



# THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



NSITEP 2024 Graduates



Eva Ross



Malachai McKenzie

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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## NSITEP OPENS DOORS FOR 2024 GRADUATES

By Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

On May 24th, the Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NSITEP) celebrated its second graduation class of 16 students in Air Ronge. The students paraded into the hall to thunderous applause as they took their place on the stage. Family and friends of all ages were there to celebrate all that these students have accomplished—from beginning their studies during the pandemic to persevering through four years of rigorous academic studies to completing their teacher practicum placements in the community.

The ceremony started with a blessing and words of encouragement from Elders Abel Charles and Glen Lafleur. Glen told the graduates that education is the key which opens many doors and reminded them to remember their roots as they pursue these new opportunities.

Following the blessing, the Honour Song was performed by drummers and singers from the community.

The graduates then received congratulations from representatives of all three partner organizations, including Brett Vandale, the Acting Executive Director of the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), Councillor Ann Ratt of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB), and Dr. James Nahachewsky, Dean of Education at the University of Regina (U of R). While Dr. Nahachewsky spoke about how important this program is for affirming relationships with all of our relations, a young child of one of the graduates darted on stage to hug their parent, emphasizing the interconnectedness of the community, program, teachers, and the next generation.

Story continues on Page 4...





2024 MMIWG2S Ribbon Skirt/Shirt Healing Workshop. Photo credit: GDI Culture & Heritage



## GDI MMIWG2S+ RIBBON SKIRT/SHIRT HEALING WORKSHOP

By Desirae Barker, GDI Senior Program Coordinator

In April, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), led by the GDI Culture & Heritage Department, held a series of inclusive workshops at Wanuskewin Heritage Park in Saskatoon, focusing on healing for those directly affected by Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit people (MMIWG2S+). Funded by a grant from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Government Relations, this invitational event was open to families and friends directly impacted by MMIWG2S+. Participants included Indigenous men, women, youth, and two-spirit individuals of all ages.

The workshops provided a space for individuals to come together, fostering mentorship and multigenerational learning experiences. This approach aimed to promote healing and solidarity among those impacted by MMIWG2S+, leveraging the strength and resilience within the community. Through shared activities and discussions, attendees had the opportunity to connect, support one another, and work toward collective healing.

The three-day workshop opened with a traditional prayer, smudge, and healing circle led by community Elders, which set a spiritual and supportive tone for the event. Participants then engaged in sewing and learned about the cultural significance of ribbon shirts and skirts.

On the second day, Newo Wellness delivered an interactive presentation that focused on paths toward healing, holistic wellness techniques, and self-led therapeutic practices grounded in Indigenous perspectives. This session aimed to equip participants with tools and knowledge to support their healing journeys.

Red Ribbon Skirt designed by Kristin Kalk

By the final day, the participants had completed their ribbon skirts or shirts. The workshop concluded with a round circle discussion, prayer, and reflection session, again led by the community Elders. This closing activity allowed participants to share their experiences, reflect on their growth, and strengthen the sense of community and support built over the three days. Each participant was given a ribbon skirt kit and a copy of GDI's resource, *sînapân kîskasâkâs: A Guide to Making Contemporary-Style Métis Ribbon Skirts* to make an additional skirt to gift to someone within the MMIWG2S+ community as a way to continue to provide healing opportunities for others.

The Institute is proud to have been a trusted host of the workshop and hopes to continue offering similar workshops in the future. This event's success highlights the importance of community-driven initiatives in fostering healing and resilience among those affected by MMIWG2S+.

This summer, the ribbon skirts and shirts created during the workshop will be displayed at the 2024 Saskatoon Exhibition to raise awareness about MMIWG2S+. The exhibit will include participant quotes and information on preventing violence against Indigenous women and two-spirit people, which will reach thousands of attendees. 🌍



# MICHIF

## WORDS OF THE MONTH

**LA DAANS DI MICHIF**  
Jigging

**PAPAMOHTEW**  
Hiker

**PIMAATAKAAK**  
Swimming

**TOOT LITII**  
All Summer





Saskatoon ABE 2024 Graduates



La Loche ABE 2024 Graduates

# CELEBRATING OUR DTI ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GRADUATES

By Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

Adult Basic Education (ABE) graduates across the province celebrated with their families and friends as another school year ends. Going back to school as an adult is daunting for many, so our students have much to be proud of as they complete their studies. These students often balance their studies between jobs, family responsibilities, and other challenges that require exceptional dedication and focus.

alienated at typical schools. Our students develop personal relationships with the faculty and staff, and the campus feels like an extended family by graduation. Whether they plan to enter the workforce, return for post-secondary education, or continue to upgrade a few classes, they've invested a lot of hard work to get this far, and we celebrate their success.

Dumont Technical Institute (DTI)'s ABE program creates opportunities for adult learners to self-actualize their goals, better understand their Métis culture and heritage, and contribute to their families and communities. ABE students complete a cultural project each semester, whether it is cedar bundles, ribbon skirts, or making an Orange Shirt Day quilt. Creating a supportive environment for students as whole people helps adult learners become more confident in their studies.

Congratulations to the nine graduates from Saskatoon; six graduates from Regina; four graduates from Prince Albert and two successful upgraders; four graduates from La Loche; three graduates from Île-à-la-Crosse; and the single graduate from Cumberland House. Congratulations also to all the Level 1, 2, and 3 completers who have made important strides in reclaiming their education. Education is a powerful tool, and our students are positioned to build a brilliant future.

DTI faculty are committed to relentlessly supporting our students, who may have faced barriers or felt

Thanks, Maarsii, for your commitment to education and for inspiring us all! 🌐

## UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS



**Continuing Care Assistant**  
Île-à-la-Crosse  
Ongoing




**Practical Nursing Diploma**  
Regina  
July 31




**Adult Basic Education**  
La Loche  
August 16




**Adult Basic Education**  
Île-à-la-Crosse  
August 16



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

[WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS](http://WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS)

## GDI CELEBRATES INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' HISTORY MONTH WITH ONLINE EDUCATIONAL SERIES

By GDI Culture & Heritage Department

June is National Indigenous Peoples' History Month in Canada, and the Gabriel Dumont Institute Culture & Heritage Department have been sharing snapshots of Métis history and culture on social media to celebrate. Read some of the stories here:

### *The Emergence of the Métis Nation*

The Métis are a post-Contact nation of Indigenous people who emerged in the western interior of North America in the 1780s-90s. The emergence of the Métis occurred in what is now Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, North Dakota, Montana, and in the southern Northwest Territories with a

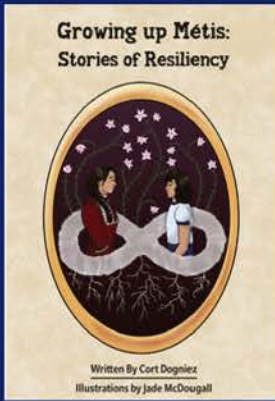
small overflow in northeast British Columbia, and northwest Ontario. This process of ethnogenesis—creating the Métis Nation—occurred because a new identity crystalized in the Red River region as numerous mixed heritage families consisting of people of largely Ojibway, Cree, Nakota, and Dene maternal ancestries and French Canadian, Scots, and Orcadian paternal ancestries began to recognize that their social, economic, and political goals converged and this led them to intermarry within their group in large numbers.

Story continues on Page 4...





## LATEST FROM GDI PRESS



Cort Dogniez's *Growing up Métis: Stories of Resiliency* is the second installment of his historical fiction series that began with *Road to La Prairie Ronde*. In two separate, but connected fictionalized stories, Cort delves into the lives of two of his foremothers: his great-grandmother, Josephine Gariepy and his grandmother, Clara Dumont when they were young.

**AVAILABLE NOW AT  
GDINS.ORG/SHOP-GDI**

## GDI CELEBRATES INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' HISTORY MONTH WITH ONLINE EDUCATIONAL SERIES

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Through an act of political will, this mixed-heritage group recognized that it formed the same community and developed family and kinship ties that extended throughout the region

### **Métis Stories**

Métis stories seamlessly blend Cree, Ojibway, and French-Canadian narratives. While derived from their ancestral cultures, they express a distinct Métis worldview. Traditional Métis stories include malevolent beings, such as Whittigos (cannibal spirits), Roogaroos (werewolves), and li Jiyaab (the Devil), as well as humorous creation or morality stories, centering on the tricksters, Wiisakaychak, Nanabush, and Chi-Jean. There are also stories about magical little people, lake monsters, a boogeywoman, the northern lights, tall tales, fairy tales, and historical events. These stories are typically shared leading up to Lent or at community gatherings, such as feasts. While entertaining, Métis stories provide valuable life lessons and instill cultural values and a sense of Métis identity in their listeners and participants.

### **Métis Floral Beadwork and Embroidery**

The Métis are heirs to a vibrant decorative arts culture that emphasizes the brightly coloured floral motif in beadwork and embroidery. The Métis were known as the "Flower Beadwork People" because of the preponderance of flower designs in their beadwork and embroidery, becoming one of the most distinctive Métis symbols. By the 1840s, the Red River Métis began producing increasingly naturalistic and colourful floral designs on moccasins, coats, vests, belts, bags, mittens, tablecloths, wall pockets, and cloth frames for religious pictures. Embroidery appears on both functional and decorative items, such as mittens, jackets, leggings, moccasins, vests, shawls, knife sheaths, bags, dog blankets, wall pockets, pillowcases, piano covers, picture frames, and purses. Generations of Métis artisans have produced countless of these objets d'art for loved ones and for sale.

**Read more Métis snapshots on GDI's Facebook & Instagram.** 🌐

## NSITEP OPENS DOORS FOR 2024 GRADUATES

*Story Continued from Page 1*

Students from the graduating class also shared their gratitude. Jane Roberts honoured the NSITEP instructors and mentors, and Georgette Sanderson shared gratitude for her classmates. Sandra Halket honoured the student supports. Each student then walked across the stage to receive their degree from the U of R and Métis sash from GDI, and they were invited to return to the stage for a special gift from the LLRIB as well.

Finally, three student awards were presented. Nancy LaFleur presented the Strength & Perseverance Award to

Eva Ross, including a bespoke ribbon skirt and bursary. Dr. Morris Cook presented the 2nd Annual NSITEP Iskotēw Community Fires Award to Malachi McKenzie, recognizing his traditional knowledge and land-based education practices. Lastly, Gabe Andrews presented the Order of Gabriel Dumont Bronze Medal to third-year student Betty Ann Durocher for her leadership.

Today, NSITEP graduates are ready to become role models, teachers, and leaders in the North and inspire future generations to reach new heights. 🌐





# DTI STUDENT SUCCESS STORY: JERRY JUNIOR BLOOMFIELD

By Lily McKay-Carriere, DTI ABE Faculty

On May 28th, Jerry Junior Bloomfield graduated from the Adult Basic Education Level 4 program offered by Dumont Technical Institute in Cumberland House. His family and community leaders celebrated the special event with the young father of four boys, who once opted out of high school, only to make a successful comeback by earning his diploma as an adult. He states, "I needed a grade 12 diploma to open doors of opportunity, and I am so grateful that I could do it in my home community!" Jerry's determination to succeed in his educational journey holds promise of pathways to "mino-pimâtisiwin," a Cree word for "living a good life."

partner faced health challenges, Jerry was prepared to quit the program to focus on family, but she encouraged him to finish the diploma. He overcame adversity to claim his education. When Jerry learned the history and contemporary issues regarding Indigenous Peoples, he demonstrated a connection to his Métis identity. It was a period of self-reflection which gave him insight into his roots and a clear path forward.

Succeeding in the ABE program has magnified Jerry's gratitude for the support provided by the Metis Nation —Saskatchewan, the local leadership, and his family. As we celebrate his educational achievement, we recognize that Jerry's traits of perseverance, resilience, and sense of identity, along with an Adult 12 Diploma, will shine a light on the path of Mino-pimâtisiwin! 🌟

Throughout the year, Jerry displayed a range of qualities and attributes, including perseverance, overcoming adversity, and connection to his Métis identity that helped him succeed. When other learners gave up, Jerry finished thanks to his perseverance. When his



Photos submitted by Mattia Gregory

## CALL FOR RIBBON SKIRTS

GDI Culture & Heritage department is co-hosting a ribbon skirt installation with the Saskatoon Exhibition from August 6-11, 2024 at Prairieland Park. You are invited to submit a skirt you have made, were gifted, or bought to showcase the cultural renewal of ribbon skirts among First Nations and Métis women. Skirts are being collected until July 17, 2024.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT: [GDINS.ORG/RIBBONSKIRTS2024](http://GDINS.ORG/RIBBONSKIRTS2024)**

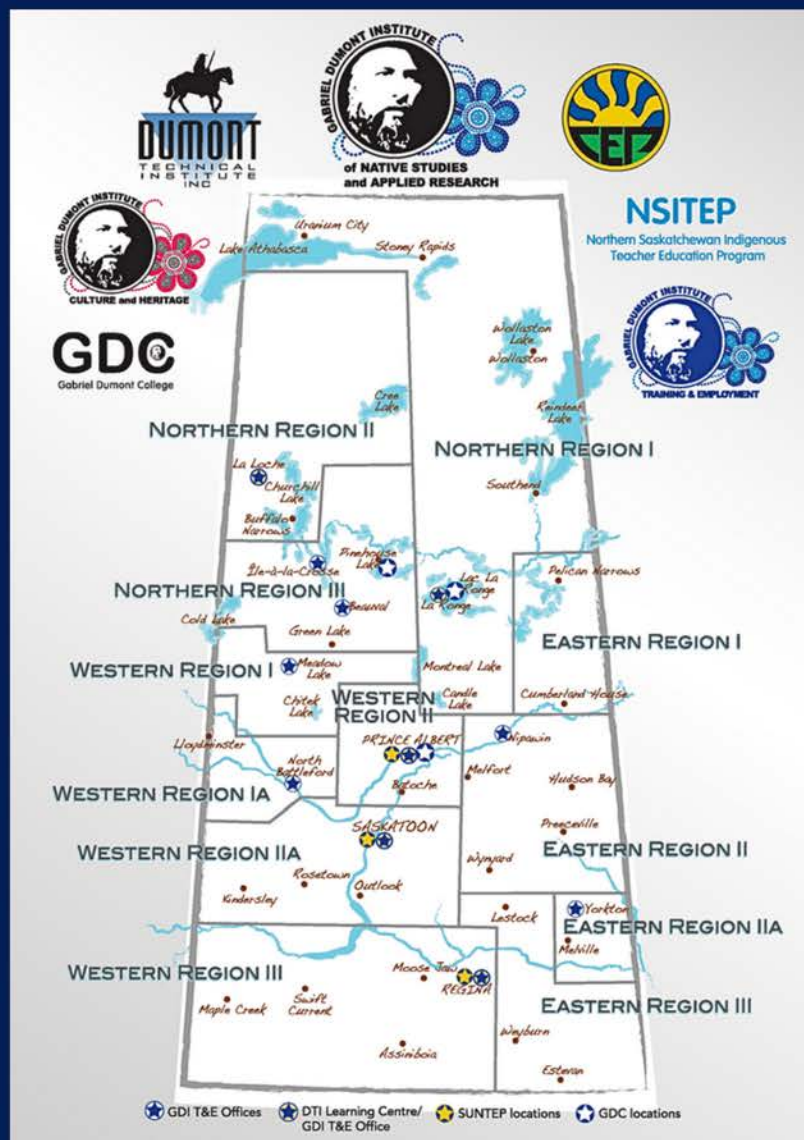
## JULY 2024 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Canada Day Stat Holiday			Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheet & Payroll Revisions for Jul 15 Payday	Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Jul 12 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Staff Payday			Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Jul 26 Direct Deposits	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheet & Payroll Revisions for Jul 31 Payday	Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
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](http://www.metismuseum.ca)

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