



# THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



Photo retrieved from: <https://metisnation.sk.com/2021/01/12/paykiiwikay-metis-culture-podcast/>

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

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## LET'S GET SOCIAL



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## MÉTIS PODCAST FEATURES SUNTEP FACULTY RUSSELL FAYANT

By Desirae Barker

Early January, Canadian Geographic and the Métis Nation —Saskatchewan (MN—S) launched a Métis culture podcast aimed at exploring the rich Métis culture and Michif Language.

The 'Paykiiwikay' Métis Culture Podcast, aired on January 12 and featured Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Regina faculty member Russell Fayant.

The first episode of the series is titled Michif History, Language, and Culture with Russell Fayant. During the episode, Russell shares the history of the Métis Nation in Saskatchewan using his own family stories and personal connections to the Michif language.

Russell is Métis from the Qu'Appelle Valley in southern Saskatchewan, where his family

settled back in the 1860s as Michif buffalo hunters after leaving Manitoba to escape colonization. Most of the Michif speakers in his family are Elders, and he is the first generation that did not speak Michif, so he had to work to reclaim the language for himself. As an educator, Russell has dedicated his life to keeping Michif alive by teaching courses on the language.

He states, "Michif is the language of reconciliation because it incorporates diverse worldviews of settler society as well as the Indigenous community in equal parts."

The podcast will air ten episodes hosted by Métis artist and writer, Leah Dorion and produced by veteran Métis broadcast journalist, David McGuffin.

**Story continues on page 4**





# BUILDING FUTURES AND BUILDING ROADS: DTI HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR ÎLE-À-LA-CROSSE

By Daniel Downs



I have coordinated many Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) programs over the years with the Dumont Technical Institute (DTI). Some have been very straight-forward; some have been more complex in terms of transportation logistics, equipment breakdowns, and unaccounted for weather. What was accomplished in October and November this year in Île-à-la-Crosse broke the mold entirely as far as HEO programs go.



When DTI made it known that we were planning to run two HEO programs in the Fall of 2020 (in the communities of Meadow Lake and Cumberland House), there was a buzz of excitement from several other communities who were also interested in HEO training. One of these communities was the Northern Village of Île-à-la-Crosse. DTI received word from both Max Morin and Mayor Favel that the community had a rather large project needing assistance and that DTI could provide the programming to make the project successful.

The task was to widen and level the subdivision road so that residents could use the road year-round and have access to their homes and cabins without worry. Students generally work in open areas, free of trees, large rocks, and tight corners. The location and tasks required for this project were the exact opposite of this generality.

DTI met with partners and stakeholders, most notably our training provider the Practicum Training Institute (PTI), the Northern Village of Île-à-la-Crosse, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Training & Employment, as well as Northern Career Quest, who all provided financial, logistic, and training advice to DTI to allow us to run this program.

Based on stakeholder contributions and community support, DTI was able to fit equipment with safeguards required to safely operate in narrow treed areas. The race was on to beat the late fall weather and get a road widened and built!



Photos submitted by Daniel Downs

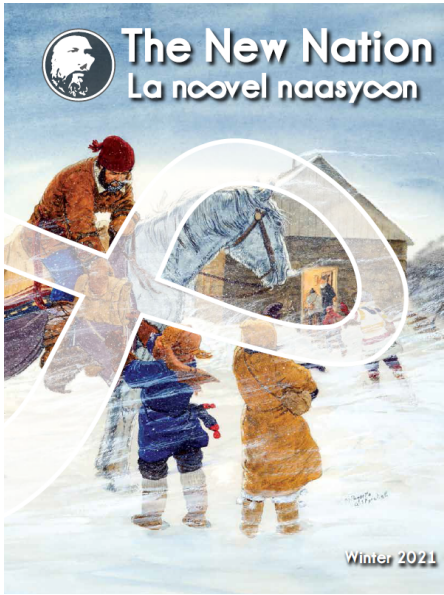
The Northern Village of Île-à-la-Crosse had been facing a specific road challenge for many years. There was a long section of road (at points only slightly wider than a half-tonne truck) that connected the main highway to the Île-à-la-Crosse subdivision. This is an area I personally knew little about and had never been to before in my travels. Nonetheless, I was excited to see the area and what the community was looking to accomplish.

At 6:30AM on a rather chilly October 19th morning, six students made the 40km trek to the training site to begin moving earth for the first time. These students completed this drive day-in and day-out, with ten-hour training days, six days per week, week-after-week in order to accomplish the project goals and their training goals. By the end, a road was widened, and students had the opportunity to look back on their work with pride.

DTI was presented with a daunting task, in terms of student training.

**Story continues on page 4**





## WINTER EDITION OF THE NEW NATION: LA NOOVEL NAASYOON NOW AVAILABLE

By Desirae Barker

The winter edition of *The New Nation: La noovel naasyoon* magazine is now available online. Published by the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI); the quarterly magazine promotes Métis culture, highlights GDI's programs and successes, and showcases good-news stories of Métis across the province.

The cover of the winter edition features a painting titled "school house during winter storm," by Métis artist Armand Paquette. The painting depicts early life in and around Batoche when the mail was delivered by horseback and when Saskatchewan's harsh winters challenged its inhabitants who did not have the warmer clothing and homes we have today.

Armand has portrayed Métis history and culture in a number of paintings and his work has become a part of the Back to Batoche interactive website.

The contents of this issue includes several stories about the remarkable accomplishments of Métis from across the province, including Elder Nora Cummings, who was recently awarded a YWCA Women of Distinction Award, Michela Carrière, whose business, Aski Holistic Adventures, won a 2020 Tourism Saskatchewan Award of Excellence and Kimberly Parent, owner-operator of Saskatoon Salsa Dance Company and recipient of the 2020 SABEX Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

**Story continues on page 4**

## SUCCESS STORY SPOTLIGHT



Photo submitted by: Paige Straf

**PAIGE STRAF**

Paige Straf became a Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Training and Employment client in 2018 during her second last year of post-secondary at the University of Saskatchewan in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. After meeting with employment counsellors Sheena and Charity, she was able to secure sponsorship for tuition and books for her last year of university. This year, Paige graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. Her major is Applied Plant Ecology. Paige is currently an Intern Extension Agrologist with the Ministry of Agriculture. Paige's future goals in the industry are to attain a full-time permanent agrologist position in agriculture. She hopes to narrow her specific areas of interest to helping grain farmers and ranchers.

**"I think it is really important to have a Métis organization like GDI out there to help Métis people pursue and further their educations. For many, financial troubles can be a large barrier to attaining an education, but GDI is there to help lighten the load."**

- Paige





SUNTEP Saskatoon

Wednesday, Feb. 24th, 2021

**VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE**

SUNTEP is a four-year, fully accredited Bachelor of Education program, offered by the Gabriel Dumont Institute in cooperation with the Ministry of Advanced Education and the University of Saskatchewan.

Session 1 1:00-2:00PM  
Session 2 6:00-7:00PM



Please call to register  
(306) 934-2203

Apply Now!



# MÉTIS PODCAST FEATURES SUNTEP FACULTY RUSSELL FAYANT

*Continued from page 1*

In an article by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, David shared that “Working on ‘Paykiiwikay’ has been one of the highlights of his broadcast career.”

‘Paykiiwikay’ is Michif for “come and visit,” and each episode features conversations with Métis elders, educators, and leaders from across the province. With a wide range of topics to come, the podcast hopes to address the need to preserve heritage, tradition, and Métis identity.

Coming up in May, another Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) staff member, Amy Briley, will be featured on the podcast with an episode on Métis beading.

‘Paykiiwikay’ can be streamed on Apple Music, Google Play, Amazon Music, Spotify, and Soundcloud. The latest episodes are also posted on the Canadian Geographic website. New episodes are released every two weeks. 🌐

**GDI PRESS**

# NEW Book Release

Written by Wilfred Burton  
Illustrated by Christina Johns  
Translated by Norman Fleury

# BUILDING FUTURES AND BUILDING ROADS: DTI HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR ÎLE-À-LA-CROSSE

*Continued from page 2*

While widening a road is done on a daily basis by trained operators, neither DTI nor our training provider PTI, have ever had students work in this capacity and accomplish so much. Not only did they accomplish what they started, but they also did so with 100% perfect attendance. For perspective, six students x 60 hour training week x four weeks = 1,440 possible hours without any time missed.

This just goes to show that even though this was the most ambitious HEO program I have been apart of, with great ambition comes great reward and great pride. Our partners and stakeholders put the tools in our student’s hands to accomplish great things. Our students reciprocated by doing a great thing for their community. 🌐

# WINTER EDITION OF THE NEW NATION: LA NOVEL NAASYOON NOW AVAILABLE

*Continued from page 3*

You can also find interesting Métis history highlighted in articles about the first Métis Physician in Saskatchewan, a 1953 Métis Jazz Band, and the origin of Saskatoon’s 1889 Métis name “Bois de Flèche.”

Many culture-focused articles and information on Michif resources are also included in the winter edition.

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

annual report 2019-2020

**2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT OUT NOW!**

[WWW.GDINS.ORG/ABOUT/REPORTS/ANNUAL-REPORTS](http://WWW.GDINS.ORG/ABOUT/REPORTS/ANNUAL-REPORTS)

For hard copies email [desirae.barker@gdi.gdins.org](mailto:desirae.barker@gdi.gdins.org)





## COVID-19 UPDATE

By Desirae Barker

A new Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN—S) Post-Secondary COVID-19 Relief Benefit was launched this month. The purpose of the Métis Nation Post-Secondary COVID-19 Relief Benefit is to provide financial assistance to Métis post-secondary students who have a demonstrated need due to economic disruptions or cost-of-living increases due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This benefit is funded by the MN—S and administered by the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI).

To be eligible for this relief program you must be a registered citizen of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, or have an application for citizenship pending with the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan Citizenship Registry, and be attending recognized post-secondary education.

Application information can be found here: [gdins.org/covid-19/metis-nation-post-secondary-covid-relief-benefit](https://gdins.org/covid-19/metis-nation-post-secondary-covid-relief-benefit). All application questions can be directed to [usponsorship@gdins.org](mailto:usponsorship@gdins.org).

Currently, 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. Many staff work from home offices to continue to support students and clients. The mask procedure is still in effect and must be worn at all times in public common spaces. Please ensure you are informed about GDI's most current COVID-19 procedures and updates. More info can be found here: <https://gdins.org/covid-19/>

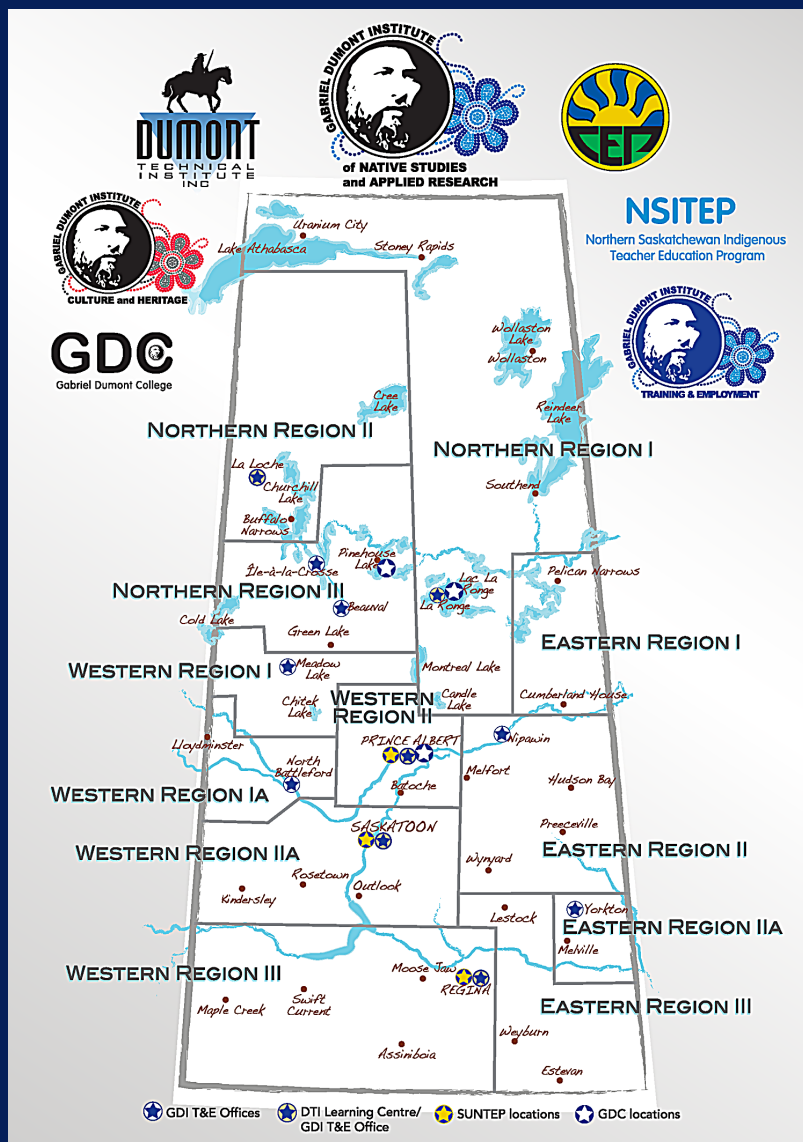
## FEBRUARY 2021 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
	Finance Cutoff @ 4:30 for Feb 12 Student Payroll			Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheet & Payroll Revisions for Feb 12 Payday	Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Feb 12 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Staff Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices Student Payday	
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
	Family Day Stat Holiday	Finance Cutoff @ Noon for Feb 26 Student Payroll		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheet & Payroll Revisions for Feb 26 Payday	Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Feb 26 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Staff Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices Student Payday	
<b>28</b>						

EMPLOYEE CONTRACTS DUE AT PAYROLL UPON JOB ACCEPTANCE  
PAYROLL MUST RECEIVE CONTRACTS PRIOR TO PAYROLL CUTOFF DATE  
IF RECEIVED AFTER THE CUTOFF DATE, THE EMPLOYEE WILL BE PAID ON THE FOLLOWING PAY PERIOD  
MRTS DUE BY THE 15TH OF EVERY MONTH



# CONTACT US



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Back issues of the *Communicator* can be found online at [www.metismuseum.ca](http://www.metismuseum.ca)

If you would like to submit an article for the *Communicator* please contact Desirae Barker at [desirae.barker@gdi.gdins.org](mailto:desirae.barker@gdi.gdins.org)

