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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



Nicholas Bage. Photo by Karishma Joshi, Administrative & Communications Assistant with Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan (MCoS)

## Nicholas Bage, SUNTEP Student Writes Article for CBC News

By Desirae Barker

Nicholas Bage is a fourth year Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) student at the University of Regina.

Recently in early October, Nicholas' opinion article was featured by CBC News Saskatchewan titled *How to Talk about Racism with Friends and Family*.

The article details the importance of having conversations about racism and some key steps to having these conversations without leading to conflict. Nicholas addresses the need to address racist incidents and provides an outline for how to respond to common racist phrases.

The article is a very informative piece and can

be found online at:  
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/how-to-talk-about-racism-1.5753865>.

Nicholas was awarded an *Order of Gabriel Dumont Bronze Medal* this February. This award honours Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) students who have distinguished themselves through their perseverance, community involvement, and overall student performance.

SUNTEP faculty, Erin Kramer and Natalie McNabb describe Nicholas's achievements and accomplishments as outstanding. They explain that over the past four years, Nicholas has been involved in the SUNTEP community through participation in various cultural events such as the

traditional Métis Kitchen Table Party, All-Centre meetings, and Métis dances.

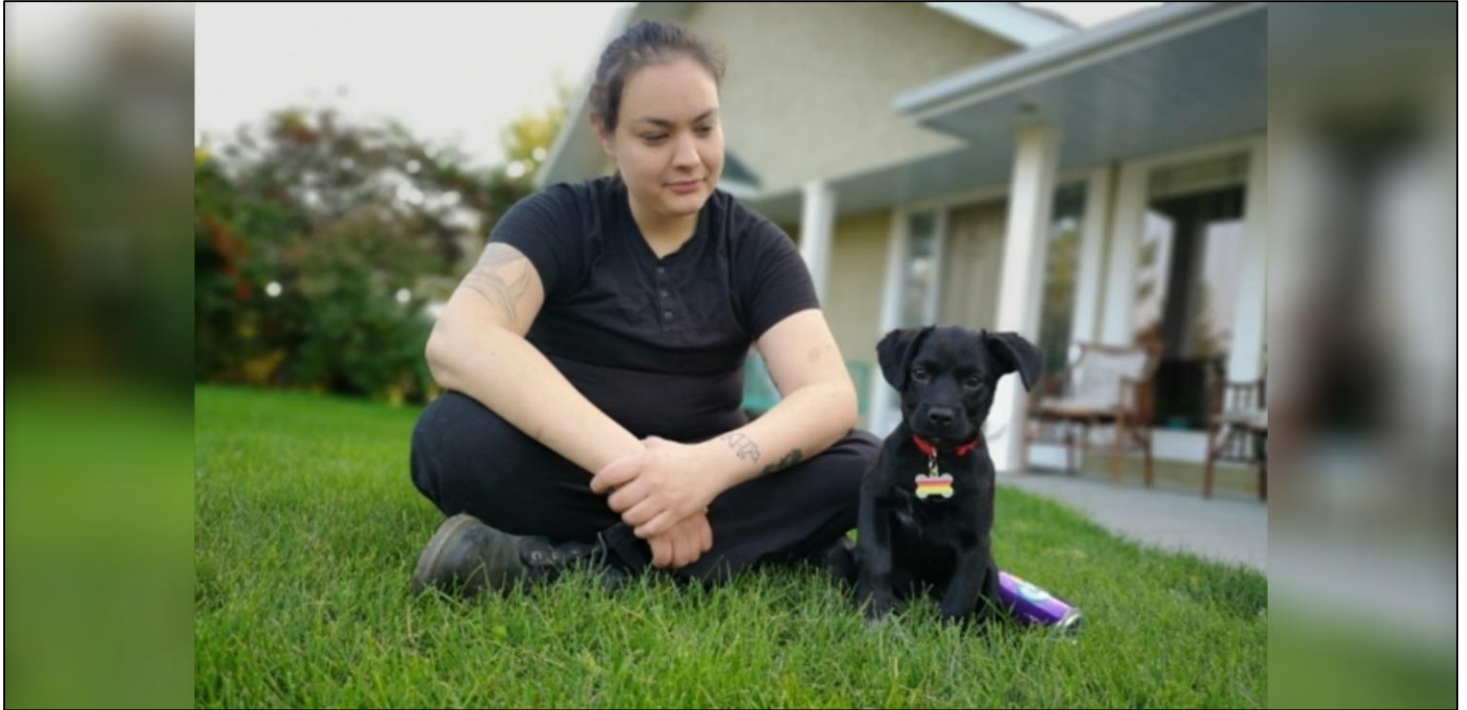
Last year, Nicholas was awarded the *Multicultural Youth Honours Award* for outstanding work in the community, hosted by The Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan and presented by the Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Russell Mirasty.

Nicholas has worked with the Multicultural Council and Regina Public high schools to train elementary school students to create inclusive, anti-racist, and anti-oppressive environments within their schools.

***This article is continued on page 4***







Megan Michelle Gallagher. Photo submitted by Amy Briley & Brian Gallagher

## Family Searching for Megan Gallagher

By Desirae Barker

Megan Michelle Gallagher was last seen by her friends and family on September 19, 2020.

Megan is a resident of Saskatoon, with community connections to Île-à-la-Crosse and Cumberland House. She was also a former Dumont Technical Institute Adult Basic Education (ABE) Saskatoon student.

For the past month and a half, the police, friends, and family members from all over Saskatchewan have been canvassing Saskatoon in hopes to locate Megan.

Megan's last known location was the residence of a friend in Saskatoon's west end.

Brian Gallagher, the father of Megan, said it is unlike

his daughter to be without contact with either family or friends for so long. "Megan is a daughter. Megan is a mom. Megan is a sister. Megan is a fantastic relative and an amazing friend to so many people; she is a remarkable human being. So many things just don't make sense. We so desperately want to find Megan," said her father, while standing alongside family members and supporters at the Wicanhpi Duta Win, or "Red Star Woman" statue outside the Saskatoon Police Service headquarters on October 14, 2020.

The Saskatoon Police Service Missing Person's report details Megan as a 30-year-old female, 5'10 tall, approximately 180 lbs., with shoulder-length

brown hair and brown eyes. She has several tattoos, described as a half sleeve tattoo with a large owl from shoulder to the elbow, cross tattoo behind her ear, rainbow-colored feather on her ankle, the names "Jake" and "Adam" beneath her arm, and the number 13 on her hand.

The group involved with Missing Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls have contacted the family and is also looking into a billboard campaign to help locate Megan.

Anyone who may have information on Megan Gallagher's location is asked to contact the Saskatoon Police Service at **(306) 975-8300**. 



Megan Michelle Gallagher. Photo submitted by Amy Briley & Brian Gallagher







## Brightspace: The New Learning Management System

by Tracy Laprise

As we have all experienced, our world has changed in 2020 and along with the changes to our everyday lifestyles, the education world has had to shift to accommodate learning.

In March our classrooms closed their doors and the switch to distance education was made overnight by the Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) instructors. Different platforms were used, with varying degrees of success, getting us to the end of the school year.

Knowing that this pandemic was not ending anytime soon, a DTI committee was formed to find the best Learning Management System to meet the needs of the staff and students for the upcoming school year.

“A learning management system (LMS) is the software used by schools and businesses to manage the delivery of educational or training content. The term can be applied to basic course management systems, but it typically refers to large-scale learning platforms that can be used to advance teaching and learning.”  
([D2L.com/learning-management-system-lms/](https://D2L.com/learning-management-system-lms/))

We looked at different criteria; ease of use, accessibility by anyone anywhere, interactive learning, creates a collaborative environment,

makes it easy to provide meaningful feedback, secure and reliable, technical support, consistency within the college system, training support, amongst other variables. Three or 4 platforms were compared and when all was reviewed it was decided that DTI would implement the D2L Brightspace platform.

Our contract with Brightspace was signed in July, and the first task was to set up DTI's own Brightspace implementation plan. Classes, instructors, students, and administrators had to be created in our Brightspace. Thanks to the efforts of Gareth Griffiths and Taryn Ward for their countless hours getting everything set up and ready for staff and students!

Gareth is the IT Coordinator working out of the Regina office and on top of his regular duties, he has dedicated his time to getting the Brightspace deadlines met.

Taryn Ward has a new position that was created to provide support to the staff and students in this new learning environment. Taryn was previously a Level 4 instructor in La Loche and felt the effects of shifting gears in March. Her new role is Educational Technologist and she works out of the Saskatoon 917 building.

As instructors returned from their summer break at the end of August, the new

LMS was almost ready to be launched! Within the first couple weeks of returning to work, instructors were taking Brightspace training to help prepare them for the new ways of instruction.

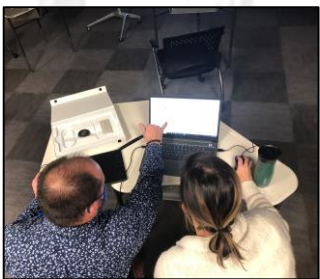
Our typical school year begins the first week of September, but with a new system needing to be learned and utilized...and with the uncertainty of what COVID-19 would do when things started opening up again, it was decided that we would push the start date of the students to October 1st.

The students are attending their programs via a hybrid model, a combination of face-to-face learning, with Brightspace from home on the non-face-to-face days. The intake for some of the classes has been decreased and the alternating use of space has been utilized.

With it being the last week of October the staff and students have shown great flexibility and adaptability during their first few weeks of school.

The instructors shifted gears and the students at DTI have had the same level of excellent service they are accustomed to.

We are not sure which direction our world is shifting to next, but DTI is ready to pivot and keep education going! 🌐



Photos courtesy of Marilyn Black

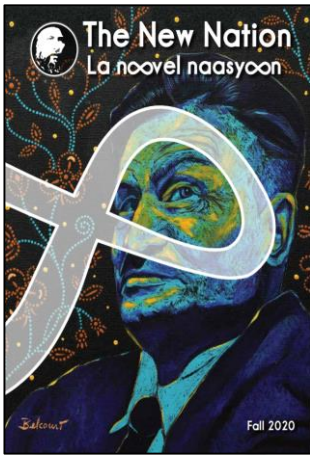


### CHRISTMAS BREAK APPROVED

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.







Front Cover of the New Nation: la noovel naasyoon. Art by Christi Belcourt

## Fall Edition of The New Nation: la noovel naasyoon now available

by Desirae Barker

On October 9, 2020 The fall edition of *The New Nation: La noovel naasyoon* magazine was made available online.

Published by the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), the quarterly New Nation magazine promotes Métis culture, highlights GDI's programs and successes, and showcases good-news stories of Métis across the province.

The cover of the fall edition features a portrait of James Brady painted by Christi Belcourt. This portrait is a wonderful complement to her portrait series, *Great Métis of My*

*Time*, which pays homage to Métis men and women who have made significant contributions to Métis in contemporary times.

The contents of this issue includes various Institute program updates, including an exciting new funding announcement about our Métis Entrepreneurship program, which operates in partnership with the Clarence Campeau Development Fund (CCDF) and the Sask Métis Economic Development Corporation (SMEDCO), the Métis Nation University program and DTI Testing service.

You can also find interesting Métis history highlighted in articles about Jim Sinclair, James Brady, the grand opening of the Gabriel Dumont Institute, and 1850s Métis Settlements around Saskatoon. Many culture-focused articles and information on Michif resources are also included in the fall edition.

GDI is pleased to provide free access to the magazine on the Virtual Museum for Métis History and Culture ([www.metismuseum.ca/newnation](http://www.metismuseum.ca/newnation)). A limited print run is also available. 🌐

**NOVEMBER 16**

**2:30 PM**

**LOUIS RIEL  
DAY TOWN  
HALL**

**JOIN ZOOM MEETING:**  
[HTTPS://BIT.LY/2TNDTCO](https://bit.ly/2TNDTCO)  
**MEETING ID:**  
**925 0147 6838**  
**PASSCODE:**  
**259530**

Please join us on Louis Riel Day for our next Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion town hall, brought to you in partnership with the SUNTEP & GDI.

**The Panel**

- Irma Taylor, Old One, SUNTEP
- Dr. Sherry Farrell-Racette, Associate Professor, Faculty of MAP, University of Regina
- Russell Fayant, Faculty, SUNTEP
- Jessica Ross Brown, Student, SUNTEP

## Nicholas Bage, SUNTEP Student ... continued from page 1

Education in inclusivity stems from Nicholas' courage to identify as gender-neutral. Nicholas has persevered through an educational system that has only recently begun to accept and recognize a broader form of gender identity and expression.

Nicholas' continued commitment to reconciliation is shown through involvement in facilitating a variety of workshops at the University of Regina and for Regina Public Schools. These workshops share cultural knowledge and practices such as storytelling

and the importance of working together as a community.

Thank you, Nicholas, for your dedication to volunteering and educating others through inclusivity. Good luck with your final year of SUNTEP! 🌐

## Call for Nominations Extended: Order of Gabriel Dumont

by Lisa Bird-Wilson

Nominations for 2021 *Order of Gabriel Dumont* awards are now open. The receipt of nominations has been extended until November 7, 2020.

The *Order of Gabriel Dumont* is awarded to a small number of persons who have served the Métis of Canada with distinction.

The silver awards honour those who have made a significant contribution to the Métis. The gold awards recognize those who have distinguished themselves with outstanding service to the Métis.

The Order of Gabriel Dumont Bronze Medal honours GDI students and alumni who have distinguished themselves through leadership, community involvement, and overall

performance. The awards will be presented at the Gabriel Dumont Institute Annual General Meeting (AGM) in 2021. The date for the AGM is to be determined.

Award criteria and nomination forms are available online at the following: <https://gdins.org/metis-culture/>. 🌐







DTI Staff. Photo by Desirae Barker

## GDI COVID-19 Update

By Desirae Barker

Earlier this month, a revised procedure regarding Masks for all facilities was sent out. It is as follows: Currently, the best public health evidence available tells us that masks make a difference in the fight against COVID-19. Due to the nature of GDI program brokering arrangements, all programs will follow, at minimum, the guidelines regarding COVID-19 precautions as determined by the accrediting university including the use of face masks at all GDI facilities. Effective immediately, all

staff and students—as well as visitors, contractors and vendors—accessing a GDI facility or program location will be expected to wear a face mask in all indoor common spaces. This includes hallways, lobbies, elevators, other designated shared spaces (any area outside one’s immediate office) and when entering and exiting the building. Masks are available on-site for visitors who do not have their own.

With the rising cases of COVID-19 in Saskatchewan,

especially Saskatoon, the staff at head office are working from home as much as possible in efforts to reduce contact between employees. Departments are incorporating half-time approaches to limit in-office work time.

This is a reminder to please ensure you are informed about GDI’s most current COVID-19 procedures and updates. More info can be found online at:

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



## Payroll Cutoff Calendar, November 2020

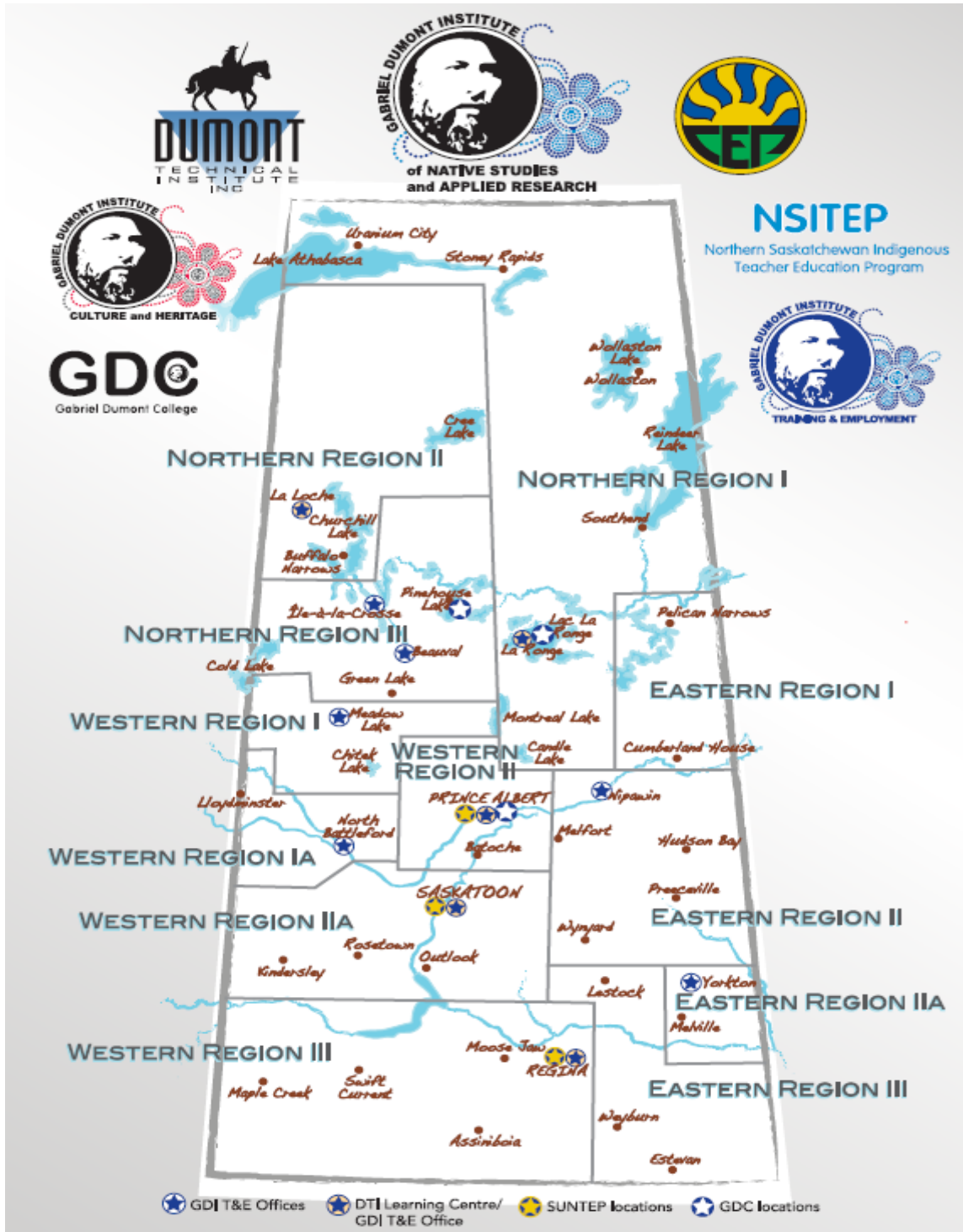
By Carmala Thiessen and Veronica Verzonowski

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Nov 6 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	<b>Student Payday</b> Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/P Invs - Timesheets & Payroll Revisions for Nov 13 Payday	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Finance Cutoff @ 4:30 for Nov 20 Student Payroll		<b>Remembrance Day Stat Holiday</b>	Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	<b>Staff Payday</b> Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	<b>Louis Riel Day Stat Holiday</b>	Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Nov 20 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	<b>Student Payday</b> Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Finance Cutoff @ 4:30 for Dec 4 Student Payroll	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheet & Payroll Revisions for Nov 30 Payday		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
29	30	27	28	29	30	31
	<b>Staff Payday</b>					

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.





**GDI/DTI Central Offices  
Saskatoon**

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

**Métis Culture and  
Heritage**

917 22nd Street West  
Saskatoon SK S7M 0R9  
Phone: (306) 242-6070  
Fax: (306) 244-0252

**Finance and Operations**

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

**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 Library  
Regina**

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

**GDI Library  
Prince Albert**

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

**Training and  
Employment**

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



**CONTACT US**

PH: 306.242.6070  
E: [general@gdins.org](mailto:general@gdins.org)  
[www.gdins.org](http://www.gdins.org)

Gabriel Dumont Institute  
 @gdins\_org

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

Back issues of the communicator can be found here: <http://www.metismuseum.ca/browse/index.php/898>

