



THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



Photo submitted by Dr. Morris Cook

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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INDIGENOUS EDUCATION DOCTORATE PROGRAM COMMENCES

By Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

On July 8, 2024, the first cohort of the Indigenous Education Doctorate Program gathered at the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Prince Albert campus for the first day of classes. Faculty from the University of Regina (U of R) and GDI welcomed the 17 doctoral students. The three-year program emphasizes Métis local knowledge, history, spirituality, and culture. It also includes how the locality interacts and is positioned within the broader national and international educational context.

GDI has delivered Bachelor of Education programs for 44 years and has offered the Indigenous Community-Based Master of Education program in partnership with the U of R for the past 12 years. The EdDoc represents the latest development in the relationship between GDI and the U of R, and the next step forward for Métis educators

on their academic journey. The U of R Faculty of Education have been keen collaborators and supporters of GDI and Indigenous scholarship in the province.

Métis Knowledge Keeper Mike Relland said, “not that long ago, this program, and GDI’s participation in it, was only a dream. It’s becoming a reality and reflects the good work of all the people within the Institute that have strived for years to prove to mainstream partners that GDI is an exemplary, trustworthy partner that possess a unique knowledge and perspective that can enrich mainstream education.” Relland was the catalyst for the program during his tenure with GDI as the Head of University Programming.

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STITCHING TOGETHER GENERATIONS: GDI BEGINNERS BEADING WORKSHOP

By Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

On July 17th, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) hosted a beginners' beading workshop with Gregory Scofield and Amy Briley in Saskatoon based on the GDI Press How-To Series publication, "wâpikawniy: A Beginner's Guide to Métis Floral Beadwork."

"Beading is all about tension," Gregory Scofield said, holding up his thumb and forefinger, gripping the square of suede firmly with the confidence of over forty years of beading. My own hands hold the fabric nervously like an ancient parchment that might disintegrate. He flips over the cloth to show us how he's holding the thread at the back, taut between his fingers, as he tacks down the beads. His hands have become tools with every finger positioned to feed the thread, shape the beads, and place the next stitch. He moves with speed and grace all the while encouraging us that this confidence will develop with practice and patience.

Seated around the circle is a collection of eager beginner beaders, ages 8 to 65+ with varying levels of sewing experience. We are surrounded by examples of the seemingly impossibly intricate Métis beadwork on moccasins, vests, pouches, octopus bags, and sashes. At first the colours are overwhelming, I'm exhausted from a day of schlepping around camera

equipment under the cloudless July sky. As I start counting out the white and pink beads on my paper plate, the tension in my jaw starts to dissolve. My mind is entirely focused on the tip of my needle, finding the gap between each to tack down my row of beads.

I'm sitting between two mothers here with their daughters who are learning to bead together. The women take time between each row to offer encouragement to the younger girls, and I'm deeply grateful for their reassuring presence as I fumble through my stitches. The youngest girl leans over to her mom and excitedly whispers "This is the best day of my life!" I'm reminded that the spirit of reconciliation is joyful and that these GDI workshops are vital to restoring community and cultural connection.

Gregory Scofield has scoured the world collecting what he calls "the grandmother pieces," all the beadwork that unknown grandmothers created, sold, traded, or gifted. We can see some of the grandmother pieces, and some of the pieces that Gregory has created to honour the grandmothers in the Gabriel Dumont Institute Métis Art Gallery and Museum. He teaches us in the way that his Auntie Georgina taught him, so the grandmothers' knowledge continues to stitch together generations. 🌱



Maarsii and Thank You to all of the golfers at the 11th Annual GDSF Golf Tournament on May 31, 2024. Your support will go directly to help Métis post-secondary students succeed!



MICHIF

WORDS OF THE MONTH

LII RASAAD

Beads

MACHIIHK

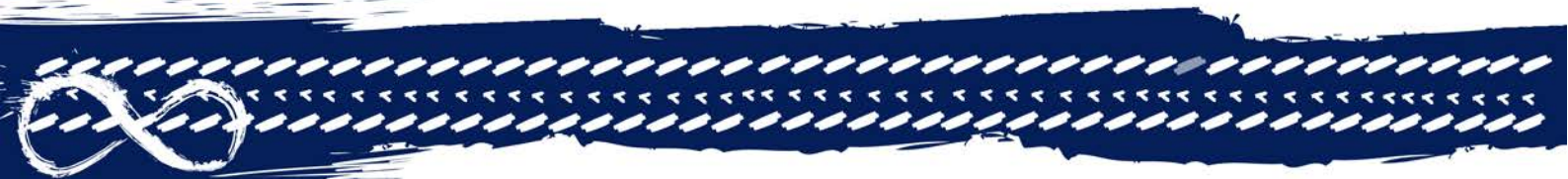
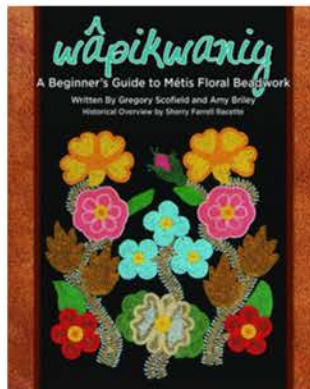
Hunting

LI ZIKRICHEUR

Writing

TAASHWAYKINAMIHK

Unfold





DUMONT TECHNICAL INSTITUTE HIRES A NEW DIRECTOR

By Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

On August 12, 2024, Derrick Morin was welcomed into a new leadership position as Director of Dumont Technical Institute (DTI). DTI has been without a director since long-time employee Michelle McNally left to pursue other opportunities in April 2024. Acting Executive Director, Brett Vandale, expressed that it is important to take the time to find the right candidate who embodies the DTI values of compassion and genuine concern for the accomplishment of all learners. After an extensive search, the Gabriel Dumont Institute Board of Governors is confident that Morin possesses the strength of leadership and vision to lead DTI into a new chapter.

Derrick brings nearly 20 years of experience in education to the role. He taught for 11 years in northeast Saskatchewan before moving his family to Saskatoon where he became an elementary school vice-principal. Most recently, he worked for four years as a principal in the public school system. Derrick is a SUNTEP

Saskatoon alumnus (2005), and he holds two Master of Education degrees—Educational Foundations in 2017 and Educational Administration in 2022. He shares DTI’s belief that learners come first and that providing supportive learning environments is essential to championing student success.

Established in 1992, DTI is committed to providing quality education and services to Saskatchewan’s Métis. With the philosophy “Learners Come First,” DTI has been instrumental in developing Métis-specific educational opportunities, including Adult Basic Education, Essential Skills for the Workplace, and Vocational Skills Training programming across Saskatchewan. DTI’s ultimate goal is to work cooperatively with other institutions and agencies to improve Métis participation and success in the education system, so DTI graduates can build a skilled Métis workforce to meet labour demands locally, regionally, and nationally. 🌐



Derrick Morin, Director of Dumont Technical Institute

UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS



Early Childhood Educator Level 2
Saskatoon
Ongoing




Practical Nursing Diploma
Regina
Ongoing




Adult Basic Education
P.A. or Regina
Sept 30




Continuing Care Assistant
Île-à-la-Crosse
Ongoing



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

WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS

“Being an adult learner is the most rewarding feeling, and I am so glad that I made the decision to go back to school in my thirties”

Student Spotlight



Meet Tammy....

Tammy wanted a career change, and she knew it had to be something purposeful. She is passionate about mental health, so when she saw the DTI Mental Health and Wellness Program she had to apply. Tammy says her life has changed for the better since starting the program because she has learned so much from her peers and teachers. The program has helped her build a strong sense of connection to her community, and she has found it to be a very supportive classroom environment.





WELCOME BACK LISA BIRD-WILSON, GDI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) is pleased to welcome back Executive Director Lisa Bird-Wilson after her one-year leave. Lisa will return on September 3rd, 2024.

Lisa has served the Institute for 25 years and is a renowned author and has written several books, including *An Institute of Our Own: A History of the Gabriel Dumont Institute*, a non-fiction history of GDI published in 2011. Lisa was appointed as Executive Director in 2021, and her leadership continues to be the backbone of the Institute's operations.

The GDI Board is grateful to Acting Executive Director, Brett Vandale for his leadership and service to the Institute in the interim. He will be available to help Lisa transition back into the leadership role while resuming his Director of University Programming role. Also, Chantelle Jule resumed work as Program Coordinator for Dumont Technical Institute, and she was contracted part-time to continue assisting with the transition of the University Programming until October 2024. The overlap in positions will ensure a smooth transition for the Institute.

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION DOCTORATE PROGRAM COMMENCES

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The EdDoc program began with two, four-day weeks of in-person sessions in and around Prince Albert. Students began to form a tight-knit community and began interrogating the existing knowledge base. Each student introduced themselves, and shared what the program means to them, and what their goals are. The students come from diverse backgrounds within academia, including school principals, directors, administrators, and one superintendent. Every student will create a new body of knowledge and expand the existing scholarship in new ways while practicing what they have learned in their educational careers.

Dr. Morris Cook, EdDoc Faculty and Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program Head, describes the program as life-changing, "The program is going to get you to

something that you didn't know was possible to achieve on your own because you're a part of this educational community and supported by champions of the program at both GDI and the U of R." The program is designed to be versatile and tailored to the needs of the doctoral students and the communities in which they work, whether through writing and research, land-based learning, in classrooms or in leadership roles in academia.

The 2024 EdDoc cohort is the first of many to come. The program is rigorous and intensive to train world-class Indigenous scholars who can shape the future of education and access positions of power that require advanced degrees and scholarship. This cohort holds hope for the future and is an important step toward reconciliation in education. 🌍

TOAST TO THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY-BASED MASTER OF EDUCATION PROGRAM

By Marla Daigneault, ICBMEP 2024 Graduate

The Gabriel Dumont Institute's Masters of Indigenous Community-Based Education program is a remarkable success that fills me with immense pride and joy. This program represents a beacon of inspiration, a testament to the power of knowledge, culture, and community coming together to create positive change. With a deep commitment to honoring and preserving Indigenous ways of knowing, my fellow graduates and I have not only achieved academic excellence but have also demonstrated a profound understanding of the importance of community engagement and empowerment.

Through their dedication, hard work, and passion for education, we have not only earned a degree, but have also become

leaders, mentors, and advocates for the advancement of Indigenous education. We are the voices that will shape the future of education, ensuring that Indigenous knowledge and perspectives are valued and integrated into our educational systems.

As we reflect on the achievements of the Masters of Indigenous Community-Based Education program graduates, let us also remember the journey that brought us here. It is a journey marked by resilience, strength, and a deep sense of purpose. My fellow graduates and I have overcome obstacles, challenged stereotypes, and defied expectations to accomplish our Master of Education. We now celebrate as beacons of hope and inspiration for future generations. 🌍





SUNTEP REGINA BASKET SOCIAL



The winter semester wrapped up with a Basket Social that brought together all SUNTEP Regina students, Old Ones, SUNTEP Faculty & Staff, as well as community members. The annual SUNTEPtalks were also presented at this event.

"The Basket Social was a delightful experience for me...Hearing the laughter, seeing the smiles, it all made my heart warm. While being in that environment it made me excited for the next three years!"

- Anonymous student feedback

2ND PLACE FINISH FOR GDITE AT THE INAUGURAL OYATEKI PARTNERSHIP SCAVENGER HUNT

By Lisa Klyne, GDI Senior Program Coordinator

On July 25, 2024, the Gabriel Dumont Institute Flashy Sashes team, Bonnie Hartman, Randi Ross, and Jessamy Sudby from Gabriel Dumont Institute Training and Employment, won 2nd place in the first ever Oyateki Partnership Scavenger Hunt!

Organized by Oyateki Partnership summer students, teams from the partner organizations competed by solving a series of clues that took them to different locations throughout the city. The scavenger hunt concluded at the Oyateki Partnership office, where participants enjoyed lunch, laughs, and networking.

The event was great fun and a wonderful opportunity to strengthen relationships with our Oyateki Partners including the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, and the Gabriel Dumont Institute.

Congratulations to all teams! 🎉



SEPTEMBER 2024 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

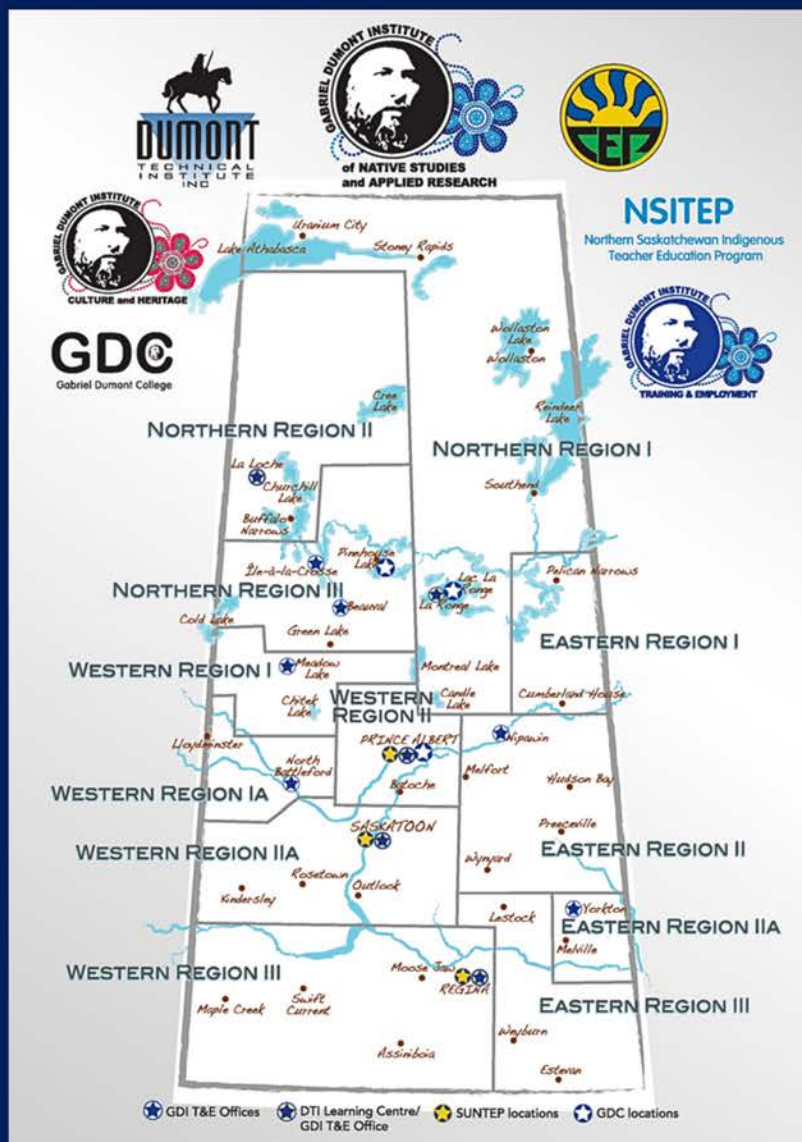
SEPTEMBER 2024

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

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

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