



The GDI Communicator is an internal newsletter intended to increase communication between management and staff of the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research

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SUNTEP Brings Hope to Indigenous Parents and Students

By Shannon Fayant

My name is Shannon Fayant. I am a Métis woman who was raised near the Qu'Appelle Valley. My father, the late Clifford Fayant, grew up in the Katepwe District with roots from the Racette, Pelletier, and Klyne family ties to Pembina and Turtle Mountain, North Dakota. My mother's maiden name was Poitras with roots from the Delorme and Desjarlais families. She has family ties to Lebret, Fort Qu'Appelle, Cowessess, Peepeekisis and Muscowpetung. Huge family gatherings were a common theme on Sundays with Cree and Michif being spoken by our parents, aunts and uncles.

My mother Mary Ann Fayant was active in the Native Women's Association for many years as I grew up. I would listen to her conversations of the challenges of our people and hear the proposed solutions to improving the health and wellness of our families. I often heard of Gabriel Dumont Institute because I had an aunt who worked there for many years. We were aware of the various programs and services that GDI offered to the Métis community. We enjoyed the literature that was published through GDI and enjoyed reading about Métis history that GDI promoted. Our aunt would

bring the new published books and fiddle cds. Listening to my mom and aunt speak over tea was always interesting as they shared the politics and concerns of the Métis people as groups attempted to address them with government officials.

I heard of SUNTEP in high school and decided to apply for the program. SUNTEP gave me the space to be Métis freely and celebrate my culture. I was blessed to have a father who engaged his children every Sunday with teaching us about our culture, connection to land, exploring Métis historical sites in the valley, showing us the different medicinal plants in the valley and celebrating our family kinship with many relatives. My parents raised us to be proud of our diverse heritage and challenge racism as we encountered it. I recall in Grade 2 we were given an assignment to research and write about our cultural heritage and identity. When I asked my dad the homework question, he told me in a very affirming tone, that I was 'Metisse'. Truly, that moment was defining as a young person as I knew within his voice that I should be proud and never question my worth or identity. I am forever grateful for that moment as no amount of prejudices, derogatory comments and attempts of shaming ever affected me. Other's racism is not my

burden to carry in this lifetime. I truly believe young people need to know their identity and be proud of who they are in order, to navigate through the system in a positive, affirming manner.

Education has always been very important in my family. My mother, older sister, and I completed high school the same year. They both finished their Grade 12 academic upgrading during my last year of high school. My mother's determination to get her Grade 12 inspired me to aim higher.

I was the first in my family to earn a university degree. I then set a goal of receiving a Masters of Education before I was 30 years old. I achieved this goal and so the bar was set for others. My cousin who is very much a brother to me received his Bachelor of Education degree then later received a Masters of Education as well. Also, I have a nephew who earned his Education degree a few years ago. I continue to encourage family, relatives and students to go to SUNTEP as it is a program that fosters your identity and prepares you for the teaching profession.

SUNTEP continues to bring hope and reassurance to Indigenous parents that our children will hear our Indigenous voice and experience culture.

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Saskatchewan Urban Native
Teacher Education Program
(SUNTEP)

IT Update

By Gareth Griffiths



Shannon Fayant, a SUNTEP graduate and current principal Scott Collegiate, Regina, at the door of the 90 year old homestead of the Fayant Family in the Qu'Appelle Valley, Katapwe Area (Story on Page 1)
Photo courtesy of S. Fayant

IT Support System

Since September 1, 2017, 137 new Work Orders were received into Track-IT. Of these, 121 are now closed (88% completion rate). Overall we closed 249 Work Orders during the month. There are currently 39 open Work Orders.

Summer has been busy and as a result, there was a backlog. We have worked hard to get caught up over the last month, as can be seen by the closure of 240 Work Orders. Many thanks to the hard work of the IT team in achieving this.

Don't forget to email support@gdins.org for any new requests. In the event that an email cannot be sent for any reason, please call any member of the IT Team, who will log the support Work Order for you.

Sophos AntiVirus

We have renewed our partnership with Sophos for the Institute's AntiVirus needs

SUNTEP Student Receives a Prestigious Award

By Janice R. Thompson

In the early evening of September 25, 2017, I arrived at the Regina City Hall, pleasantly surrounded by proud parents, spouses, children, friends, and community members. Once seated, the City of Regina Mayor His Worship Michael Fougere and his Council members also arrived. Sitting nearby were a group of post-secondary students.

As the program began, I observed how one of the students sat patiently waiting for her name to be called, as

for another three years. The biggest change is moving to a cloud-based management console. This enables us to push updates out to clients faster, as well as improving the responsiveness in dealing with outbreaks.

Another change in this version is the introduction of InterceptX. This offers resilient ransomware protection by detecting unauthorized encryption of files at source, and retaining the original encryption state, allowing files to be restored easily. We are in the initial testing phase, but will roll this update out to all computers in the organization over the coming month.

Please be wary of files received by email. We are constantly receiving emails asking for your review, or invoice attached. Almost all of these are phishing attacks or Trojans. The best practice is to use your gut feeling. If the email is from someone you don't know, or if the link is not from the same company, don't

click on it. Forward the email to IT and we will investigate.

Client VPN

Staff in Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert are now able to access their server files from anywhere. For the three centres, we have a permanent VPN connection back to the office. Hence, with a few minor changes, you can login to your machine as if you were sitting at your desk (bear in mind that you may notice a slightly delayed response due to communication speeds). We actually use this method in Yorkton, where the GDI Training and Employment client files are actually stored on the Regina server but accessible remotely.

From outside of our networks, we can configure a VPN Client that will enable encrypted access to our network, meaning files can be accessed from anywhere. If you are interested in this, please send a support request to support@gdins.org.

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her mother, husband, and young son proudly looked on.

The annual City of Regina Community Investments Event, the Henry Baker Scholarship Program began showcasing student achievement. Each of the students was introduced, and received the deserving recognition highlighting their education training achievements. Each student was honored and recognized for their strengths, talents, and achievements. In total, 17 students were presented with scholarships.

Award recipients represented various post-secondary institutions including Gabriel Dumont Institute. This year, Elsa Ramos-McKenzie was honoured with the prestigious award. Elsa is a fourth year student at SUNTEP Regina who is tirelessly dedicated to balancing pre-service teacher training and the commitments of her young family. A role model to many, Elsa takes pride in her Métis culture and embraces culturally responsive pedagogy in her classroom and the community.

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Deidre Boyer Aubichon, SUNTEP graduate
"At SUNTEP I discovered Métis community. I felt like I was home. There were people like me, and they were proud to be Métis."
Photo courtesy of D. Boyer



Ms. Fayant, an Educator and SUNTEP Grad ... *Continued from Page 1*

I am working in the Regina Public School Division over the past 21 years and currently serving as principal of Scott Collegiate. This year, we moved into the māmawêyatîtan centre where we are an integrated facility. About 97% of our students are Indigenous. We are fortunate to have 50% Indigenous teachers with two Elders supporting the integration of the Indigenous content.

As Indigenous people, we understand and value the importance of building community, relationships and valuing our culture as we navigate through the complexities of society, education and public services. I am grateful I have a strong identity as I continue to share my worldview, life experiences and historical knowledge with the students and staff that cross my path. I came from a

high school experience that did not provide many experiences to promote and honour Indigenous culture. It was more of promoting stereotypes and battling prejudices. I do recognize if you came from SUNTEP you were prepared to share what we now call Treaty Education. Many TEP teachers have been doing the work of re-educating students well before I started and will continue that legacy well after I am retired. Indeed, I emphasize the importance of having Indigenous teachers in the classrooms as vessels of Indigenous knowledge for students and colleagues as well as role models for our students and communities.

Today, I witness the self-determination of our Indigenous students to reignite their Indigenous identity. I am proud to say that their

fearless approach has influenced me to continue to voice my opinions of where Indigenous Education is going. The lead has to come from our Elders, our students, our teachers and our families. Policies need to be re-written to provide inclusive practices that promote the development of our students. I believe in mentorship, a collaborative approach with student's voice being at the forefront. There is a need to provide opportunity for our students to decide if they want to smudge, pick medicines, sweat, and work alongside the Elders. A land based approach is imperative as we know as Indigenous people we are connected to the land. These opportunities should be supported as our students reignite their identity within the education system. SUNTEP continues to prepare Indigenous teachers to work with our children in an affirming way.

GDI Training & Employment



Colin Azure, Registered Nurse
Completed his high school (Adult Basic Education 4) at Dumont Technical Institute.

With funding from GDI Training & Employment, He graduated with a nursing Degree from the University of Saskatchewan
"Plain and simple: I never would have done this if it was not for Gabriel Dumont Institute."

DTI Staff Attend Nurse Educators Conference

By Chantelle Julé

Jean Watson, an American nurse theorist and nursing professor, once said that "Nurses are a unique kind. They have this insatiable need to care for others, which is both their greatest strength and fatal flaw." Nursing is a challenging profession, and whether you're a nurse, nursing student, or instructor, transitioning into these roles is not easy. To be a nursing instructor does not require a teaching certificate, but rather a passion to educate and inspire your students to become nurses who have knowledge, compassion and dedication to provide care to others at some of the weakest times of their lives.

To be an effective nursing instructor, one must

demonstrate astute interpersonal skills, clinical competency, professionalism, and an understanding of the principles of adult learning, in addition to being a positive role model. As an educator, you are always striving for excellence and to be better at your job. Effective learning is achieved through the use of creative strategies designed not to entertain, but to inform and stimulate students' minds. Canadian Association of Practical Nurse Educators (CAPNE) Conference 2017 provided this learning opportunity for three DTI Practical Nursing faculty members last month.

Janelle Schentag, Patricia Hooper, Erica Warriner and I attended the conference which

was held at Delta Bessborough Saskatoon from October 18th-20th. The theme of the conference was "Looking beyond the horizon: The changing dynamics of practical nurse education." It focused on Indigenization of practical nurse education, how to best prepare students to navigate the dynamic health care environment, and strategies for success to meet diverse learner needs. CAPNE is the national voice for Practical Nursing Education in Canada. Each year, they host a conference in a different province, providing an opportunity for nursing educators from across the country to get together and learn from, and inspire one another.

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Taylor Fayant, LPN
"My life took a turn for the better. Thanks Gabriel Dumont Institute."

Colin and Taylor were clients of Employment Counselor Sheena Yew
Photos by James Oloo



Dumont Technical Institute
Practical Nursing Program

Practical Nurse Educators Conference ... Continued from Page 3



Practical Nursing Regina
Instructors Janelle Schentag
(left) and Patricia Hooper

Keynote speakers included Dr. Marilyn Oermann of Duke University School of Nursing, Dr. Kathie Lasater of Oregon Health & Science University and award winning speaker Dr. Mark Taylor. Some of their presentations are available at <http://www.capneconference2017.com/keynote-speakers.html>.

We enjoyed our time at the conference and took every opportunity to connect and learn from each other as we discussed opportunities and challenges in practical nursing. Erica Warriner said, "This year, I began my journey as a PN instructor at DTI. This has always been a personal passion and professional goal of mine and I appreciated the opportunity to attend CAPNE. It was a fantastic event that enabled me to learn a lot. A presentation by Dr. Oermann was on the use of evidence to guide teaching and

Assessment in nursing education, and another was a scientific look into the world of today's modern student from the perspective of age and generational groups. The two presentations in particular were of great influence to me and have been the better part of what I have drawn on to provide meaningful connections to course materials for my students."

One of our experienced Instructors from Regina, Janelle Schentag, said, "CAPNE was an invaluable experience. Hearing from professionals in our field who are doing the research that validates what we do every day was amazing. Every presentation I attended was both reassuring to me that yes, I am doing things right; as well as gave me new ideas to incorporate into my teaching." The conference was a useful personal and professional development opportunity.

Finding out what others do to keep things fresh and interesting is great, and learning about different strategies being used to enhance student success is so beneficial. At DTI, we are very fortunate for our nursing faculty who take such pride in their work and are so dedicated and committed to creating the best nurses possible-those who are very knowledgeable but also caring and compassionate.

DTI is the second largest practical nursing training provider in Saskatchewan, providing training in Prince Albert, Saskatoon and Regina. During this past program year, 37 students graduated with a Practical Nursing diploma with 79% securing employment within three months of graduating. To date, 289 students have graduated from the DTI practical nursing program. 🌐

IT Update... Continued from Page 2

Employee Purchase Plan

We have setup an Employee Purchase Plan (EPP) with our main supplier CDW for computer and electronic purchases. This leverages the purchasing power of the organization to provide discounted rates for computer equipment. CDW are a reputable supplier, and have served us well over the years. There is a small setup piece we have to do to enable access to the EPP. If you are interested in using this, please let me know.

around the screen. From Windows 7 onwards, Microsoft introduced a method to snap a screen to half width by dragging it to the left or right of the screen. This is a great function that easily allows you to open two docs side by side.

However, with dual screens this is a problem. On an extended desktop, the two middle screen edges don't work this way (moving to the edge of one screen just moves the screen to the other monitor). There are Windows shortcuts that can help with this (and actually faster than dragging a window on a single screen too). Holding down the Windows key and pressing the cursor keys (arrows) will allow you to snap windows to edges

of the screen (even the middle edge of a dual screen). Works like this:

- Windows – Left arrow: Snap to left edge of screen
- Windows – Right Arrow: Snap to right edge
- Windows – Down: Minimize (Restore if snapped or maximized)
- Windows – Up: Maximize

The Windows-Left and Windows-Right combinations will actually cycle between left snap, maximized and right snap as you keep pressing

Final Thought

Q). Why did the witch buy a computer?
A). Because she needed a Spell Check. 🌐



Practical Nursing Saskatoon
Instructors Erica Warriner (left)
and Diane Timm
Photos by Chantelle Julé

Tip of the Month

Welcome to the first of a new series of articles where I will detail something that will help you. This month it is a quick method for moving windows



Elsa Ramos-McKenzie ... Continued from Page 4

Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program

Elsa's thoughtfulness, reflective practice, and determination as an educator continue to evolve. She is poised, articulate, and her contributions are worthy of accolades.

the Dr. Hellmut Lang Award, the National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund, and the Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunity Scholarship.

Elsa continues to display leadership, collaborative abilities, a willingness to take risks, and genuine compassion and care for children and their development. A young mother with 87.2% grade point average, Elsa strives to fulfill the requirements of her SUNTEP Regina education. Her efforts have been recognized by a number of academic awards that include Dean's Honor Roll, Academic Gold Scholarship,

GDI plays a foundational role in the post-secondary training of future educators in this province. Encouraging and supporting post-secondary students are integral in academia success, and most importantly the proud reclamation of our 'Métisness.' SUNTEP and GDI continue to take pride in the success of a teacher-training program that makes a difference in Saskatchewan classrooms. We look forward to the future!



SUNTEP Regina Year IV student Elsa Ramos-McKenzie with His Worship Mayor Michael Fougere at the the Regina City Hall
Photo by Amy Briley

Payroll Cutoff Calendar, December 2017

By Carmala Thiessen and Veronica Verzonowski

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
					Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Dec 8 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for TMS & Payroll Revisions for Dec 15 Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Dec 22 Student Payroll		Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheet & Payroll Revisions for Dec 29 Payday	Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Staff Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Dec 22 Direct Deposits	Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run Subject to change		Student Payday	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Christmas Day Stat Holiday	Boxing Day Stat Holiday			Staff Payday	
31						

Employee contracts due prior to payroll cutoff date.

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www.gdins.org

Back issues of this newsletter
can be obtained at:

[www.metismuseum.ca/browse/
index.php/833](http://www.metismuseum.ca/browse/index.php/833)

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GDI Mission:

To promote the renewal and the development of Métis culture through research, materials development, collection and the distribution of those materials and the development and delivery of Métis-specific educational programs and services.



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research