



THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



Photo submitted by Randi Ross

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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RIBBON SKIRT TEACHINGS

By Randi Ross, GDI Training & Employment Services Manager

In 2019, I was fortunate enough to be gifted my first teachings of the ribbon skirt. Prior to these teachings, I was unaware of the history and significance of ribbon skirts; I did not grow up connected to these components of my Métis culture.

My initial learning came through a Métis Ribbon Skirt workshop, offered by Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI). The workshop facilitators, Bonnie Johnson and Leah Dorion, shared the history of ribbon skirts, including how the prints came to our people, and the meaning behind different patterns and prints. Most recently, the GDI Training and Employment department attended a two-day workshop in the gallery space, facilitated by Amy Briley. The workshop was based on *Sînapân Kîskasâkâs: A Guide*

to *Making Contemporary-Style Métis Ribbon Skirts*, a publication developed through the Institute. Amy used similar instruction, and her own teachings and experiences to provide the education and space to learn.

Learning about the ribbon skirt and hearing stories about their history made me feel proud. The knowledge gained filled in gaps and questions I had lingering in me; I always knew our people were more than sashes and jigging. While those are important, it was really great to learn yet another piece about the Métis peoples' traditional culture. One lesson that resonated with me most was learning about how ribbon skirts can be referred to as "story skirts". A skirt can tell you the story of: your

This story continues on page 4





Photo submitted by Beige Unger

THE SUNTEP PA CHRISTMAS HAMPER PROGRAM CONTINUES

By Beige Unger, SUNTEP Prince Albert Faculty

Through the generosity of the Saskatchewan Urban Native Education Program (SUNTEP) students and staff in Prince Albert, six families had a Christmas that was just a little merrier this year!

Christmas dinner, groceries to carry the families through the school break, board games to play, as well as gifts for each of the children in the family. Students spent much of December shopping and wrapping in preparation for delivery in time for Christmas.



Photo submitted by Beige Unger

For the past 13 years, SUNTEP has partnered with local schools to sponsor a family at Christmas. Since 2020, these small acts of kindness grew into a hamper program that helps numerous local schools in the city. This year, the Christmas hampers put together by SUNTEP included all the fixings for

A special thank you to Wholesale Club Prince Albert for their generous donation and to Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division partners for providing us with the deserving families. 🌍



Photo submitted by Beige Unger

NEW CROSSWALK ON 22ND STREET W

By Karissa Johnson, Research & Communications

GDI is looking a little brighter since the City of Saskatoon installed a new crosswalk outside of the administration building on 22nd St West. Part of the City's strategic plan is to promote movement, with one avenue being through pedestrian safety. To encourage

pedestrian safety, the City encourages the use of designated crosswalks. With 22nd St W being a high-traffic corridor, the crosswalk will improve safety for people in the area, including our staff and students. Thank you to the City of Saskatoon! 🌍



Photo by George Gingras





UPCOMING DEADLINES



Practical Nursing Program
Saskatoon
Prince Albert
Jan 16



Indigenous Birth Support Worker
Saskatoon
Jan 16



Phlebotomy Program
Saskatoon
Jan 30



Class 5 Driver Training
La Ronge
Feb 3



Office Administration
Regina
Feb 15



Continuing Care Assistant
Saskatoon
Regina
Feb 15



Heavy Equipment & Truck & Transport Technician Program
Prince Albert
Feb 15



Educational Assistant
La Loche
Mar 31

For a full listing of all current programs and to apply online visit

WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS

A NEW YEAR, A NEW START

By Karon Shmon, Director Culture & Heritage

Every year, January still manages to take me by surprise. It seems I only recently became used to writing the previous year on correspondence and, already, a new one has arrived. Although I am surprised, I enjoy the transition, especially the quiet time between Christmas and New Year’s Day.

With the Institute closed for several days over Christmas and the new year, we get a significant amount of time to rest, to reflect, and to regroup. It’s a time when I take stock of what I have accomplished over the last twelve months, while making plans for the upcoming year.

As we transition into a new year, brisk winter weather sets the stage for turning inward. The birds have migrated South, and other wildlife have settled into hibernation, into rest, as they endure the cold season. Like animals, our lifestyles change too, with only the hardy enjoying the outdoors in the winter (I sometimes think like my Métis ancestors would be ashamed of what a weather sissy I’ve become).

The transition into January brings often the desire, by many, to make changes in their lives. Whether the change is about eating healthier, spending less, creating more time for family and friends, or making better choices in the ways we respond to stressful moments, these resolutions often backfire. Changes can be hard to sustain. When we cannot sustain them, we feel like we’ve failed. This year, rather than aspiring to unattainable change, my goal is to make the effort as well as I can, but also to forgive myself when I fail.

I like the adage that states that, “the definition of success is getting up one more time than you have fallen.” It is my responsibility to remember what I do accomplish, and to be realistic about some of the stumbling and failing that may happen simply because this, too, is part of life. Most of us are familiar with the mantra – the golden rule – to treat others the way we would like to be treated. My resolution this year is to remember that about myself too, and to resist being my harshest critic. With this in mind, 2023 is shaping up to be a great year! 🌍

CALL FOR BOARD MEMBER WRII

By Karissa Johnson, Research & Communications

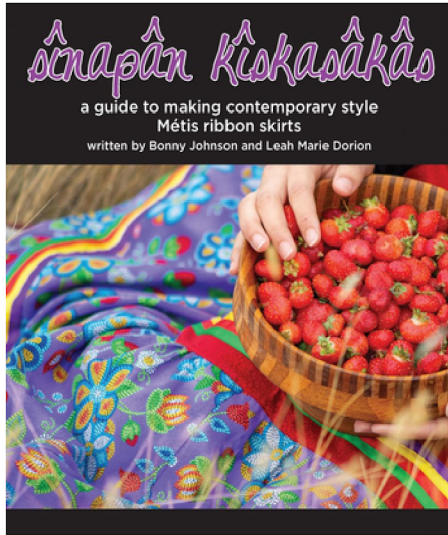
Gabriel Dumont Institute's Board of Governors is in search of a Board Member to represent Western Region II to serve from 2023-2026.

Applications are due on January 20th, 2023. You can submit a resume to either Sherry McLennan (sherrymclennan@mns.work) or Rhonda Pilon (rhonda.pilon@gdins.org).

Board members must be of Métis ancestry, with knowledge of Métis culture and history in Saskatchewan. However, they cannot already be employed by an organization affiliated with the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan.

For more information on becoming a board member, please visit the GDI website linked here: <https://gdins.org/call-for-board-member-2/>. 🌍





RIBBON SKIRT TEACHINGS

Continued from page 1

family, your personal journey, what makes you feel good, how it helped you heal, or how it honours someone or something. It was said to me the round shape of the skirt represents the cyclical nature of life; and when your skirt touches the ground, it connects you to the earth. Such comments were valuable for me to hear, as they align with my beliefs on the interconnectedness of the earth and its beings. In this way, learning about ribbon skirts is a beautiful way to connect us to our Métis culture. Beyond the cultural teachings, it was great to spend time with the other Métis women in my department—the entire room was filled with laughter and pride!

Additional teachings have showed me how to make different styles of ribbon skirts for myself (there are so many styles and meanings, it is all so beautiful and interesting!). The most recent skirt I made happens to be a story skirt – it is my birthday skirt. It primarily features the colour red, to represent a personal connection between my father and I. In addition, there is a black ruffle to represent the darkness in mourning, and the light that can

come after a period of darkness, as a dedication to those who do not get to have any more birthdays. To finish, I added a blue ribbon, to honour my Métis roots, and a green ribbon, to honour my connection to the earth.

Having the opportunity to take part in these workshops and projects benefits us, as both employees and Métis women, on many levels. For instance, I now have the skill of sewing, which is important to me, and I was able to create something unique to me. The workshops also provided an opportunity to build relationships with my peers, and deepened the knowledge of my culture.

Cultural revitalization is hard work. Unfortunately, art is often dismissed as a means of supporting cultural revitalization. Therefore, it can face obstacles and criticisms in prioritizing its availability. I have pride in my employer for understanding the importance of cultural revitalization – in all of its forms – and for making a variety of opportunities available for everyone to experience; opportunities we would not necessarily have access to otherwise. 🌍

GDI 2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

By Desirae Barker

The 2021-2022 Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Annual Report is now available online and in print.

The progress GDI has made this past year, despite the pandemic, is remarkable. From the student & client success stories, you will see how each entity worked together to provide optimal services & resources

to the Métis in Saskatchewan. The online version is viewable on the GDI website at: www.gdins.org/reports or the Virtual Museum at: <https://www.metismuseum.ca/resource.php/150262>.

If you require any printed copies of this report, please email Karissa.johnson@gdins.org.

Available now!

2021-2022 GDI Annual Report

Desktop Version

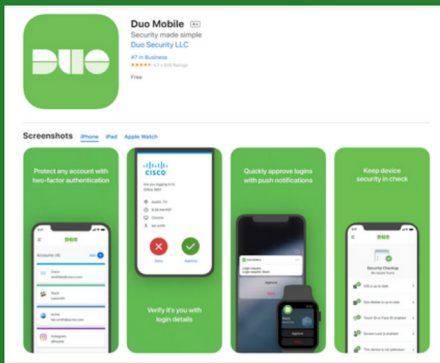
Mobile Version

Print Version

Available online at www.gdins.org/reports



DOWNLOAD THE DUO MOBILE APP NOW!



Enrollment Successful!

Way to go! You can now authenticate to any Duo-protected service.

NEW VPN MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION

By Gareth Griffiths, IT Coordinator

The Gabriel Dumont Institute is increasing our Cyber Security safeguards by introducing multi-factor authentication (MFA) to any external network connections, especially VPN connections.

All users will have to use a cellphone, tablet, or iPod to make a successful VPN connection. As of January 2023, the MFA on VPN connections to the main networks are now live.

We are running a synchronization routine on the server where all staff that have permission for VPN connections are automatically enrolled in MFA through Cisco Duo. If you are registered and setup for MFA, you will see an email from Duo asking you to enrol and setup the phone to use. It requires the use of a small app on your phone that is easy to setup. IT has created a user guide that will walk you through the steps needed to setup Duo. If you have not received a copy please

email Gareth.griffiths@gdins.org or visit this general guide link: <https://guide.duo.com/enrollment>.

This change will affect external connections to access shared drives, Management Reporter and any other resource physically hosted on our servers. At this point, it does not affect cloud hosted solutions like Brightspace, ERPx, email, OneDrive/Sharepoint nor will it affect access to resources when physically on one of our main locations.

If you do not want to enroll in this, and if you never access shared resource remotely (H: Drive, S: Drive, etc.), please let IT know and we can remove you from the system. It is possible you previously had an account during lockdown you don't need anymore. Conversely if you would like to be able to access your shared data remotely, please let IT know and we will add you. 🌐

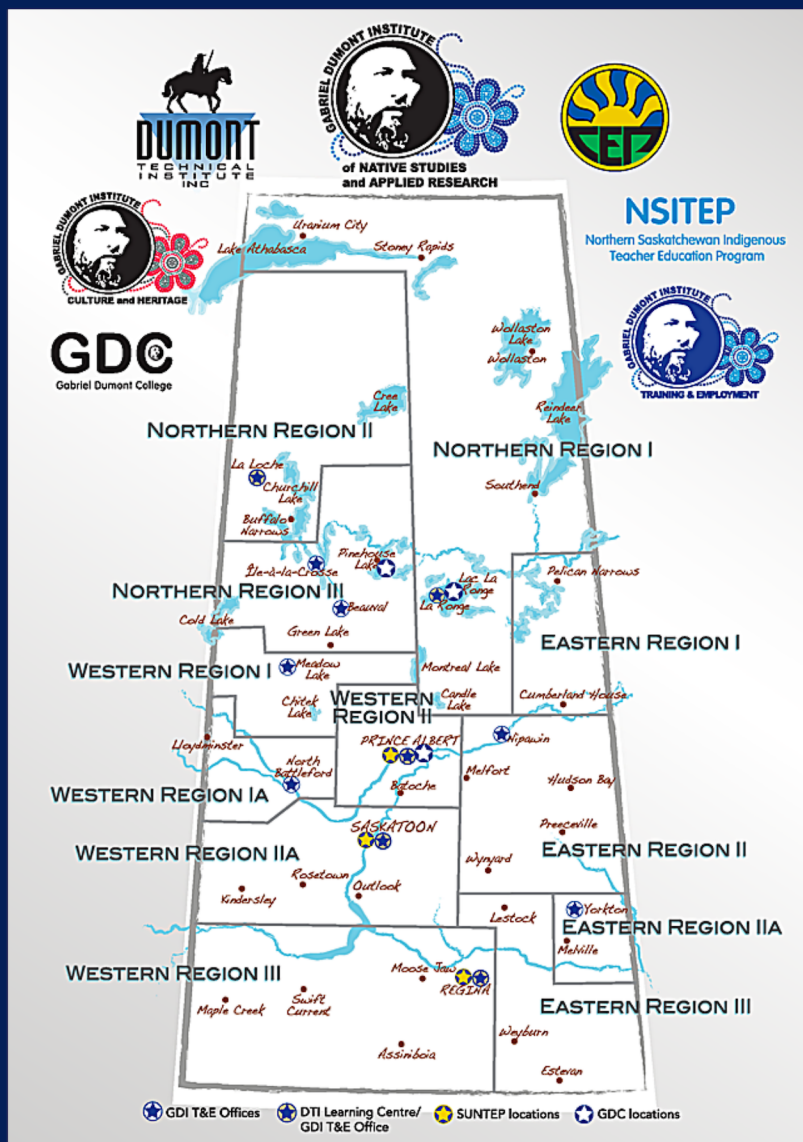
JANUARY 2023 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
New Year's Day	Stat Holiday			Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheet & Payroll Revisions for Jan 13 Payday	Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Jan 13 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Staff Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices Student Payday	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
				Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Jan 27 Direct Deposits	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheet & Payroll Revisions for Jan 31 Payday	Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
29	30	31				
		Staff Payday				

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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1-877-488-6888

info@gdins.org

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 Karissa Johnson at karissa.johnson@gdins.org

