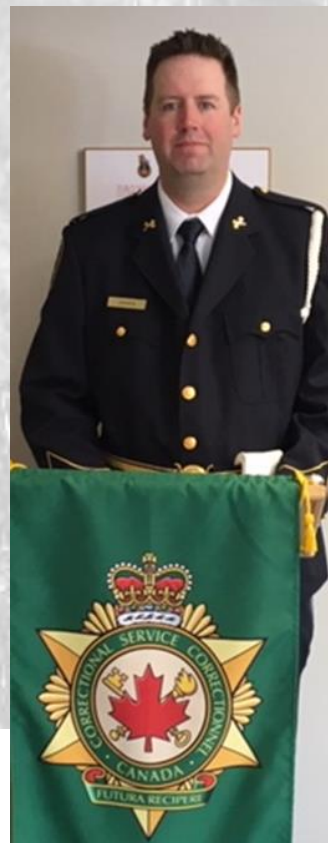
Last spring, Corey Spence became the first GDI client to complete the Correctional Training Program. Corey was offered employment with the CSC in Prince Albert soon after that. Currently, four GDI

students and clients are waiting results of their application to the CSC. Another three Gabriel Dumont College Justice Studies program are completing their internships with the CSC.

On September 10, 2019, Bill Lehne, James Oloo, and students in the Gabriel Dumont College Justice Studies Program in Prince Albert joined dozen of others on a visit to the Saskatchewan Penitentiary (Sask Pen) during the Sask Pen open house.

On September 25, 2019, Curtis Charney, the CSC Indigenous Recruitment Officer for the Prairie Region, gave a presentation to Dumont Technical Institute Adult Basic Education Level 4 students in Saskatoon. In the well-attended and lively presentation, Curtis noted that Grade 12 diploma (or equivalent) is the minimum educational requirement for careers with the CSC. He stated that the "CSC is doing more hiring today than ever before to fill the gap being left by retiring baby boomers." The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.

Continued on Page 4



Corey Spence is the first Gabriel Dumont Institute client to be hired by Correctional Service Canada
Photo courtesy of C. Spence



Inaugural Class of Indigenous Doula Graduates

By James Oloo



Katelyn Gamble,
Indigenous Birth Support
Worker program Class of 2019

—Seven Years Ago—

Darren R. Prefontaine's book *Gabriel Dumont: Li Chef Michif in Images and in Words* (GDI Press) won the Saskatchewan Book Awards **Book of the Year Award**



Dr. Thomas Chase, the University of Regina Provost and Vice Vice President (Academic) (left), congratulates Darren on his Book of the Year Award
Photo courtesy of GDI Press

The first class of the Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) Indigenous Birth Support Worker program graduated this month. They included Delores Dumais, Jennifer Gardiner, Katelyn Gamble, Keara Laverty, Kiona Sanderson, Raegan Stanley-Nippi, Christine Theoret, Angela Tomkins, and Dalanie Wahobin.

A graduation luncheon was held in honour of the graduates on October 25, 2019 at the Cave Restaurant in Saskatoon. The graduates were invited to say a few words as they received their certificates and gifts.

A common thread in the speeches of the graduates was joy, gratitude, and the fact that it was not just a graduation, but rather an experience that had a personal significance to their lived experiences as Indigenous women and mothers.

Raegan Stanley-Nippi noted, "I was a teen mom and a Doula was there. I want to help other mothers." Jennifer Gardiner said "Because of

this program, I will be better able to help protect the memory of birth."

Christine Theoret stated, "I have always wanted to help other and to make a career that involves supporting other women. This has been a beautiful program." Keara Laverty asserted that "This program is one of the best things that ever happened to me. It is a great feeling knowing that I will be able to help other women."

Angela Tomkins said, "I am very grateful for this program and I love all these women."

Kiona Sanderson, who has an infant son, thanked Dumont Technical Institute, Saskatchewan Health Authority, and the Saskatoon Tribal Council for starting the program. She expressed "gratitude to Dumont Technical Institute for the opportunity and support."

Delores Dumais said how, "As a grandmother and the oldest student in the program, I was nervous at the beginning. But, you are never too old to learn or to help mothers who are

having babies. The program enabled me to go through a healing process."

The Indigenous Birth Support Worker program is a collaboration between Dumont Technical Institute, the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), and the Saskatoon Tribal Council and is delivered by DTI. All the partners were represented at the graduation luncheon. From the SHA were Leanne Smith (Director of Maternal Services); Darcie Sparks (Clinical Manager, Maternal Services); Jordyn Parenteau (Coordinator of Practicum); Talia Pfefferle (First Nations & Métis Relations Consultant); Andre Letendre (Cultural Systems Advisor); Penny Bourassa (Manager, Workforce Planning & Employment); and Shelley Lofstrom (Director, Workforce Planning & Employment).

Leanne Smith stated that "for the first time, birth support workers will be part of the SHA's maternal services," adding that "We will work together to support Indigenous mothers, families, and workers."

Continued on Page 5

Partnership with Corrections Canada ... *Continued from Page 2*

GDI has hosted several informational recruitment sessions with the CSC across Saskatchewan. The next informational session is scheduled for Tuesday November 12 at Gabriel Dumont Institute Prince Albert Centre (48 12th Street East). The main goal of the sessions is to provide opportunities for Métis clients who are interested in careers with the CSC.

Curtis, who is a citizen and former employee of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, was back at GDI on September 11, 2019 where he spoke with Practical Nursing and Continuing Care Assistant students. The presentation was also very well attended. Curtis stated that the CSC is currently recruiting for corrections officers, nurses, wardens, teachers, social workers, and counsellors.

He said that the CSC operates under a philosophy that "given the right interventions, a majority of inmates can be successfully integrated into the society."


For more information about the partnership with the CSC, please contact Bill Lehne, Employment Services Manager, GDI Training & Employment at bill.lehne@gdite.gdins.org.



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

Brian Attig and James Woods represented the Saskatoon Tribal Council.

The program is a response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Actions through increased support for Indigenous expectant mothers, families and communities.

The impetus behind the program includes media reports on forced/coerced tubal ligation cases involving Indigenous women (see for example, a Washington Post article, "End forced sterilization of Indigenous women in Canada." )



Indigenous Birth Support Worker Program Class of 2019. From left: Katelyn Gamble, Delores Dumais, Jennifer Gardiner, Marilyn Black (Program Coordinator), Kiona Sanderson, Keara Laverty, Angela Tomkins, Christine Theoret, and Raegan Stanley-Nippi
Photo by James Oloo

Payroll Cutoff Calendar, November 2019

By Carmala Thiessen and Veronica Verzonowski

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

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

Follow us on Twitter!
@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

Métis Culture and Heritage Department/ GDI Press

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

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

Phone: (306) 347-4110

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