



THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



Photo submitted by: Audrey Arcand. From Left to Right - Tylan, Paul, Ben

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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Haid Roofing: AN INDIGENOUS APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM SUCCESS STORY

By Audrey Arcand

Paul Moose became a Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Training and Employment client in December 2017. As an Employment Counsellor, he came to see me, having heard that GDI might be able to pay for his tuition. He was applying for the Skills and Partnership Fund (SPF) Funding for Level 1 – Roofer Training held at the Prairie Arctic Trades and Training Center in Saskatoon. The Roofing trade consists of 4,500 trade time hours (three years) and three levels of technical training.

Shortly after the initial meeting with Paul, GDI created a partnership with his employer, Haid Roofing, as part of the SPF Indigenous Apprenticeship Program. Paul completed Level 1 Roofer training in June 2018, and the wage subsidy partnership with the employer was renewed for the following years of Paul's apprenticeship.

This month, Paul was successful in all levels of training and is now a Journeyman/Red Seal Roofer. He has 25-30 years of roofing experience, and he finally has his ticket! GDI was able to provide Paul with funding for his tuition, and the Institute has an ongoing partnership with Haid Roofing.

Back in 2016, Roofer training was only available in Alberta. This made it very difficult for Saskatchewan roofers to move up in the trade. I remember this because one of my clients, Benjamin Bigeye, met with me to discuss apprenticeship. He was currently employed at a local Saskatoon roofing company as a labourer and wanted to apply for their vacant roofing position. Part of my job when signing up potential apprentices with employers is to go through all the processes and determine if all parties are eligible.

Story continues on page 4



TEACHING AND LEARNING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

By Hailey Novotny, Faculty Prince Albert ABE

2020 was a year that nobody could have predicted. It was a trying year full of fear, loss, anxiety, exhaustion, uncertainty, change, and adaptations. Although this year consisted of many unknowns, including those that we faced as individuals, students, educators, communities, and society as a whole, one thing did become certain amid all the uncertainty...our students were resilient, motivated, and not ready to give up on their education.

This meant that we as educators quickly had to adapt and create our content to fit into an online learning format and our students too had to adapt to learning online with the use of technology and no face-to-face contact.

As the days of online learning passed and the semester came to an end with no celebration of a graduation ceremony, it had become more apparent that this way of teaching and learning was becoming more of a reality for the future.

March 2020 will forever be known as the month where life as we knew it changed. We were preparing for exciting events like graduation in May, including conversations of guest lists and what dainties and drinks we would have at their celebration. We were preparing our students for their educational endeavors that many of our graduates were ready to embark on. However, the excitement and hope for the coming months quickly disappeared as we entered life in a pandemic and discovered what would be our new normalcy of living.

During the summer break, feelings of anxiety began to set in as I tried to envision Fall 2020 and back to school for our staff and students. A million questions and scenarios rushed through my mind including; class sizes, masking, cleaning, and sanitizing protocols and procedures, and learning formats, to name a few. My questions and anxieties were quickly put to ease when we received word from our program coordinator about the back-to-school plan.

Suddenly dainties and university applications weren't the most important topic of discussion, as COVID-19 took center stage, and soon everything became very daunting and bleak.

The plan included a hybrid model of teaching/learning, small classroom cohorts, and most importantly, took into consideration the health, safety, and well-being of our students, staff, and the entire Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) building in Prince Albert. With online learning being part of our hybrid model, we as educators had to learn how to use the online learning platform Brightspace.

Teaching and learning during the beginning of the pandemic included coming up with a plan and choosing an online platform that would allow us to continue to teach and deliver content to our students.

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Valentine's day concert

On February 14, 2021, GDI Métis Culture and Heritage organized a Valentine's Day concert for people to enjoy virtually, from the comfort of their own homes. The concert featured a variety of love songs performed by Métis artist Donny Parenteau. The Concert was streamed live on GDI Youtube and Facebook pages. The concert is still available online at https://youtu.be/jgQn1Re_QeA



Pink Shirt Day 2021
#BULLYINGSTOPHERE






TEACHING AND LEARNING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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Thankfully, we provided ample time and training to understand, plan, and prepare for this new task that we were facing. Knowing that our cohorts would only be seeing us two times a week created new additional challenges that we had to overcome.

Now we were tasked with adapting and changing our teaching practices and methodologies to best suit the needs of all learners while keeping in mind our hybrid model of learning and the limited face-to-face contact that we would be having with our students.

We worked collaboratively and as individuals to develop new teaching strategies, materials, and methods that would best suit our learners

and allow them to have the best opportunities for success throughout this unique learning experience. With the extra time and preparation that we were given, we as a team felt confident that this model of learning would work well for our students.

During a regular school year, many of our students face hardships and challenges. Now with COVID-19 added into the mix, students are experiencing mandatory isolation, being contact traced, sickness, school and daycare closures, loss, fear, and anxieties. Like many of us can agree, challenges that may have been present before now feel magnified, as the added stresses of those that are out of our control become part of our everyday lives.

Yet, our students, while dealing with these circumstances, have rarely let it affect their education as they stay on top of their work, show up when they can, and continue to communicate with instructors.

We as educators are proud of our Prince Albert Adult Basic Education (ABE) students as they continue to strive to achieve their educational goals, all while navigating through uncharted territories. In a time where it may have been easier to give up and try again when things are "better," they continue to push through and persevere. They portray hope and are a light during this journey of education and teaching in a pandemic. 🌍



2020 Order of Gabriel Dumont Silver and Gold Medal Award Recipients

2021 ORDER OF GABRIEL DUMONT AWARDS

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) is proud to announce it will invest five individuals into the *Order of Gabriel Dumont* at a special virtual awards ceremony on **March 4, 2021, at 7:00 PM CST**. The awards ceremony will be streamed live on the GDI Facebook Page & Youtube Page (www.youtube.com/user/gabriel Dumontins).

The *Order of Gabriel Dumont* is awarded by GDI to a small number of persons who have serviced the Métis of Canada with distinction. Investment into the Order is one of the Métis Nation's highest civilian honours. The *Order of Gabriel Dumont* Gold Medal recognizes a lifetime of outstanding service to the Métis of Canada and the Silver Medal honours those who have made significant contributions to the Métis. The 2021 Silver Medal recipients are William Goodon and Gregory Scofield and the Gold Medal recipients are Senator Nora Cummings, Wayne McKenzie, and Dennis and Jean Fisher. Read the full biographies of each award recipient online at www.gdins.org/news.





HAID ROOFING: AN INDIGENOUS APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM SUCCESS STORY

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Benjamin Bigeye, photo submitted by: Audrey Arcand

Unfortunately, at the time, it was determined that Benjamin's high school marks were not sufficient to become an indentured apprentice, and we had to close out his contract.

At that time, there was no IXL Training Program (a personalized online learning platform that provides K-12 education), and GDI had no funding for First Nations clients to take the Accuplacer testing to upgrade his marks.

Early in 2019, the Accuplacer testing was phased out, and the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission (SATCC) implemented a new assessment type program. This came to be known as the IXL Training Program, and under the SPF project, tuition funding was now available for First Nation Clients.

Shortly after this, Benjamin contacted me again to discuss his current options for high school upgrading. He currently worked at Haid Roofing and heard from his coworkers that GDI may have new programs to assist him. Luckily, we were now able to provide him the funding and tools he needed to upgrade his high school marks through the new IXL Training Program.

The IXL Training program is administered through the Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) and lets our clients know which modules to focus on, their progress, and even supplied laptops to support their completion of the program.

This year, Benjamin completed the IXL training program, and I submitted his final marks to SATCC. He has recently been approved, indentured, and received his Y1 card. He is also still employed at Haid Roofing and will continue his apprenticeship with the company.

Around the same time that Benjamin began his IXL training, his friend and coworker, Tylen Starblanket, also became one of my clients. Similar to Benjamin, Tylen wanted to become an apprentice roofer, but his high school marks were not sufficient. Together, the two started and completed the IXL training program within days of each other. Tylen's indenturing application will be sent to SATCC next week, and upon acceptance, he will begin his apprenticeship journey with Haid Roofing as well.

I grew up with Roofers my entire life from brothers to uncles to cousins, and I do not recall any of them ever taking training. They worked as Roofing Labourers all their lives, so it is amazing to me to see that the training is now available here. I noticed that the training for Roofing made a comeback here in Saskatchewan. The word synchronicity comes to mind when I think of how all of this came to be. The reintroduction of technical training in the Province, the introduction of the IXL program, the Indigenous Apprenticeship program at GDI, three incredibly determined men, and a very accommodating employer is paving the way for Indigenous Roofers in Saskatchewan. It's about time! 🌐



Paul Moose, photo submitted by: Audrey Arcand



Tylen Starblanket, photo submitted by: Audrey Arcand





COVID-19 UPDATE

By Desirae Barker

A new Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN—S) Post-Secondary COVID-19 Relief Benefit was launched in January. 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. All application questions can be directed to 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/>

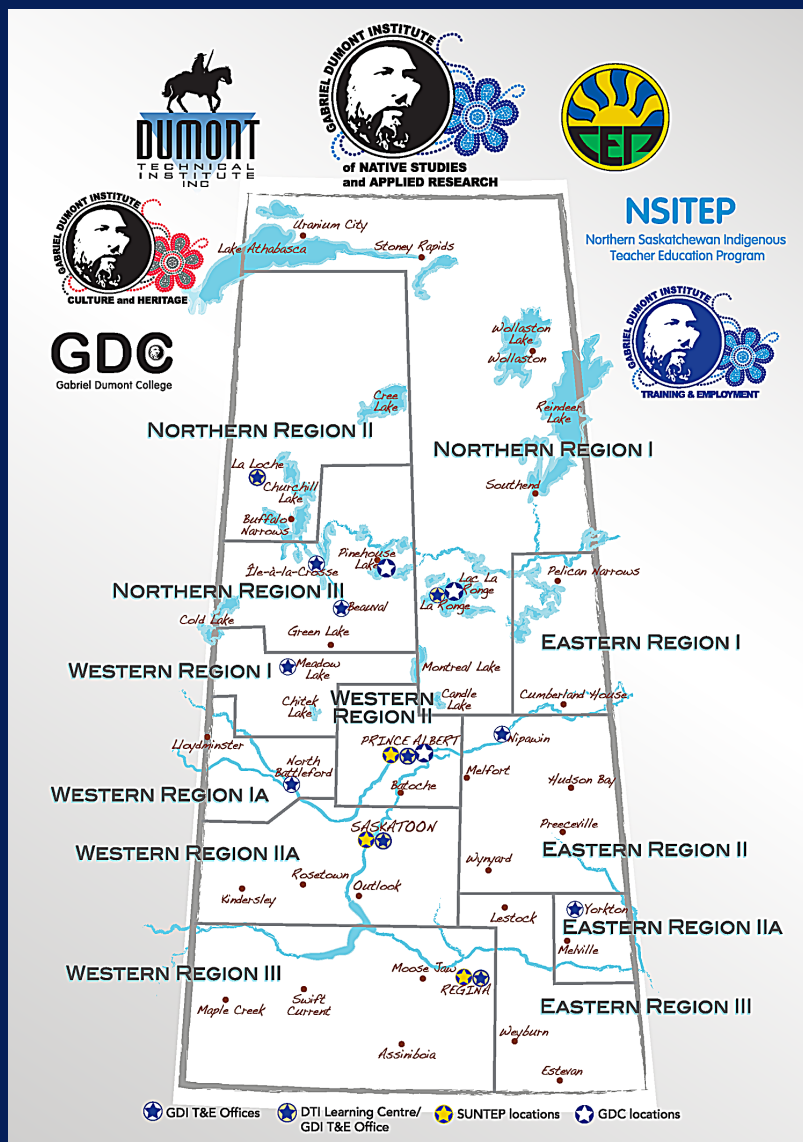
MARCH 2021 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

March 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Finance Cutoff @ 4:30 for Mar 12 Student Payroll			Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Pmts on Student Mar 12 Direct Deposit Cutoff @ 4:30 for TMS & Payroll Revisions for Mar 12 Payday		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Staff Payday Finance Cutoff @ 4:30 for Mar 26 Student Payroll			Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Mar 26 Direct Deposits		A/P Cheque/EFT Run Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheets & Payroll Revisions for Mar 31 Payday	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
28	29	30	31			
	Finance Cutoff @ 4:30 for Apr 9 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
 IF RECEIVED AFTER THE CUTOFF DATE, THE EMPLOYEE WILL BE PAID ON THE FOLLOWING PAY PERIOD
 MRTS DUE BY THE 15TH OF EVERY MONTH



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