



THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



Jessica Janvier, Shaylee Ryder, and Sydnee Martin

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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MADE WITH LOVE: DTI ABE SASKATOON RIBBON SKIRT WORKSHOP

By Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

In December, Saskatoon Adult Basic Education (ABE) students had the opportunity to learn how to make Métis ribbon skirts with Amanda Fisher-LaFramboise and Brenda Hrycuik. Karon Shmon welcomed students into the Gabriel Dumont Institute Art Gallery, and she shared some of the rich history of Métis ribbon skirts. Amanda brought in dozens of her handmade skirts, including the first one she had ever made, and a skirt she made in tribute to Leah Dorion's artwork for the ribbon skirt exhibit last January. The students learned about different styles of ribbon skirts and had time to think about what they wanted their skirt to look like.

Next, the students measured their fabric length from maxi to tea length, and then they measured the waist and how much fabric they needed to take one big step. Once the measurements were chalked onto the fabric the students began cutting. Brenda demonstrated the first cut, and the students followed her example with lots of encouragement and advice.

After ironing the fabric, the students were set up at a sewing machine and given a demonstration on how to use it. The Institute owns several sewing machines that make these workshops possible.

Story continues on Page 5...





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

AAHKWATIN

Frozen

LII RAACHET

Snowshoe

MIYOOSHIN

Wholesome

KIISHOOHIKIW

Full grown

SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER: SUNTEP PRINCE ALBERT'S CHRISTMAS HAMPER PROGRAM PARTNERS WITH LOCAL GROCERY STORE CHAIN

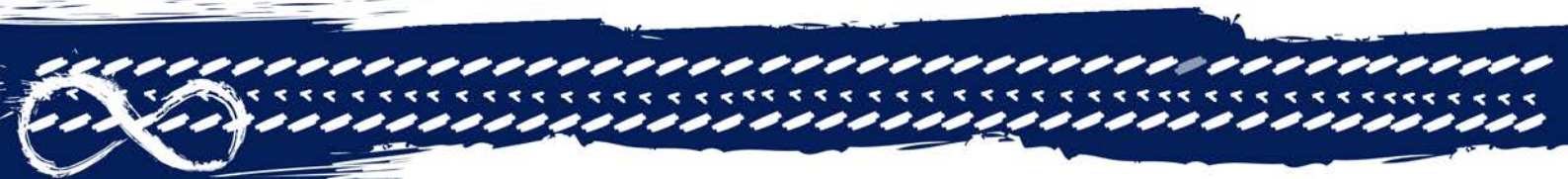
by Beige Unger, SUNTEP Faculty

SUNTEP Prince Albert's Christmas Hamper Program is spreading holiday cheer with the support of a generous local grocery store chain. This annual initiative provides much-needed food and essentials to families in the community, ensuring everyone can enjoy a warm and festive season. The collaboration with Wholesale Club Prince Albert has been instrumental in securing quality items for the hampers, reflecting the spirit of giving and community care. Together, SUNTEP and Wholesale Club are making a tangible difference, brightening the holidays for families this year and fostering a sense of unity and compassion in Prince Albert.

The Christmas Hamper Program not only benefits the families it serves but also strengthens the bonds within the SUNTEP family. Through their involvement, students gain a deep understanding of the impact collective efforts can have in supporting others. This program provides students with a firsthand view of the vital connection between schools and families, preparing them for their future roles as educators in the community. Many of the schools involved host SUNTEP students

during their Extended Practicum and Field Experiences, and this additional layer of collaboration fosters a sense of keen sense of belonging. By participating, students develop both professional and personal skills that will guide them in building meaningful relationships in their future classrooms and communities.

The generosity of the Wholesale Club in Prince Albert and their staff has been pivotal in making the Christmas Hamper Program a success. Their donation has allowed SUNTEP Prince Albert to assemble hampers filled with everything needed for a full traditional Christmas dinner, along with additional groceries to support families through the holiday season. Each hamper also includes thoughtful touches such as gifts and treats for children, as well as family activities like board games, fostering joy and togetherness. Thanks to the Wholesale Clubs contribution of all necessary groceries and the hard work of SUNTEP students and faculty, the program was able to partner with five schools in the city this year. The schools then distributed the hampers to five families in need. The initiative highlights the power of collaboration in creating a meaningful and memorable holiday season for all involved.





UPCOMING APPLICATION DEADLINES

	<p>Phlebotomy Saskatoon</p> <p>Feb 19</p>
	<p>Adult Basic Education Various</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
	<p>Early Childhood Education Level 2 Saskatoon or P.A.</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
	<p>Mental Health and Wellness Diploma Meadow Lake</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
	<p>Continuing Care Assistant Regina, Saskatoon, or P.A.</p> <p>Apr 30</p>

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

GDI PRESS BOOKS LAUNCHED TO THE MOON WITH THE LUNAR CODEX

By Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

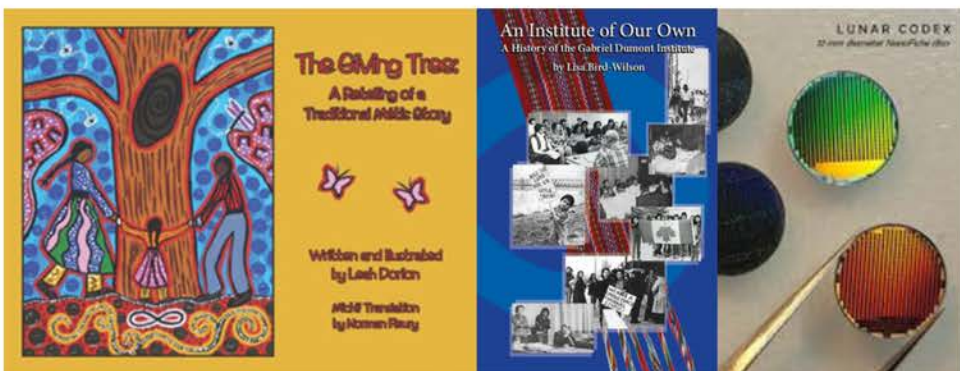
On January 15, 2025, the Lunar Codex initiative sent hundreds Indigenous art works in a time capsule to the moon, and the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Culture and Heritage Department provided digital files of *An Institute of Our Own: A History of the Gabriel Dumont Institute* by Lisa Bird-Wilson, *Gabriel Dumont: Li Chef Michif in Images and Words* by Darren R. Préfontaine, and *The Giving Tree: A Retelling of a Traditional Métis Story* by Leah Dorion and translated into Michif by Norman Fleury. GDI is pleased to be included and to preserve a sliver of Métis culture for future explorers to rediscover.

A SpaceX Falcon 9 Rocket launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida at 1:11 A.M. EST. The rocket carried the Firefly Aerospace's Blue Ghost lander, with the Lunar Codex's Serenity time capsule. The Serenity is the fifth Lunar Codex time capsule launched. The capsule is a small nickel disc approximately the size of a dime called a NanoFiche that is designed to last a billion years on the moon. The disc is densely encoded with digital information preserving hundreds of artworks by Métis, First Nations, Inuit, and other Indigenous peoples. The moon landing is anticipated to take place 45 days after launch on March 1, 2025.

The time capsule will be preserved on the moon under Article 6 of the Artemis Accords signed by 52 governments committed to preserving humanity's outer space heritage. Article 6 protects sites with historical significance, such as human or robotics landing sites, artifacts, spacecraft, and other evidence of human activity on other planets and celestial bodies. The time capsule will be preserved as a de facto Artemis Accords Heritage Site, and the GDI Press works will become part of humanity's history of outer space exploration.

David Morin helped coordinate the project, and he said, "We felt that this project was a great way to include Métis culture in such a significant event. I don't know if anyone thinks about something they created live on the moon for a billion years." The Lunar Codex is the passion project of Canadian physicist Samuel Peralta, and it is funded in collaboration with the Estate of Norval Morrisseau. Speaking to CBC News, Peralta said that he believes this project is an important step towards Truth and Reconciliation as a Canadian-led project.

The Serenity capsule focuses on Indigenous artwork with a sixth time capsule, the Polaris, planned for December 2025, which will focus on Indigenous music. The Lunar Codex currently includes work representing 259 countries and territories, as well as 148 Indigenous nations from around the world. GDI is proud to represent Métis culture as one thread in humanity's tapestry of life that will be preserved for future generations on the moon. 🌕





CAPOTE WORKSHOP BRINGS TOGETHER GENERATIONS

By Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Culture and Heritage Department has been busy teaching how to make traditional Métis Capotes across the province in January. The workshops are a favourite among the community because they teach a practical skill that is also steeped in history. Karon Shmon wrote an introduction to the history of the Capote titled "Blankets in the Fur Trade Era-Life-sustainer or Life-taker" which states:

"The capote is the blanket coat customarily made from the point blanket, a wool blanket with short points, or stripes on the end. These blankets were one of the trade items exchanged between the Metis and First Nations trappers and the fur trade companies, Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company."

Today, the Métis are relearning how to make these traditional garments that previous generations have used to survive harsh prairie and northern winters. The Saskatchewan winters remain as harsh, as several participants in Saskatoon braved -40 weather to gather at the GDI Metis Art Gallery and Museum.

GDI only charges participants enough to cover materials and instruction, which far less than what Hudson's Bay Company will charge for a similar wool coat. Participants learn to refine their sewing techniques under the guidance of master seamstresses, and each person also goes home with the book *Wahwaykinishoo d'en li kapot—Wrap Yourself in Tradition: A Guide to Making a Métis-Style Capote* by Suzan Lagrove Couillard and Brenda Hyciuk.

Spirits were high as participants chatted and worked on their sewing. Participants expressed a growing

appreciation for the labour and skill of the Métis matriarchs who developed this design out of what materials were available to them. As their confidence grew, some people planned to add further embellishments, such as buttons or fringes or belts. One of the core Métis values is to let nothing go to waste, so participants also planned how to create bags, mittens, scarves, and belts, out of the pieces of leftover fabric.

Participants said about the workshop:

"Thank you GDI for the opportunity to take part in the capote class. What a great learning experience, the instructors were so knowledgeable with the history of the capote. Had fun with the other participants."—Tracy Tinker, Buffalo Narrows

"It is always so affirming to learn more about Metis Culture. The Capote is seen everywhere, and I am proud of its history. I loved the community that was created as we all worked and visited, just like the older generations did before us. I'll wear my Capote proudly. I am so pleased that these learning opportunities are offered to us. Thank you."—Bonnie Johnson, Prince Albert

"I think the workshop was a really great experience, and an opportunity that I would not have been able to find elsewhere. I appreciated the presentation at the beginning of the workshop which gave an historic context to the HBC blanket, but also how Indigenous people cared for/cleaned the blanket (or garment) on the land."—Annette Rousselle



Taryn Ward



Dakota Baker, Bonnie Johnson, Annette Rousselle



Karon Shmon and Randi Ross



Tracy Tinker and Jacob Dumont



Annette Rousselle and Wendy Gervais





GDI 2024 STAFF SERVICES AWARDS PRESENTED



Gabriel Dumont Institute celebrated our long-time staff at Christmas lunches around the province. Staff service awards recognize staff who have worked with the Institute for increments of five years. The Institute strives to build a strong Métis workforce based on mutual respect, teamwork, and collaboration.



DTI ABE SASKATOON RIBBON SKIRT WORKSHOP

Story Continued from Page 1

The students were nervous at first, but by the time I returned on the second day our confidence levels had grown immensely with jokes and laughter filling the hall. The students from day one went onto their second and third ribbon skirts, while some late arrivals were working on their first. All the students left with the materials they would need to finish their skirts and were provided with ideas for more designs they would like to try in the future.

Some schools see Adult Basic Education only as only a means to an end, but for the Dumont Technical

Institute, the ABE classes are about fostering cultural connections and community relationships alongside the standard curriculum. The students learn practical skills but also their history and cultural teachings that they can then bring back to their own families. Shawna Dubiel's class is no exception with the students coming to the workshop to learn how to make a ribbon skirt and leaving with the confidence to start sewing businesses and make Christmas gifts for their friends. The students learned important life skills, but they also left with teachings and renewed ties to their Métis heritage.

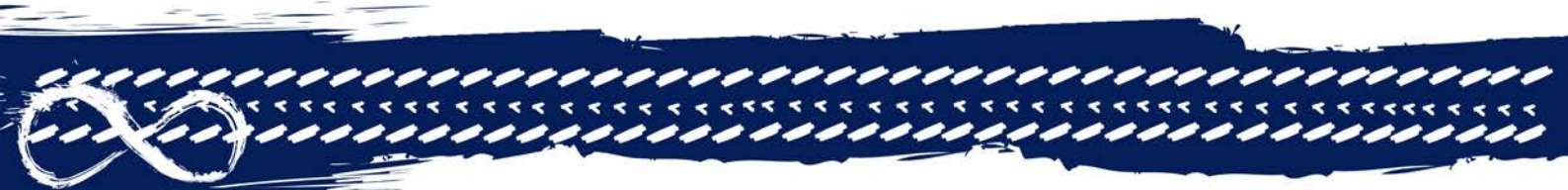


Saskatoon Adult Basic Education Level 3 Class 2024

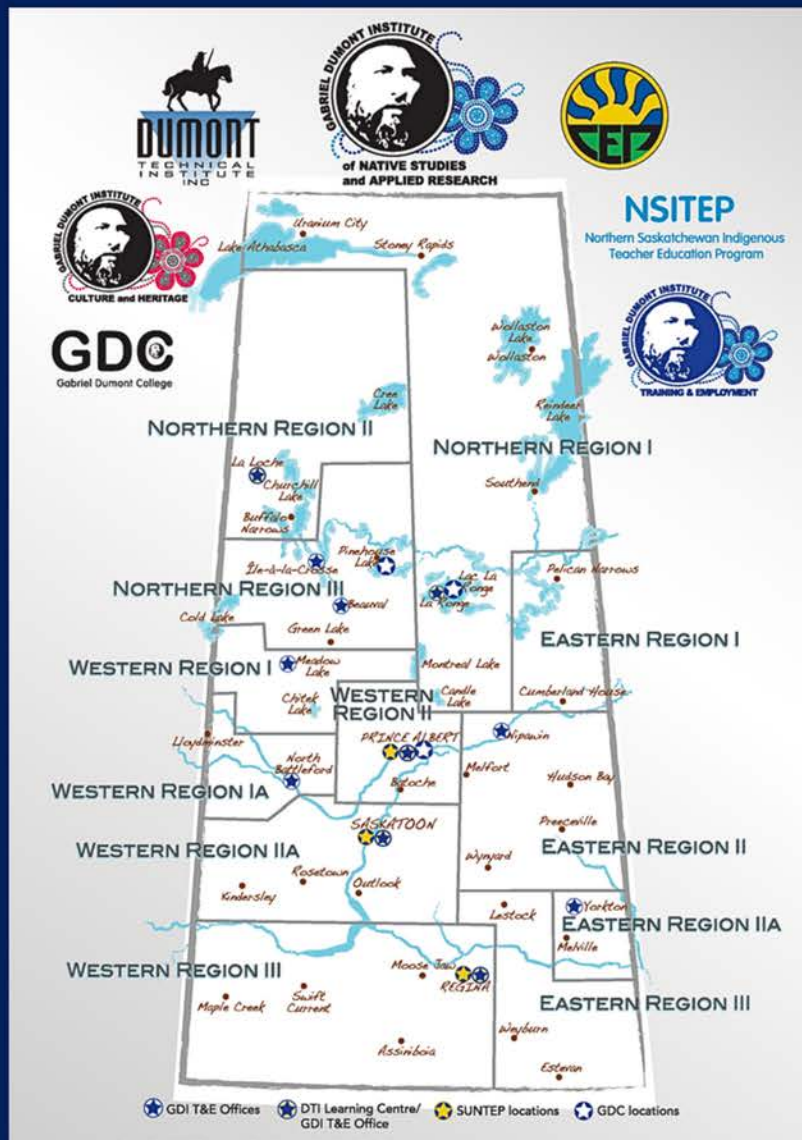
FEBRUARY 2025 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

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

