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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

GDI COVID-19 Fall Delivery Update

by Desirae Barker & Lisa Bird Wilson

With fall approaching, Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) has made significant changes to operations and program delivery as a result of COVID-19.

Over the last few months, GDI has been working closely with post-secondary partners, Advanced Education and Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Health Officer to plan for fall. Plans for each Centre are tailored to the accrediting institution and the best needs of each particular program and community.

Programming

In light of the pandemic, programs have shifted delivery to accommodate students and ensure the impact on studies is low.

Many programs have developed a remote curriculum using a variety of online tools such as Zoom and Brightspace. These new programs will limit in-class instruction and allow instructors to continue facilitating classes, assignments, and exams required to complete programs.

In cases where a complete online delivery is not feasible, GDI

programs will follow a hybrid delivery model. The hybrid delivery will include 40% of learning in-class and 60% online/remote learning.

Leveraging the best practices of face-to-face in-person classes and online/remote education instruction will give students the best chance of academic success during the ever-changing pandemic.

Additional Health & Safety Guidelines

As of August 24, 2020, all staff and students—as well as visitors, contractors, and vendors—accessing a GDI (NITEP, SUNTEP, GDC, DTI, and GDITE) facility or program location are expected to wear a face mask in all indoor common spaces where physical distancing is not possible. This may include hallways, lobbies, classrooms, labs, study spaces, elevators, and other designated shared spaces.

Masks will be available on-site for visitors who do not have their own masks.

All visitors at GDI facilities must check-in with front reception and follow the check-in process which includes COVID-19

questions and contact information.

Students are asked to complete COVID-19 screening prior to arrival at the building, and will do a brief check in with front reception or faculty depending on location and service area. Schedules for students requiring access to the GDI buildings will be created and distributed by respective Program heads in an effort to reduce and control traffic.

Staff are also asked to complete a COVID-19 screening prior to arrival at the work place.

Facilities have been equipped with hand sanitization stations, temperature checking devices, and masks. There are also marked indicators on the floor throughout the building to warrant social distancing. A pandemic plan/guide is in use across the Institute and updated regularly.

The top priority continues to be the safety and well-being of GDI students, staff, and visitors. For further COVID-19 related updates and procedures visit the website online at:

<https://gdins.org/covid-19/>



Order of Gabriel Dumont Medals to be Awarded Annually

by Lisa Bird-Wilson



Gold & Silver Order of Gabriel Dumont Awards

In July 2020, the GDI Board of Governors passed a motion to accept nominations for the *Order of Gabriel Dumont* medals on an annual basis. Offering this prestigious award annually has the potential to raise the positive profile of the Institute, recognize important and influential community members, and create a critical mass of recipients and supporters of the Institute. The medals will be awarded annually in all three categories, Gold, Silver, and Bronze. The Order of Gabriel Dumont Silver and Gold award recipients are selected by a Selection Committee appointed by the GDI Board of Governors. Anyone can nominate a person for an Order of Gabriel Dumont award. The Order of Gabriel Dumont Bronze student awards are nominated and

selected by internal processes specific to the programs. Over the Institute's 40-year history, 73 people have received the Order of Gabriel Dumont, 35 of those in the Gold and Silver categories. Recipients of the Gold and Silver Order of Gabriel Dumont medals are as follows:

GOLD

- Dr. Roger Carter
- Walter Currie
- Keith Goulet
- Medric McDougall
- Leonard Morin
- Jim Sinclair
- Agnes Stanley
- Edward King
- Ethel Blondin
- Elijah Harper
- Louis Morin
- Grace Hatfield
- Maria Campbell
- R. James LaRocque
- Vital Morin
- Clovis Regnier
- Rod Bishop

- Mary St. Pierre
- Harry Daniels (posthumous)
- Louis Morin
- Clarence Campeau (posthumous)
- Guy Bouvier
- Jean Baptiste (John) Arcand
- Lawrence J. Barkwell (posthumous)
- Clément Chartier

SILVER

- Leonard Pambrun
- John McKay
- Theresa Stevenson
- Ron Rivard
- Alex Maurice
- Rose Fleury
- Sheila Pocha
- Eli Fleury
- Glenn Lafleur
- Norma Welsh

Nominations for 2021 Order of Gabriel Dumont awards are now open and will close October 31, 2020. Please visit www.gdin.org for more information. 🌐



BUSINESS IN THE TIME OF COVID-19 AND BEYOND

GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE: PROMOTING BUSINESS DIVERSITY THROUGH MÉTIS EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

The Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research Inc. (GDI) is a Saskatchewan-based educational, employment, and cultural institute serving Métis across the province. The Institute is designated as the official post-secondary provider of the Métis Education Program in Saskatchewan.

DTI and the New COVID-19 Reality

By Dylan Pelletier

In March 2020, COVID-19 caused massive and rapid changes to all of our ways of life. Front line healthcare workers faced enormous and dangerous challenges in the following weeks and months fighting the virus and helping the sick. Millions of others instantly lost their jobs and had an uncertain future.

In a matter of days, full lessons and units had been created and/or uploaded to online learning platforms. Many staff worked evenings and weekends to ensure that services to students were not disrupted.

Despite the challenges of such a sudden transition, students were able to finish the year online and graduate from their programs.

Dumont Technical Institute (DTI), along with the entire education sector, faced challenges too. We had to close our classrooms and instantly transition to online and distance learning. Our staff worked extremely hard to make the transition as smooth and rapid possible.

This fall, DTI is offering a hybrid teaching model in most of its programs. 60% of instruction will be online and 40% will be in the classroom. Our students will be divided into smaller cohorts so they can be

socially distanced while in the classroom.

Many of our students found the full online model difficult, so we wanted students to be in the classroom once or twice a week to receive in-person instruction. Students feel more supported when they can meet with their instructor face-to-face.

DTI feels the hybrid model will be the best way to ensure student success while following all health guidelines related to COVID-19.

Continues on Page 4

Industry West Magazine
Summer 2020 Edition
features GDI
View online here:
<https://industrywestmagazine.com/profiles/gabriel-dumont-institute/>





Photos courtesy of Autumn LaRose-Smith



Autumn LaRose-Smith: First Indigenous (Métis) Woman Elected as President of USSU

By Desirae Barker

Fourth-year Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) student, Autumn LaRose-Smith made history in May becoming the first Métis woman elected as president of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU).

Autumn hopes that her win will signify "much-needed change" in student governance at the University of Saskatchewan.

As the first female Métis USSU President, she hopes to "strengthen and create meaningful relationships with on- and off-campus communities

while working to advocate for a better, holistic student experience." Autumn's values for building and strengthening community arise from her background as an activist and engaged volunteer. At the young age of ten years old, Autumn, who grew up in Saskatoon, began volunteering for Elders at events within the Métis community. Since then, she has been very involved with her community and her Métis local.

Over the past few years, Autumn has worked with a variety of student groups and off-campus organizations. She was previously the USSU Vice-President of Student Affairs

and also held terms on the SUNTEP Student Council and the Indigenous Students Council. Last year she also became a National Ambassador of Hope, which is a collective of Indigenous youth who share messages of hope, culture, and strength within their communities.

Despite the global pandemic, Autumn will continue to advocate on behalf of students on provincial and federal levels throughout her term. During an interview with CBC, Autumn states that she and the USSU are focused on being creative to ensure that students will still have a successful year. 🌐



New La Ronge Community-Based Master's Program

By Desirae Barker

The Community-based Master of Education Program in La Ronge was developed through a partnership between Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), the University of Regina, and Northlands College. This program has been designed to provide a unique cohort model of graduate education to educators in off-campus locations in order to more effectively link theory to local educational issues and practice. The program offers 30 credit-hours with a focus on Aboriginal Education.

The first 4 cohorts of the Master's program were offered in Prince Albert. This is the first cohort to be based out of La Ronge.

Delivery in La Ronge will serve 24 students from across the north in communities such as Meadow Lake, Black Lake, Cumberland House, Beauval, and Stanley Mission. This program was designed specifically to open up education for students in far north, remote communities that otherwise would not be able to access this service.

Due to COVID-19, GDI will integrate remote delivery to increase the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff. "As much it has been a pain in the tuchus, switching to online classes has also been a blessing for our programs," says Suzanne Depeel, GDI Administrative Coordinator.

This optimism stems from the increased accessibility GDC is able to provide students with an online delivery model. This model allows students to learn from home without needing to travel to La Ronge for classroom instruction. The online Zoom-based instruction has also improved the quality of educational tools the program has in place. By removing the barrier of far north traveling, the program can now provide knowledge from a wide diversity of guest speakers from across the province and country.

Just over 75 students have graduated from the Master of Education program to-date. In July 2022, La Ronge will celebrate their first class of graduates from this program. 🌐



Autumn LaRose-Smith
Vice-President
SUNTEP SRC 2018-2019



SUNTEP Grads Execute Michif Early Learning Pilot Project

By Desirae Barker

The reclamation and revitalization of the Michif Language is set to begin growing roots within our youngest generation. The Michif Early Learning Pilot Project (MELPP), a partnership between the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN—S) and the Canadian Geographic will launch in Saskatchewan schools in fall 2020.

The initiative is designed to encourage more Métis people to speak their traditional Michif language.

At this time, there are not many Michif Language Keepers in Saskatchewan. Statistics Canada furthers this point with numbers showing that fewer than 650 people living in Canada speak the Michif language.

For Jeannine Whitehouse, Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) graduate, the project is meant to “plant a seed, build a foundation, and help people understand who we are as a Nation.”

Jeannine is the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education Coordinator for

the Regina Catholic School Division (RCSD). When MN—S reached out to the RCSD to implement the project with their early learning (Pre-K and Kindergarten) students, she was very excited.

As a Métis graduate from SUNTEP in 2001, Jeannine brings a lifetime of culture to the MELPP. Jeannine grew up surrounded by her culture and credits SUNTEP for providing her with the self-assurance to comfortably walk in both worlds. Allowing her to embrace her culture and celebrate everything about her identity makes her passionate about helping others do the same.

She states she is “happy there is an opportunity for the younger generation to experience culture at a younger age. This will help them to also feel comfortable in their identity.”

Jeannine’s summer has been dedicated to building a curriculum with her team for the MELPP launch in September. The project will incorporate Michif learning into full-day classes from

Monday to Thursday with one day of family engagement. Family engagement day invites parents into the classroom to be involved in the Michif learning.

This unique strategy “will help create a solid foundation for students and bring the community together through reconnection and celebration of culture and language,” says Jeannine.

Jeannine is among other SUNTEP grads that are involved with the MELPP at their respective schools. Chandrelle Marshall, Lyla Phillips, and Victoria Parisien will be working with students in the program in Saskatoon and Regina.

GDI is excited about this new program and proud that our graduates continue to share Métis history and culture.

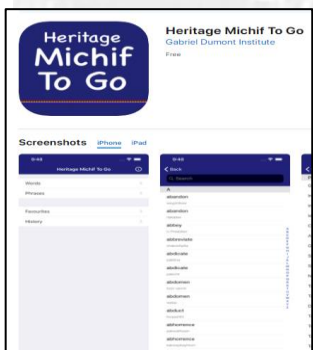
GDI encourages everyone to visit the Métis Museum website online at <http://www.metismuseum.ca/> and check out all the Michif resources we have available! The GDI Michif to go app can also be downloaded to smartphones from the Apple and Google Play store 📱



Project Poster located on: <https://metisnation.sk.ca/2020/06/23/mn-s-teams-with-5-school-boards-for-michif-early-learning-pilot-project/>



Jeannine Whitehouse, SUNTEP Graduate & First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education Coordinator for RCSD. Photo Courtesy of Jeannine Whitehouse



GDI Michif to Go App Available for free on the Apple App Store and Google Play

DTI and the New COVID-19 Reality ... continued from page 2

by Dylan Pelletier

Student health and safety are our top priority at DTI. DTI has invested resources in the online learning platform Brightspace. Brightspace is the same online platform used by

Saskatchewan Polytech, so DTI skills programs will seamlessly integrate with Sask Polytech brokered skills programs.

DTI staff have worked hard all summer long to ensure

student health and success in the 2020-2021 school year. We at DTI wish all of our students the best luck and hope for a very successful school year. 🌍





Christmas Break 2020

The Gabriel Dumont Institute Board of Governors has set the Christmas Break for the

end of the year. The Institute will be closed from Thursday, December 24, 2020 to Sunday, January

3, 2021 (inclusive). The Institute will re-open on Monday, January 4, 2021.



An empty lantern provides no light. Self-care is the fuel that allows your light to shine brightly.

keep.meSAFE's Student Support Program makes student wellness our priority.

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Did You Know?



50% of students have felt overwhelming anxiety, making it hard to succeed academically



31% of post-secondary students have felt so depressed that it was difficult to function

Payroll Cutoff Calendar, September 2020

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 Accounts Payable Invoices	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Labour Day Stat Holiday	Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Sep 11 Direct Deposits	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheet & Payroll Revisions for Sep 15 Payday	Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Finance Cutoff @ 4:30 for Sep 25 Student Payroll	Staff Payday		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Sep 25 Direct Deposits		<u>A/P Cheque/EFT Run</u> Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheets & Payroll Revisions for Sep 30 Payday	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
27	28	29	30			
	Finance Cutoff @ 4:30 for Oct 9 Student Payroll		Staff Payday			

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.





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Follow us!

Gabriel Dumont
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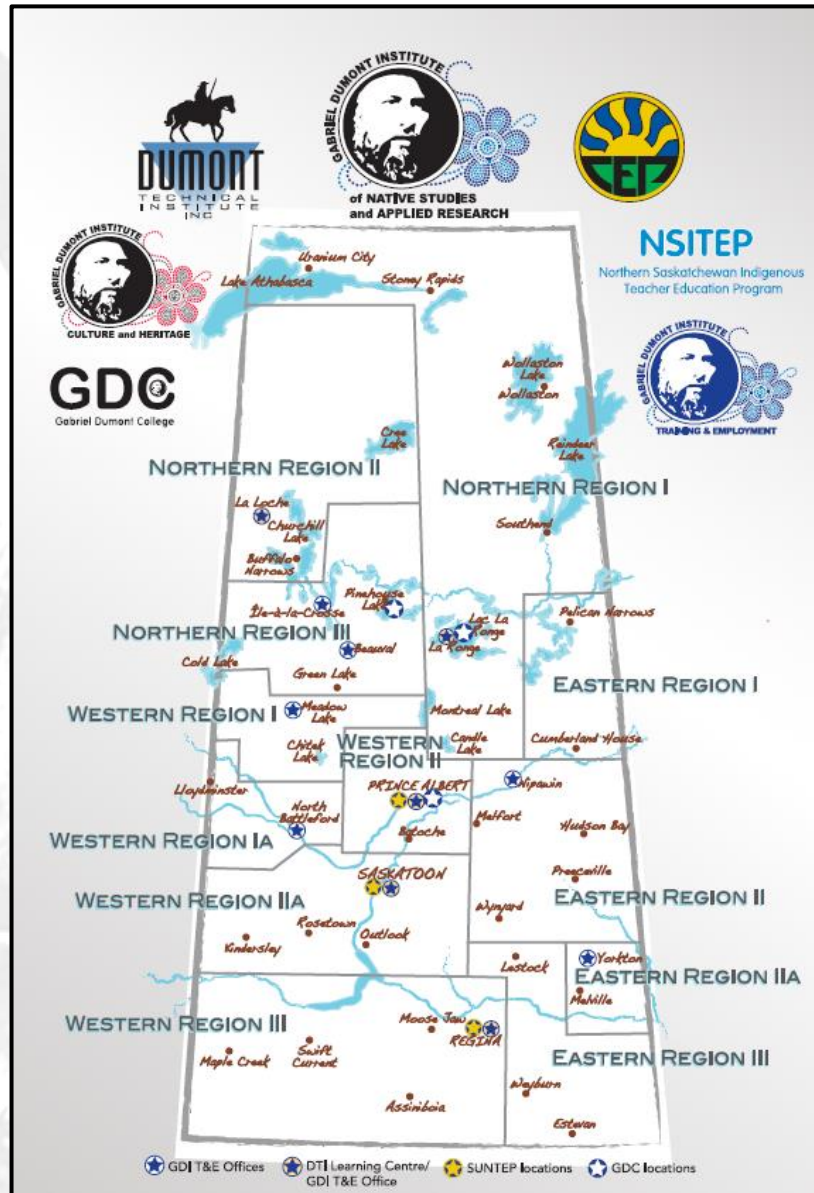
@gdins_org



Back issues of this new
letter can be found
here:
www.Métismuseum.ca



LOCATIONS & MAP



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Mission Statement

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

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**GDI Library
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<https://gdins.org/student-services/library/>

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