



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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LETS GET SOCIAL



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@GDINS_ORG

WWW.GDINS.ORG

REMEMBERING DENNIS LANGAN

By GDI Communications Team

The Gabriel Dumont Institute Board of Governors and Staff extends heartfelt condolences to the family and loved ones of Dennis Langan. Dennis passed away on December 12, 2024. He was an actively serving member of the GDI Board of Governors, representing Eastern Region IIA with pride since 2015. He served for a total of 15 years on and off since 1992. The Institute has benefited greatly from his continued hard work and advocacy on the Board.

Dennis spent most of his adult life in the service of others, whether he was elected to serve locally or provincially, or volunteering. His lived experience, focused and fair approaches, and calm, friendly demeanor helped guide the Institute as it flourished and grew. Dennis proudly represented the Institute during his service as a board member. His leadership contributed to the grand opening of the Institute's

newly renovated and expanded facility in Saskatoon. With heartfelt expression, he was pleased to help present the Order of Gabriel Dumont to the Métis whose outstanding contributions led to the award. GDI was honoured by his attendance at the Indigenous Education Doctorate launch in September 2024 where he celebrated the progress of Métis education and culture. We owe Dennis a *kischi maarsii*, a big thank you, for his years of dedication and service.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and community. To honour our friend and colleague, we encourage those interested in honouring his legacy to get involved in their communities and do something kind for someone in his memory. 🌍





APPLY TODAY!



Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NSITEP)

La Ronge

Feb 15



Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP)

Saskatoon, Regina, or Prince Albert

Feb 15



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

WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS

MICHIF

WORDS OF THE MONTH

SHUSHKITEW

Ablaze

SHOOVREU DI NORR

Reindeer

ENN SHIMNII

Chimney

ZHWAYEU

Joyful

EMPOWER YOUR BUSINESS: SOCIAL MEDIA CERTIFICATE COURSE FOR METIS ENTREPRENEURS

By Brendon Demerais, Pathways to Entrepreneurship Program Coordinator

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) is excited to offer a transformative opportunity for Métis entrepreneurs to enhance their digital marketing skills through a partnership with Blue Moose Media's Social Media Certificate course. This comprehensive training course will equip participants with the tools to grow their businesses by creating engaging content, deploying strategic advertising, and building impactful branding. GDI first provided the certificate training in 2017 and has been revising and updating the curriculum to adapt and cater to the ever-changing digital marketing and e-commerce landscape.

In today's digital age, a strong online presence is vital for small businesses to thrive. Social media platforms are powerful tools for generating brand awareness, connecting with customers, building brand loyalty, and driving sales. For Métis-owned businesses, embracing social media can also help amplify cultural identity, reach rural customers, and foster deeper connections with their communities. Never have people spent more time being connected and interacting with their digital devices.

With the growing integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in digital marketing, small businesses can create high-quality content more efficiently than ever before. AI tools (such as Chat GPT, among others) streamline the process of generating captions, designing visuals, and analyzing data to identify what resonates most with audiences. This course emphasizes using these cutting-edge technologies to maximize the impact of your social media efforts.

This program is divided into two immersive three-day sessions, totaling 48 hours of hands-on training with expert instructors. The first section reviews Social Media Fundamentals like implementing organic strategies, optimizing social profiles, and developing stand-out content. The second part dives into Social Media Advertising and how to craft compelling ads, design high-performing landing pages, and convert online visitors into loyal customers. Graduates will leave with a certificate of completion, a comprehensive workbook, and tailored advice to apply directly to their businesses.

Within the first month of registration, all 30 seats were filled by Métis Nation —Saskatchewan registered small business owners. GDI completed the first session in Saskatoon in December 2024, and the participants are looking forward to the second session in January 2025. A Regina cohort will be offered in February and March 2025.





UPCOMING APPLICATION DEADLINES



Practical Nursing
Saskatoon or P.A.

Jan 31



Early Childhood Education
Saskatoon

Ongoing



Phlebotomy
Saskatoon

Feb 19



Office Admin
Regina

Ongoing



Adult Basic Education
Various

Ongoing



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

DTI EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION STUDENTS TAKE LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

By Katherine Moon, DTI Faculty

In November, Early Childhood Education II (ECE II) students from the Dumont Technical Institute in Saskatoon took their learning beyond the classroom with an educational field trip to Nutrien Wonderhub, Saskatchewan’s only children’s museum. This hands-on experience allowed students to apply concepts from their coursework in a unique, real-world setting dedicated to children’s play and learning.

During their time at Nutrien Wonderhub, students explored how intentional play-based environments support children’s development and were able to connect these observations back to their studies regarding the importance of play in early learning. Each exhibit within the museum is designed to foster curiosity, creativity, and social engagement in young visitors—a concept that students had discussed extensively in their ECE II coursework. Observing the ways children interacted with the exhibits highlighted, for the students, how effective play spaces encourage active learning and support developmental milestones.

The experience was further enriched by conversations with volunteer Early Childhood Educators at Wonderhub, who shared their own perspectives on creating educational programs that inspire and engage. These exchanges gave students practical insights into the roles of ECE professionals in designing inclusive and developmentally appropriate programming, directly linking to their learning objectives on the importance of child-led learning and responsive caregiving.

Through this field trip, students gained a deeper appreciation for the theories they are studying, seeing firsthand how play-centered spaces and educational programming translate into meaningful developmental outcomes for children. The Wonderhub experience strengthened their understanding of the critical role that ECE professionals play in crafting engaging, intergenerational learning environments and even provided an opportunity for the students to play and learn as well. 🌟



Photos submitted by Colleen Boyer





SUNTEP SASKATOON HOSTS LOUIS RIEL DAY DINNER ON CAMPUS



Photos submitted by Sheila Pocha

TAANISHI! GREETINGS FROM THE GDI LIBRARY

By Kim Kovacs, Ayu Dayat, and Karlee Puckey, GDI Librarians

The past 18 months have brought significant changes to the GDI Library. In August 2023, the Regina branch relocated from its long-standing home on the University of Regina campus to the Institute's building at 1235 2nd Avenue North.

In June 2024, Nicolle DeGagné transitioned from the Prince Albert branch to a new position with the Saskatchewan Health Authority in Saskatoon, and Marilyn Belhumeur retired from the Regina branch after nearly 40 years of dedicated service. Remaining staff Karlee Puckey (Saskatoon) and Kim Kovacs (Regina) were happy to welcome some new faces:

- Ky Hagen joined the Regina branch as a casual library assistant in November.
- Ayu Dayat became the Library Resource Facilitator in Prince Albert in December.
- Student assistants Adrianna Luce (Regina) and Saffron Powell (Prince Albert) contributed valuable support to our team over the summer and fall terms.

While there have been many transitions, the Library remains committed to providing high-quality services to Institute staff, students, and the Michif community. Whether supporting Institute staff in their day-to-day work and professional development, or students with their educational and career pursuits, the GDI Library continues to prioritize the needs of the Institute community. In addition, our physical collections are open to the broader community, and our spaces welcome anyone interested in learning more about Métis culture and history.

Here are some services we offer:

- Lending of most physical materials and in-house use of the rest;
- Intralibrary loan of materials between GDI branches (current students and staff only);
- Access to thousands of licensed and open-access digital resources, including databases, journals, newspapers, and magazines (licensed materials are restricted to student/staff use only);
- One-on-one assistance with research (including genealogical research) and citation styles;
- Computers for in-library use, along with free Wi-Fi;
- Support for basic tech troubleshooting;
- Space for cultural activities (beading groups, storytelling, etc.);
- Drop-in study and gathering spaces;
- Free course-related printing for students (personal printing available for a small fee);
- Space for in-class instruction or group work (please book in advance);
- Group information literacy instruction on topics like APA formatting, plagiarism prevention, evaluation of research sources, media literacy, genealogical research, etc. (Regina and Prince Albert);
- Self-checkout of library materials (Saskatoon and Prince Albert).

The GDI Library is dedicated to fostering a supportive and welcoming environment for our diverse community, and we can offer some of these services even if you're not located in close physical proximity to one of our branches. Please don't hesitate to drop by! 🌍





GDITE PRESENTS PERSEVERANCE AWARD



The Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission (SATCC) hosted their 24th Annual Apprenticeship Celebration Dinner in December 2024. Gabriel Dumont Institute Training & Employment (GDITE) attended to present the Perseverance Award to a Métis Apprentice who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the skills trades, persevered against great odds, and embodies the Métis values. This year the award was presented to Kyle Gordon by Debbie Stavely, Bonnie Hartman, and Audrey Hestand. Kyle accepted the award alongside his father, Brad. The evening was a wonderful culmination of years of hard work. Congratulations Kyle!



Photos submitted by Bonnie Hartman

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Maarii Krissmiss, Jwyeu Nowel, and Bonn Annii

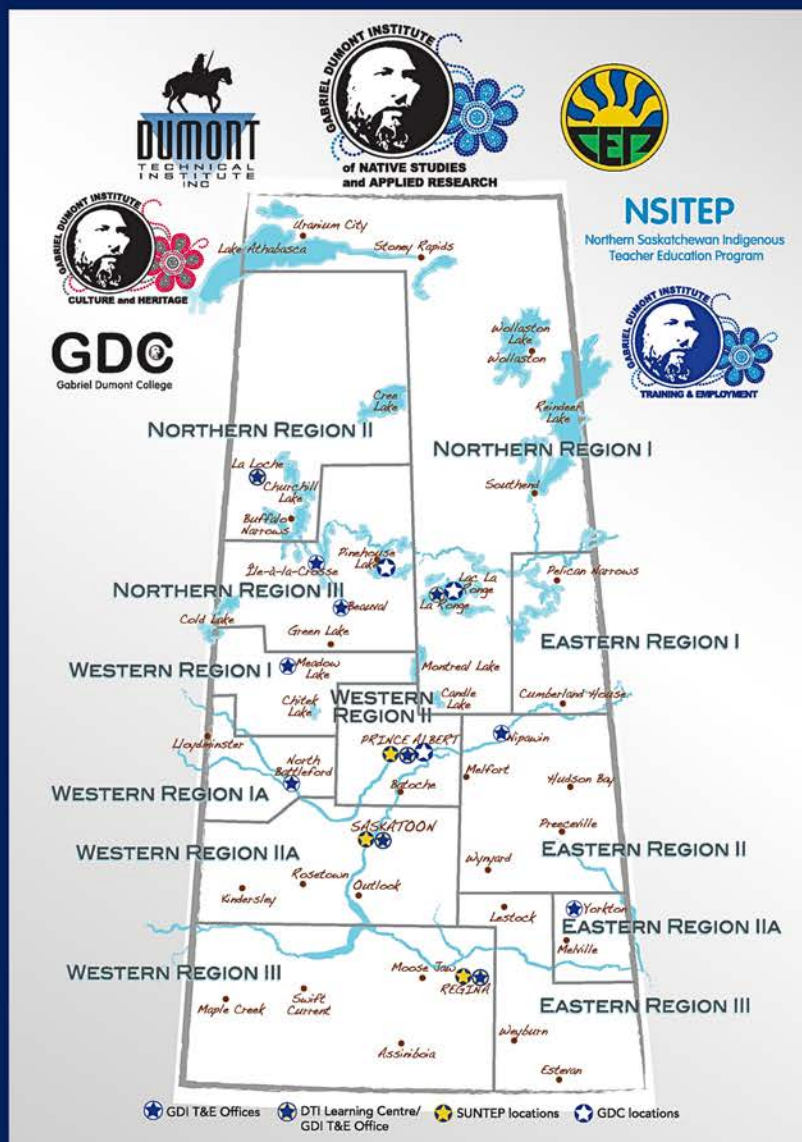
JANUARY 2025 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

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



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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

