



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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WWW.GDINS.ORG

THE ORDER OF GABRIEL DUMONT INVESTS EIGHT STUDENTS WITH BRONZE MEDAL

By Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

On Thursday May 1, 2025, the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research (GDI) announced eight students will receive the Order of Gabriel Dumont Bronze Medal. The eight students are: Aimy Falcon (Prince Albert), Brett Angus (La Ronge), Claudine Sens (Regina), Erika Warkentine (Kinistino), Gordon Burns (Regina/James Smith Cree Nation), Kimberly Dennett (Meadow Lake), Logan Boser (Meadow Lake), and posthumously Kalci Gusdal (Christopher Lake). The medals will be presented at GDI graduation ceremonies across the province in May and June.

The Order of Gabriel Dumont is the most prestigious award given to Métis civilians. Since the 1980s, the Order of Gabriel Dumont gold and silver medals recognize a lifetime of achievements and service to the Métis of Canada. The bronze medal was added in 2010 to

specifically recognize the achievement of Gabriel Dumont Institute’s students. Recipients are nominated by faculty and staff of GDI for demonstrating leadership, resilience, academic achievement, cultural involvement, and contributions to the Métis community. “We recognize the importance of investing in our students today to build a brighter future for Métis people in this province. Each of these students embody the Métis spirit of generosity, tenacity, resilience, and culture. We are proud of their accomplishments.” said Brett Vandale, Chief Executive Officer of GDI.

Story continues on Page 2...

Top row left to right: Gordon Burns, Aimy Falcon, Brett Angus, and Kalci Gusdal. Bottom row left to right: Erika Warkentine, Kimberly Dennett, Claudine Sens, and Logan Boser.





DEADLINE EXTENDED!



Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NSITEP)

La Ronge

Ongoing



Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP)

Regina

Ongoing



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

WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS

MICHIF WORDS OF THE MONTH

NI MIHTATAYN

I'm Sorry

WIICHIHIWAYHK

Service (to help)

ZWAY

Goose

AEN FORR DI MICHINN

Medicine Man

THE ORDER OF GABRIEL DUMONT INVESTS EIGHT STUDENTS WITH BRONZE MEDAL

Story Continued from Page 1

As the official educational arm of the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan, GDI students are claiming their education from the only Métis-owned and operated educational institution in the province. Past recipients have gone on to become teachers, nurses, healthcare workers, artists, community advocates and leaders.

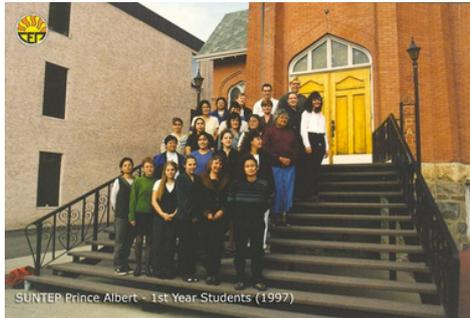
The GDI Board, staff, and faculty are proud to celebrate the accomplishments of these eight individuals who are just beginning their service to the Métis community. 🌟

Find all of the recipient bios on our website at: WWW.GDINS.ORG/NEWS

GDI TIME CAPSULE: LOOKING BACK AT 45 YEARS



SUNTEP Regina - 1st Intake (1980)
Sister L to Rita Martin Sayer, Brenda McDonald (Kinnon), Rama Alexson, Alan Donald, Patty Lou Racette, Esther Cardinal, Hazel Arnold, Beverly Worsley, Standing L to R: Terry McPhail, Melona Palmer, (Billie), Lorraine Yuzicapi, Lynne Daniels



SUNTEP Prince Albert - 1st Year Students (1997)



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE of Arts, Science and Applied Research
Olive Whitford, Donna Lee Dumont



SUNTEP Saskatoon



Dumont Technical Institute - Corrections Program





UPCOMING APPLICATION DEADLINES



Heavy Equipment Operator
Turnor Lake
May 5




Practical Nursing
Saskatoon, P.A., or Ile-à-la-Crosse
May 15




Outdoor Equipment Repair
La Loche
May 25




Mental Health & Wellness
Meadow Lake
June 30




Office Administration
Regina
June 30




Heavy Equipment & Truck & Transport Technical Program
Prince Albert
Ongoing




Adult Basic Education
Various
Ongoing



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

TAKING POSITIVE STEPS FORWARD

By Jessica Fisher (they/she), DTI Program Coordinator

Many educational organizations, including Dumont Technical Institute (DTI), have taken steps to invest in the safety and inclusion of two spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (2SLGBTQ) students and staff. Respect - one of our guiding values - underscores a commitment to supporting “a welcoming environment in which people feel at home, respected, believed in, and capable.” (Gabriel Dumont Institute, 2025, para. 5).

As a Métis Two Spirit person and Program Coordinator, I am pleased to see the actions DTI has taken to support and affirm 2SLGBTQ people. Here are a few of those actions:

- DTI has brought in a Métis Two Spirit Knowledge Keeper and affirming Elders to provide support to students. Why is this important? Many Métis people who are 2SLGBTQ do not have connections with Elders or Knowledge Keepers that affirm who they are. Conversely, some 2SLGBTQ Métis people experience discrimination and exclusion from their families and communities for who they are. By working with inclusive Elders and Knowledge Keepers, 2SLGBTQ students can access culturally relevant supports that allow them to be authentically themselves.

- Free menstrual products have been distributed in single stall washrooms, women’s washrooms, and men’s washrooms in many of DTI’s locations. Why is this important? Not just women menstruate. Trans men, gender diverse, and two spirit people also menstruate. By providing menstrual products in washrooms, we’re ensuring people have what they need to menstruate with dignity.
- Pride flags are visible in some classrooms and offices. Why is this important? When 2SLGBTQ students see pride flags on display, they may feel safer to be themselves. Visual symbols of inclusion also promote a safer workplace and learning environment that is accepting of all people.

Ultimately, DTI’s mission is to provide quality educational opportunities for Métis people in Saskatchewan. By supporting inclusive and welcoming environments, DTI is helping ensure 2SLGBTQ Métis people can find their place in community. 🌍



Gabriel Dumont Institute. (2025). Mission and Values. <https://gdins.org/about/overview/mission-statement/>

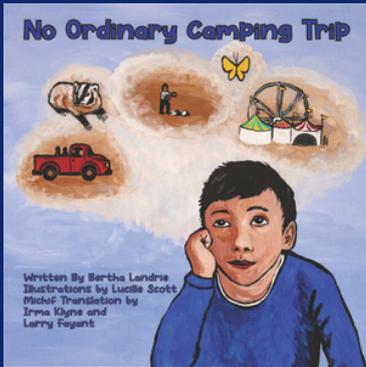
Want to learn more?

Look up “Métis Kitchen Table Teachings: Two-Spirit Michif Local Knowledge Sharing Panel” on YouTube, or check out the Canadian Museum for Human Rights article called “The Re-emergence of 2Spirit People in the 21st Century” by Albert McLeod.





NEW RELEASE FROM GDI PRESS



GDI Press is proud to announce the release of their latest children’s book, *No Ordinary Camping Trip*, written by Bertha Landrie, illustrated by Lucille Scott, Michif Translation by Irma Klyne and Larry Fayant.

In *No Ordinary Camping Trip*, Bertha Landrie recounts a tale from her husband, Joe’s, childhood. Many Métis families relied on seasonal employment, working for farmers, clearing fields, picking Seneca root, and other labour jobs to support themselves. In this coming-of-age story, a young Joe works hard picking rocks in order to make money to go to the North Battleford Fair. Will they be able to finish the job in time? Lucille Scott’s evocative illustrations take us back in time while capturing the story’s essence. Michif Old Ones, Irma Klyne and Larry Fayant provide a Southern Michif translation—the language of the Landrie family.

Find it online at:

WWW.GDINS.ORG/SHOP-GDI

SUNTEP P.A. NICOLE HILL HONOURED WITH LEADS EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT AWARD

By Bonnie Novotny, Program Head and Bethani Groat, Communications Coordinator

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) is proud to announce that Nicole Hill, a student of SUNTEP Prince Albert, has been awarded the LEADS Exceptional Student Award in recognition of her outstanding contributions to education, Métis culture, and the revitalization of the Michif language.

During her practicum in a Kindergarten Michif classroom at Stobart School in Duck Lake (Prairie Spirit School Division), Nicole fully immersed herself in language learning—becoming a confident Michif speaker and cultural role model for her students. A dedicated learner, Nicole entered her placement with no prior knowledge of the Michif language but quickly rose to the challenge—becoming a confident speaker and educator.

Her practicum was marked by culturally responsive and land-based learning strategies that engaged students in hands-on, meaningful activities—such as berry gathering, traditional storytelling, and preparing a community feast from duck plucking. By integrating Elders’ teachings and Métis traditions into daily lessons, Nicole cultivated a

vibrant classroom environment where students felt seen, valued, and connected to their heritage.

In addition to her excellence in the classroom, Nicole demonstrated exceptional leadership across the school. She organized the school-wide Terry Fox Run, facilitated a storytelling workshop led by Elders, guided a staff smudge, and led a restorative sharing circle with colleagues. Her extracurricular involvement also included coaching junior girls’ volleyball and volunteering at school fundraisers.

A respected leader in the SUNTEP community, Nicole played an active role in the Culture Committee and helped lead weekly smudges for students. Despite a daily commute and rigorous academic schedule, she maintained an exemplary academic record and left a lasting impression on the SUNTEP program, her students, and the community.

As she begins her teaching career in Saskatchewan, Nicole Hill continues to embody the values of SUNTEP—bringing Métis culture, language, and leadership into every space she enters. Maarsii, Nicole, for your vision, your voice, and your contributions to Métis education. 🌐





HAVE YOUR SAY: GDI LIBRARY P.A. SURVEY



Taanishi. Warm greetings from the GDI Prince Albert Library. We are proud to support the Gabriel Dumont Institute by offering a rich collection of Métis resources, alongside dedicated services to the students, faculty, and community. Whether you're picking up materials, using our self-checkout, entering a book draw, or taking part in a cultural event—We're here to serve and support you every step of the way.

We invite you to complete an anonymous survey to help us enhance our services and quality to meet your needs. Your feedback is essential in guiding the development of a responsive and enriching library experience for all.

**Participate. Contribute.
Make a lasting impact.**



The survey link is:

[HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.COM
/R/DR031HF1QQ](https://forms.office.com/R/DR031HF1QQ)

Visit the library catalogue at:

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/GDILB](https://tinyurl.com/gdilb)

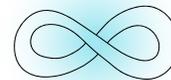
SUNTEP REGINA STUDENTS ARE ON THE TRAIL OF LOUIS RIEL

By Russell Fayant, SUNTEP Regina Faculty

SUNTEP Regina Students were on the trail of Louis Riel in April! ESST 100 students took a trip to downtown Regina with instructor Russ Fayant to learn about some important, but lesser known spots that relate to Riel's life and untimely death. The tour began at a buffalo sculpture which speaks to how Regina got it's nickname 'oskana ka asaskteki' or Pile o' Bones. Students then ventured into Victoria Park to learn about Riel's relationship with John A. Macdonald and understand why his statue was removed from such a prominent position in the park. The next stop was a building that sits on the site of Regina's first courthouse where Riel was tried.



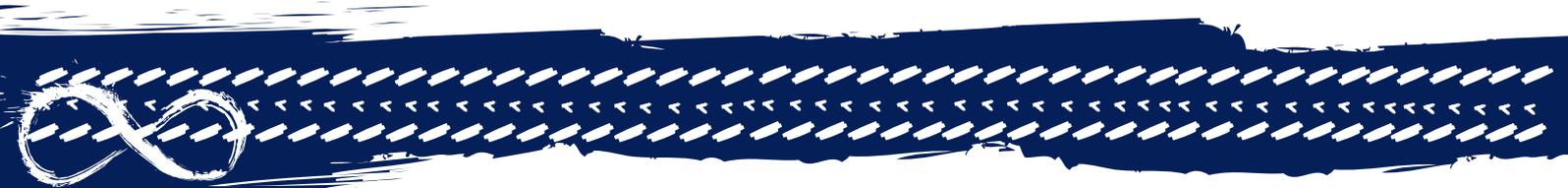
The second last stop was to an empty lot across from Victoria Park where Riel's body was secretly held for a week, under the floor of Regina's first Catholic church. The last stop of the tour was to Regina City Hall where Métis citizens of Regina partnered with the city in 2010 to make Regina the very first city in Canada to permanently fly the Infinity flag at City Hall. The tour is a great example of how SUNTEP Regina works to Indigenize courses and give students unique and active experiences which facilitate an understanding and appreciation for Métis history and culture. 🌐



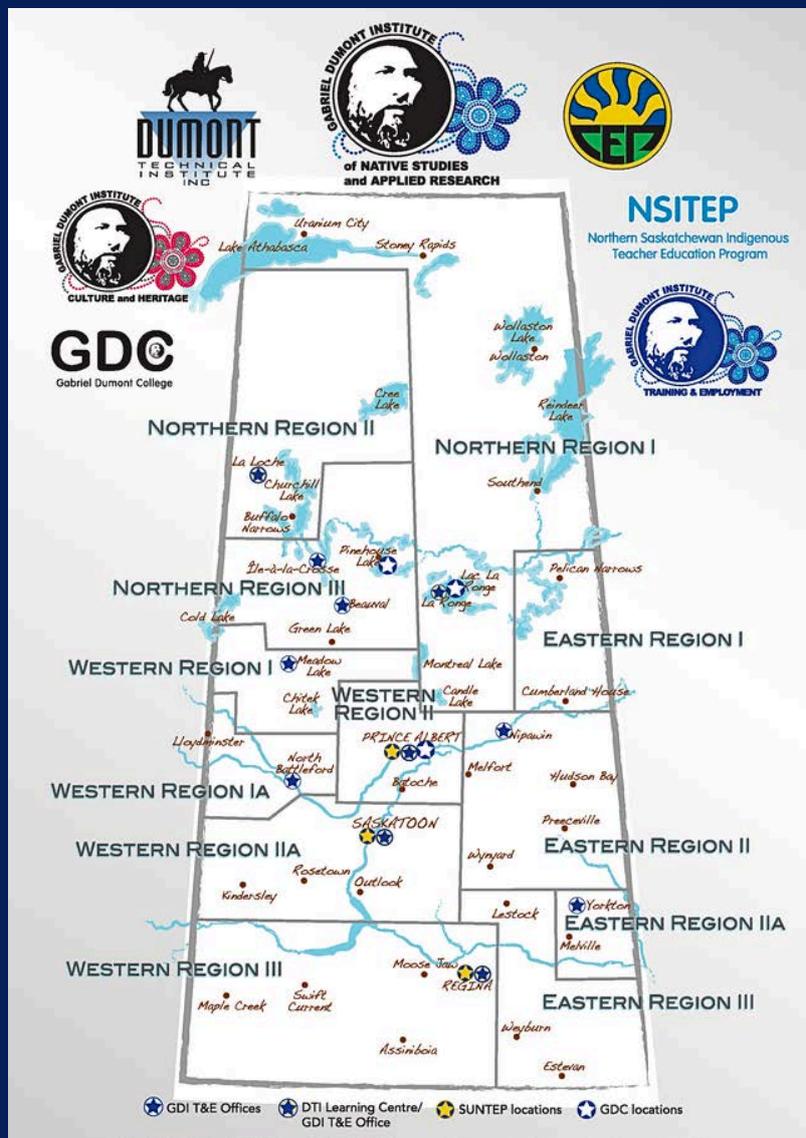
MAY 2025 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

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

