



THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE WITH THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY-BASED MASTER OF EDUCATION 2023 GRADUATES



Indigenous Community-Based Master of Education class of 2023. Photo by Bethani Groat.

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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CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE: 2023 M.ED. GRADUATION by Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

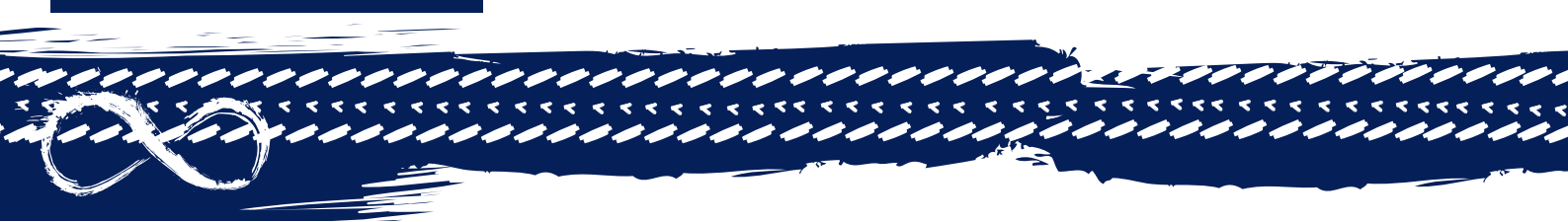
We celebrated the achievements of the Gabriel Dumont Institute's 2023 Indigenous Community-Based Master of Education graduating class at the Prince Albert Wildlife Federation on July 27th, 2023. Graduates demonstrated dedication, perseverance, and an unwavering passion for advancing education throughout this two-year program.

Committed to empowering Métis and Indigenous learners through culturally relevant education, the Gabriel Dumont Institute, in collaboration with the University of Regina, has offered this Indigenous Community-Based Master of Education program for the past five years. Dr. James Nahachewsky, U of R Dean of Education, shared words of hope for the future of education with the graduates, and Acting Executive Director of GDI, Brett Vandale, spoke about the importance of this occasion

for the graduates and the Institute as a whole. Both institutions commend the academic achievements and contributions graduates have made and will make in their communities.

M.Ed Sessional Lecturer and Knowledge Keeper, Mike Relland addressed the graduating class with pride, saying, "You know we've inherited a mess [. . .], but we need to try to make the world a better place, especially for the children." An essential aspect of the Master of Education program is emphasizing Indigenous knowledge systems, and graduates learn to integrate Indigenous ways of knowing and learning into their curriculum development.

A crucial factor in the graduating class's success is the faculty ...
Story continued on Page 2.





DTI Staff Jade Shmon, Kristen Kalk, Josiah Pfefferle. Photo submitted by Christine LePrise

DTI BRINGS LITERACY DAYS TO PARKS IN SASKATOON

By Josiah Pfefferle, DTI Summer Student

In the summer of 2023, a celebration of literacy and learning took center stage as Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) orchestrated a series of 'Stories in the Park'. Held on July 26th and 27th, as well as August 1st and 8th, these engaging events brought the magic of reading to families. Spanning across four community paddling pools and spray parks in Saskatoon – Fairhaven, Riversdale, Pleasant Hill, and Forest Grove – the DTI story in the park days exemplified the Institute's commitment to nurturing both academic excellence and community engagement.

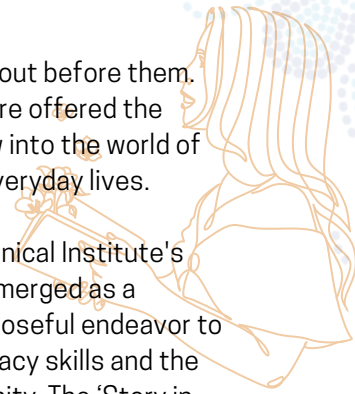
The stage was set for an unforgettable experience as four dedicated staff members, including three summer students, came together to organize and facilitate the festivities. Each carnival, running from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm, became a hub of youthful energy. Attendees, young and younger, converged upon the parks, collectively drawing a diverse gathering of 42 participants.

The young visitors were treated to goodie bags that contained a treasure trove of cool toys, engaging activities, and delightful snacks. However, the true gem lay the chance to choose three books from an array

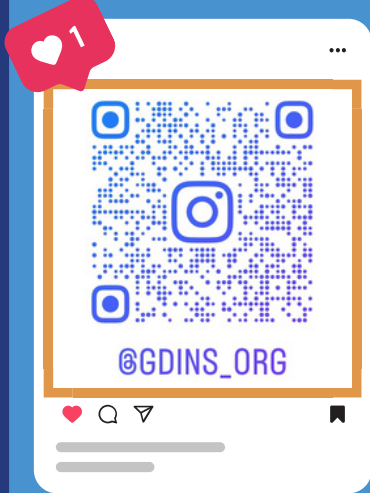
thoughtfully laid out before them. This unique feature offered the children a window into the world of reading in their everyday lives.

The Dumont Technical Institute's literacy events emerged as a dynamic and purposeful endeavor to elevate both literacy skills and the sense of community. The 'Story in the Park' experience ignited a passion for the written word, and the inclusive spirit of the literacy event was palpable. Beyond the immediate festivities, the event served as a catalyst for strengthening relationships and nurturing mutual understanding, and as an advocate for literacy education.

As the echoes of the Dumont Technical Institute's literacy events reverberate, it becomes evident that this event is much more than a mere gathering; it's a testament to the power of words, the unity of community, and the unending journey of learning. In its tapestry of interactive engagement, creative expression, and inclusive participation, the 'story in the park' days breathed life into the very essence of education – transforming it into a joyous exploration.



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM!



MICHIF WORDS OF THE MONTH

TAANISHI KIIYA?
How are you?

NAMOO MACHII-ITAYHTUM
Open-minded

AEN SHAPLAY
Prayer Beads

MAYSHKOTASHTA
Reader

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE: 2023 M.ED. GRADUATION

Continued from page 1

who walked with them Devin Hildebrand spoke on behalf of the instructors to congratulate the students and reminded them that what they have accomplished, no one can take away from them. Veronica Stewart and James Meyers spoke on behalf of their graduating class about the supportive community and lifelong friendships they created during the program.

Throughout their rigorous studies, the masters' students delved into curriculum development, educational leadership, and research methodologies. With their knowledge, compassion, and dedication, the 24 graduates are poised to uplift the future of Saskatchewan Indigenous communities and leave a lasting impact on inclusive education.





UPCOMING PROGRAM DEADLINES

Business Start-Up Program

Online

Sep. 15th



Class 5 Driver Training

Green Lake

Sep. 1st



Educational Assistant

Île-à-la-Crosse

Ongoing



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

WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS

NSITEP 22/23 Every Child Matters beading workshop, ice fishing camp, and canoe trip. Photos submitted by Gabe Andrews.



REMEMBERING DR. EARL COOK

By Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

We are deeply saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Dr. Earl Cook. He was a former Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Board Chair and former Minister of Post-Secondary Education at the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN—S). Additionally, he was a founding member of the Métis Veterans Association, an association that represents the interests of Métis Veterans and commemorates their service. From the GDI Board of Governors and staff, we send our deepest condolences to Dr. Cook's family and wish to express our gratitude for his years of service to the Saskatchewan Métis.

Dr. Cook was a Saskatchewan Métis man raised in the traditional lifestyle and a fluent Swampy Cree speaker. He served on the GDI Management Board from 1981 to 1982, and the GDI Board of Governors on and off from 1997 to 2021. From 2017 to 2021, Dr. Cook served as the GDI Board Chair as well as the MN—S Minister of Education (2013-2021). During his term, Dr. Cook was instrumental in the creation of the Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NSITEP), after the Northern Teacher Education Program (NORTEP) lost funding, and in securing funding for the Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation, Gabriel Dumont College, and the Métis Nation University Sponsorship Program. His love for the North motivated his career as he spent his life dedicated to improving the well-being and education of the Métis.

An instrumental and vocal advocate for Métis people in Saskatchewan, Dr. Cook began his career in the early 1970s when he served as a Community Development Worker for the Métis Society of Saskatchewan in his hometown of Cumberland House. Dr. Cook was a passionate educator, and he taught students from elementary to university in



“My fondest memory is being part of a Métis local on campus that lobbied for the establishment of a Native Studies department.”

DR. EARL COOK, 2017

his lengthy career. He was an instructor at the Northern Professional Access College and served on the Indian and Métis Curriculum Advisory Committee, the Saskatchewan Indian Languages Committee, and the Northern Labour Market Committee. He was a faculty member, Director, and Special Advisor to the President/CEO of the NORTEP, Instructor at the Northern Professional Access College, and Coordinator of the Northern Health Strategy. He also worked with the Kikinahk Friendship Centre board in La Ronge and participated in the Association of Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan and the National Association of Friendship Centres. Throughout his career, Dr. Cook remained dedicated to closing the socio-economic gap between Métis and non-Indigenous people.

Story continued on our website: <https://gdins.org/remembering-dr-earl-cook>





GDI STAFF AND FAMILIES AT BACK TO BATOCHÉ



A PLACE OF SPIRIT & CONNECTION

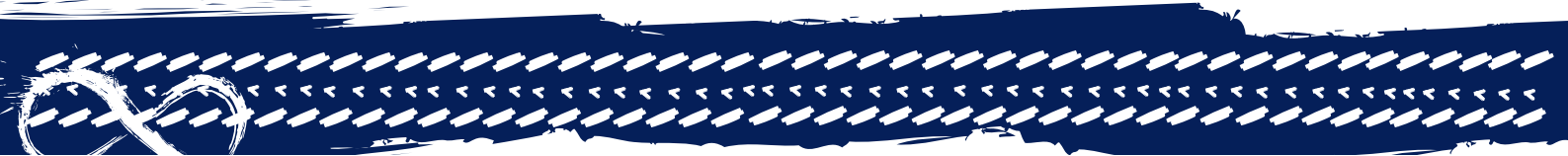
By Karon Shmon, GDI Director of Culture & Heritage

Back to Batoché provides the Métis with the opportunity to enjoy and express our culture. Some of the more enjoyable ways focus on music, dance, and food while other ways teach us about the material cultural expressions we see such as beadwork, embroidering, rug hooking, ribbon skirts, and finger weaving. People also come to pay homage to the Métis of Batoché who stood up for our rights in 1885. They suffered through losing their homes and livelihood while being forced to leave their community. Lives were lost during the battle and in the aftermath of the Resistance as a result of illness and poverty.

In recognition of the week, GDI offered a “learn to bead” workshop at the Batoché National Historic Site, with Gregory Scofield and Amy Briley, co-authors of “wâpikwaniy: A Beginner’s Guide to Métis Floral Beadwork,” a GDI publication. Amy brought her 9-year-old daughter, Rose, to enjoy the day as we planned to head to the festival site after the workshop. I was struck by Rose’s desire to “place a flower on Uncle Gabe’s grave.” Gabriel Dumont is buried on site, in the Saint Antoine de Padoue cemetery at Batoché. I was available to take Rose to the cemetery while the workshop proceeded and to my delight and astonishment, another Métis youth also wanted to come as she had come to the workshop with her grandmother, Viola Bell, GDI board member.

I explained to the two girls that we couldn’t randomly pick a flower at Batoché because it was a national historic site which would look pretty barren if all of the visitors picked something from the land. We were fortunate that Amy had a pinch of tobacco, carefully tied into a bundle, with her. The girls were already aware of who Gabriel Dumont was and why he has such a prominent grave marker. Once we arrived, the air was silent for a few minutes. I could tell the girls were thinking about why they were there and what they were doing. Then they carefully placed the tobacco tie on the rock that marks Gabriel’s grave.

To witness cultural transmission from one generation to the next is inspiring and fills me with the hope that today’s Métis are as strong as our ancestors who hung on to our languages, cultural traditions, and lifestyles in spite of the daunting circumstances that prevailed for decades after 1885. I was grateful that the girls had initiated their offering while I was there to witness their thoughtfulness. 🌍





REGINA CAMPUS RENOVATION UPDATE

By Desirae Barker, GDI Senior Program Coordinator

The Gabriel Dumont Institute Building at 1235 2nd Avenue in Regina has been undergoing some exciting renovations this summer! Since receiving the construction permit from the City of Regina on June 8, 2023, construction has been in full swing.

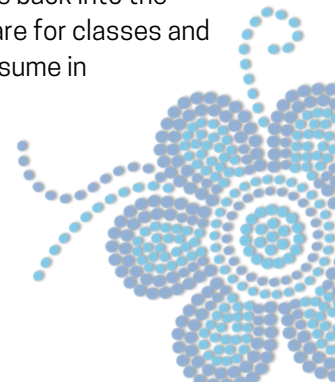
The goal of the renovation is to reconfigure the current floor plan to create additional spaces to accommodate the GDI Regina Library and a Dumont Technical Institute Practical Nursing laboratory. Prior to the renovation, both were housed in leased buildings. The renovation includes demolition work, removal of wall systems, ceiling grid alterations, minor electrical work, flooring, painting, and finishing work that will allow GDI to improve the overall functionality of the entire space.

This strategic renovation project offers several advantages to GDI, including a reduction to the Institutes leased spaces, associated cost savings that can be reinvested into improving the Institute's assets, increased enrolment in two essential course offerings, and the ability to provide program continuity for both first-year and second-year students.

The renovation project is expected to be completed at the end of August 2023, providing Regina staff with a few weeks to move back into the property and prepare for classes and programming to resume in September.



Progress shots of the house being built by the DTI Intro to Carpentry Program students in Île-à-la-Crosse. Photos submitted by Daniel Downs.



My apologies for the error in August's Finance & Payroll Calendar. Please feel free to send me any corrections, photos, or news from your department at bethani.groat@gdins.org

ATTENTION

The GDI Board of Governors has amended several policies effective as of July 21, 2023.

Policies effected include:

- 3.5.1 Resignation from Employment
- 4.1.2. Signing Authority
- 4.1.9. Purchasing Policy
- 4.1.13. Contracts to Professional Service Providers
- 4.1.14. Service Contracts

Please familiarize yourself with the changes online at: <https://gdins.org/about/overview/policy-4/>

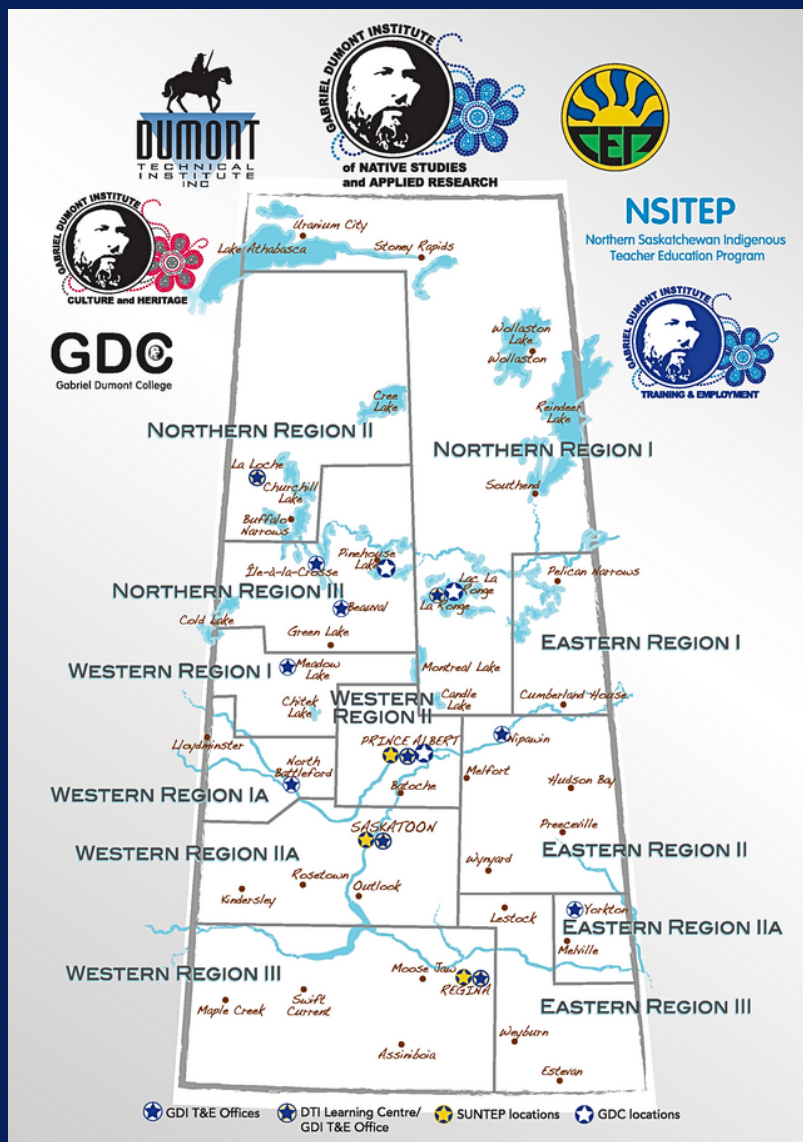
SEPTEMBER 2023 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF DATES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Labour Day Stat Holiday	Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Sep 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 Timesheet & Payroll Revisions for Sep 15 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 Sep 22 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheet & Payroll Revisions for Sep 29 Payday			Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Staff Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	Truth & Reconciliation

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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Previous issues of the *Communicator* can be found online at www.metismuseum.ca

If you would like to submit news for the *Communicator* please contact Bethani Groat bethani.groat@gdins.org

