



# THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR

## NURTURING OUR FUTURE & CONNECTING TO OUR PAST



Photography 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*

## IN THIS ISSUE

- ∞ Nurturing Our Future Métis Public Health Services Project
- ∞ Future Educators Pay Tribute to National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- ∞ IGNUYE Reconciliation Event a Great Success
- ∞ DTI P.A. Batoche Field Trip
- ∞ 1885 Resistance Historic Artifact Repatriated to GDI Métis Museum

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## NURTURING OUR FUTURE MÉTIS PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PROJECT ANNOUNCED WITH NEW FEDERAL FUNDING

**by Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator**

On October 25th, 2023, Gabriel Dumont Institute staff and board members gathered in the GDI Gallery to announce the Nurturing Our Future Métis Public Health Services project alongside our partners from Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), and Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN—S).

This project received a \$14.6 million-dollar federal investment from the Skills and Partnership Fund, and this funding will help create new training opportunities for healthcare programs at Dumont Technical Institute for 600 Métis students over the next five years.

MN—S Senator Nora Cummings opened the event by sharing warm words about the power of education to overcome

the long-term effects of residential schools and working toward reconciliation and a brighter future for everyone. She encouraged Métis people of any age to seek out their education and learn new skills to bring back to their communities.

“For over 25 years, GDI has been training students to be healthcare professionals in a wide variety of occupations.” said Brett Vandale, Acting GDI Executive Director “Our graduates leave us with the professional skills to provide a high standard of care and the ability to enhance the quality of care for Indigenous communities by ensuring graduates are also connected to their culture.”

**Story continued on Page 4.**







Meadow Lake



Prince Albert



Usask



Saskatoon

# FUTURE EDUCATORS PAY TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

by Nigel Maxwell, paNOW Staff Writer

On the day prior to the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a group of the province’s future teachers gathered along Prince Albert’s riverbank.

The event has become a proud tradition for the students at SUNTEP, who were also joined this year by students enrolled in the Gabriel Dumont Institute’s Adult Basic Education program.

Beige Unger, a third year faculty advisor and instructor at the school noted they are an indigenous program and that it’s very important for all the students to be involved in the community .

“They’re going to be going out into the schools and teaching their students about truth and reconciliation so having these experiences is so important,” she said

Rochelle Hing is a third year SUNTEP student and brought her young daughter along to Friday’s gathering. She explained it felt good to be a part of the cause. Her thoughts were also with the parents who lost loved ones.

“Just to have my child here and be able to say goodnight to her as some of them did not get to,” she said.

Erica Warkentine, another third year student, said just being able to stand there together was a really big privilege.

“There were so many years where gatherings like this would not be allowed and so to be able to be here today I think is a really big act of resiliency,” she said, adding she’s glad we can live in a time where we can talk about these things and raise awareness.

The gathering was held at the site of the MMIWG moment, which was erected in June 2021.

A moment of silence was also held on Friday for those children lost to the residential schools.

Originally published on September 29, 2023 by paNOW 🌐

## MICHIF WORDS OF THE MONTH

**LA NIIZH PAHKISHIN**

Snowfall

**KA NATAWIYIWET**

Healer

**PA IKSITII**

Patience

**KAAYASHOOKATOOSHKAY**

Don't work too hard



Photography by paNOW

*Kajikiyaw lii zaanfaan i soon sheer*







## UPCOMING DTI DEADLINES

**Adult Basic Education 4 - Flex**

Online

**Jan. 17th**



**Outdoor Equipment Repair**

Buffalo Narrows

**Nov. 10th**



**Outdoor Equipment Repair**

Beauval

**Nov. 10th**



**For a full listing of all current programs and to apply online visit [WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS](http://WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS)**



DTI ABE and PN Students at Batoche 2023, photos by Trenna Vanghel



## DUMONT TECHNICAL INSTITUTE'S PRINCE ALBERT STUDENTS' BATOCHÉ FIELD TRIP

By Trenna Vanghel, DTI Program Coordinator

On September 12th 2023, the Adult Basic Education and Practical Nursing Prince Albert students traveled to Batoche. Students took part in many activities and exhibits throughout the day, beginning in the Batoche Theatre where students were treated to a historical re-enactment video of the events leading up to and including the Battle of Batoche.

Students took the Batoche shuttle to the Saint-Antoine de Padoue Church, which was built using the Red River construction frame technique and many were surprised and impressed by how few nails were used when constructing the building and that it took two full years to construct!

Notably, bullet holes from the gatling gun used against the Métis in the Resistance remain in the front of the rectory next door. Students were intrigued by how well preserved the rectory is, and how many items of historical and cultural significance reside there.

Students were then shuttled to the cemetery to pay homage to the Metis and their families who fought for our rights in 1885 during the Resistance. Some students visited their family members and the tour guide led students through the historical graves such as Gabriel Dumont.

Students enjoyed a lunch of stew and bannock, before exploring the visitor center, which included Metis artwork and wares as well as historical costumes to dress up in, before being shuttled out to the Caron house. In the Caron house, students could see and speculate on how a Metis family in the late 1800's lived. Inside, students noted the root cellar where important food for winter was kept, the well worn floor in the living room where dances may have been held and the twig-lath in the wall which exemplified Metis ingenuity in architecture. Some students even got to take home some produce from the Caron House garden!

Students enjoyed the day out on the land, with their culture surrounding them. In spite of all the circumstances that our Metis ancestors had to overcome, our students have the opportunity to revisit ties to their land, language, lifestyle and culture each time we venture out to Batoche. As an educator, I am so grateful that our students have these opportunities and are able to create and maintain connections to their culture. 🌍

## DTI Student Success Story



"I hated getting out of bed, I had no reason too. But once I started this program, I'm excited to get out of bed and go to work every day. I met some amazing people in my program, and they made the day go by fast. Receiving my certificate meant a lot to me. I felt so proud of myself. Not only because I got it. But because I did it myself. My dad was a heavy equipment operator and my whole life I wanted to follow his footsteps!"

**Candice Claughton - Heavy Equipment Operator  
2023 Graduate & Individual Sponsorship Recipient**





Spenser Thibault, Bonnie Hartman, Brendon Demerais, Randi Ross, Alecia Nagy at IGNYTE



The board and staff of the Gabriel Dumont Institute were deeply saddened to learn of Edwin St. Pierre's passing on September 27, 2023.

Edwin was awarded the Order Gabriel Dumont Gold Medal in 2022 for his work as a role model for the Métis people. He represented Métis veterans at numerous events, and he contributed to many Michif-language gatherings. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

GDI Press published *Remembering My Métis Past: Reminisces of Edwin St. Pierre* in 2012, and his memoir is available to read on the Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture.



## IGNYTE RECONCILIATION EVENT A GREAT SUCCESS

by Brendon Demerais, GDI Employment Services Manager - Special Projects

In spirit of Truth and Reconciliation week 2023, GDI Training and Employment partnered to deliver a special reconciliation event in Saskatoon on October 4th. The event was titled: *Ignyte Reconciliation* and was hosted by Saskatchewan Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs (SYPE), in partnership with GDI and SIIT. The event served as a stage for local young Indigenous entrepreneurs and professionals to share stories and shed light on the profound meaning of Truth and Reconciliation. Indigenous, and non-Indigenous entrepreneurs and professionals shared stories to inspire actionable steps towards meaningful reconciliation and progress.

GDI Director of Operations, Alecia Nagy welcomed participants to the event, representing both GDI and the volunteer SYPE board. GDI Training and Employment staff members Spenser Thibault and Randi Ross each presented

their own stories of what meaningful reconciliation means to them through storytelling and imagery. Randi boldly shared her story of being raised in a Métis family and explained how discrimination affected her from an early age. Spenser Thibault passionately spoke of the importance of integrating Métis language in daily life, and his unofficial project of instilling and revitalizing the Michif language in the GDI workspace and beyond. Both GDI presenters were passionate about Métis culture and heritage and received resoundingly positive recognition for their stories. GDI board member and Elder, May Henderson was in attendance and graciously represented GDI at the event. Participants left the event with a deeper understanding of reconciliation, and shared personal steps and actions that support and foster reconciliation. 🌐

**“In the same way these [Indigenous] languages have been taken from our families they now need to be put back.”**

Spenser Thibault, GDI Employment Counsellor

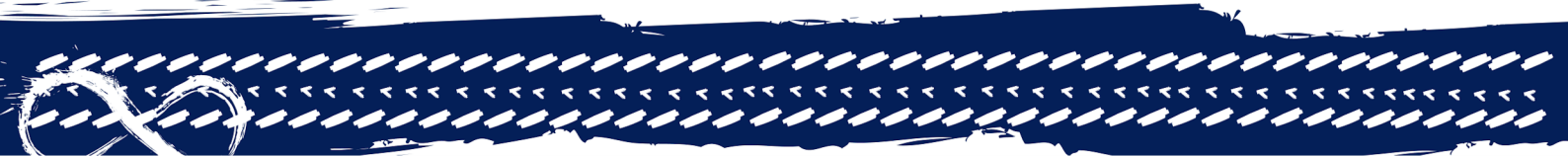
## NURTURING OUR FUTURE MÉTIS PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PROJECT ANNOUNCED WITH NEW FEDERAL FUNDING

*Continued from page 1*

Shelley Lofstrom, SHA Executive Director of Workplace Planning and Employment Strategies spoke about how the project will help address labour shortages in the province and help the SHA hire a more representative and diverse workforce. MN—S Associate Minister of Education, Wendy Gervais added the importance of increasing the representation of Métis citizens in healthcare careers to reduce racism

and improve healthcare outcomes in Métis communities across Saskatchewan.

The announcement was well attended by partners, media, and friends of the Institute, and work has begun to assess the needs for the project and allocate funding to meet the partnership's objectives. For more details, please visit our website: [www.gdins.org/news](http://www.gdins.org/news) 🌐







# 1885 RESISTANCE HISTORIC ARTIFACT REPATRIATED TO GDI MÉTIS MUSEUM

By Darren Prefontaine, GDI Curriculum Developer

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) has just acquired a long-lost artifact from the 1885 Resistance, a Hollis & Son's Hudson's Bay Company Indian Trade Fusil, c. late 1870s.

Last June, Matthew Weickert, Collections Coordinator for the Fanshawe Pioneer Village in Ontario, contacted the Institute about the possibility of repatriating this fusil, which was taken from the Métis or a First Nations ally during the 1885 Resistance by an Ontario-based soldier. After some discussion between GDI and Fanshawe, it was agreed that the fusil should be donated to GDI to hold in trust on behalf of the Métis.

For several years, the fusil was on display in the Royal Canadian Regiment in London, Ontario. It was taken from Batoche by Sergeant W.D. Hill of the Seventh Fusilier, North West Field Force who was initially stationed at Clarks Crossing, north of present-day

Saskatoon during the resistance. We do not know for sure whether this fusil was owned and used by a Métis or a First Nations ally during the Battle of Batoche. However, chances are very likely that it was used by the Métis since these types of trade fusils were the main weapon used by the Métis during the 1885 Resistance.

As an example of reconciliation, both the Fanshawe Pioneer Village and the Royal Canadian Regiment agreed to repatriate the fusil back to the Métis through GDI. Fanshawe Pioneer Village employees, Matthew Weickert and Dawn Miskelly worked with Institute staff to repatriate this precious artifact back to the Métis community. A heartfelt maarsii should be directed to Matthew and Dawn and to the Fanshawe Pioneer Village and to the Royal Canadian Regiment Museum for allowing this artifact to come home to Saskatchewan and to the Métis. 🙏



Hollis & Son's Hudson's Bay Company Indian Trade Fusil c. late 1870s, photos by GDI Culture & Heritage Department



The GDI Board of Governor's approved the Institute will be CLOSED from Friday December 22, 2023 to Monday, January 1, 2024 (inclusive) to return on Tuesday January 2, 2024.



## NOVEMBER 2023 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

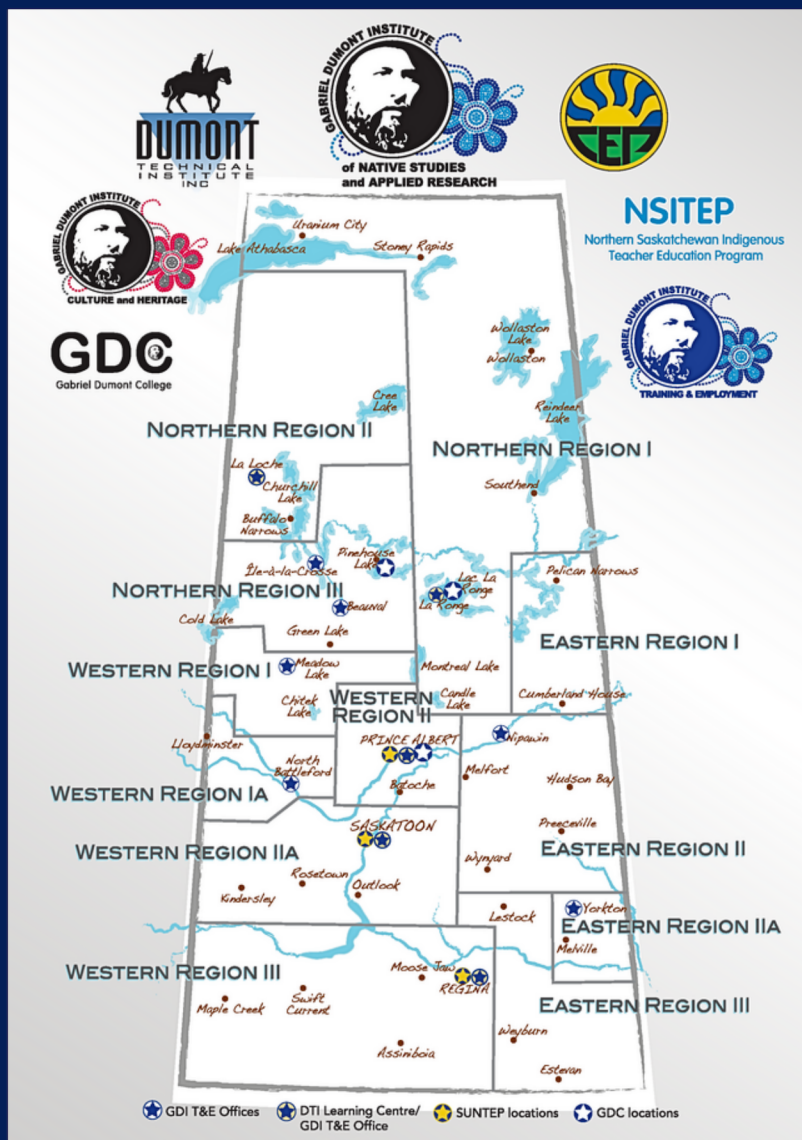
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheet & Payroll Revisions for Nov 15 Payday		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	Remembrance Day →
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Stat Holiday →	Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Nov 17 Direct Deposits	Staff Payday Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Louis Riel Day Stat Holiday	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
				A/P Cheque/EFT Run Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheets & Payroll Revisions for Nov 30 Payday	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
26	27	28	29	30		
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Dec 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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If you would like to submit an article for the *Communicator* please contact Bethani Groat [bethani.groat@gdins.org](mailto:bethani.groat@gdins.org)

