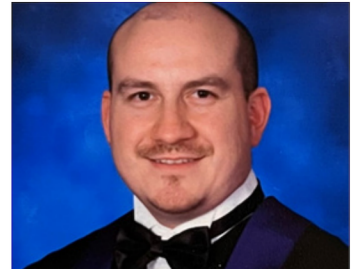




THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



The GDI Communicator is an internal newsletter intended to document the achievements of management and staff of the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research

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THE ORDER OF GABRIEL DUMONT 2024 BRONZE MEDAL RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

By Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) proudly announces the 2024 recipients of the prestigious Order of Gabriel Dumont Bronze Medal. This award was introduced in 2010 to recognize GDI students who have distinguished themselves through leadership, community service, cultural initiatives, and overall academic performance.

On May 1, 2024, eight students will be inducted into the Order of Gabriel Dumont. The Order is presented in the form of a medallion with a certificate signed by the officers of the Institute over the seal. This year's recipients will receive their medals at program-specific award ceremonies across the province. "Our students embody the spirit of resilience, self-determination, and leadership," said Acting Executive Director Brett Vandale. "I am immensely proud of their contributions to the Métis community, and I believe they

will continue to play an important role in shaping a brighter future in whatever career they choose."

To date, 63 students and alumni have been awarded the Bronze Medal from various GDI-delivered programs, ranging from adult basic education to graduate education. Induction into the Order is one of the Métis Nation's highest civilian honours.

This year's recipients are (left to right) Kayla Hayden (DTI), Michael Ross (DTI), Betty Ann Durocher (NSITEP), Kendall Hanikenne (SUNTEP Saskatoon), Caitlin Moran (SUNTEP P.A.), Shay Hysuick (SUNTEP Regina), Caydence and Kennedy Marley (GDITE). Aahkamayimo avik la bonn oovraazh! 🌟

The biographies of each recipient can be found online at: gdins.org/bronze2024





CCA Class of 2024

Top Left to Right: Remiya Desjarlais, Tara Raymond, Kimberly Woodward, Karen Maupin (Instructor), Sydney Daigneault, Jillian Seright, Lindy McKenzie.

Bottom Left to Right: Jean-Marc Desmeules (Instructor) Remiya Desjarlais, Tara Raymond, Kimberly Woodward, Sydney Daigneault, Jillian Seright, Lindy McKenzie.

NORTHWESTERN SASKATCHEWAN CONTINUING CARE ASSISTANT PROGRAM CREATES OPPORTUNITIES

By Jean-Marc Desmeules, DTI Faculty
Wotziye, Tansi, Taanishi, Pee-pihtikweek to meet the North.

When we think or talk about the North, we envision boating, fishing, hunting, beautiful lakes, and a gorgeous night sky. The Northwestern Saskatchewan covers 101,834.74 square km.

The far Northwest region encompasses La Loche, Buffalo Narrows, Île-à-la-Crosse, and many other villages and reserves. Many residents in the region make significant economic contributions to this province working in hospitals, schools, government agencies, and outside of the community in the mines. The region is home to two hospitals and several small outpost clinics which offer everything from primary care, inpatient services, LTC wards, lab and diagnostics, physiotherapy, home care, diabetes education, and much more. The St. Joseph Hospital in Île-à-la-Crosse is a teaching hospital and has several learners pass through it during the year, including medical students, nursing students, and physiotherapy students.

Today there is a shortage of healthcare providers across Canada. However, the geographical location creates additional, cumbersome recruitment challenges in Northern Saskatchewan.

Gabriel Dumont Institute's (GDI) ongoing commitment and support to provide educational opportunities to Northern Saskatchewan residents in the healthcare sector has been a valuable asset in helping to close the recruitment gap. Having trained, qualified professionals to provide care to residents in hospitals and in the community is a significant need for our area. This year, the Continuing

Care Assistant (CCA) program will graduate six students, and future programs must supply more in demand healthcare workers.

Students enroll from a variety of backgrounds and for a variety of reasons. For some, it's a career change; for others a first career. GDI offers courses in the North close to the homes of many students who would not otherwise have educational and training opportunities. There are a variety of reasons why students cannot leave their communities, including family commitments, having a spouse who works out of town at the mines, the cost of relocating to a larger centre, or having no supports for them in a larger centre to name just a few. Without GDI, there would not be access to educational opportunities for some students. The impact of higher education for these students should not be underestimated. In addition to providing them with the means to pursue quality employment, it also empowers them. It is evident that the confident student graduating next month is not the same student who sat quietly last fall and felt overwhelmed. In speaking with community members, they welcome GDI and recognize the value of providing them with an education.

In the past few years, our region has struggled considerably with staffing in all areas, particularly in healthcare. We are in dire need of LPNs, CCAs, Physiotherapists, RNs, and CLXTs. We have community members who are willing to take up the challenge of these courses. With some imagination, ingenuity and putting our heads together, perhaps GDI can be the leader and trailblazer to provide them with higher education. 🌐

MICHIF WORDS OF THE MONTH

BONN SHAANS

Good Luck!

KISHCHIITAYIMOOHK

Proud

PAYHTUK

Careful

MASHINISHTAHIKWIN

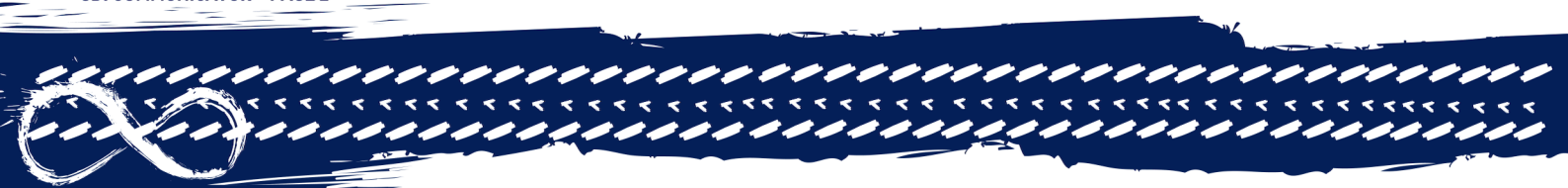
Needlework

AEN MOOLAYN A KOOD

Sewing Machine

LI SAYNZHAAN

Wild Ginger





UPCOMING PROGRAM DEADLINES



Adult Basic Education
Île-à-la-Crosse & La Loche

May 31st



Adult Basic Education FLEX

Online

June 30th



Practical Nursing Diploma

Regina

July 31st



Mobile Crane Operator Certificate

Regina

Ongoing



For a full listing of all current programs and to apply online visit WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS

INDIGENOUS FUTURES: FORGING PATHWAYS FOR INDIGENOUS YOUTH!

By Marina Covey, Oyateki Partnership Communications Specialist

New experiences, new connections, and new possibilities for the future. On March 15, Oyateki Partnership hosted an occasion where each of these became a reality in a memory-making evening.

The Partnership is a collaborative effort of Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT), and the University of Saskatchewan (USask). Together they aim to positively impact Indigenous youth in Saskatchewan by creating opportunities for them to enter post-secondary education, find meaningful employment, and start their own businesses.

The Partnership's Youth Advisory Circle (YAC) took a turn this spring to initiate an event to engage students in a career and job-developing opportunity. They came up with the idea of the "Indigenous Futures Networking Event", where graduating and continuing students of the partners interact and network with recruiters and business owners from the industry sectors in which they have studied.

Chante Speidel, Youth Advisory Lead at Central Office for the Partnership, described the undertaking:

"The Youth Advisory Circle put forth the Indigenous Futures Networking Event to create awareness of the Indigenous talent across Saskatchewan. This event was tailored for the success of Indigenous young people within our partner institutes, to either find employment, learn more about a career or to network within the business community. I am overjoyed with the outcome of this event and the feedback received."

The success of events like this stems from engaging youth in their vision and supporting their goals. YAC intended to design an event that would create the best possible scenario for student attendees to reach the goals. Their ideas included finding a welcoming and professional space for youth and students to shine, providing tools to give them confidence to step outside their comfort zone, and making an opportunity to grow their networks for future employment. The development of the event was a collaboration of efforts from the YAC group and the planning committee, which included staff representing all three partners. The committee lent their support leading up the event, including workshops on networking, resume-building, and interview-prep that were provided by the Career Services of SIIT. Business clothing donations from staff and local businesses provided professional attire to students so that they could put their best foot forward.

The event structure provided attending organizations the opportunity to answer the TRC Call to Action #92, through employment of Indigenous youth in a move toward Reconciliation. As well, they could share their vision and career opportunities with Indigenous youth.

Students and businesses were invited by the three partners, GDI, SIIT, and USask, to convene for a networking session in the setting of the beautiful Avenue Room in downtown Saskatoon.

Story continues on Page 4...



Chante Speidel



Indigenous Futures Event



Oyateki Youth Advisory Panel

INDIGENOUS FUTURES: FORGING PATHWAYS FOR INDIGENOUS YOUTH!

Story Continued from Page 3

As the room filled on event night the anticipation grew, with guests trickling in at first and increasing to a line-up outside the door. Then in a unique twist for a networking activity, the students with studies in Education, Health, Trades and Administration were asked to fill out ‘passports’. The objective was to meet and converse with employer representatives and earn a signature from each to complete the booklet. Once the passports were filled, the students used them to enter to win one of three bursaries provided by the partner institutes. As soon as the activity began, the room was buzzing with conversation and was non-stop for the next hour! Excitement remained high as draws for bursaries and door prizes were made, with cheers from fellow classmates coming from the crowd.

The evening’s activities made the time fly by. The engagement and support shown by the business community were greatly appreciated by the Oyateki Partnership and contributed to its success. Even more significant was the impact their participation had on the Indigenous youth who took part. The connections and relationship-building not only gave them an unforgettable experience and boost of confidence, but also helped create pathways for their dreams to become reality and a lifelong positive impact.

As the program wrapped up and attendees made their way to the door, comments heard from both employers and students were consistently positive, and the organizing committee and supporters remarked on the fantastic turnout. Employers were eager to talk about attending again ‘next time’, a sure sign that the night was a success.

Oyateki Partnership sends a special thank you to the organizing committee for all of the efforts and extra miles that were put in to make the event possible, to Dress for Success Saskatoon for our students feel spectacular, and to the vendors providing services on event night to make the night extra special. And the biggest thank you is for the students, who are our reason for making this happen! 🌟



Camryn Murray, SUNTEP Regina

Congratulations

We are so proud of Camryn Murray from SUNTEP Regina for receiving the 2024 RBC Neekaneewak award for Academic Leadership!

“I love being part of [my students’] growth and development, not just their academics. [...] [I hope] they feel like they belong in my classroom because I didn’t necessarily get that growing up.” – Camryn Murray

Check out #RBCFutureLaunch for the full video interview on social media



RECLAIMING THE MÉTIS HERITAGE OF THE CAPOTE

By Karon Shmon, GDI Director of Culture & Heritage

Over the 2023—2024 winter, GDI offered nine capote workshops to provide participants with the opportunity to make a capote, a coat made from a Hudson’s Bay Company Point Blanket, in the style of our ancestors. These workshops precede the May 2024 release of the latest publication from Gabriel Dumont Press, *wahwaykinishoo d’en li kapot: Wrap Yourself in Tradition: A Guide to Making a Métis-style Capote*.

innovation any more than using a cart with wheels. What sets them both apart as unique is the applied Métis innovations. The Red River cart, modelled after wheeled carts utilized elsewhere, posed several challenges for the Métis. What good is a cart that cannot be on rough trails or one that requires a blacksmith and metal materials to make repairs? The Métis innovation was to make it from the supplies at hand, wood from trees, and to make sure that the materials required for repairs (more wood), would be readily available.

Like so many Métis innovations, making a coat from a blanket is not solely a Métis



RECLAIMING THE MÉTIS HERITAGE OF THE CAPOTE

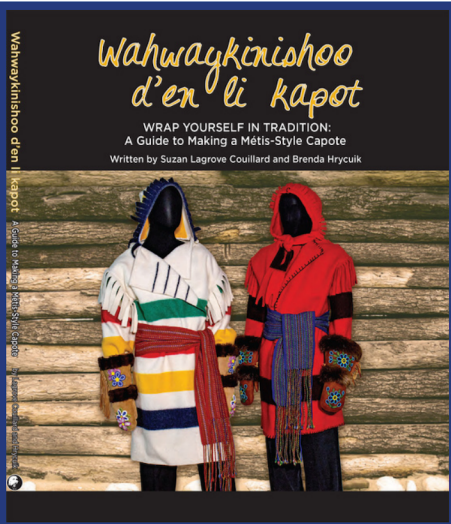
Story Continued from Page 4

Besides these two tweaks, the wheels were removable so the wooden cart could float across water when necessary. So too, the capote was modified from a blanket that was simply draped over the shoulders to a coat with sleeves, a hood, wicking fringes, and a means of closure, which enabled the users to free up their hands and to regulate their body temperature with the loosening or tightening of the belt. Our ancestors had to pay close attention to what they would need to survive because the trading posts were few and far between. This meant carefully assessing when you would have access to these places again, and when you would have the required trade items to get what you needed. These thoughts often cross the minds of our ancestors as they design and sew their capotes.

It was a joy to watch people gain appreciation for the work and artistry that goes into making a capote. The variations they chose to make each one unique, and the sense of pride and accomplishment in their capote. 🌍



Photos submitted by Ryan Nordmarken



Shawna Dubiel, DTI Saskatoon ABE Faculty

MAY 2024 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

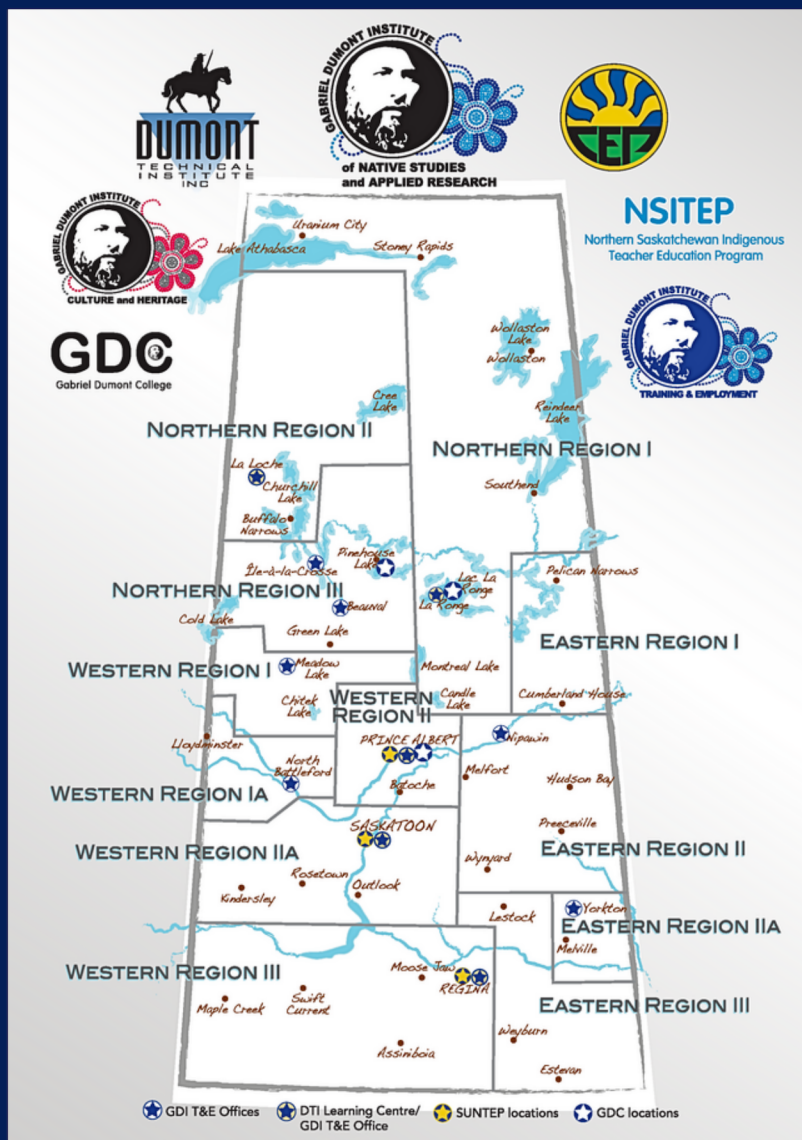
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
			Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheet & Payroll Revisions for May 15 Payday	Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts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

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If you would like to submit an article for the *Communicator* please contact Bethani Groat bethani.groat@gdins.org

