



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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SUNTEP 2024 GRADUATES TEACHING & LEADING THE NEXT GENERATION

By Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

May 2024 marks the 40th graduation of SUNTEP (Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program). The four-year Bachelor of Education program is offered in partnership between the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), the University of Regina, and the University of Saskatchewan. This year 52 graduated from the SUNTEP program joining the remarkable 1,476 graduates since the 1980s.

SUNTEP graduations are uniquely personal and memorable for students and faculty who have formed a tight bond over the four-year program. Many of the graduates spoke about how they will miss seeing their classmates every day, and they shared a deep respect and admiration for the faculty and staff who went above and beyond to help ensure that they reached graduation.

Acting GDI Executive Director, Brett Vandale brought congratulations on behalf of the Institute on their remarkable accomplishments and students: "As graduates from the SUNTEP program you are fulfilling a dream and a vision for Métis education in Saskatchewan that is decades old." His sentiments were echoed by Minister Wendy Gervais, Chair of the GDI Board of Governors, who shared advice from her career as an educator. Keynote speakers noted the resiliency, compassion, intelligence, and determination of the students, many of whom began their studies during the pandemic, and persevered through the many additional obstacles and challenges those years brought.

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Allen Janvier and Ernestine McNeil

DTI LA LOCHE ABE STUDENT AWARDED THIS YEAR'S CAMECO LITERACY LEARNER AWARD AND BURSARY

By Fernando Araujo, DTI Adult Basic Education Faculty

Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) La Loche Level 2 learner, Allen Claude Janvier was awarded the prestigious 2024 Cameco Literacy Learner Award and Bursary at the Saskatchewan Literacy Network's 2024 Saskatchewan Literacy Awards of Merit held at Government House in Regina on May 14. Attendees were welcomed by his Honour, The Honourable Russ Mirasty, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, and Donna Woloshyn, Saskatchewan Literacy Board of Directors presented the awards.

in school. There are things I don't understand, and I can't read or write much." Since beginning just this past fall, Allen has already improved immensely in his communication and math skills, and he will be continuing in Level 3 this fall.

With his dedication and desire to learn, his instructors are confident Allen will complete his Level 4 Adult 12. Allen is often seen helping other learners in class, uplifting others in the community, and sharing his knowledge of the Dene language and culture. In attendance at the ceremony in Regina, Allen's teacher, DTI veteran instructor, Ernestine McNeil commented, "It is a pleasure to have Allen in my class. My younger students see him as a role model who wants to learn new things."

Allen is a 67-year-young single parent with four children. Losing his spouse in September 1997, Allen helped raise his children by working in the mines. After he was laid off, Allen then stayed home with his grandchildren to help take care of them. Once all of his grandchildren entered school, Allen decided to enroll at DTI in La Loche to learn how to read and write.

Not one to speak unnecessarily, Allen quietly leads by example, demonstrating the profound impact that embracing education can have at any stage of life. DTI La Loche staff and Allen's fellow classmates extend their congratulations to Allen on his meritorious achievement. 🌍

As Allen said last fall, "I worked for about forty years in the Cluff Lake and Rabbit Lake Mines. When I was laid off in 2016, I was 60 years old. After that, I had nothing to do, and that is why I am



The Honourable Russ Mirasty, Allen Janvier, and Donna Woloshyn

MICHIF

WORDS OF THE MONTH

KATAWASHISHIHK
Loveliness

ENN MITRES D'IKOL
Teacher

KAKIMOOWUN
Rainfall

BONN SAANTII
Healthy

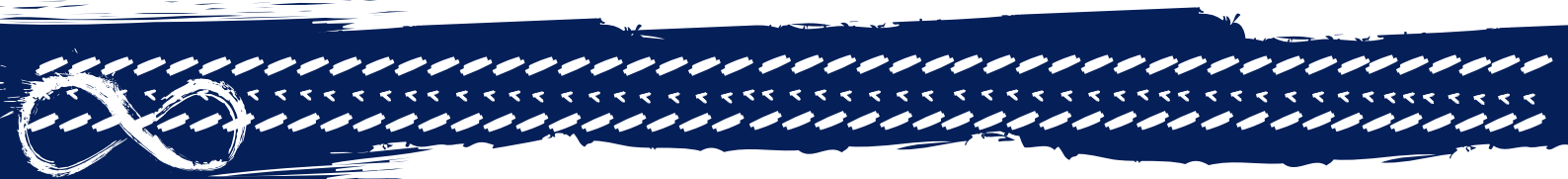
CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH WEEK WITH DTI

By DTI Program Support Staff

Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) spotlighted student wellness for Canadian Mental Health Week starting May 6th, 2024. Across the province, DTI Program Support Facilitators (PSF) work tirelessly to ensure that our students have the resources and guidance to help them reach their full potential. Together, the DTI PSF team partners with local organizations on several initiatives that provide students access to crisis, prevention, and food security services. Here is some of the wisdom that they shared with students on mental health week:

"There is an open-door policy: if the door is open and you need to talk, come on in. Time is always made for the students. [...] Students have said, "I'm sorry to dump all this on you. I know you're busy." We make sure they know they are the reason we are here. We will always make time for them because they matter and what they are going through matters." — Darcie Debruyne, Regina Campus PSF

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UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS



Residential Housing Maintenance Worker

Prince Albert

June 10th



Adult Basic Education

Various

June 30th



Mental Health & Wellness Program
Buffalo Narrows or Ile-à-la-Crosse

June 30th



Practical Nursing

Prince Albert

Ongoing



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

NEW PRACTICAL NURSING LAB OPENS DOORS FOR STUDENTS IN PRINCE ALBERT, SK

By Trenna Vanghel, DTI Program Coordinator

After more than two decades of visits to Saskatchewan Polytechnic's Lab, the Practical Nursing program at Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) in Prince Albert now boasts its own state-of-the-art facility. The recent renovation has transformed the educational landscape for aspiring nurses, marking a significant milestone for the Institute.

For over 20 years, students enrolled in the DTI's Practical Nursing program made scheduled visits to Saskatchewan Polytechnic's Lab to access necessary facilities and equipment. However, this arrangement limited students' opportunities for hands-on practice and instructor guidance. Recognizing the need for a dedicated space, DTI took the initiative to revamp the existing setup.

The transformation was no small feat. Walls were torn down, storage solutions were integrated, and an extensive array of equipment was procured. From nursing beds to IV pumps, every detail was meticulously planned to ensure that the new lab met the standards expected of a modern nursing facility. Thousands of disposables, including gloves and syringes, were also sourced to support the student's practical learning needs. Lindsay Demers and Kara Blackburn have put in a huge amount of work and effort ordering, unpacking, and organizing the lab to be intuitive and align with best practices over the past year, as well as adapting to a new classroom space and guiding the program in this transitional phase.

The completion of the Practical Nursing Lab marks a significant shift in the program's structure and accessibility. With the facility now available on-site, students have the flexibility to utilize the lab during their free time, allowing for more frequent and immersive



practice sessions. This increased access is expected to deepen students' understanding of course content and enhance their practical skills, ultimately contributing to improved academic outcomes.

Moreover, the new lab provides instructors with a dedicated space to demonstrate and scaffold practical skills effectively. With enhanced teaching capabilities, instructors can now offer tailored guidance and support to students, fostering a more dynamic learning environment.

The significance of this milestone is further underscored by the program's recent expansion. DTI Practical Nursing is gearing up to welcome another cohort this upcoming year, marking the first time the program will have two nursing cohorts running simultaneously. This growth reflects the increasing demand for qualified nursing professionals and underscores the importance of providing students with the resources they need to succeed.

As the Practical Nursing program enters a new era with its revamped curriculum and expanded facilities, the future looks brighter than ever for aspiring nurses in Prince Albert. With access to a fully-equipped lab at their fingertips, students are poised to embark on a journey of learning and discovery that will prepare them for fulfilling careers in healthcare. 🌐





SUNTEP 2024 GRADUATES TEACHING & LEADING THE NEXT GENERATION

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Regina SUNTEP Graduating Class '24



Saskatoon SUNTEP Graduating Class '24



P.A. SUNTEP Graduating Class '24



Canadian Mental Health Week Photo Collage

On May 3rd, SUNTEP Regina honoured seven remarkable graduates, and a large number of SUNTEP alumni and staff were present to welcome their newest colleagues. The students chose the theme “Journey of Excellence,” which denotes their perseverance and dedication through the pandemic to reach this goal. The graduates also recognized SUNTEP Regina Faculty, Natalie McNabb, with the Order of the Sash for her service.

On May 11th, SUNTEP Saskatoon held its graduation ceremony for 23 exceptional graduates. Valedictorian, and 2024 Order of Gabriel Dumont Bronze Medal recipient, Kendall Hanikenne remarked, “We have forged life-long friendships, discovered skills and passions, and overcome obstacles that once seemed insurmountable.” Elder Harriet Oakes

St. Pierre shared words of hope for the future of education, and the importance of education to help shape the hearts and minds of future generations.

On May 16th, SUNTEP Prince Albert celebrated 22 extraordinary graduates. The ceremony was attended by superintendents from both the Public and Catholic school divisions highlighting strong community relationships and the support that these graduates have received in their practicum teaching placements.

GDI is proud of all these graduates have accomplished, and now they are in an important position to become influential role models for the next generation of students.



CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH WEEK WITH DTI

Story Continued from Page 2

“DTI wants our students to know that they are not alone and that we are here to help and support them. We can provide them with the resources we have and connect them with professionals trained in the areas they need.” — Dakota Baker, Saskatoon Campus PSF

“We believe in creating a campus environment where students feel heard, valued, and supported. By promoting a culture of empathy, understanding, and collaboration, we aim to foster a community where every

student’s mental health is a priority.” — Shaylyn Bouvier, Northern Sask. PSF

“Our campus is a warm and inviting space. Students walk into greetings and conversation from the instructors and support staff as they make their way to their classes. We notice students who may have been away and welcome them back upon their return.” — Bonny Johnson, Prince Albert Campus PSF

To read the full Canadian Mental Health Week feature, please visit our website: <https://gdins.org/dti-student-mental-health/>



GDI PRESS PUBLICATIONS FAIR WELL AT THE SASKATCHEWAN BOOK AWARDS

By Karon Shmon, GDI Director of Culture & Heritage

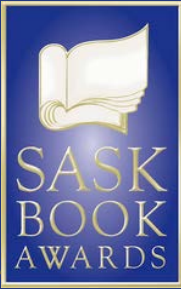
Congratulations to Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Press which garnered two wins at the 2024 Saskatchewan Book Awards. *kôhkominawak oichîwâwa—Our Grandmother's Hands: Repatriating Métis Material Art* by Gregory Scofield won two awards: The Indigenous Peoples' Publishing Award and the Publishing in Education Award. The book also made the shortlist for the Publishing Award. Unfortunately, Gregory was ineligible for the writing awards because he does not reside in Saskatchewan. This book contains hundreds of beautiful photos of Métis material culture, from clothing to accessories, like hats, gloves, mittens, and bags, to home décor, such as window valences, wall pockets, and doilies. Gregory has personally been repatriating handmade goods by previous generations Métis women—items located in museums and private collections around the world. Early collectors admired the unmistakable beauty and artistry of

these items and acquired them through trade, gifts, or purchase. These pieces display the hard work and artistry of Métis women who often had to part with them to supplement their family's income, and even to survive, after the 1885 Resistance displaced and impoverished many Métis families. The book also contains an historical overview on Métis material culture by Dr. Sherry Farrell Racette. The book will change the way art and museum curators and private collectors identify and attribute provenance to the pieces in their collections as so many are mislabeled. It is Gregory Scofield's hope that all of these "grandmothers" return home to the Métis. We are grateful to his insights and efforts.

Congratulations also to Joan Pelletier. Her book, *Lebret—Looking Back and Beyond: An Autobiography*, was nominated for the First Book Award, an accolade in itself considering the high volume of books submitted. 🌍

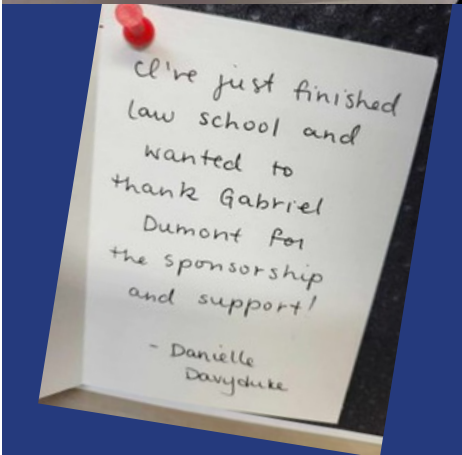
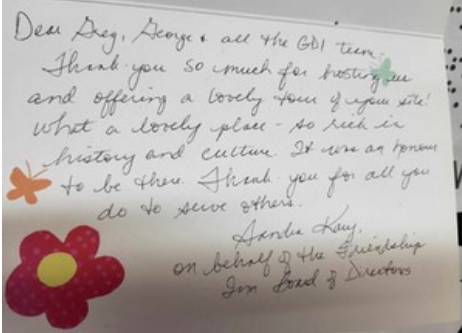


Also nominated...



AVAILABLE AT GDINS.ORG/SHOP-GDI

APPRECIATION POSTCARDS



JUNE 2024 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

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



