



THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



Photos by Juli Labrecque

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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GDI AND U OF R RENEW AFFILIATION AGREEMENT AND CELEBRATE THE INDIGENOUS EDUCATION DOCTORATE

By Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

On September 26th, 2024, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) and the University of Regina (U of R) held a special signing ceremony to renew their affiliation agreement, reinforcing their commitment to collaborate on educational opportunities for the Métis community. This renewed partnership will continue to deliver fully accredited post-secondary programs that support the advancement of Métis culture and heritage, including the newly introduced Indigenous Education Doctorate Program.

The U of R and GDI have a longstanding history of cooperation, working together to provide high-quality education that meets the needs of Métis students. The renewed affiliation agreement solidified this relationship, ensuring that both institutions can continue to build on their shared goals

of promoting Métis culture, language, and history while delivering exceptional academic programs.

A key highlight of the renewed partnership is the launch of the Indigenous Education Doctorate Program in Prince Albert. The program is offered through a partnership between GDI and the U of R's Faculty of Education. This three-year program emphasizes Métis local knowledge, history, spirituality, and culture.

Story continues on Page 5...

First photo left to right: Dr. Nilgün Önder, Associate Vice-President (Academic) U of R, Dr. James Nahachewsky, Dean of the Faculty of Education U of R, Viola Bell Vice-Chair of the GDI Board of Governors, Dr. Aziz Douai Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research at U of R, Lisa Bird-Wilson Chief Executive Officer of GDI. Second photo: Métis Knowledge Keeper Mike Relland.





DTIP.A. Practical Nursing Year 1 and 2 students took a fieldtrip to Saskatoon to visit the GDI Métis Museum on a tour with George Gingras. A great educational and community building activity had by all.



MÉTIS NATION UNIVERSITY SUCCESS STORY: HEIDI ABRAMYK

By Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

Heidi Abramyk is an award-winning Métis communications professional. In 2023, she received a Métis Nation University Sponsorship to complete her Master of Arts in Professional Communications from the Royal Roads University. Heidi had this program on her vision board for ten years before applying. The funding allowed her to make her dreams become a reality. Now, she is positioned to advance into leadership roles in her career. Her advice to other students is to find supportive people who will help them balance the demands of life and school.



She will present the project at the Métis Crossing, which will be the culmination of the Indigenous Women in Community Leadership program.

Heidi received the Royal Roads Founders' Award, which is given to outstanding students in their field. She has demonstrated exemplary skills in her learning community, including leadership, commitment to sustainability, positive and proactive work in equity and diversity, and personal growth. She said this award was made more meaningful knowing that her classmates nominated her.

In September 2024, Heidi also received the Métis Community Achievement Award for Leadership and Professions at the Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. (CUMFI)'s Métis Cultural Days in Saskatoon. The award recognizes Métis leaders who have given back to the Métis community and contribute to the culture. Heidi said of the experience, "As I progress in my career, I want to continue to find meaningful ways to give back to our Métis community. Our community is all about giving back and supporting one another."

After graduation, Heidi was awarded the Indigenous Women in Community Leadership scholarship from the Coady Institute at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. She attended a three-week residency there with 13 other Indigenous female leaders from across Canada. Heidi is creating a website (www.mafamii.ca) based on feedback from the Métis community engaged as part of the program. She says that the program "invites our Métis cousins to learn more about the culture and how to get more connected to the Métis community [. . .] I hope to continue to work and share ways and stories of other Métis people finding their way back to the culture and community." Heidi will be launching the website in October 2024.

After graduation, Heidi obtained a Designation in Marketing from the Canadian Marketing Association. She is currently the Marketing and Communications Manager at the First Nations Capital and Infrastructure Agency. Heidi said, "The funding from GDI helped me go after my dreams and build my confidence to keep setting goals." Heidi is an example of how far Métis students can go when supported by their community, and we are excited to see her continue to grow as a leader in her field.

Congratulations Heidi!

MICHIF WORDS OF THE MONTH

MAYKIW

Impart

ORAANZH

Orange

AEN HONAYT

Honesty

LATONN

Autumn





DTI Mental Health and Wellness Meadow Lake Cohort



DTI MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAM, MEADOW LAKE: A JOURNEY OF GROWTH AND COMMUNITY

By Nicole Genereaux and Jennifer Jones, DTI Instructors

Being part of the Dumont Technical Institute’s Mental Health and Wellness Program in Meadow Lake has been a profound experience. This program isn’t just about the students, it’s about the incredible exchange of knowledge, culture, and healing that is shared between us all. We often find ourselves learning as much from our students as they learn from us. This cohort has been exceptional. Their dedication, resilience, and passion for giving back to their community have created an atmosphere where growth is shared, and community is at the centre of everything we do.

practice in real-world settings, working with individuals and families to make a tangible difference. But what’s even more inspiring is seeing how these experiences lead to personal growth. Many students apply the skills they learn to their own lives, families, and communities, showing that this program is just as much about personal healing as it is about professional development.

This program asks a lot of our students, but the rewards are equally powerful. We expect them to engage fully, not just with their studies but with themselves. Field placements, group projects, essays, and self-reflection exercises challenge them to dig deep. They are asked to face their own traumas, to be vulnerable, and to commit to their personal growth. It’s hard work, but it’s the kind of work that transforms lives, not just their own, but the lives of the people that they will go on to help.

One of the most unforgettable moments is watching our students take what they’ve learned and put it into practice. Field experiences, like at the Mistohey Treatment Centre, Flying Dust Mental Health Services, and The Door of Hope (to name a few), have provided real-world insight that you just can’t get in a classroom. But what truly moves us is how deeply the students care about their communities. They aren’t just studying, they’re actively participating in wellness initiatives, like organizing activities, being a part of ceremony, and participating in the building of a sweat lodge. For some, stepping into their first sweat lodge was a transformative experience. You could see the weight they carried being lifted as they connected with their culture and themselves. Our sharing circles, monthly class potlucks, and shared experiences at various wellness conferences have become spaces where healing isn’t just for others, it’s for us, too.

Métis culture is at the core of everything we do in this program. It’s important to us that students are immersed in Indigenous ways of knowing and being from the start. Whether through guest speakers, field trips, or land-based learning, students engage with cultural practices like sweats, sharing circles, and community-driven projects. It’s more than just mental health education, it’s about holistic wellness, grounded in the wisdom of our ancestors and communities. This program is a journey, a commitment to healing ourselves, so we can bring that healing back to our people. We’re all learning together, and it’s this connection to one another and our culture that makes the experience so powerful.

Our students are incredible at putting their knowledge to work. Field placements offer them a chance to

UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS



Virtual Business Start-Up Program
Online
Oct 15th




Practical Nursing Diploma
Regina
Ongoing




Adult Basic Education
Various
Ongoing




Industrial Mechanic (Millwright)
Regina
Ongoing



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





ORDER OF GABRIEL DUMONT NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN



The Order of Gabriel Dumont is awarded by the Gabriel Dumont Institute to a small number of persons who have serviced the Métis of Canada with distinction. The award itself, however, is made to persons without regard to ethnicity. The Order of Gabriel Dumont medals have been awarded since the 1980s. Investment into the Order is one of the Métis Nation’s highest civilian honours.

Nominations for 2025 will be accepted until November 1, 2024.

For more info:
www.gdins.org/the-order-of-gabriel-dumont-call-for-nominations



GDI CALL FOR NORTHERN REGION I BOARD MEMBER

By Rhonda Pilon, GDI Executive Assistant and Bethani Groat, Communications Coordinator

The Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research (GDI) invites applications for the GDI Board of Governors to represent Northern Region I. The application deadline is October 31st, and the appointment is for one three-year term with the possibility of renewal to a maximum of two terms.

The GDI Board of Governors has representation from the 12 Regions of the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN—S), which have been ratified by the MN—S’ Provincial Métis Council (PMC). The PMC Member assigned the Education portfolio sits as the Board of Governors’ Chairperson. MN—S employees or managers of an affiliated organization shall not be permitted to sit on the GDI Board.

The Board oversees GDI and is responsible for its operation and governance in all matters, including: to adopt policies; to formulate a strategic plan and to oversee its implementation; to approve annual budgets, audits, and programs; to function as ambassadors

for GDI; to represent GDI to all levels of government, persons of Métis ancestry, and to the public generally; and to appoint a Chief Executive Officer.

All appointments must be of Métis ancestry with knowledge of the cultural, historical, and social circumstances of Saskatchewan Métis. Ideally, the collective skills on the board will represent several different disciplines and perspectives. Some of the preferred skill and training areas include education or post-secondary education; finance and administration; business; human resources (personnel); law; and communications. Individuals with extensive Métis culture and language experience are encouraged to apply.

Candidates can apply directly to the MN—S region or GDI who will, in turn, forward the application to the appropriate MN—S region for consideration. More information on how to apply is available on our website: <https://gdins.org/call-for-board-member-in-northern-region-i/>

Orange Shirt Day on September 30th was started by Phyllis (Jack) Webstad to honour and remember Indian Residential School Survivors and their families. Ryan Nordmarken designed the GDI Orange shirt to help bring awareness to this important issue and remind us that every child matters.





SUNTEP SASKATOON BATOCHÉ TRIP



GDI AND U OF R RENEW AFFILIATION AGREEMENT AND CELEBRATE THE INDIGENOUS EDUCATION DOCTORATE

Story Continued from Page 1

“The renewal of our affiliation agreement with the University of Regina marks a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to train Métis educators,” said Métis Nation—Saskatchewan Minister and Chair of the GDI Board of Governors Wendy Gervais, who further added, “We are particularly excited to work together on the new Indigenous Education Doctorate Program, which represents a major step forward in our mission to support and empower Métis students.”

The U of R shares this enthusiasm, recognizing the importance of this partnership in meeting the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

“Collaboration with other world-class post-secondary institutions such as the Gabriel Dumont Institute is an essential part of being able to deliver an accessible, quality education to our students,” said Dr. Jeff Keshen, U of R

President and Vice-Chancellor. “Our longstanding partnership with GDI and the newly created Indigenous Education Doctorate Program allow us to better serve Métis students around the province and reinforces our ongoing commitment to truth and reconciliation.”

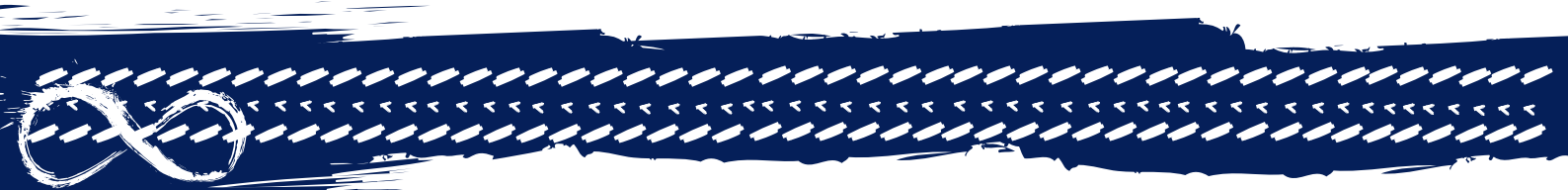
This partnership will continue to create opportunities for academic and personal success for Métis students, ensuring the future of education is bright. 🌍



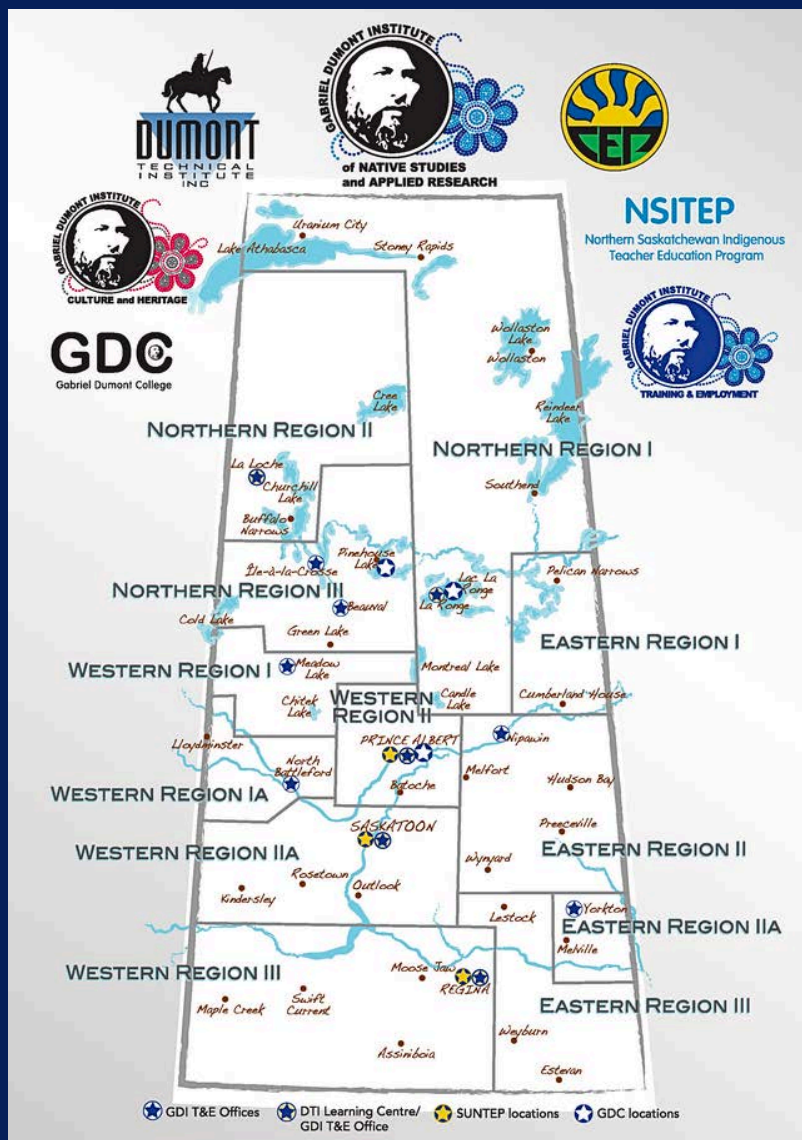
OCTOBER 2024 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

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

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

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