



THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



Keith Martell, Laura Burnouf, John Williams, Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff
Photo submitted by the Ministry of Advanced Education

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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GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE RECEIVES AN INCREASE IN FUNDING FROM THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

By Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

On November 3, 2025, the Government of Saskatchewan announced a \$250-million dollar increase to post-secondary institutions' operating funding over the next four years. The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) signed a new funding agreement with the province that ensures stable funding through annual operating funding increases and streamlines accountability reporting requirements.

"This commitment affirms our government's belief in the transformative role post-secondary education plays in shaping Saskatchewan's future," Advanced Education Minister Ken Cheveldayoff said. "By delivering predictable funding increases, we are ensuring that institutions can continue providing high-quality education that equips students to succeed in our dynamic, evolving labour market."

As part of the new agreement, GDI and all post-secondary institutions will see an increase in funding which will help stabilize tuition and fees for students across the province. The new agreement with the government ensures a 3% increase in operating grants each year. These increases will help secure the long-term financial growth for GDI.

The joint Memorandum of Understanding will be signed by all publicly funded post-secondary institutions and the Government of Saskatchewan and come into effect on April 1, 2026, until March 31, 2030. 🌐



SUNTEP SASKATOON LOUIS RIEL DAY DINNER

by Sheila Pocha, SUNTEP Saskatoon Program Head

In honour of Louis Riel Day, our SUNTEP Saskatoon Student Representative Council (SRC) worked with the Métis students of University of Saskatchewan (USask) to bring a commemorative gathering to our USask Campus honouring the great Métis leader, Louis Riel. Over 140 people gathered at the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre on November 18th for an evening of stories, music, and dinner. Many students and their families attended the event as well as prestigious Elders and guests, such as Maria Campbell, Murray Hamilton, Wilfred Burton, David Morin, and Brett Vandale.

The evening started off with music by Joseph Desjarlais and Cathy Sproule, as well as a few guitar tunes by 2nd-year student, Graysen Nordstrom. The fiddle and guitar music gave the evening a great sense of belonging as families convened and visited each other joyously.

Before we broke bread and enjoyed a delightful meal of bannock, hamburger soup, herb-style chicken and potatoes, we received a wonderful blessing from Maria Campbell followed by Krystle Pederson's incredible voice as she sang our Métis national anthem. We were all moved by this presentation and by listening to Murray Hamilton's words of wisdom as he provided us with a brief history of our people's perseverance and resistance to the colonial empire and the significance that Louis Riel played in establishing our identity.

Our student volunteers and our SRC representatives worked diligently planning and setting up this great event. Folks, such as Jillian Hingley, Ethan Gallays, Graysen Nordstrom, and Hannah Percy, took leadership roles in ensuring folks were comfortable and able to enjoy the evening. The idea of having door prizes at the end of the evening was great; many winners were impressed with their win as they received some beautiful beadwork and other various cultural gifts!

The commemorative gathering honouring Louis Riel was a wonderful event. Our students and their families and all those who attended remarked on how splendid the evening was. Our students listened with intent and purpose; they were filled with a greater sense of belonging and demonstrated their pride in their culture! Jillian Hingley remarked to the group how grateful she and her fellow students were when she said, "I want to thank Elder Maria Campbell and Murray Hamilton for answering our calls and putting their meaningful and impactful words together to honour Louis Riel here tonight. Our SUNTEP community is so grateful for all that the both of you have done to contribute to our Métis community and for your continuous fight for Métis rights. You have showcased how advocacy and community are central within Métis identity." 🙏



Photos submitted by Sheila Pocha

MICHIF WORDS OF THE MONTH

L'UNIYOON

Union

AEN KANAAR

Tea Kettle

AEN SALU

Salute

PAPAAMOOHTEW

Rambling

**ENN POZISSYON DI
FOOTBALL**

Quarterback





UPCOMING DTI APPLICATION DEADLINES



Intro to Welding

Saskatoon

Dec 19



Adult Basic Education - Semester 2

Various

Ongoing



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

WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS

UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR FALL 2026



Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NSITEP)

La Ronge

Feb 15



Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP)

Saskatoon, Regina, Prince Albert

Feb 15



Apply early to ensure your spot in these popular programs.

WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS

PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM AIMS TO STRENGTHEN NORTHERN HEALTHCARE

by Lucas Ketterer, DTI Program Coordinator

Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) proudly launched the first practical nursing program offered in Northern Saskatchewan in Île-à-la-Crosse. This is an important step forward for healthcare and education in the North. The program began in September 2025 and will run until June 2027, marking two years of hands-on training in a culturally supportive and academically rigorous program.

This two-year program is delivered in partnership with Northlands College, allowing for additional student seats and greater access for learners across the region. Students also gain hands-on experience in the University of Saskatchewan's Registered Nursing lab space, where they train using professional equipment in a realistic clinical environment.

What makes DTI's program especially meaningful is its strong connection to the community. Many of the instructors are Registered Nurses and a local doctor who actively works in the Île-à-la-Crosse hospital and health centre. They bring firsthand experience, cultural understanding, and practical skills into the classroom.

Several students in this year's cohort previously completed DTI's Continuing Care Assistant program and chose to continue their education to become Licensed Practical Nurses. Their commitment reflects a growing desire among northern students to advance their careers while staying close to home.

Nursing shortages are felt across Saskatchewan, but they are especially evident in northern communities, where staffing gaps affect access to care and services. By training local students, this Practical Nursing program aims to strengthen the healthcare system from within.

The ultimate goal is to see graduates stay and serve in their home communities. When students learn where they live, they are more likely to remain in the North, providing compassionate, culturally informed care to their friends, families, and neighbours. The Practical Nursing program in Île-à-la-Crosse is more than a classroom; it is an investment in the future of northern healthcare. Through community-led instruction, strong partnerships, and a focus on local success, this program is helping to build a healthier, more resilient future for generations to come.

THE INSTITUTE WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS FROM DECEMBER 24, 2025 – JANUARY 2, 2026.

REGULAR HOURS RESUME ON MONDAY JANUARY 5TH, 2026.





Photos submitted by Bethani Groat

BRINGING OUR MÉTIS MATRIARCHS STORIES BACK

by Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

On November 6, 2025, the Saskatchewan Ânskohk Writers' Circle Inc. (SAWCI) presented a panel on "Bringing Our Métis Matriarchs Stories Back" as the opening event of the Ânskohk Indigenous Literature Festival. Karon Shmon, Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Cultural Advisor, moderated the panel at the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre on the University of Saskatchewan campus. GDI is proud to be one of the sponsors of the Ânskohk Indigenous Literature Festival, and the panel was well attended by the public and students alike.

The panel featured Cheryl Troupe, Jade McDougall, and Allyson Stevenson reading from and sharing stories about the book, *Métis Matriarchs: Agents of Transition* published by the University of Regina Press last year. The book explores the significant contributions made by Métis women from across Western Canada from the late 19th to mid-20th century. Cheryl Troupe and Doris Jeanne MacKinnon edited the collection, and the contributors on the panel shared that working with the editors felt collaborative and pushed them to be better storytellers and academics. Troupe shared that when she set out to select the contributors for this book, she didn't intentionally only select women, but most of the scholars writing about Métis Matriarchs are Métis women themselves.

Allyson Stevenson shared how working with the Cumberland House community shaped her chapter and made her work uncovering the history easier. The community is highly historically literate, the history is living in the stories of the community, and they knew where to suggest Stevenson look for more details. Her job became to record the stories and work with the community to tell the history respectfully and completely as possible. She emphasized the importance of

working on the community's timeline to complete the project to their satisfaction. Her message for students was that you can't rush a community-based project to fit your ideas about how the work should be done.

For their chapter, Jade McDougall explored their own family history. Their research led them through many obscure corners of the census, marriage and baptismal records, last wills and personal communications preserved in the archives. McDougall expressed a particular interest in the textual analysis of these documents that are often written by rote but will occasionally deviate from the standard language to include clues for the researcher. They shared one example of a will that included childhood nicknames for all the adult children named in the will, or the woman who only had one child on record at a time when most families had several. McDougall invited students to ask questions of these historical texts to reveal the hidden stories of the matriarchs in their own families.

The panel ended on a question from moderator Karon Shmon, "What do you hope to see for the future of research on Métis Matriarchs?" Troupe said that people still approach her with stories about matriarchs that weren't included in the book which speaks to the need to continue to uncover and reclaim these stories. Stevenson echoed this sentiment saying that she hopes her research will inspire young people to ask their grandmothers for the stories that may be slipping away as we lose the generation that lived through some of these events and carry the memories and stories with them. McDougall added that she hopes to see more research into queer and two-spirit Métis ancestors because we know they are out there.

If you would like to purchase *Métis Matriarchs: Agents of Transition*, you can visit the GDI Press Bookstore. 🌐

WINTER GDITE OFFICE HOURS IN LA RONGE

Gabriel Dumont Institute Training & Employment (GDITE) is pleased to offer winter outreach hours in La Ronge. We will have Career Advisors available during these hours to help you with your job search, write a resume, apply for school.

Dec 9 11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Dec 10 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Jan 8 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Jan 22 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Drop by during these special winter office hours at

711 La Ronge Ave, La Ronge, SK.

or give us a call at

1-877-488-6888 or email

careerservices@gdins.org

to make an appointment.



Photos submitted by SATCC

HONOURING OUR HEROES SCREENING



The GDI Department of Culture & Heritage hosted a screening of the documentary *Honouring Our Heroes* on November 18, 2025 to recognize Louis Riel Day and Remembrance Day. Before the screening, GDI Cultural Advisor Karon Shmon, shared about the significance of honouring Métis veterans who historically have been over looked. David Morin and LeeAnn Gervais read tributes to a dozen Métis veterans.

GDITE PRESENTS THE PERSEVERANCE AWARD

by Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

On November 7, 2025, the Gabriel Dumont Institute Training & Employment (GDITE) was pleased to be the event partner for the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission (SATCC) 25th Annual Apprenticeship Celebration Dinner. The event was held at the Conexus Art Centre in Regina to celebrate excellence in skilled trades and the accomplishments of apprentices around the province. Hundreds of apprentices, tradespeople, and industry professionals. Chelsie Rodriguez and Bonnie Hartman attended on behalf of GDITE to present the GDI Perseverance Award.

The GDI Perseverance Award is one of the industry awards presented annually to one Métis apprentice whose resilience and self-determination exemplify perseverance. The award includes a \$750 cash award granted from the GDITE Endowment Fund. This year, Cody Buziak, a third-year Automotive Service Technician, received the award for perseverance.

There were also ten other industry awards and scholarships announced, and 27 tradespeople received the “Outstanding New Journeyperson” award which recognizes those who received the highest marks on their respective certification exams last year.

“At GDI, we see every day how apprenticeships change lives,” said Chelsie Rodriguez, “and we admire your perseverance and dedication to your trade, and we salute the hardworking mentors who make the skilled trades an exciting career choice for many.”

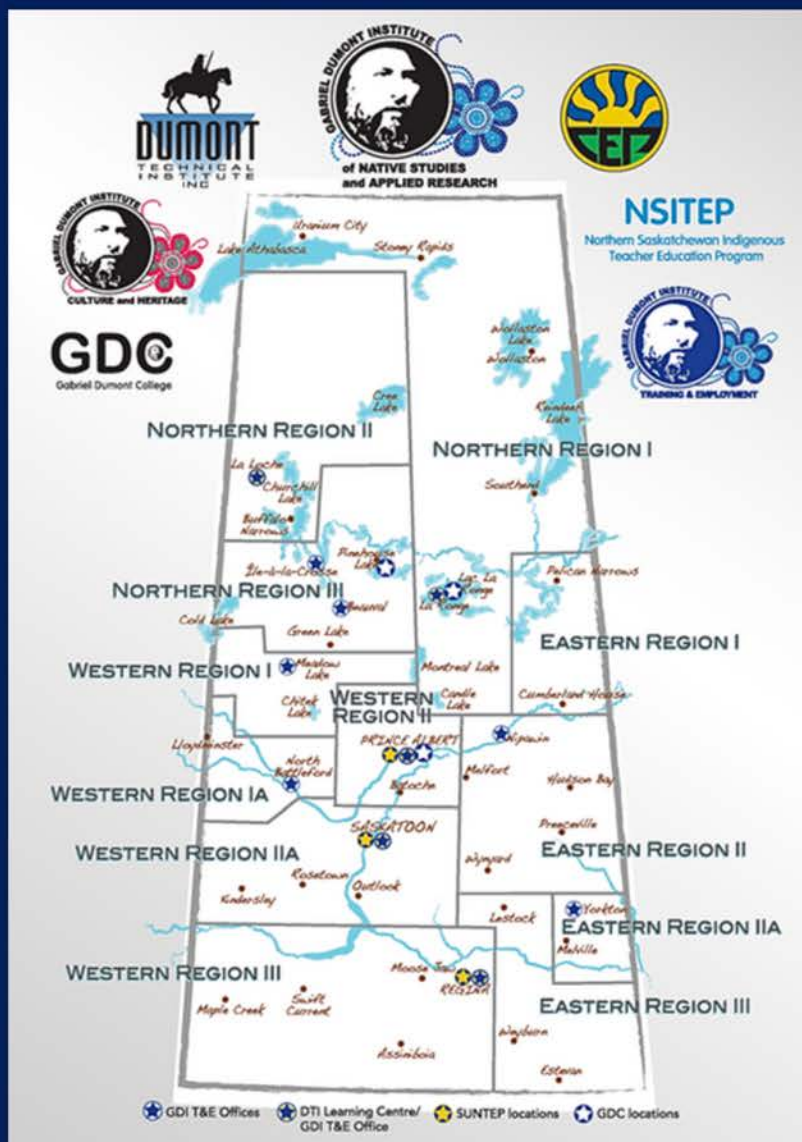
GDITE is proud to continue to work closely with SATCC to offer training opportunities through the Indigenous Apprenticeship Program. Congratulations to all of the 2025 recipients!

DECEMBER 2025 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

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

