



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

IN THIS ISSUE



Dumont Technical Institute Celebrates Graduates Across the Province



A Look at the Indigenous Education Doctorate with Chasity Berast



GDI Press Collaborates on Braille Editions of Children's Books

LEGEND

DTI—Dumont Technical Institute
GDC—Gabriel Dumont College
GDI—Gabriel Dumont Institute
GDITE—Gabriel Dumont Institute Training and Employment
GDSF—Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation
NSITEP—Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program
SUNTEP—Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program

DUMONT TECHNICAL INSTITUTE CELEBRATES GRADUATES ACROSS THE PROVINCE

By Dumont Technical Institute Program Coordinators

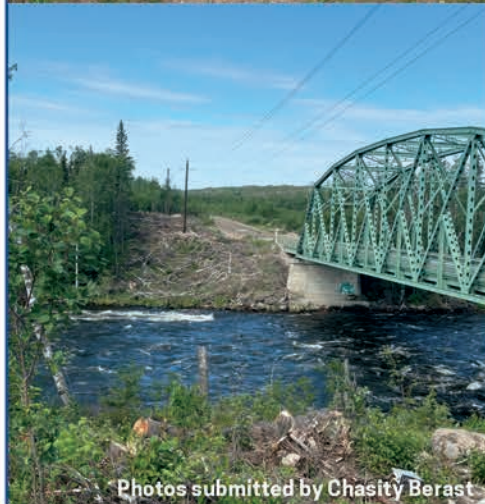
Another academic year has ended, and the Dumont Technical Institute wishes to extend congratulations to all the graduates and successful completers in 2025–2026.

It takes a lot of determination to go back to school at any age, but our adult learners are often juggling their academic responsibilities alongside work, family and caregiving responsibilities, mental or physical health challenges, and daily life stresses. Yet, you have persevered and claimed your education. No one can take away the experience, knowledge, and skills you have developed in your program, and you have all kinds of doors open ahead of you to have a better life.

We are proud of the successful completers and graduates who are entering the workforce or continuing with their education. We know you will serve in your community with cultural pride, respect, and perseverance.

Aahkamayimo avik la bonn oovraazh!

Messages to the graduates continue on Page 3...



Photos submitted by Chasity Berast

A LOOK AT THE INDIGENOUS EDUCATION DOCTORATE WITH CHASITY BERAST

By Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

Chasity Berast is a strong Métis woman with maternal roots in Green Lake, Saskatchewan. She is an Indigenous Student Advisor with the Digital Innovations in the Arts & Science Department at Saskatchewan Polytechnic in Saskatoon. Chasity is one of the thirteen doctoral candidates completing the Indigenous Education Doctorate program with the Gabriel Dumont Institute and the University of Regina. She said that she was drawn to the cohort model of the program, and she liked that there was a Métis-specific focus as she is looking to connect more with her Métis roots.

In July, Chasity and her cohort spent two weeks in Missinipe, Saskatchewan completing the “Land-Based Education: Indigenous Learning and Leadership” course. She said the experience was transformative. “For me, [the land-based learning] has been a really great way for the academic piece to come together with the personal piece and fosters new connections,” said Chasity. Candidates are from all over, and they primarily work independently with their academic supervisor to complete their research during the academic year. The opportunity for the cohort to come together to learn and develop the relational knowledge between candidates, faculty, and the community is an important part of the program.

The course is based around the Seven Grandfather Teachings and is taught by Dr. Morris Cook and Knowledge Keeper Micheal Relland. The course takes a broader view of academic learning, including opportunities for tactile land-based learning, and relational storytelling learning, and provides reflection questions privately and as a cohort.

One of the land-based learning activities that the candidates learned to build was a sweat lodge. “We all worked together [to build the sweat lodge]. We started with nothing and by the end of it we had built something,” said Chasity. “The next day we got to share and participate in a sweat. It was one of the most meaningful experiences.”

Knowledge Keeper Hume Mirasty taught the candidates to make a traditional rattle for the ceremony. They spent a full day with him learning the history, the stories, preparing the materials, and assembling their rattle. They also spent a day with Knowledge Keeper Abel Charles who taught them through storytelling and how to listen.

When asked about her biggest take away from the experience, Chasity said, “It’s the trust. We really trust each other as a cohort. We know that if we are sharing difficult stories or personal experiences that they will stay in the circle. We support and don’t judge each other on our journey.” She also emphasized how the land-based learning helped her connect her academic research with the relational and emotional piece of education. She is looking forward to applying what she has learned at Saskatchewan Polytechnic. She plans to create an Indigenous Student Leadership Circle that will support students to form their own cohort model that is collaborative and supportive like hers has been.

Chasity said that while the program is academically rigorous, people entering the program should also be prepared for the personal demands as well. “Give yourself permission to grow and change through the process,” Chasity said. Her advice for anyone considering the Indigenous Education Doctorate program is to take the leap! 🌱

MICHIF WORDS OF THE MONTH

TAANBOOR

Drum

LA BROJHUR

Embroidery

NIIMIPAYIW

Frolic

MAMAWAPOWUK

Gathering

AASHKOW PIKO

Hit & Miss

NIMIYAAYAAN

I’m fine

JOOYET

July



DTI PROGRAMS STILL ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS...



**Continuing Care
Assistant**
Prince Albert or
Saskatoon

Ongoing



Practical Nursing
Prince Albert or
Saskatoon

Ongoing



**Office
Administration**
Regina or Saskatoon

Ongoing



**Adult Basic
Education**
Various

Ongoing



**Heavy Equipment
Operator**
La Loche

Ongoing



**Heavy Equipment and
Truck and Transport
Technician**
Prince Albert

Ongoing



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

DUMONT TECHNICAL INSTITUTE CELEBRATES GRADUATES ACROSS THE PROVINCE

Story Continued from Page 1

"We are proud to celebrate the graduation of seven students from the **Mental Health and Wellness program in Buffalo Narrows**. Over the course of the program, these students have demonstrated commitment, resilience, and a strong dedication to learning. Throughout their journey, they have grown both personally and professionally, building the knowledge and skills needed to support mental health and wellness in their communities. From classroom learning to hands-on experiences, each graduate has contributed to a positive and supportive learning environment. Their hard work, compassion, and perseverance have been evident every step of the way. As they move forward, we acknowledge the time, effort, and growth that brought them to this achievement. Graduation marks an important milestone in their journey, and the beginning of new opportunities ahead. We are also proud to share that a couple of graduates have already secured employment within various northern communities and are beginning to apply their skills in meaningful ways close to home. Congratulations to the seven graduates from Buffalo Narrows on reaching this milestone. We wish you continued success in all that comes next." —Mattia Gregory



DTI Practical Nursing Saskatoon Graduates

"Congratulations to the 2026 graduates of **Dumont Technical Institute's Practical Nursing Diploma Program** in Saskatoon! Through dedication and perseverance, these Métis graduates have successfully completed their program and are prepared to begin their careers as practical nurses. We celebrate their achievement and wish them every success as they provide safe, skilled care to the communities they will serve". —Candace Schiele

Messages to the graduates continue on Page 4...



DUMONT TECHNICAL INSTITUTE CELEBRATES GRADUATES ACROSS THE PROVINCE

Story Continued from Page 3



"Congratulations to an absolutely incredible group of **Prince Albert Practical Nursing** graduates!

These past two years tested your limits and demanded your absolute all. Yet, day after day, you chose to push through, support one another, and keep your eyes on the goal. Watching your growth, resilience, and caring hearts has been an honour. You are going to be an amazing Practical Nurses. We are so proud of you and can't wait to hear about the positive impact you will have on healthcare." —Chantelle Jule



"Congratulations on your **Continuing Care Assistant Prince Albert** graduation! Your hard work, dedication, and caring hearts have brought you to this milestone. Wishing you success as you begin making a difference in the lives of others." —Chantelle Jule

"Congratulations to our **Adult Basic Education Prince Albert** Graduates! Your hard work, perseverance, and dedication have paid off, and we are incredibly proud of everything you have accomplished. We wish you all the best as you begin the next chapter of your journey. Congratulations, Class of 2026!" —Bonnie Hryciuk

"Congratulations to the **DTI Prince Albert Heavy Equipment Truck and Transport Technician** class of 2026. I had the distinct pleasure to get to know you all over the 2025–2026 academic year; you were a joy to watch learn and grow. On behalf of all of DTI, know that we are all proud of you, proud of your success as students, and proud of the life-long learners you will become. Best of luck, wherever your career takes you and remember, you will always have a home at DTI." —Daniel Downs

"Bonn ourazh! | Good work!

Congratulations to the **Regina Adult Basic Education, Continuing Care Assistant and Office Administration Graduates!** We celebrate all your hard work, perseverance and dedication.

As graduates of Dumont Technical Institute, you carry with you the knowledge and skills learned, the strength of your ancestors, and a foundation of cultural teachings.

Remember learning is a lifelong journey. Continue to be curious, lead with kindness, honour your teachings, and never lose sight of your dreams. Congratulations, Class of 2026! We are so incredibly proud of you. May your future be filled with purpose, opportunity, and success.

Maarsii to all those who helped and encouraged our students along the way: parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, friends and family, mentors, staff, faculty, and community leaders." —Shawna LaRocque Desjarlais 🌱

First: Practical Nursing Prince Albert Graduating Class of 2026

Second: Continuing Care Assistant Prince Albert Graduating Class of 2026

Third: Heavy Equipment Truck and Transport Technician Graduating Class of 2026

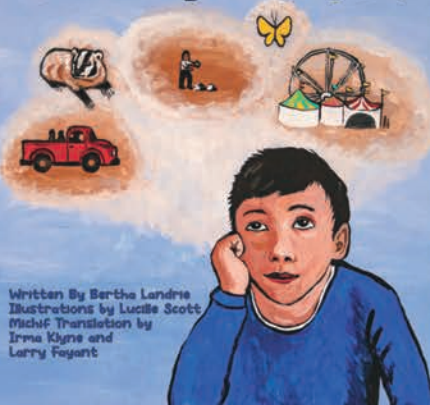
Fourth: Adult Basic Education Prince Albert Level 4 Graduating Class of 2026





GDI Press Titles

No Ordinary Camping Trip



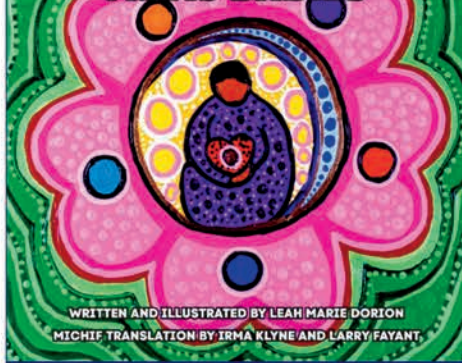
Written By Berthe Landrie
Illustrations by Lucille Scott
Michif Translation by
Irma Klyne and
Larry Fayant

I Love My Auntie Because...



By Elena Bentley with Illustrations by Kate Boyer
Michif Translation by Irma Klyne and Larry Fayant

FIVE SENSES FOR MÉTIS BABIES



WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY LEAH MARIE DORION
MICHIF TRANSLATION BY IRMA KLYNE AND LARRY FAYANT

LET'S GET SOCIAL



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

WWW.GDINS.ORG

GDI PRESS COLLABORATES ON BRAILLE EDITIONS OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS

By David Morin, Director of Culture and Heritage

GDI Culture and Heritage is partnering with the National Network for Equitable Libraries (NNELS) to release braille editions of our six latest children's books! NNELS recognized that there was a lack of titles available in braille from Indigenous publishers so it reached out to see if we were interested in participating in a program that makes braille editions of books for youth. Making our titles accessible to an audience that has barriers is important, so we reached out to our authors and illustrators. Everyone was excited to be a part of the project! The titles include: *Once Upon a Christmas in Île-à-la-Crosse*, *I Love My Auntie Because...*, *Stinky Sock Jam*, *Road Allowance Kitten: Full Circle*, *No Ordinary Camping Trip*, and *Five Senses for Métis Babies*.

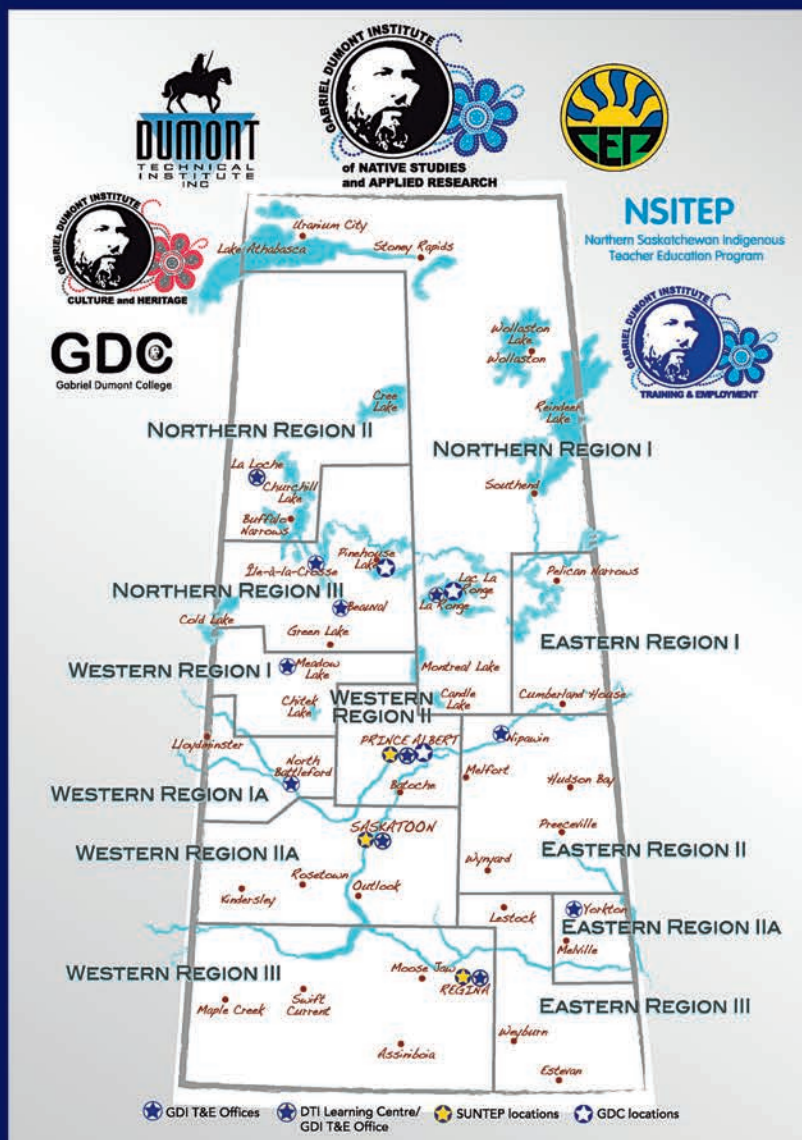
When the project is completed, one set of the books will be accessible through the public library of Canada system, and one set will live with GDI. Electronic braille files will also be made available through NNELS as well as on our Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture (www.metismuseum.ca). Work has begun to create descriptive text for the illustrations, which will accompany the English text of the books to complete each braille edition. Another exciting piece to this project is NNELS took a 3D scan of Leah Dorion's art for *Five Senses for Métis Babies* to create models of her art that could be used by blind and low vision readers to have a tactile experience. If you've been to the GDI Museum and Gallery, or have seen Leah's art in person, you'll see the different layers of paint Leah uses, so again, that barrier will be removed. A big maarsii to Riane Lapaire, NNELS Braille Coordinator for all her hard work in creating the braille editions! 🌟

AUGUST 2026 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

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

