



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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LET'S GET SOCIAL



Stay in touch on our socials:
Gabriel Dumont Institute
@GDINS_ORG

WWW.GDINS.ORG

THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE CELEBRATES 45TH ANNIVERSARY

By Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

On March 28, 2025, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) marked the 45th anniversary at a small luncheon in Saskatoon. Karon Shmon, Director of Culture and Heritage, opened the luncheon by speaking about the legacy of the Institute from its humble beginnings of only a handful of staff to today's thriving Institution.

Minister Wendy Gervais brought greetings on behalf of the Board of Governors and highlighted the importance of the Métis community leaders and Association of Métis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan who founded the Institute. She spoke about how important the community involvement of every organization has been instrumental to GDI's success. Finally, Minister Gervais added, "none of these achievements would be possible without the dedication of the leadership team, staff, and instructors."

Finally, Brett Vandale, GDI's Chief Executive Officer, shared his pride in how far the organization has come, and his enthusiasm for where we are headed. "GDI was founded on a simple yet highly strategic idea: education is the path to empowerment for Métis people" said Vandale, "Our impact can be seen through the thousands of Métis students who have earned degrees, diplomas, and certifications through our programs." He went on to talk about the generations of students who have come through GDI programs, and the work our students are doing to revitalize Métis culture, language, and bringing Indigenous perspectives to our schools.

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DEADLINE EXTENDED!



**Northern
Saskatchewan
Indigenous Teacher
Education Program
(NSITEP)**

La Ronge

Ongoing



**Saskatchewan
Urban Native
Teacher Education
Program (SUNTEP)**

Saskatoon, Regina, or
Prince Albert

Ongoing



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

WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS

MICHIF WORDS OF THE MONTH

NIPWAAHKOW

Wise Woman

KISHCHI PAYHTUK

Slowly/Carefully

LII PCHIT AARBR

Seedlings

ENN ZHENN PAARSONN

Spring Chicken

FOUR INVESTED INTO THE ORDER OF GABRIEL DUMONT

by Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

On March 28, 2025, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) invested four people into the Order of Gabriel Dumont at a ceremony held in Saskatoon. The Gold Medal is presented to those who have a lifetime of achievements serving the Métis people, and the Silver Medal is presented to those who are still actively making contributions to uplifting and protecting Métis culture and history. This year, David Garneau and Chandrelle Marshall received silver medals, and Dr. Cheryl Troupe and Rita Bouvier received gold medals.

The ceremony was opened with warm words by Elder Maria Campbell, a past recipient herself and renowned author. Minister Wendy Gervais brought greetings on behalf of the Board of Governors, “We need strong Métis voices like these four” she began, “Whether that is bringing language back into our classrooms, telling our stories, sharing our artwork and culture, and carving a place for Métis pride in every corner of this province.” Chief Executive Officer Brett Vandale, who also presented the awards on behalf of the Institute, he spoke about the honour of working alongside these fine individuals.

David Garneau received the silver medal for his work as a contemporary Indigenous painter, writer, and art curator. He is also known for his performance in Dear John as the spirit of Louis Riel meeting with John A. Macdonald statues, which was presented in Regina, Kingston, and Ottawa. In 2023, he received the Governor General’s Award in Visual and Media Arts, and he was inducted into the Royal Society of Canada. David continues to teach at the University

of Regina, and his painting exhibition, “Dark Chapters,” will tour Canada in 2025–2028. He recently released *Dark Chapters: Reading the Still Lives of David Garneau*, a collection of poems and essays by seventeen authors (University Regina Press), and a collection of his critical texts will be published in 2026 by Concordia University Press.

Chandrelle Marshall was recognized for her work in education to bring Michif and Métis culture to the school system. She has worked in education for 19 years and currently holds the senior position of Métis/Michif Education and Community Engagement within Saskatoon Public Schools. She ensures that language and traditions are not only preserved but also actively integrated into the educational experiences of students. Her dedication to her community and her unwavering commitment to education make her a respected and powerful voice for Métis/Michif education and community. Chandrelle is a proud SUNTEP graduate, wife, and mother, and her work continues to inspire students for generations to come.

Rita Bouvier received the gold medal, via a virtual presentation, for her legacy as a Métis educator, leader, writer and editor. She has held significant leadership roles, including being a Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Director, a senior administrator with the Saskatchewan Teachers’ Federation, and a Coordinator of the Canadian Council on Learning’s Aboriginal Learning Knowledge Centre at the University of Saskatchewan.

Story continues on Page 4...



UPCOMING APPLICATION DEADLINES



Heavy Equipment Operator

St. George's Hill

Apr 10



Outdoor Equipment Repair Program

Pinehouse

Ongoing



Continuing Care Assistant

Regina, Saskatoon, P.A.

Apr 30



Practical Nursing

Saskatoon, P.A., Île-à-la-Crosse

May 15



Early Childhood Education Level 2

Saskatoon or P.A.

Ongoing



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

WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS

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The lunch was set to conclude with a performance by SUNTEP graduate, Amanda Paul's Michif Early Learning Language Program in Wakaw, Saskatchewan. However, due to the snowstorm, they were unable to attend in person. Guests were delighted to see the video of the children singing their Michif learning songs together, and Amanda Paul spoke about the importance of language reclamation and Métis pride. Her class is just one example of the many ways that GDI graduates are creating positive change in their communities. Students are the future, and education is the path to a brighter future.

Since 1980, GDI has been educating, training, and supporting Saskatchewan's Métis. If you want to share a happy birthday wish or memory from the past 45 years, please send your note to communications@gdins.org, and we will feature a collection of them on social media over the summer months.





NEW RELEASE FROM GDI PRESS



GDI Press is proud to announce the release of their latest children's book, *Maddy's Sash*, written by Marion Gonneville and illustrated by Kate Boyer.



Maddy is a young girl connecting with her Métis roots while spending time with her Moshôm, Kohkom and their special dog Max, and they have many adventures in Northern Saskatchewan!

You can find this book online and in the GDI store.

WWW.GDINS.ORG/SHOP-GDI

FOUR INVESTED INTO THE ORDER OF GABRIEL DUMONT

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Additionally, Rita is the author of several acclaimed poetry collections that explore themes of Métis identity, language, and connection to the land. Rita's writing has been translated into Spanish, German, and Cree-Michif—the language of her home community of sakitawak (Île-à-la-Crosse), Saskatchewan. Currently, Rita volunteers with the Saskatchewan Ânskohk Writers Circle Inc., the Indigenous Editors Association, and the League of Canadian Poets.

Dr. Cheryl Troupe was recognized for a lifetime of working as a community worker, accomplished scholar, and a champion for Métis history, culture, and stories. Cheryl began her work in community research through the Gabriel Dumont Institute and has spent the last 25 years being mentored by Elders, knowledge keepers, and cultural teachers. She credits their generosity for her being able to do the work she does. Over the years, Cheryl has also been a leader with the John Arcand Fiddle Festival, presented her beadwork at Batoche National Historic Site and Remail Modern Art Gallery, co-curated two exhibitions of Métis material culture, and regularly volunteers with Parks Canada in an advisory capacity.

Memorably, Cheryl was one of four co-leads for the final installment of "Walking With Our Sisters" Commemorative Art Installation and Ceremony held in Batoche in 2019. She is currently a professor of History at the University of Saskatchewan and is Director of the History Department's Community Engaged research lab. Cheryl is an active council member of Gabriel Dumont Local #11.

Since the 1980s, the Order of Gabriel Dumont has been awarded by the Gabriel Dumont Institute to a small number of persons who have serviced the Métis of Canada with distinction. Investment into the Order is one of the Métis Nation's highest civilian honours. 🌐



Elder Maria Campbell,
photography by Julie Labrecque



David Garneau (L), Minister Wendy Gervais, Chandra Marshall, and Brett Vandale (C), Dr. Cheryl Troupe (R),
photography by Julie Labrecque



Volunteer Opportunity

GDITE Three Selection Committee Members

Gabriel Dumont Institute Training & Employment has established four Selection Committees to target training resources for eligible students and labour market priorities. This is a three-year term and the deadline to apply is **12 p.m. April 11, 2025**



More info:

gdins.org



USASK INDIGENOUS ACHIEVEMENT WEEK

USask Indigenous Student Achievement Awards Ceremony is an annual event that celebrates Métis, First Nations, and Inuit students' successes. Students are recognized for their academic achievements, community engagement, leadership, research and resiliency. This year, six students from the SUNTEP programs affiliated with the University of Saskatchewan received awards.

Peter Olver (SUNTEP Saskatoon) Awarded in Academic

Saffron Powell (SUNTEP P.A.) Awarded in Academic

Isaac Hedstrom (SUNTEP Saskatoon) Awarded in Leadership

Abby Thiessen (SUNTEP P.A.) Awarded in Leadership

Nevada Gunn (SUNTEP Saskatoon) Awarded in Resilience (not pictured)

Avery Natewayes (SUNTEP P.A.) Awarded in Resilience (not pictured)



Registration opens
Monday, March 3, 2025.

REGISTER ONLINE AT:
[WWW.GDINS.ORG/GOLF](https://www.gdins.org/golf)

Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation Applications are Open!

The scholarship program is intended to recognize leadership, academic ability, financial need, and community involvement. All applications must be received by:

May 1, 2025

More Information:

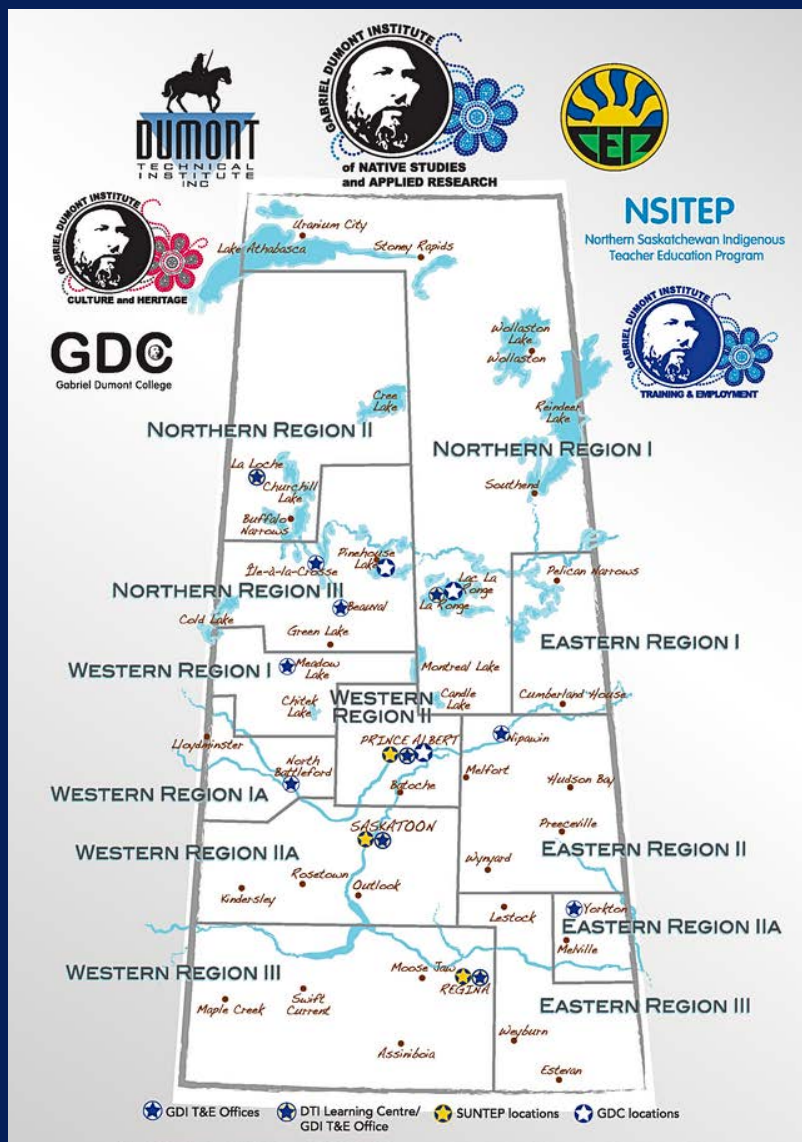
gdins.org/scholarships

APRIL 2025 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on ISETS Student Apr 4 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	ISETS Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on MNU Student Apr 11 Direct Dep Cutoff @ 4:30 for TMS & Payroll Revisions for Apr 15 Payday		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	MNU Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on ISETS Student Apr 17 Direct Deposits	Staff Payday		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run ISETS Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable	Good Friday Stat Holiday	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Easter Monday Stat Holiday	Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on MNU Student Apr 25 Direct Deposits	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheet & Payroll Revisions for Apr 30 Payday	Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	MNU Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable	
27	28	29	30			
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on ISETS Student May 2 Direct Deposits	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



WWW.GDINS.ORG
1-877-488-6888
info@gdins.org

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

