



THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



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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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GDI ATTEND THE MAWACHIHITOTAAK 2024: LET'S GET TOGETHER MÉTIS STUDIES SYMPOSIUM

By Darren Préfontaine, GDI Culture & Heritage Research Coordinator

Staff from the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Métis Culture and Heritage Department spent the week of September 23–27, 2024 in Winnipeg for the Mawachihitotaak 2024: Let's Get Together Métis Studies Symposium at the University of Manitoba. Our first full day in Winnipeg included a visit to the Canadian Museum of Human Rights. The museum itself is stunning and is located at the Forks—the picturesque junction of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers in the heart of Winnipeg. The museum's many exhibits are very poignant and demonstrate humanity's long and arduous, but still incomplete, journey to respect human rights. The museum focuses much of its attention on Canada's torturous and relatively recent commitment to respect the human rights of all its people. The evocative Métis exhibits in the museum—including panels by Sherry Farrell Racette and the world's largest beaded

Métis Octopus bag by Jennine Krauchi—demonstrate Métis resilience and resistance in the face of settler colonization.

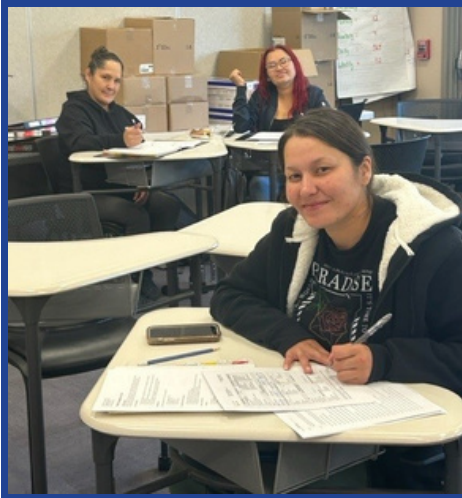
GDI Métis Culture and Heritage staff attended the first two days of the Mawachihitotaak symposium, which brought together Métis thinkers and community activists from across the Métis Homeland. It was a wonderful learning experience for our department, and it was a great opportunity to both connect and reconnect with others working in the field of Métis Studies. Conference hosts provided a welcoming and safe environment for all those in attendance.

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La Loche ABE Level 4 Class of 2024-2025



DTI WELCOMES A NEW ABE INSTRUCTOR IN LA LOCHE

By Tracy LaPrise, DTI Program Coordinator

Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) received notice in August that the La Loche Adult Basic Education (ABE) Level 4 instructor would not be returning. The recruitment process began immediately. Hiring is always a daunting process because La Loche is a hard to recruit area and the program was set to start on September 3rd, 2024. The team had to work quickly to not lose this valuable program in La Loche. DTI selected Rena Lamaigre who was working at the Dene Highschool, teaching Grade 8. DTI was very fortunate to welcome Rena to the team!



Rena Lamaigre, DTI Instructor

Rena is a 2020 Dene Teaching Education Program graduate and is the ABE Level 4 instructor at the La Loche campus. With Rena's first language being Dene, she can communicate with our Dene students in their first language. This is not only an asset to create better communication and understanding of the curriculum objectives, but it helps to keep the Dene language strong and thriving.

Rena shows up every day with a smile and positivity to help the students reach their educational goals. Grade 12 (Level 4) is a difficult program, and Rena has tackled it head on with the student success being her focus. Rena shared a message regarding her new appointment below:

My name is Rena Lemaigre, originally from La Loche. I recently started working with the Dumont Technical Institute as a Level 4 Faculty in La Loche, Saskatchewan. I started my teaching career 5 years ago, taught junior high, gradually moving forward and started working with the adult learners. I enjoy helping people and working with students is the best part of the day and spending time with family.

Having the experience as an educator is sometimes challenging and sometimes rewarding, it can be fun teaching the students while learning with the students at the same time. The challenge I am facing for a first-time teaching adult learners is sometimes I wonder "what if" and how am I going to incorporate the teaching strategies and to complete all units assigned in a timely manner. Also, for the adult learners to feel supported while rooted habits and having family obligations. Personally, I believe to be a student successful is having the motivation and dedication to learning despite the barriers to making a difference and to being resilience. The best part of being a Denesuline is having strong connection with my people, understanding each other and helping one another. Do not take life for granted.

Marsi-cho!

Rena Lemaigre 🌐

MICHIF WORDS OF THE MONTH

NIKOOHTAY LI BWAA
Chop Wood

KII PAHKISHIN
Fallen

NOO WITIHTIKO
Immune

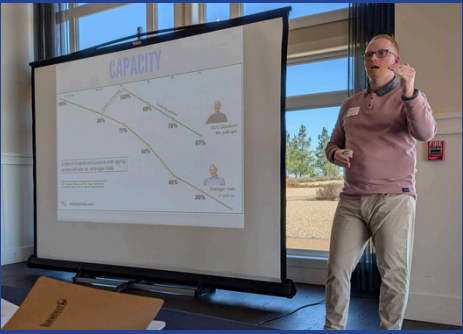
FANAAL
Lantern

THE INSTITUTE WILL BE
CLOSED FOR THE
HOLIDAYS FROM
DEC. 23 — JAN. 1ST.

REGULAR HOURS
RESUME ON THURSDAY
JANUARY 2ND, 2025.



Above: Kenny Bodvarson
Below: Adrian Cochet, and Glenn at Crossmount retreat centre.



HARMONIZING BUSINESS AND WELLNESS: A RETREAT RECAP

By **Jacob Dumont and Nicole Denbow**, GDI TE Pathways to Entrepreneurship

On Friday, October 18th, 2024, a group of dedicated professionals from Saskatoon and the surrounding area gathered at the Glenn at Crossmount for the inaugural Harmonize business retreat. This full-day event offered a unique opportunity to explore the intersection of health and work-life balance for small business owners. Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Pathways for Entrepreneurship sponsored the event, and many of the retreat leaders were GDI clients and Métis business owners.

A variety of small businesses participated, including massage therapists, interior decorators, electricians, and construction contractors. They represented a diverse variety of people from all different ages, cultural backgrounds, and genders. Together they delved into a range of health-related topics. The retreat covered essential aspects, such as physical activity, sleep, breathwork, diet, stress management, and stress relief. Through engaging activities and discussions, attendees gained valuable insight into how these factors can significantly impact their performance and overall well-being.


The Harmonize retreat was a resounding success, thanks to the exceptional facilitation by Kenny Bodvarson (Elevate Counselling), Josh Buchanan (Magnaltus Consulting), Nina Lane (Nina Lane Wellness), and guest speaker Adrian Cochet (Cochet Physiotherapy and Performance Coach). Their enthusiasm and expertise created a welcoming and informative atmosphere. The event provided a platform for networking and collaboration among participants, fostering meaningful connections within the business community.

As the day concluded, attendees left feeling inspired and equipped with practical strategies to improve their work-life balance. Many of the participants at the end of the retreat asked when the next one would be scheduled and had ideas for future topics. Organizers hope that the retreat will become an annual tradition. The Harmonize Retreat was a valuable experience highlighting the importance of prioritizing health and wellness in the fast-paced business world. 🌍


UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS



Practical Nursing Diploma
Regina
Ongoing

Adult Basic Education
Various
Ongoing



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

WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS

MNU 2024 STUDENT SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

By **Bethani Groat**, Communications Coordinator

The Métis Nation University (MNU) conducts an annual survey of the students who have received funding to understand the program's impact. This year 331 clients responded to the online survey or 28% of students who received funding in 2024. The survey is not anonymous, so that may influence some respondents answers. The follow-up survey is an important part of administering the sponsorship funds to be able to report to Métis Nation—Saskatchewan.

Story continues on the next page...



Overall Satisfaction Rating for the Administration of MNU



Overall Satisfaction Rating for the USponsorship Team



Overall Satisfaction Rating for AdobeSign





ORDER OF GABRIEL DUMONT NOMINATION DEADLINE EXTENDED



The Order of Gabriel Dumont is awarded by the Gabriel Dumont Institute to a small number of persons who have serviced the Métis of Canada with distinction. The award itself, however, is made to persons without regard to ethnicity. The Order of Gabriel Dumont medals have been awarded since the 1980s. Investment into the Order is one of the Métis Nation's highest civilian honours.

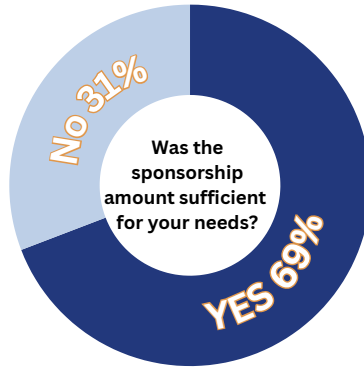
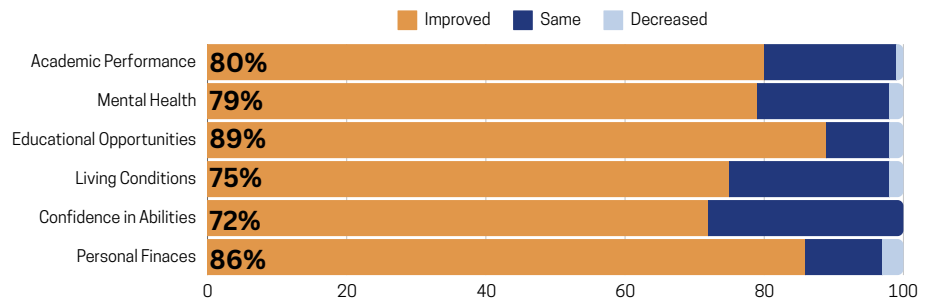
Nominations for 2025 will be accepted until November 15, 2024.

For more info:
www.gdins.org/the-order-of-gabriel-dumont-call-for-nominations



MNU 2024 STUDENT SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

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The stress level of students and their families decreased for approximately 90% of respondents. Also, 97% said they feel better about their future prospects. Approximately 90% of students said that they felt more connected to their culture, community, and they were able to access more cultural support and information as a result of the MNU program. **99.5% of students said that they feel more proud to be Métis!**

GDI ATTEND THE MAWACHIHITOTAAK 2024...

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The days were busy with staff attending sessions and visiting with old and new friends and colleagues as well as engaging in other social activities. The symposium had sessions and panels on a whole variety of topics, including Métis spirituality and religion, reconnecting with community, Indigenous identity fraud and its impacts on young Métis academics, hockey and the Métis, Michif-language revitalization, mapping Métis places, Métis community and family histories, intergenerational trauma within Métis families, Métis feminism, and Métis foodways among many other fascinating topics. For more information about the symposium, visit this link:

<https://www.mawachihitotaak.com>

There were several poignant moments at the symposium. Two stand out for me.

In the keynote address, Charlotte Nolin, a 60s Scoop Survivor and a two-spirited

Elder shared her life story and how she learned to love and accept herself, and in the panel of the River Women Collective's Experience in Walking with Our Stories—which included the good work of Batoche-area Métis women to highlight murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls—GDI staff member, Amy Briley shared the tragic story of her murdered cousin, Megan Gallagher. There was not a dry eye in the audience as Amy recounted the harrowing journey that her family had to bring Megan home. As a member of the Walking with Our Sisters River Women Collective, Amy was asked by the panel members to share Megan's story with the audience.

Our week in Winnipeg was very enjoyable and was a great bonding experience for the department. Staff members engaged in a variety of social activities and got to know each other a little better.



ORANGE SHIRT DAY WITH GDI



GDI Head Office, Saskatoon



SUNTEP P.A.



DTMental Health & Wellness, Meadow Lake



ABE Saskatoon



SUNTEP Regina



SUNTEP Saskatoon



NSITEP, La Ronge



GABRIEL DUMONT SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION SEEKING TRUSTEES

In accordance with the Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation Trust, Appointment of Trustees, "All such appointees shall be persons of Métis ancestry, at least (2) of whom shall be women." At present, we are seeking to fill the two designated positions for women.

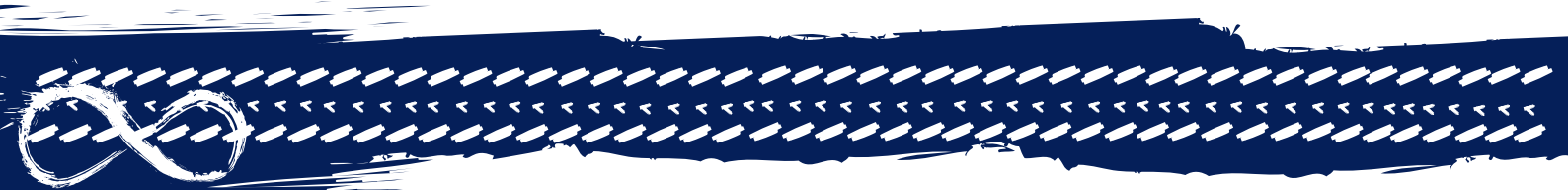
Interested candidates can apply with their resume and statement of intent for this volunteer position by November 15th, 2024.

MORE INFO AT: WWW.GDINS.ORG

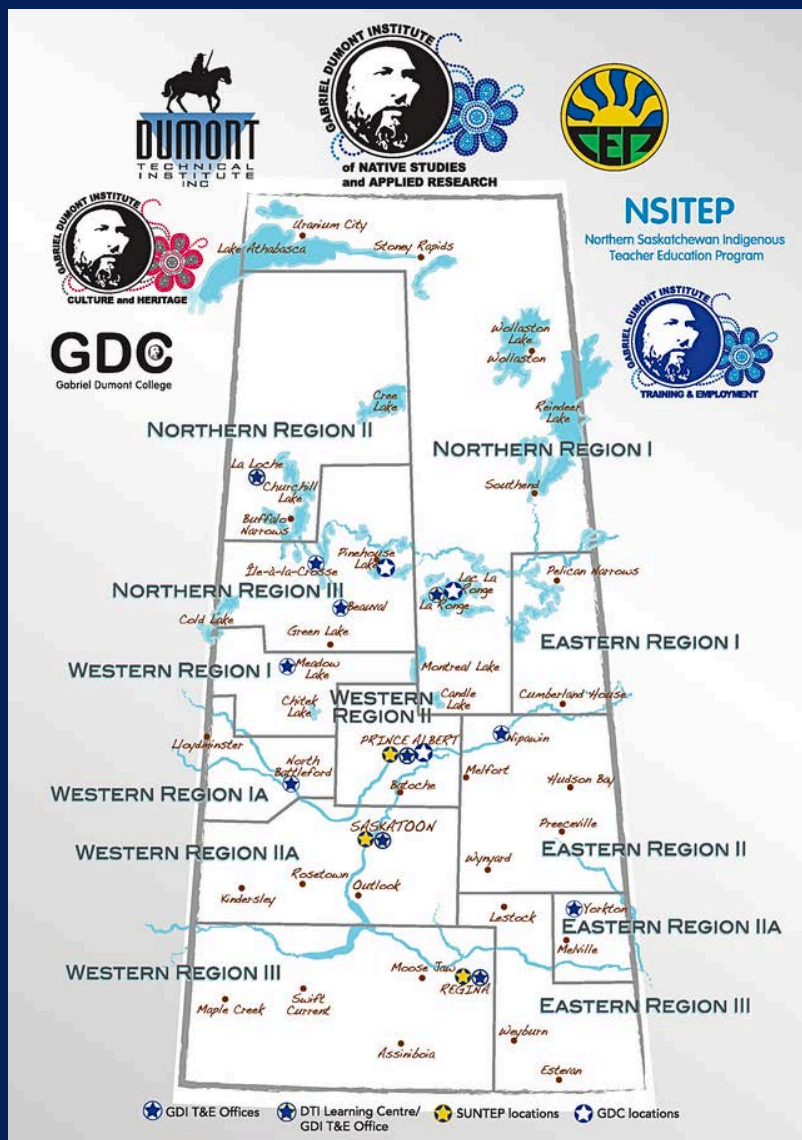
NOVEMBER 2024 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					ISETS Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on MNU Student Nov 8 Direct Deposits		A/P Cheque/EFT Run Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheets & Payroll Revisions for Nov 15 Payday	MNU Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Remembrance Day Stat Holiday	Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on ISETS Student Nov 15 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Staff Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices ISETS Student Payday	Louis Riel Day
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Stat Holiday	Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on MNU Student Nov 22 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/P Invs - Timesheets & Payroll Revisions for Nov 29 Payday MNU Student Payday	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on ISETS Student Nov 29 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Staff Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices ISETS 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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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 Bethani Groat bethani.groat@gdins.org

