



THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



SUNTEP Saskatoon Virtual Graduation 2021

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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LET'S GET SOCIAL



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SUNTEP CELEBRATES 2021 GRADUATES VIRTUALLY

By Desirae Barker

Earlier this month, the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Programs (SUNTEP) in Saskatoon, Regina, and Prince Albert celebrated the class of 2021 with virtual graduation ceremonies.

This is the second year in a row that SUNTEP has held virtual graduation ceremonies due to the pandemic. "I remember the day when all SUNTEP students were instructed to leave the campus. It was not easy, but they all adapted to the changes and continued to support each other. These brave students have adapted, collaborated, and exceeded all expectations. They not only survived, but they also thrived. Masked and sanitized, they all faced the most challenging extended practicum internship in the history of SUNTEP," said Bonnie Novotny, Program Head SUNTEP Prince Albert.

Despite the challenges this year has presented, the students remained successful, and the staff and faculty were able to create a memorable virtual event for all graduates. A total of 42 graduated from SUNTEP this year; Saskatoon (15), Regina (11), and Prince Albert (16). To date, there have been 1,397 SUNTEP graduates.

SUNTEP Saskatoon held its virtual graduation on May 1, 2021. Tate McDougall, 2021 SUNTEP graduate and valedictorian said, "The virtual graduation ceremony was a good send-off for our graduating class during these hard times. Organizers Sheila Pocha, Tasha Neveu, Kennedy Halcro, and emcee Connor Johnston made our ceremony one to remember..."

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Photo by George Gingras © Gabriel Dumont Institute

#EveryChildMatters

The Gabriel Dumont Institute joined in the National Day of Mourning for the 215 Indigenous children that did not make it home from the Kamloops Indian Residential School.

The Métis flag at central office in Saskatoon was lowered to honour the children. Staff and faculty also wore orange and ribbon skirts to show their respect as we grieve with the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation.



May 31, 2021

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

By Karon Shmon

June 21, 2021 marks the 25th anniversary of Canada's national celebration of the heritage, diverse cultures, and outstanding achievements of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. While having such a day designated for this purpose is a forward move, this year we add our grief to the day, after the discovery of the bodies of 215 Indigenous children at the site of the Kamloops Indian Residential School that began operations in 1890 and finally closed in 1978.

National Indigenous Peoples Day is usually a "feel good" day. It should be, especially when we think of the resiliency of our ancestors and the indomitable spirit of Indigenous Peoples who have survived and maintained our cultures and traditions in spite of the crushing attempts to make us assimilate and to extinguish our indigeneity.

We also celebrate the growing recognition by non-Indigenous Canadians of our contributions and the beauty in the ways we express our cultural identities. We celebrate the growing prosperity of Indigenous peoples in spite of there being so far yet to go to meet

the socio-economic status of the average Canadian. We celebrate the revitalization of our languages, especially Michif, our own language so critically endangered. We celebrate achievements like the Gabriel Dumont Institute and the other Indigenous Peoples cultural and educational institutes.

Increasingly, all levels of government are recognizing our inherent rights. Land claims are in negotiation across the nation. Métis flags and treaty flags fly in places where we previously saw only Canadian or British flags. Our governments are on their way to achieving self-governance. Still, with so much to celebrate, our hearts are heavy. We carry the weight of the impact of residential and day schools on generations of our families. We carry the weight of being landless and of having our families and communities dispersed and relegated to poverty. We carry the weight of knowing clean drinking water is only a priority for some communities. We carry the weight that so many Indigenous women and girls are missing and murdered.

This story continues on page 4



National Indigenous Peoples Day Virtual Celebration

June 21, 2021 10:30AM

Join us on GDI's Facebook or YouTube Channels





ÎLE-À-LA-CROSSE ECE STUDENTS: THE FACE OF RESILIENCE

By Desirae Barker & Marilyn Black

The impacts on student learning over the past year have been immense. The abrupt transitions to online education, balancing family life, and mental health, all while trying to remain safe from COVID-19, have imposed negative effects on many students. For the community of Île-à-la-Crosse, it has been especially challenging.

Early in the pandemic, the Île-à-la-Crosse community suffered a tragic loss as well as an outbreak of COVID-19. The Early Childhood Education (ECE) program in this community struggled with retention due to these extreme circumstances. At the end of the program there were three resilient student left who have worked extremely hard to continue their studies despite the challenges and have shared their experiences below:

Candace Crookedneck

Candace Crookedneck is a level one ECE student and persevered throughout the pandemic for her family. Her close family consists of her parents, children, and boyfriend. They have been her greatest support system and given her an extra push when she didn't want to continue. She is also grateful for the support of her instructor, Nicole, who was understanding and helped her cope with stress. Candace's long-term goals are to finish the ECE program and further her education by applying for the Educational Assistant program. Her advice to others is, "Giving up is easy, so why not challenge yourself to keep going? Have positive intentions because it trains your mind to do better and be better."

Candance has recently obtained employed at the Île-à-la-Crosse Fire Cache.

Alannah Durocher

Alannah Durocher is a level one ECE student and has balanced raising two young children and attending online classes during the pandemic. Her biggest supporters during this time have been her daughter's grandma and her son's step-grandma, who have always been willing to help with her children so she can study.

Alannah is also thankful for her instructor, Nicole, who is always there to talk, listen, and encourage her to finish the course. Although she was close to quitting many times, Alannah stayed motivated throughout the program for her children. She wants to show them that anything is possible and states, "I want my children to see that you must never give up on your dreams, no matter what life throws at you."

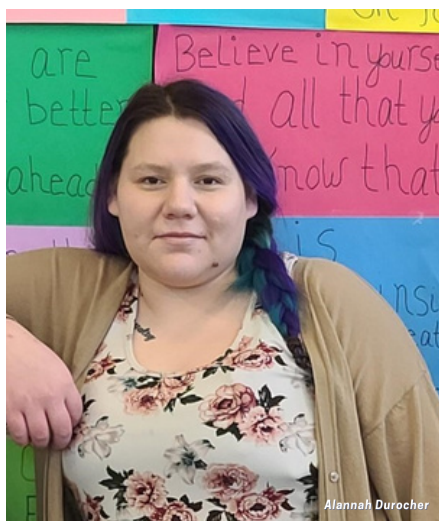
Stacey Bouvier

Stacey Bouvier is a level one ECE student, and 2020 was the hardest year for her attending online classes during a pandemic on top of dealing with a loss in her family; her eldest brother. Throughout these hard times, her biggest supports have been her parents. Whenever she felt that she wanted to give up, her parents would encourage her by saying, "Come on my girl, you're almost there, don't give up!" Stacey has not given up throughout this year and has overcome many barriers while continuing to succeed in the program.

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Candace Crookedneck



Alannah Durocher



Stacey Bouvier



ECE Group photo with instructor, Nicole Lavoie





SUNTEP CELEBRATES GRADUATES VIRTUALLY

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The many kind words and thank-yous from staff and former staff from SUNTEP, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), the College of Education, as well as friends, family, and supporters of the program, all made the best of the situation.”

Kyle Boettcher, SUNTEP 2021 graduate, explains that his favourite SUNTEP memory were the fall camps, “We were so fortunate to have everyone come together with elders and start the year in a good way.”

SUNTEP Regina gifted its graduates with a Métis Sash and a leather portfolio before their virtual celebration on May 7, 2021. Each graduate submitted their photos which were shared online. Brenna Pacholko, SUNTEP Regina Faculty member and alum, welcomed the graduates stating, “We have some fabulous new educators entering our profession!”

Geordy McCaffrey, GDI Executive Director, shared his congratulations with all 2021 graduates. He stated, “I’d like to congratulate this year’s graduating class. You’ve made us all proud, and you’ve made your families proud. I look forward to following your careers in the future and seeing all the wonderful things that you will do in that career.”



SUNTEP Prince Albert held its virtual graduation on May 13, 2021. Each graduate was featured in the video introducing themselves, sharing their memories within SUNTEP, future plans, and thanking the staff and faculty.

The SUNTEP Saskatoon (youtu.be/gvkQOupmXZ4) and Prince Albert (youtu.be/MN4_PiOP3Is) virtual graduation ceremonies are still viewable via the GDI YouTube. 🌐

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

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We carry the weight that many of our people live with such despair that suicide seems like the only way to escape.

I will celebrate as a way to thank them for their sacrifice and for their efforts to ensure we survive. This I can celebrate.

Can I celebrate June 21st? Will I celebrate June 21st? Yes to both. I honour those who came before us. They had a much more difficult struggle than we can imagine.

Background on National Indigenous Peoples Day: <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100013248/1534872397533> 🌐

ÎLE-À-LA-CROSSE ECE STUDENTS

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She is positive that the support she has received over this past year will help her deal with whatever life throws at her.

Thank you Candace, Alannah, and Stacy for sharing your stories. Your perseverance is truly inspirational. 🌐



The Spring issue of The New Nation: La noovel naasyoon magazine “Special Election Issue” is now available online

This special election edition of the magazine invited executive candidates running in the 2021 Métis Nation-Saskatchewan Election to share information about themselves, their platforms, and their ideas for the development of the Métis Nation. It featured pages on the executive candidates, a listing of regional director candidates, and important regional voting information.

To view this edition online visit: www.gdins.org/metis-culture/the-new-nation



COVID-19 UPDATE - FALL DELIVERY

GDI has been working closely with our partners in post-secondary education as we plan for fall 2021 delivery. GDI's situation is unique, with programs and classrooms in at least 16 Métis communities across Saskatchewan. As such, GDI's response is tailored to the best needs of each particular program and community in question.

As an increasing number of people in the province have become fully vaccinated, we are working together to return to face-to-face learning environments. The Ministry of Health and the Chief Medical Health Officer support institutions developing plans for a return to face-to-face learning for fall.

However, it will be important to remain flexible as the COVID-19 situation in Saskatchewan remains fluid.

There will not be a one-size-fits-all approach to fall delivery but rather what's best for each program and location. Currently, the Institute will continue to utilize a hybrid approach to education delivery. This approach combines online, classroom, laboratory, shop, and clinical instruction and has been successful over the past year. As we progress through the pandemic, the Institute will slowly transition into spending more time face-to-face learning to ensure we are providing the safest learning environments for all.

Over the past year, we have overcome and adapted to these unprecedented times. As we continue the battle with the COVID-19 pandemic, our top concern remains the health and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff. We must continue to follow all mandatory public health orders and occupational health and safety guidelines. We strongly encourage all of our staff and students to get their COVID-19 vaccination as soon as they are eligible.

For the latest updates regarding COVID-19 please visit: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/COVID19-Latest-Updates>.

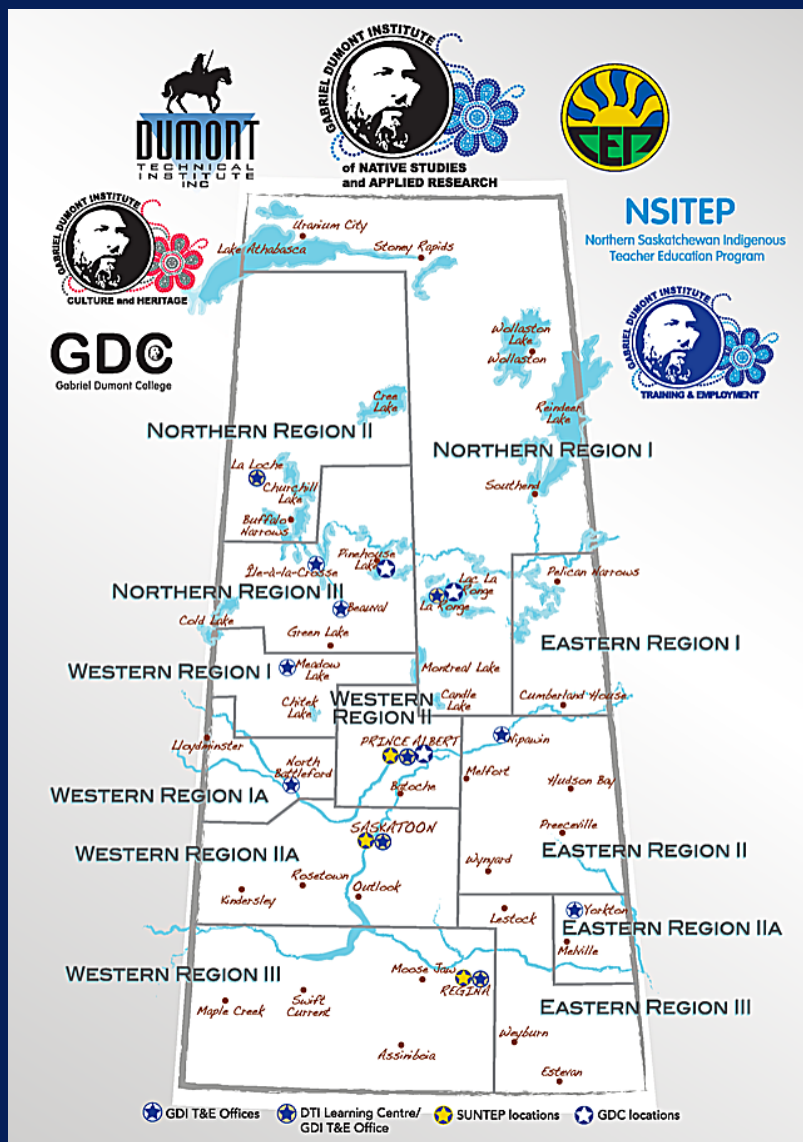
JUNE 2021 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

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

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



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