



# THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



Photo by Desirae Barker

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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## REMEMBERING SOPHIE MCDUGALL By Karon Shmon, Director, GDI Culture and Heritage

Margaret Sophie McDougall passed away on April 11, 2023, in her 94th year. This sad news was not unexpected, but it hit hard just the same.

Just a few weeks before, the Institute received the news that Sophie was ill and unable to attend the Order of Gabriel Dumont (OGD) Awards ceremony in person. The OGD gold medal recognizes a lifetime of outstanding service to the Métis of Canada. Sophie's decades of contributions as a Michif language keeper and community elder in her hometown of St. Louis, SK made her a well-deserved recipient. Her medal was hand-delivered to her by Desirae Barker and Amy Briley who expressed admiration and appreciation for her on behalf of so many. Days later, Sophie's family proudly accepted her medal at the ceremony.

I was privileged to have known her for just the last decade, something for which I am profoundly grateful. On meeting Sophie, I was struck by the sparkle in her eyes, the warmth in her voice, and the charm of her wit and personality. She was so eager to continue learning and to continue sharing, something she never stopped doing. It was a pleasure to see her translation work at Batoche National Historic Site become a permanent tribute to her dedication.

I attended the service for Sophie. As a mother of 11, grandmother of 32, great-grandmother of 46, and great-great-grandmother to two, the place was packed with family and a large contingent of friends, relatives, community members, and friends. There I witnessed the outpouring of love and reverence by those who knew her.

Story continues on page 3







Krissy Malboeuf, photo submitted by Tracy LaPrise

# MICHIF WORDS OF THE MONTH

**KAASHKIHTAAN!**

You can do it!

**KAAYASHOOK-  
ATOOSHKAY**

Don't work too hard.

**WIICHISHOO**

Help yourself.

**NI  
KISHCHIITAYHTAYN**

I appreciate it.

## DTI STUDENT FEATURE: KRISSY MALBOEUF

By Tracy LaPrise, DTI Program Coordinator, Adult Basic Education

Krissy is a Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) Adult Basic Education (ABE) Level Three student in our Île-à-la-Crosse program. Krissy will be successfully completing her program at the end of May and has been a dedicated and hardworking student. Krissy aspires to be an entrepreneur in the culinary field and is working on overcoming the anxieties she faces when taking on a new challenge.

Program Instructor, Jolene Roy, has been so impressed with Krissy's dedication and progress in the program. Krissy has a 90% monthly overall attendance average, positive mindset, and great attitude. She is also working on preserving her Michif language and Métis culture through cultural practices such as gathering local medicines and sweetgrass.

In a time when our classrooms are struggling to recruit and retain students due to the effects of the post-covid world, having a student like Krissy keeps us striving to provide a better education for our Métis students who are building better lives for themselves and their families.

### Get to know Krissy

#### 1. What does student success mean to you?

This means a lot to me, being in high school was difficult for me. I am excited for my future now and feel more productive in ways I didn't know I wanted to be. My instructor motivates me, and I need that motivation at home.

#### 2. What is the best part about living in northern Saskatchewan?

The slow pace and no chaos, it is so easy going. The scenery and the comfort of being close to the lake provides soothing, calming feelings. I love BBQing while camping and all things outdoors.

#### 3. What advice do you have for new students?

Don't listen to the negative part of your mind that is telling you that you can't do it. It will come to you eventually. You can accomplish your goals, just keep working towards something. 🌟

## SUCCESS STORY SPOTLIGHT



For as long as Brittany Hayden can remember, she was interested in becoming a nurse. Seeing the smile on someone's face when she helped them motivated her to enroll at the Gabriel Dumont Institute to pursue a career as a nurse. Brittany has now successfully completed the DTI Practical Nursing program and graduated this year.

*"When I was younger, I was in a caregiver role for my grandpa. He always called me his little nurse when I would go to the hospital with him. The nurses would always call me that as well. I wanted to help other people. I always had a passion for helping others and wanted to make a difference."*

**BRITTANY HAYDEN**





Photo submitted by David Morin

## 2023 NATIONAL MICHIF SPEAKERS GATHERING

By David Morin, Curriculum Developer, GDI Culture and Heritage

From March 21 to March 23, 2023, over 150 Michif speakers, learners, and technicians, gathered in Saskatoon from across the Métis Homeland. The gathering also represented speakers from the three Michif languages spoken in Saskatchewan, Southern Michif, Northern Michif, and Michif-French.

The evening of the March 21 brought together speakers with an informal gathering where they were able to visit and speak their language. The day was jam-packed on March 22 with presentations from organizations and individuals working to promote, preserve, and revitalize the Michif languages. We heard about initiatives from the Gabriel Dumont Institute Culture and Heritage Department, Prairies to Woodlands Revitalization Circle, Gabriel Dumont Local 11, Michif Revitalization Circle—BC, Vince Ahenakew, the Louis Riel Institute, Samson Lamontagne, and Westmount Community School.

At the gathering's evening banquet, participants were treated to the Order of Gabriel Dumont awards ceremony followed by entertainment by Donny Parenteau and his band, along with performances by James Cardinal, Ovide Pilon, Krystal Pederson, and Brandi Tourond. Michif speakers were well represented at the Order of Gabriel Dumont ceremony with Margaret

Harrison and Verna Demontigny receiving silver medals, and Harriet and Edwin St. Pierre and Sophie McDougall receiving gold medals!

The gathering concluded on March 23 with a language-banking activity that had groups of Southern Michif, Northern Michif, and Michif-French speakers gathered around digital recorders to tell stories, sing songs, and visit in their languages. Approximately 16 hours of language-banking were recorded through this activity.

It was amazing to see all the good work happening in the preservation, promotion, and revitalization of the Michif languages. It's important for our Michif-language keepers to know that so many folks are working hard to ensure our languages can be passed on to succeeding generations, and for those working in the language revitalization field to know that they are not alone. While we weren't able to highlight everything going on in the Michif revitalization world, attendees did get to see a lot of great work, and we hope that gatherings such as these keep the momentum and motivation going to promote, preserve, and revitalize the Michif languages. 🌍

### UPCOMING PROGRAM DEADLINES



**Mental Health & Wellness**  
Meadow Lake  
**June 15**




**Continuing Care Assistant**  
Prince Albert  
Saskatoon  
Regina  
**Ongoing**




**NSITEP**  
La Ronge  
**May 30**




**Early Childhood Education - Level 2**  
Saskatoon  
**Ongoing**



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[WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS](http://WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS)



Four of Sophie's children accept her medal. L-R, Duncan McDougall, Joyce Phaneuf, Linda Ostgaard, Lloyd McDougall

## REMEMBERING SOPHIE MCDUGALL

*Continued from page 1*

While I was fully cognizant of her contributions to the preservation and promotion of Michif, I received an even fuller appreciation of her impact as a wife, mother, sister, auntie, grandmother, friend, and neighbour. The depth and breadth of her influence made it apparent that the medal was but one candle on what would have become a cake with 95 candles on her next birthday. I can easily count candles, but I had no idea how big the

cake was. Sophie served up heaping helpings of love, wisdom, experience, humour, discipline, friendship, and so much more. We will continue to be nourished by her memory and of the precious language, culture, values, and lifeways she generously provided. This will sustain us on the days we are sad over her passing and on the days when we celebrate the life and times of such a remarkable woman. 🌍







## IN CANADA, THE INDIGENOUS EDITORS ASSOCIATION WIDENS ITS CIRCLE

A grassroots organization recognizes Indigenous Authors, editors, and publishers

**By Nathalie op de Beeck, article reprinted with permission from Publishers Weekly**

Across traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories, an Indigenous Editors Association aims to shift the Canadian book industry. The IEA, founded on principles of Indigenous governance and place-based knowledge, incorporated in 2019. Now, with 40 established members and approximately 20 pending applications for membership, the organization is working to connect Indigenous editors, writers, and publishing consultants with job opportunities and to foster authentic Indigenous perspectives and representation.

IEA president Karon Shmon, a Métis educator, says she joined the IEA to “provide support to Indigenous people connected to publishing, and to maintain Indigenous worldviews, perspectives, and ways of telling our stories.” Shmon serves as the director of publishing at the Gabriel Dumont Institute, whose GDI Press promotes Métis culture and history: “We recently distributed 1600 Michif language kits, free of charge, to every school, every library, and every Metis local in the province,” Shmon said. “We have made the effort to make Michif revitalization resources and to ensure our children’s books are dual translation in English and Michif.” Her work with the IEA extends this preservation effort.

Momentum for the IEA gathered for more than a decade. “The longer history goes back to the 2006 Ànskohk Indigenous Literary Festival,” explained Métis writer Rita Bouvier, the IEA’s incoming president-elect and author of a beautiful rebellion (Thistledown Press). At that 2006 event, Saskatchewan Arts Board program consultant Joanne Gerber facilitated meetings among Indigenous book industry practitioners and public funding agencies. This led to the formation of the Indigenous Editors Circle, described by Bouvier as “a professional learning community held in the summers of 2014, 2015, and 2017 with the late Greg Younging and other Indigenous leaders serving as faculty.” (In partnership with Simon Fraser University, the IEA now hosts a May seminar called the Greg Younging Conversation.)

The IEA developed from the Indigenous Editors Circle, establishing a board of directors—known as the Council—and a primarily volunteer staff. Unlike the Circle, which takes place as a weeklong summer seminar, the IEA operates and shares resources year-round. “I am pleased that we have a flattened hierarchy and we rely on group leadership,” Shmon said. “I like to think we are flexible and responsive, so we will continue to offer professional development and networking opportunities.” For example, when the Circle couldn’t meet in person in summer 2021, the IEA developed a webinar series on topics the seminar likely would have covered, including sensitivity reading, substantive editing, emerging Indigenous editors, strategies for finding employment, and professional networking. Another webinar series is in the works.

IEA director Nadine Ryan, a citizen of the Shishálh Nation, became the association’s first hired staffer in April 2022. “The IEA had been volunteer-run until I started, and we still see ourselves as a fledgling organization,” Ryan said, adding that they hope to hire again in the coming months. She now supports Schmon, Bouvier, and others on the Council, revising the bylaws and designing a website that’s accessible for those with disabilities as well as those dealing with technological barriers in rural or otherwise remote environments.



### Upcoming Graduations Dates

#### GDI University Programs

SUNTEP Regina ~ May 5

SUNTEP Saskatoon ~ May 6

SUNTEP Prince Albert ~ May 18

NSITEP La Ronge ~ May 18

#### DTI Programs

ABE Level 4 Saskatoon ~ May 30

ABE Level 4 Regina ~ May 29

ABE Level 4 Beauval ~ May 30

ABE Level 4 Prince Albert ~ May 26

ABE Level 4 La Loche ~ May 31

ABE Level 4 Ile a la Crosse ~ May 30

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∞ GOLF ∞  
MAY 26, 2023

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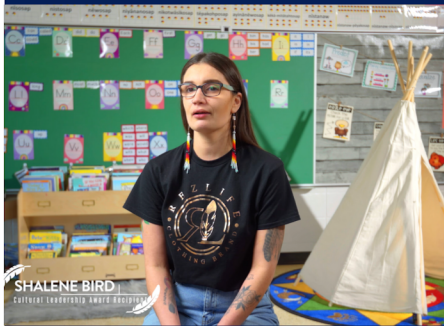
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# NEEKANEWAK AWARD RECIPIENT



## SHALENE BIRD

Congratulations to 2023 RBC Neekaneewak Leadership Award recipient, Shalene Bird! Shalene is a NSITEP La Ronge student.

The award recognizes cultural leadership for Shalene's commitment to traditions and ceremonies. Shalene endeavoured to learn from Elders and Knowledge Keepers, and is now taking the opportunity to pass that knowledge down to future generations in her community.

Shalene incorporates Cree language and culture into her classroom as a NSITEP student!

# IN CANADA, THE INDIGENOUS EDITORS ASSOCIATION WIDENS ITS CIRCLE | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Outreach will be essential in the coming years, Ryan said, starting with “band offices and tribal councils and within the communities. Luckily, our council members are spread across Canada, so I see that as a huge advantage. Everyone can focus on a different province or territory and get the word out.” In addition to outreach, another goal involves “developing a membership policy, especially with the evolving controversy around Indigenous identity fraud,” Ryan said. Although the IEA wants to reduce barriers to involvement, they are wary of non-Indigenous applicants and determined to create opportunities for exclusively Indigenous communities.

Responses have been positive. “We've had so many people excited about the work,” said Ryan. Publishers suggest job openings, which the IEA circulates in a member newsletter. The Editorial Freelancers’ Association and editorial consultancy Salt & Sage Books share their resources, and university presses in Canada and the U.S. are offering to consult on projects. “We've even had some American publishing professionals want to join the organization, so we have a couple of American members already,” Ryan said.

Incoming IEA president Bouvier looks forward to increasing, intentional growth for the IEA. “Nurturing the foundations of who we are as an entity will be ongoing to ensure we are meeting the needs of our members,” Bouvier said. “We also understand that our vision and mandate is not something we can accomplish in isolation from the existing organizations in editing and publishing. We see ourselves working in tandem and sometimes in partnership with others involved in this industry.”

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## MAY 2023 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

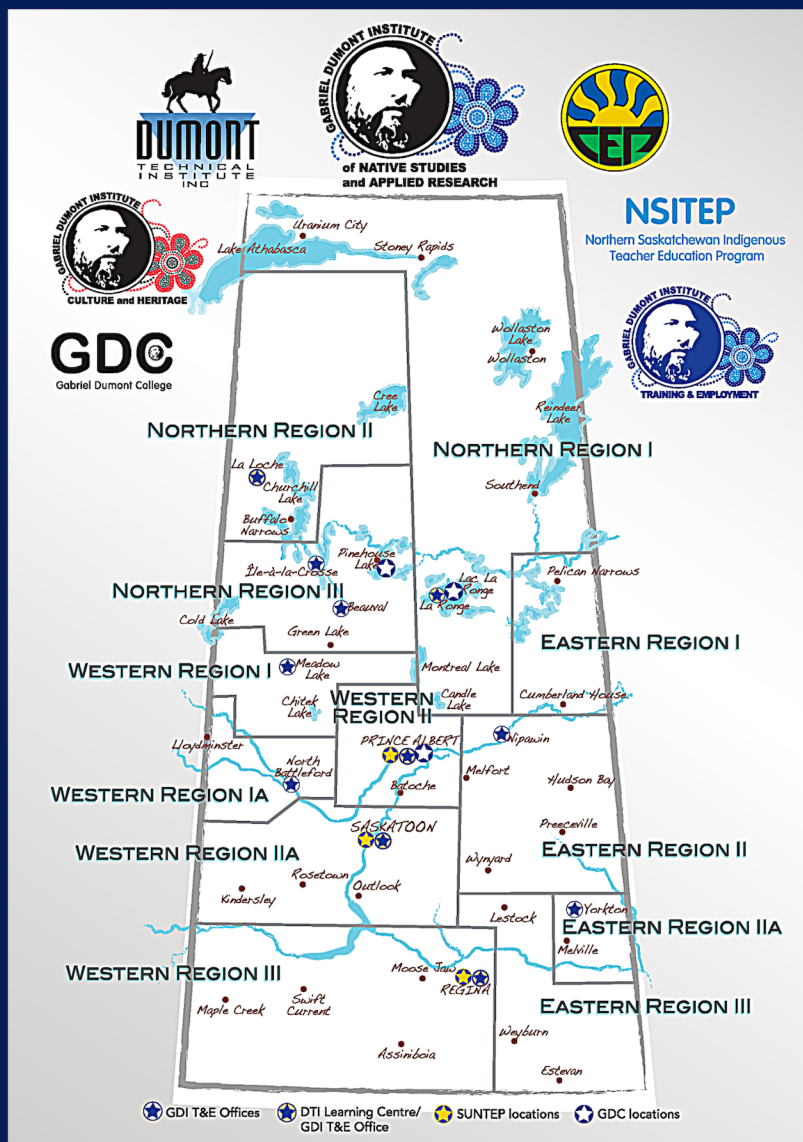
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student May 5 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheet & Payroll Revisions for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



[WWW.GDINS.ORG](http://WWW.GDINS.ORG)

1-877-488-6888

[info@gdins.org](mailto:info@gdins.org)

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

