



THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



Photo by: Northlands College

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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NORTHLANDS COLLEGE & GDI SIGN MOU TO PARTNER ON DELIVERY OF A MASTERS PROGRAM IN LA RONGE

By Desirae Barker

Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) and Northlands College signed a memorandum of understanding on February 18, 2022, to partner on the delivery of an Indigenous Community-Based Master of Education Program (ICBMEP) in La Ronge, Saskatchewan. The signing of the MOU took place at Northlands Colleges Eli Fleury Cultural Centre in La Ronge.

The memorandum of understanding between GDI and Northlands College builds on more than a decade of program partnerships between the two educational institutions. Both partners are equally invested in increasing access to education in the northern populations of the province.

The ICBME program is designed to provide a unique cohort model of graduate education to educators in off-campus locations to more effectively link theory to local

educational issues and practice. The ICBME program is a ten-class course-based Master's program with a focus on Indigenous education. As part of the memorandum of understanding, GDI will utilize its Affiliation Agreement with the University of Regina to ensure that all course offerings fulfill the academic requirements and rigor required by University standards.

Delivery in La Ronge serves students from across the north in communities such as; Black Lake, Meadow Lake, Cumberland House, Beauval, and Stanley mission. The first cohort of the program began in July 2020 with 24 graduate students. Applications are now open for a second cohort that will begin the program in July 2022. The application deadline is April 15, 2022.

For more information and to apply visit: www.gdins.org/programs.





The New Nation: la noovel naasyoon Winter 2022 edition is Available Online Now!

www.gdins.org/metis-culture/the-new-nation

MIRCO-CREDENTIAL PILOT PROGRAM A FIRST FOR DUMONT TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

By Dylan Pelletier, DTI Program Coordinator

Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) is proud to be offering the online SAGE 50 Accounting Software Training Program in March-April 2022.

the SAGE 50 software. Many of the students may already be using SAGE 50 in their jobs but they want to learn how to use it more efficiently.

This program will be a first of its' kind for DTI. It will be an online micro-credential course. A micro-credential is a certification of assessed competencies that is additional, alternate, complementary to, or a component of a formal qualification. Micro-credential courses are usually quicker and more focused than formal post-secondary courses, and they are typically non-credit.

Several months ago, the Primrose Lake Economic Development Corporation (PLEDCO) approached DTI with the need for training for northwest Saskatchewan residents in the SAGE 50 accounting software. PLEDCO represents the northern communities of: Île-à-la-Crosse, Beauval, Jans Bay, and Cole Bay. PLEDCO has been an excellent partner with DTI over the years and they were willing to fund the training of the students from their region. Due to the overwhelming demand, PLEDCO and DTI have discussed the possibility of offering the program again in the near future.

SAGE 50 is one of the most popular small-business accounting software packages on the market and it is very common in northern Saskatchewan. The students will receive in-depth training on how to better utilize

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WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Earn your Elementary Education degree with SUNTEP at the University of Regina

Apply by May 1, 2022

Registration open to Métis and First Nations students only!

SUCCESS STORY SPOTLIGHT



Photo submitted by: Melissa Dumont

Melissa Dumont recently completed the Adult Basic Education (ABE) Level four program at Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) in Saskatoon. She will officially graduate from the program in June 2022. "Being involved in the Adult 12 program gave me the validation that I am a capable person and worthy of having access to complete and start my education journey. These classes were long overdue for me but came into my life exactly when it was supposed to," said Melissa.

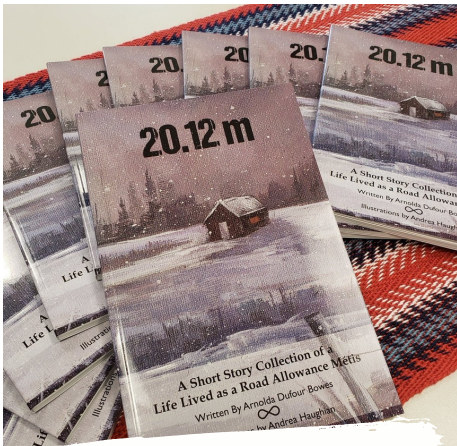
Melissa credits DTI for helping her have the confidence to return to school. "It is such a good feeling to be in an environment where my culture is highlighted to the fullest. It is a first for me and gives me a true feeling of pride," explained Melissa.

In the future, Melissa plans to apply to GDI's Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) and follow her passion for educating.

"The DTI staff are so great. They only want to see each of us succeed. They offer so much support it is a real comforting feeling to have. I know I'm not alone on this journey."

MELISSA DUMONT





BEST SELLER LIST!

The Gabriel Dumont Institute is pleased to share the good news that the GDI Press publication, **20.12m: A Short Story Collection of a Life Lived as a Road Allowance Métis** is one of 15 books on the 2021 SaskBooks bestseller list. Congratulations to author Arnolda Dufour Bowes and illustrator Andrea Haughian.

To view the online SaskBooks bestseller list visit here: <https://www.skbooks.com>

Check out Shop GDI to purchase your copy of the title: <https://gdins.org/product/20-12m/>

YOUR OWN BEST ALLY

By Karon Shmon

We frequently observe words and phrases that are so overused that they lose the original intent of what they initially meant to convey. “Hi. How are you?” is usually met with the nearly automatic response, “Fine,” in spite of the responder not always being fine. I am beginning to feel this way about the word “reconciliation.”

Most people understand that it has something to do with the growing awareness that Indigenous Peoples have not been treated fairly, something documented by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the 93 Calls to Action included in its final report. Now after five years, we have seen too little action and too much talk. The enormity of the Calls leaves most of us bewildered about where to begin. I recommend that we start with ourselves and expand our influence while we expand our knowledge and actions.

Most adults did not receive accurate or sufficient schooling when it comes to Indigenous cultures and heritage. We have been schooled by a system that has either omitted or distorted this fact. Through no fault of our ancestors, we are seven generations, or more from the events of 1885 that so drastically and adversely affected the Métis. The Métis families that went through it, and all of their descendants for over the next century, had to hide their identities for cultural safety. It just wasn't wise or helpful to say you were Métis, particularly when this meant that you were outing yourself for discrimination.

We were helped in this denial by government bureaucracy which simply refused to acknowledge our

existence. Fortunately, by 1982, a hard fought legal battle saw that we were included in the Canadian Constitution as one of the “Aboriginal peoples of Canada.”

Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) has an impressive and high rate of Métis employees. This is the result of the affirmative hiring of qualified Métis as the work of the Institute supported more Métis in obtaining the required qualifications for the variety of jobs that keep it running well. We work collaboratively with our non-Métis colleagues to fulfill the Institute's mission.

We clearly appreciate the support of allies and we are allies to one another in this important work—work that requires a basic knowledge of Métis culture and heritage. We pay attention to the mission set out by the Métis community when the Institute was envisioned in 1976 and have done our best to realize this dream since GDI was founded in 1980.

It is not difficult to imagine that if the Calls to Action are asking non-Indigenous Canadians to learn more about Métis, First Nations, and Inuit histories and cultures, Indigenous Peoples also have the obligation to respond and act. We certainly have our eyes on what is, or is not, being done about reconciliation. We can also be certain those eyes are on us too.

We can impress those scrutinizing glances with confidence if we feel grounded in our cultural heritage.

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An institute of our own...

Please plan to attend to show your support!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

March 26, 2022

TCU PLACE | SASKATOON | 9AM - 12PM

HELP US PRESERVE THE LEGACY OF GDI FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

<p>Where & When</p> <p>TCU Place Saskatoon SK Sat, Mar 26, 2022 9AM - Noon Free parking passes for Midtown Plaza lots.</p>	<p>Voting Delegates</p> <p>Pre-appointed voting delegates may register on Fri, March 25, 2022 from 2PM - 6PM or Sat, March 26, 2022 from 7AM - 9AM. Register at TCU Place either day, or at your hotel Friday afternoon.</p>	<p>Everyone Else</p> <p>GDI's members are the Métis people of Saskatchewan. ALL are welcome and encouraged to attend this very important AGM. No registration required, simply show up at TCU Place on March 26, 2022 for a 9AM start.</p>
<p>Why Should I Attend?</p> <p>A series of bylaw amendments, designed to protect & strengthen GDI's foundation for future generations of Métis students, will be presented for a vote. GDI asks you to come out and support these important amendments.</p>	<p>Why Bylaw Amendments?</p> <p>There are 12 proposed amendments in total. These include 6 amendments to wording to reflect current practices & reaffirm good intentions, 2 new bylaws, and 4 to update language use. We encourage everyone to read the amendments and their rationale in full by visiting gdins.org/AGM.</p>	<p>What Is Their Purpose?</p> <p>These amendments are designed to reinforce the strong connection and mutual respect between GDI and Métis. They are rooted in governance standards based on recognized best practices. Ultimately they are designed to preserve and protect the long-term stability of GDI.</p>

For more info: GDINS.org/AGM





DUMONT
TECHNICAL
INSTITUTE
INC

PROGRAM APPLICATION DEADLINES



Intro to Welding
Regina

March 15



Practical Nursing
Regina

March 21



Class 5 Driver Training
Regina

March 25



Heavy Equipment & Truck & Transport Technician
Prince Albert

March 31



Introduction to Scaffolding
Regina

Ongoing

For more program information & to apply online : www.gdins.org/programs

WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS

MIRCO-CREDENTIAL PILOT PROGRAM A FIRST FOR DUMONT TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

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DTI jumped at the opportunity to work with PLEDCO. After some research, it was decided to broker a micro-credential program from Saskatchewan Polytechnic and offer it online.

Since this was a new venture for DTI, we were not sure of the level of interest this program would have in the PLEDCO region. The response from the communities was fantastic.

In just two weeks, we received over 60 applications from across the province including over 40 from the PLEDCO region. Due to the overwhelming demand, PLEDCO and DTI have discussed the possibility of offering the program again in the near future.

The program is 24 hours long and will take place over 4 Saturdays in March-April 2022 and it will be taught online. The program is targeted at folks working in the community and therefore we wanted to offer it outside of regular work hours.

As long as a student has a Windows-based computer and internet, they can take the training at no cost if they reside in a PLEDCO community.

Twenty excellent students have been selected and they will start on March 12. Their first morning will consist of lessons on Metis culture, history, and language; afterwards they will jump into the accounting software.

The SAGE 50 Accounting Software Training Program is already a huge success and it has not even started yet. We at DTI know that the students will receive excellent training and go on to help their communities with their enhanced accounting knowledge. DTI looks forward to continuing to work with PLEDCO to offer excellent business training to northern Metis residents for many years to come.

Good luck to the students of the SAGE 50 Accounting Software Training Program. 🌐

YOUR OWN BEST ALLY

Continued from page 3

We can achieve this by being our own allies in seeking the truth about our history and renewing our connections to our culture and heritage.

We can be supportive allies to our colleagues and others on this same path. These are actions that support reconciliation and ones that will have us standing just a little taller as we proudly serve the

Métis through our work at GDI. Working collaboratively for the welfare of the community is one of our most treasured values.

It is a tradition worth nurturing now and into the future. The adage in one of GDI's early publications, "Proud Past, Bright Future," is a mantra that will guide us as we clear the path for ourselves and others. 🌐



Cyber Security Training

Cyber security is a huge threat to the organization. The war in Ukraine has heightened this even more as both countries are known as hotbeds of hacking activity. We must always remain vigilant to keep us safe from ransomware, phishing, hacking, etc.

If you have not yet completed the first round of cybersecurity training, please do so as soon as possible. You will soon receive an invitation / reminder from the CIRA Beauceron Cyber Security Training suite if you have outstanding tasks.

There will also be another round of training assigned to staff in the upcoming months to update on new threats and processes important to the organization (Cybersafe 2022). We will also conduct a phishing simulation to give the opportunity to gauge how effective the training has been

This is important training / professional development that minimizes risk for all GDI stakeholders.

We are looking to have all staff complete both (intro plus one additional) training modules by April 30th, 2022

FEBRUARY COVID-19 UPDATE

As a result of the recent and upcoming changes to the provincial public health orders in Saskatchewan, GDI has updated its COVID-19 response plan accordingly. This update was effective February 16, 2022.

Masks

Following current post-secondary sector practices, GDI will continue to require face masks in all GDI facilities until April 30, 2022, at which time this will be reviewed. 3-layer masks are required by students, faculty, staff, and visitors – including contractors and vendors – in all indoor public spaces and common areas.

Working From Home/Hybrid Delivery

Over the course of the next few weeks, DTI programming will transition from the current hybrid delivery model to a more face-to-face learning environment. Institute staff will also transition from the current in-office/work from home hybrid model to a full-time in-person work environment.

Vaccination status

For all staff, routine and voluntary testing at home will help prevent asymptomatic transmission. Those not fully vaccinated will self-monitor and continue regular rapid testing once per week before participating in any in-person activities. GDI is strongly encouraging all students, faculty, and staff to taking advantage of free rapid testing, staying home when ill, and getting vaccinated, including your third/booster dose when eligible.

Staff Gatherings

Staff gatherings, shared meals, and potlucks are not recommended at this time. This will be re-evaluated prior to April 30, 2022.

Group Visits

Group visits/tours by outside groups to the GDI gallery and museum in Saskatoon will remain suspended and will be re-evaluated prior to April 30, 2022.

For full list of protocols, visit www.gdins.org/COVID-19

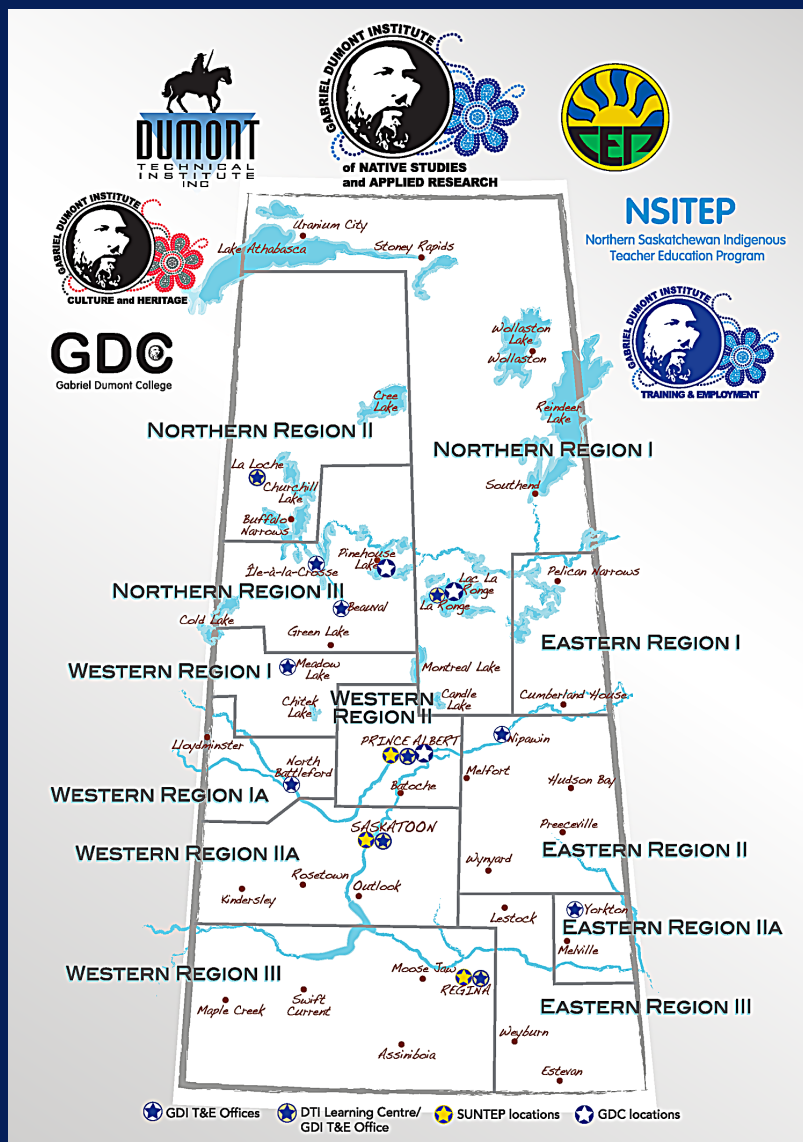
MARCH 2022 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

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
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Mar 11 Direct Deposits	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheet & Payroll Revisions for Mar 15 Payday	Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		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 Mar 25 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/P Invs - Timesheets & Payroll Revisions for Mar 31 Payday	
27	28	29	30	31		
				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



CONTACT US



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Previous issues of the *Communicator* can be found online at www.metismuseum.ca

If you would like to submit an article for the *Communicator* please contact Desirae Barker at desirae.barker@gdins.org

