



# 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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## LA RONGE CELEBRATES INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY-BASED MASTER OF EDUCATION PROGRAM GRADUATES

By Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

On July 25th, 2024, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) and the University of Regina (U of R) celebrated the Indigenous Community-Based Master of Education Program graduates in La Ronge. The 13 graduates come from communities all over the north including Fond du Lac, Stanley Mission, Makwa, Beauval, Montreal Lake, Pelican Narrows, Cumberland House, Stony Rapids, and La Ronge.

The ceremony opened with a prayer in Cree by Elder Kelvin McKay, and a prayer in Dene by "Elder in training" and 2024 graduate, Joyce Torrie. Nick Daigneault, Mayor of Beauval, and Director of Northlands College hosted the evening with laughter and grace. Chief Tammy Cook-Searson of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB) brought greetings to the graduates and gifted the LLRIB graduates with star blankets to commemorate their accomplishments.

The Honourable Russ Mirasty, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan was in attendance to celebrate his daughter-in-law's graduation, and he shared a few words about the resilience and strength of Northern Saskatchewan with the graduating class.

Dr. Xia Ji, Associate Dean of Research & Graduate Programs, brought greetings on behalf of the U of R. She shared a personal story about the importance of preserving cultural heritage and teachings from her own family in China, and she advised the graduates that cultural work is equally important to their educational pursuits.

**Story continues on Page 4...**







**EDUCATION  
PROFESSIONALISM AWARD  
FOR EXCELLENCE IN  
TEACHING AT USASK  
AWARDED TO SUNTEP  
GRADUATE**



Hailey Lafond received the University of Saskatchewan College of Education top award at the 2024 Spring Convocation.

Hailey Lafond graduated with her Bachelor of Education degree from SUNTEP Saskatoon, and she served as the Vice-President on the SUNTEP Student Representative Council. She has accepted a teaching position with the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division for 2024-2025 teaching French Immersion. Hailey is a remarkable example of the Métis spirit and role-model to her students.

**TAKE THE LEAP!**

**By Jessie Warkentine, GDI Summer Student**

I always intended to apply for a corporate position within the Gabriel Dumont Institute this summer to help fund the last year of my English degree. I initially assumed it would be an HR or administrative position. When offered the opportunity to work in the Finance Department, I was hesitant as I felt woefully underqualified and inexperienced. However, it was the choice to move past this anxiety that allowed me to truly embrace what has become a fantastic learning opportunity—both professionally and personally. Although I may not be the oldest or the wisest, let me impart a few key things I have learned this summer through this internship.

Firstly, remember to appreciate where you are, even while you look to the future. While this job exists as a stepping-stone to furthering my professional goals, it has given me a unique opportunity to help give back to the same community that has been backing me. Through my work, I have been able to help with scholarship applications and grants for Métis students funded by the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan. As a Métis student myself, I understand better than anyone how critical this funding can be in granting students both a hope for their future and a small peace of mind in their present. With this funding, issues about money can take a backseat to essays, research projects, and truly learning the subject matter. I am infinitely thankful for the chance to play a small part in the process of granting this funding.

Secondly, you are more qualified than you think you are. Training and mistakes are quintessential aspects of a new job and vital for growth. A new experience, like a new career, forces self-examination and makes me aware of which skills I need to focus on improving versus which skills I had a firmer foundation in. Additionally, it helped me see which skills can be applied in unexpected ways — who knew I had such a penchant for alphabetization? Where my skills or knowledge base fell short is when the team stepped in and stepped up, refusing to let me stumble. Although I often do not know what I am doing or understand the minute technicalities, I feel more capable and sure of my abilities. With a mindset towards growth and a willingness to view mistakes as learning opportunities, inexperience can become just a larger depth of experience for you to gain.

Lastly, I would leave you with a piece of Jon Accuff's wisdom: "the fear of looking stupid is holding you back more than actual stupidity ever could." Do not let your own self-doubts stand in the way of your success—apply for the job you are underqualified for, bake the recipe that was daunting to you, take the risk, and learn to add sugar next time. 🌍

**Maarsii,  
Jessie Warkentine**



**MICHIF  
WORDS OF  
THE MONTH**

**IKSITII**

Excited

**NAKAMOO**

Somebody's singing

**AYKISHIITAYMOOT**

Pride

**KOOCHIW**

Trying

**Dumont Technical Institute  
2024-2027 Business Plan now available at:  
[www.gdins.org/reports](http://www.gdins.org/reports)**







Office Administration Class of 2024, Regina



P.A. Adult Basic Education Class of 2024

## UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS



**Mental Health and Wellness Diploma**  
Buffalo Narrows or Île-à-la-Crosse

**Ongoing**




**Early Childhood Educator Level 2**  
Saskatoon

**Ongoing**




**Adult Basic Education**  
La Loche or Île-à-la-Crosse

**August 16**




**Educational Assistant**  
La Loche

**Ongoing**



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

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

## DTI GRADUATES POISED TO ENTER WORKFORCE

By Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator, & Christine LaPrise, DTI Administrative Coordinator

Another successful year of professional skills training has concluded for Dumont Technical Institute (DTI). Since 1992, DTI has been training Métis students from across the province to learn a new vocation, enter the workforce and improve their local communities. In 2024, approximately 200 students graduated or were successful in their first year of studies from a DTI skills training course across the province.

In Regina, 15 students graduated with an Office Administration Certificate on June 28, 2024. Several graduates have already received job offers! Also, the Continuing Care Assistant (CCA) program celebrated four graduates on May 30, 2024. The Regina Practical Nursing (PN) program ended the 2023-2024 program year with 13 students working towards graduation in 2025.

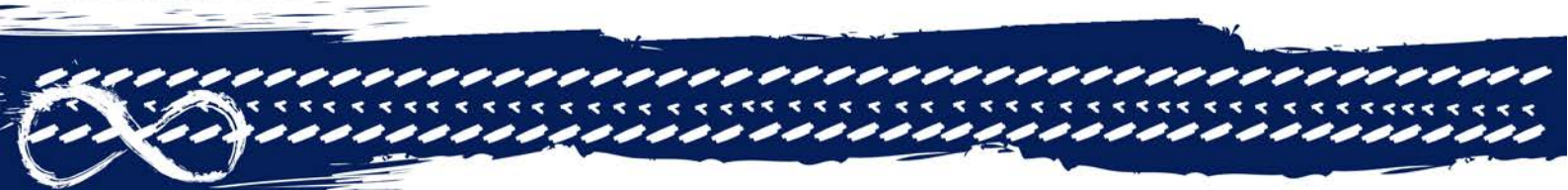
In Saskatoon, five students successfully completed their Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Level 1 Certificate on June 28, 2024, and four graduated with their ECE Level 2 Certificate on May 10, 2024. Additionally, six students successfully completed all program requirements from the Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) program on June 28, 2024. Training Métis healthcare workers remains a priority for DTI, and the CCA program celebrated five graduates on May 31, 2024. Meanwhile, there are 12 second-year PN students continuing to work towards their diplomas in 2025.

In Prince Albert, the CCA program celebrated five graduates on May 31, 2024, and the PN program will see eight students continue into year two of their program. Meanwhile, eight graduates from the Heavy Equipment Truck & Transportation (HETT) program received their certificates on June 21, 2024.

In the northern regions, seven CCA graduates received their certificates in Île-à-la-Crosse on May 17, 2024. There were five graduates receiving their Educational Assistant Certificate in La Loche. Also, 12 completed Driver Training in Green Lake, and seven received Chainsaw and Brush Saw Safety Tickets in Jans Bay. The Introduction to Carpentry – Home Build Program helped six students receive their Pre-Employment Carpentry certificates while helping the Île-à-la-Crosse School Division #112 build a home for future teachers.

The Outdoor Equipment Repair Program teaches the skills necessary to diagnose, maintain, and repair small engine craft such as wild rice harvesting boats. The program had 10 successful completers in Beauval, two successful completers in Buffalo Narrows, and five successful completers in Meadow Lake. Additionally, The Mental Health and Wellness program is proud to see 16 students continuing their studies into year two of their diploma program in Meadow Lake.

DTI graduates from all programs are poised to enter the workforce and start making a difference in their communities. DTI is proud to partner with many employers to help Métis graduates secure employment opportunities and meet the labour demands in their communities. The professional skills that each graduate has developed are complimented by the culturally affirming learning environment to understand Métis history and culture more deeply—a valuable perspective in any industry. From all the board and staff at the Gabriel Dumont Institute, we wish each graduate success on the next chapter of your journey and stay in touch with your roots. 🌐







## TOP HONOURS FOR MÉTIS LAW SCHOOL GRADUATES



Two Métis women, who also received the Order of Gabriel Dumont Bronze Medal in May, were recognized as the top graduates of the College of Law, at the University of Saskatchewan's Spring Convocation.

Caydence Marley (Left) received the gold medal for academic excellence, and her twin sister Kennedy Marley (Right) received the silver medal. The pair graduated at the top of their class in the Spring 2024 Convocation.

Speaking to CBC Reporter Dayne Patterson Caydence said "University has not always been an easy path for Indigenous folks, through our history of residential schools and enfranchisement, and it's important to remember that moving forward we need to support and lift up our Indigenous students." The twins will both be starting clerkships at the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal in Regina this summer, and they hope to eventually practice criminal defence law.

**FOR THE COMPLETE STORY VISIT: [WWW.CBC.CA](http://WWW.CBC.CA)**

[/NEWS/CANADA/SASKATOON/TWIN-MÉTIS-SISTERS-GRADUATE-LAW-DEGREE](#)

## LA RONGE CELEBRATES INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY-BASED MASTER OF EDUCATION GRADUATES

*Story Continued from Page 1*

Acting Program Head of University Programming, Chantelle Jule, brought greetings on behalf of GDI, reminding graduates "you are joining a very special group of educators, that are not only teaching and cultural experts, but are also leaders that are prepared to focus on positive change in education." These sentiments were echoed by Dr. Morris Cook who gave a toast on behalf of the faculty reminding students about how important it is to have strong Indigenous voices in leadership roles.

Finally, the evening closed with toasts from four students offering gratitude for the past two and a half years of learning together. Danielle Pelletier gave the toast to her classmates with a personal dedication to each graduate, emphasizing the cohort's community strength. Joyce Torrie thanked the staff for their support from the administrators to the security staff. Michael Maurer thanked each

instructor individually for the wisdom they imparted, from time management to self-reflection and cultural teachings. Finally, Jacqueline McAuley gave the toast to family and friends who have supported the graduates throughout their academic journey.

This is the second La Ronge based cohort of the Indigenous Community-Based Master of Education program. The Master program has been offered in partnership between GDI the U of R, and Northlands College since 2019. This cohort is vital towards building an Indigenous circle of scholarship in Northern Saskatchewan who are dedicated to preserving language, culture, and Indigenous ways of knowing in the education system. 🌟

Left to Right: Danielle Pelletier, Joyce Torrie, Michael Maurer, and Jacqueline Mcauley  
Photography by Bethani Groat







# ISET TRANSFER 2024

By Desirae Barker, GDI Senior Program Coordinator

On April 6, 2024, Employment and Social Development Canada transferred the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program (ISET) agreement to the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN—S). This agreement transfer is part of the Government of Canada’s commitment to building nation-to-nation relationships with Indigenous governing bodies across Canada.

The ISET agreement offers employment services based on the needs and priorities of Indigenous peoples. Under the ISET program, Indigenous peoples can access a variety of funded and non-funded wrap-around services to secure meaningful employment.

Since 2006, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) has held the ISET agreement and delivered the program to thousands of Métis citizens at an optimal capacity rating. Last year, GDI distributed over \$12 million in funding and sponsorship directly to Métis students and clients. As a community-based organization, the Institute has 14 province-wide service delivery locations and provides an additional 37 communities with ISET-funded outreach services. Due to the longstanding success of GDI’s delivery of the ISET program, the MN—S has subcontracted the Institute to remain the ISET service-delivery organization until the end of the ISET contract in 2029.



Above GDI Training & Employment: Jessamy Sundby, Sara Cameron, Bonnie Hartman  
Below GDI Press: Kristen Kalk and Brenda Hryciuk

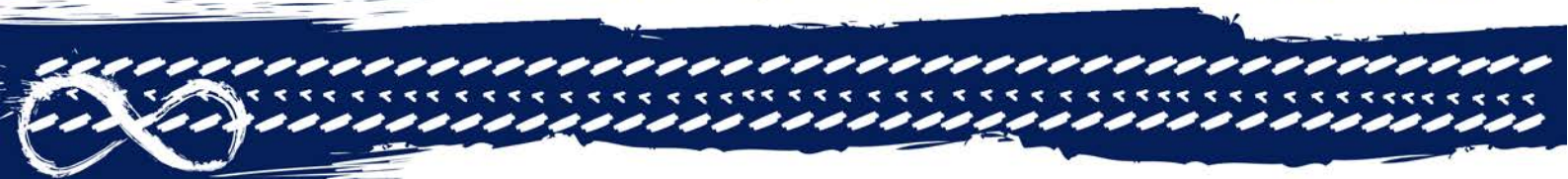


Métis Nation—Saskatchewan  
President Glen McCallum

## AUGUST 2024 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

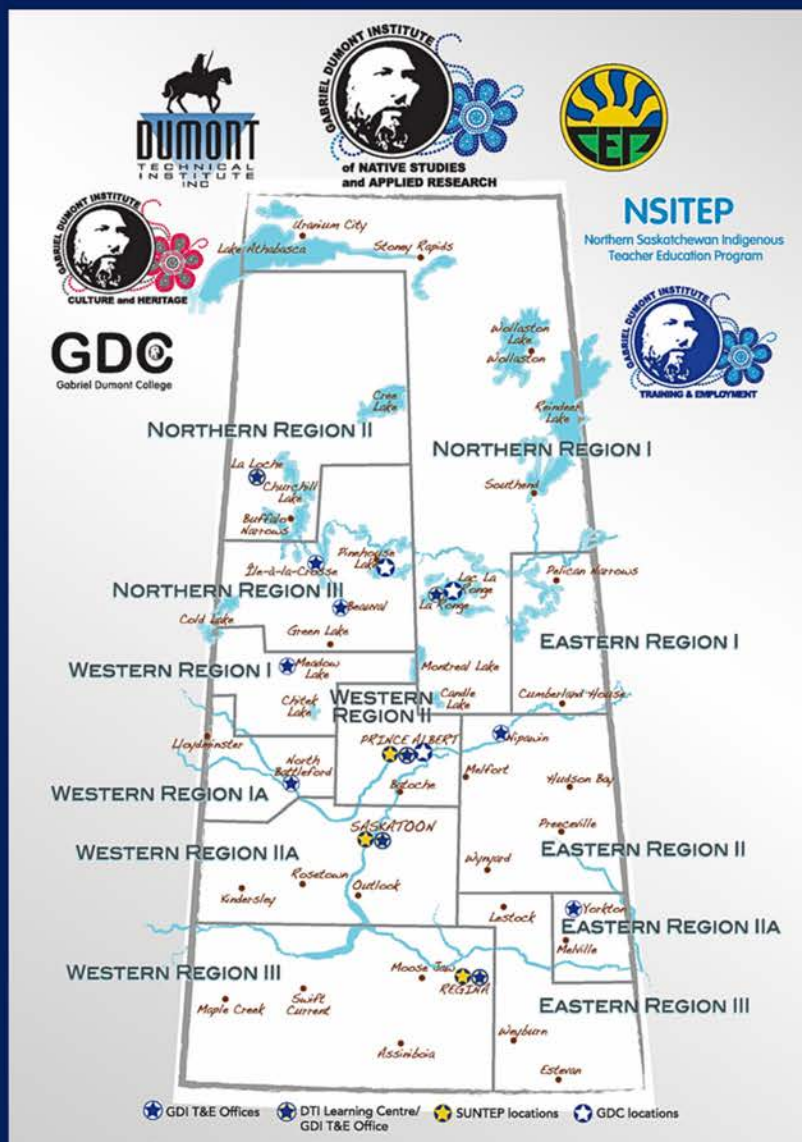
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Saskatchewan Day Stat Holiday	Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Aug 9 Direct Deposits		A/P Cheque/EFT Run Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheets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

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](http://www.metismuseum.ca)

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