



THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



Photo submitted by Karon Shmon

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

IN THIS ISSUE

- ∞ Meet the Ancestors!
- ∞ Introducing Colin Trudel
- ∞ Adult Basic Education - Success in Beauval
- ∞ 2023 Order Of Gabriel Dumont Awards

LET'S GET SOCIAL



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MEET THE ANCESTORS!

By Karon Shmon, Director, GDI Culture and Heritage

I recently accompanied the second year students from SUNTEP Saskatoon on a research trip to Winnipeg. The trip is a component of the Indigenous Studies class they are currently taking. The students raise funds for the trip by working bingos throughout the year.

We travelled by chartered bus, taking the better part of a day to travel. I kept my eyes on the landmarks, especially as we drew closer to Winnipeg as I knew we would be going through many of the historic places in which my ancestors lived before coming to Saskatchewan. White Horse Plain, St. François Xavier, and Headingley came into view, reminding me that these parishes were close to one another because the luxury of getting very far quickly just wasn't available in earlier times.

The SUNTEP Saskatoon faculty put together a dream itinerary for a Métis research trip. Our primary purpose was to strengthen the students' research skills through researching their ancestry at the Archives of Manitoba which also houses the Hudson's Bay Company Archives. After an excellent orientation from the staff, the students got to work utilizing the many sources of information available. I was delighted to see the students finding information about their ancestors through parish, immigration, employment, and scrip records. The St. Boniface Archives also proved to be a valuable and informative tool.

Other highlights of the trip included visiting The Forks which is located where the Assiniboine River flows into the Red River.

Story continues on page 4



MICHIF

WORDS OF THE MONTH

**SASKATOON
D'OOSHCHIIN**

I'm from Saskatoon.

PAYHTUK

Be careful.

**MIINA
KAWAAPAMITIN**

See you again/later.

LI PRAENTRAAN

It's springtime.

INTRODUCING COLIN TRUDEL

By Daniel A. Downs, Program Coordinator, Dumont Technical Institute

Many of you have never heard of Colin before. Many of our past or current students likely know Colin as the guy who makes them put on their safety goggles while grinding. My hope is they are reading this today to learn more about their humble instructor.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Colin for around 13 years, through my involvement with the Heavy Equipment & Truck & Transport Technician (HETT) program. Over those years, I have noticed how Colin cares deeply about teaching and student success, about his family, and about his music.

Colin has been involved with and supported Dumont Technical Institute's (DTI) HETT program for over 15 years. Colin started with the Ministry of Highways – our program training partner – in 1990 as an apprentice Heavy Duty Mechanic. Later, he completed his Red Seal, progressing within Government to the position of Shop Foreman with the Ministry of Highways, when he first got involved with DTI's program.

From the time Colin acted as a liaison between DTI and the Ministry of Highways - when DTI first set up class in his shop - through his time as an instructor for the program,

Colin has made a great impact on students and HETT program development. Since becoming an instructor in 2017, Colin has continued to strive to make DTI's program the best it could be. Colin has always been excited about DTI's learners.

Despite working alongside him, Colin had never brought up his family's music before. The closest I had come to hearing his musical ability was the odd pen tapping on his office desk or him humming something non-distinct as he set-up a shop assignment for students. Colin is a humble man and would never be one to "blow his own trumpet" about his musical abilities (he at least should have let me know he had a trumpet!).

So, when Colin Trudel invited my wife and I to hear his family play at The Basement in Saskatoon on a very cold evening in 2018, I wasn't sure what to expect. I have been to many events featuring prominent Métis artists and musicians, such as John Arcand, Donny Parenteau, and Tristen Durocher. But the music I heard that night gave me a new appreciation for live bands. Colin, his wife, and his four children brought

Story continues on page 3



Janice & Colin Trudel
Photo submitted by Daniel Downs



Photo submitted by Daniel Downs





UPCOMING PROGRAM DEADLINES



Mental Health & Wellness
Meadow Lake
April 30





Office Administration
Regina
April 24





Educational Assistant
La Loche
Ongoing





Continuing Care Assistant
Prince Albert
Regina
Saskatoon
Ongoing





NSITEP
La Ronge
May 30



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

WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS

INTRODUCING COLIN TRUDEL

Continued from page 2

an energy, harmony, and love for music that was refreshing and honest. You could tell that they loved what they did and loved doing it as a family.

Colin and his family, "Trudel Family Music" and "Jay & Jo Trudel" had travelled and toured Western Canada from 2005 - 2021. Following that, COVID, and family changes, such as children attending post-secondary school, moving for work, getting married, and having children, made touring impossible.

Through my many interactions with Colin over the years, I discovered more about him and his family, beyond their energetic weekend performances. The Trudel Family Musicians, and his daughters, Jay and Jo Trudel, have received many awards, such as:

- 2014 SCMA Gospel Album of the Year
- 2016 SCMA Group of the Year
- 2019 SCMA Roots Artist of the Year
- 2020 SMCA Fiddle Player of the Year
- 2023 Queens Platinum Jubilee Medal

Plus many more nominations, including music video of the year for "Spirit Wind" by the Trudel Family. As humble as Colin is, I would never have found out about his family's Platinum Jubilee Medal if not for sharing the need to miss some work for an award.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to meet Colin or to speak with him at a GDI event, please do so. And if you run into him when he is tapping his pen on a desk, or randomly humming to himself as he wanders past you in the grocery store, please take note of what he's humming, as it may be a new Album of the Year in the works! 🌐

HOT OFF THE PRESS

"The Red River Jig" by Scott Duffee

Analyzing its historical evolution as well as its spiritual and wellness aspects, Scott Duffee informs readers that this communal dance,

much beloved by thousands over many generations, also empowers its participants.



Purchase at shopmetis.ca

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION – SUCCESS IN BEAUVAL

By Lucas Ketterer, DTI Program Coordinator, Adult Basic Education

Adult Basic Education (ABE) Level Four has been running in Beauval this year for the first time since the pandemic. Students in this program have a wide variety of educations and backgrounds. Many of them have taken our previous program but, due to the nature of COVID, could not continue to make it work online. The in-person learning provided by the instructor in the community has provided the students with a positive outlook on attaining their education, and furthering their knowledge and skill set.

have Rose Richardson as the instructor. She has taught for many years, and taught with DTI when the program ran before in the community. Rose has a very special bond with each of the students and has gone above and beyond to ensure each student has what they need to be successful. Support can range from helping a student get to school, to being a counsellor when they need someone they can trust. Speaking with all of the students and listening to what they have to say

The program has been lucky to

Continues on page 4



Photo submitted by Karon Shmon

MEET THE ANCESTORS!

Continued from page 1

The Forks was a gathering place for millennia before European contact. Water travel was the main way to get around for most people and The Forks was a natural meeting place for trade, commerce, and a rest stop. Now it has a beautiful market square. It was here I had the opportunity to have a pickerel lunch which I admit to having twice. It was so good!

We also got to visit the Manitoba Museum and the Human Rights Museum. I was pleased to see there is a Métis story told at the Human Rights Museum, something often missing from other historical sites and places. We went to the St. Boniface Museum which covers the last several centuries of French and Catholic history. This, of course, also covers a lot of Métis history. We raised an eyebrow or two at some of the displays, such as a lock

of Louis Riel's hair and a piece of the rope by which he was hung. I am sure the museum curators grapple to find a balance between sharing history and the growing sensitivity to how our history is portrayed.

On the final evening, the faculty had planned a group dinner at which we celebrated our successful research trip. It was very rewarding to see the students connect to their ancestors and to see the importance of our place in our own and in Canada's history. We could see how the Métis Nation evolved through the intersection of trade and commerce, social interaction, and familial and community ties. We came home with better research skills and a better sense of who we are as the Métis. We could see that we have much to be proud of and much to celebrate. I will never tire of seeing our youth achieve this. 🌐

2023 INDIGENOUS INCLUSION AWARD

GDI TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT



Photo submitted by Alecia Nagy

On March 23, 2023, GDI Training and Employment was awarded with an NSBA Indigenous Inclusion Award.

The award is given to a business that embraces and promotes equitable access to jobs, training/education, and entrepreneurship opportunities to Indigenous people, or economic development projects that promote long-term sustainable benefits to Aboriginal communities.

NSBA strives to promote the growth of Saskatoon's economy.

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION - SUCCESS IN BEAUVAL

Continued from page 3

about Rose provides great insight into her great depth of knowledge and understanding of Métis culture, which she is passing on to the next generation of Métis people daily. The students quite enjoy how she incorporates culture and some land-based instruction into a very structured education system.

Students all across the province face challenges in terms of gaining an education, and Northern Saskatchewan is no different. The perseverance of these students continues to pay off for all of them, as they are opening doors for themselves when it comes to job opportunities or even getting accepted into university-level programs. These Beauval

students are very determined and are proving to themselves that they have the skill set to get a higher education just like everyone else.

Rose provides the students with a safe classroom that supports their leaning and growth. The success of the students is evident to me, as the program coordinator, when I am constantly being asked for transcripts and letters for students to use to apply for higher education courses.

Thanks to Rose and the ABE program, the students graduating in May will have a skill set, knowledge, and confidence to go into whatever it is they want to do, whether that be entering the workforce or continuing their education. 🌐



2023 ORDER OF GABRIEL DUMONT AWARDS

By Desirae Barker, Senior Program Coordinator, Research and Communications



Photo by George Gingras

Seven well-deserving Métis leaders were inducted into the Order of Gabriel Dumont at a special awards ceremony held in conjunction with the GDI Culture & Heritage’s National Michif Speakers Conference on March 22, 2023, in Saskatoon.

Edwin is both a veteran and community-minded Elder who tirelessly serves at various Métis cultural events across the province; Harriet is passionately involved in sharing her wisdom and Michif language to students of all ages; and Sophie is an active Elder, Language Keeper, and has been a guiding force in various Michif language preservation efforts.



Photo by George Gingras

The event was opened with a prayer by Senator Nora Cummings and the Métis National Anthem by Angela Rancourt. Following this were welcoming remarks from the Gabriel Dumont Institute Board and Executive.

“Each of this year’s recipients are pillars in their home communities. Their life’s work has been dedicated to preserving, promoting, and revitalizing Métis culture in their own distinct ways; through language, education, leadership, and, art,” said Lisa-Bird Wilson.

Silver medals were awarded to both Margaret Harrison and Verna Demontigny. Margaret is an accomplished Métis textile artist featured in various museum exhibits across Canada, and Verna is a Knowledge Keeper dedicated to the preservation, promotion, and revitalization of the Michif language.



Photo by George Gingras

Gold medals were awarded to Dale McAuley, Michael Relland, Edwin and Harriet St. Pierre, and Sophie McDougall. Dale has been a community leader and active in the Métis community for over 30 years; Michael is a Métis educator with 37 years of teaching experience;

Since the inception of the Order of Gabriel Dumont, GDI has invested 98 remarkable individuals into the Order in all three categories: Gold, Silver, and Bronze. Nominations for the 2024 Order of Gabriel Dumont Gold and Silver Awards will open in fall 2023. For more information please visit: <https://gdins.org/metis-culture/the-order-of-gabriel-dumont-call-for-nominations/>

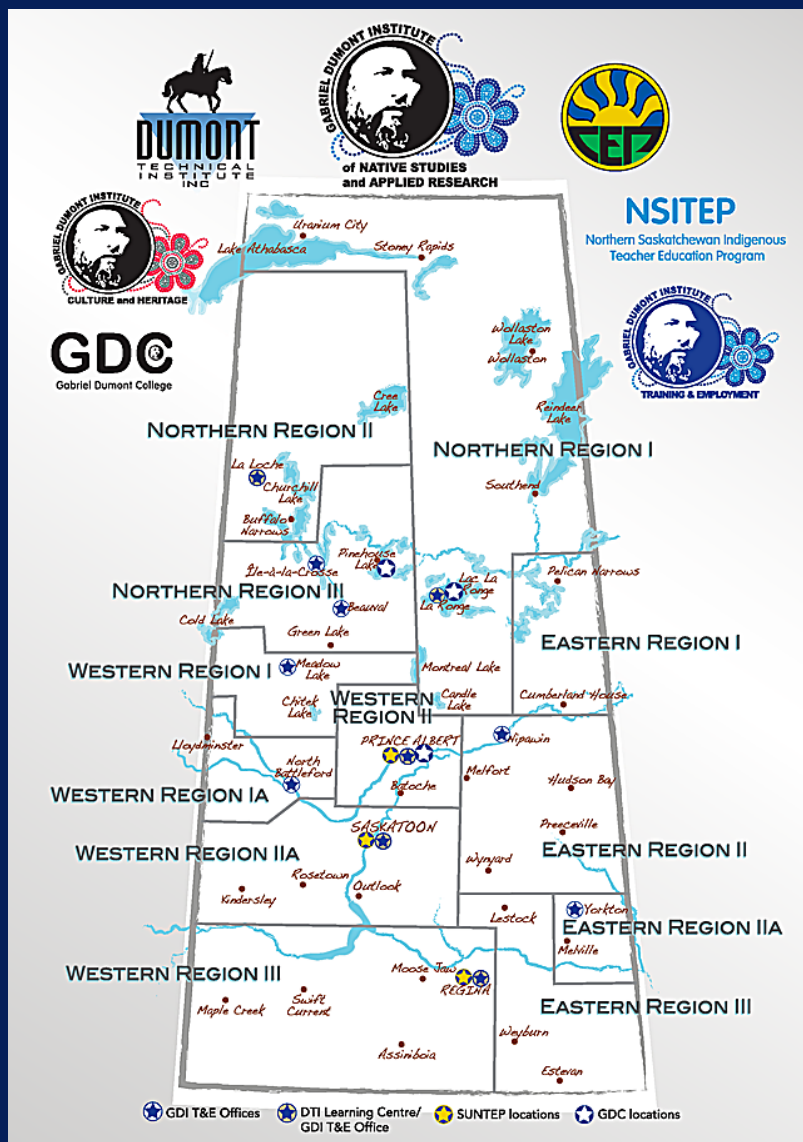
APRIL 2023 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Apr 6 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/P Invs - Timesheets & Payroll Revisions for Apr 14 Payday	Good Friday	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Easter Monday			Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Staff Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Apr 21 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheet & Payroll Revisions for Apr 28 Payday			Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Staff Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
30						

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

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