



THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR

PERSEVERANCE & SERVICE



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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ÎLE-À-LA-CROSSE HOME BUILD PROJECT COMPLETED!

By Daniel Down, DTI Program Coordinator

One of the most difficult aspects of educating in the North is providing suitable housing and accommodations for staff. Be it the general lack of available housing, the lack of ability to accommodate family circumstances, or even the short-term nature of renting specific for programming, accommodations prove to be one of the harder barriers to delivering successful programs.

This problem is not unique to the DTI world. Institutions such as the Saskatchewan Health Authority, School Districts, and Government Agencies all struggle in providing quality housing to current and potential employees in the North, especially when it comes to housing for families. On the rare occasion, DTI is able to lease a rental from one of these agencies, but more often than not we are told that there is not enough space for their own staff, let alone accommodating DTI faculty.

One of the Northern entities that DTI has partnered with most over the last many years has been the Île-à-la-Crosse School District. Be it DTI's use of classroom space within their facility for CCA, Level 3, Safety Tickets, or other programming, to the use of their off-site shop for trades-specific programming, DTI has benefitted from their ongoing support of our adult programs.

In late 2022, Île-à-la-Crosse School District began dialogue with DTI regarding their housing needs. Both DTI and the district recognized that the best way to recruit the best faculty is to provide the best possible housing to staff. Housing can easily make or break an individual or family deciding to take a teaching role in a rural or remote area.

Story continues on Page 5.





November 10, 2023 Steffani Ericson, a DTI Mental Health & Wellness Student, laid a wreath on behalf of Dumont Technical Institute to honour Indigenous Veterans at the North West College Remembrance Day Service.



LOUIS RIEL AND MÉTIS VETERANS HONOUR WEEK

by Karon Shmon, GDI Director of Culture and Heritage

November has a number of special days to the Métis. On November 8th, we observed National Indigenous Veterans Day, followed by Remembrance Day on November 11th, and Louis Riel Day on November 16th. As such, we called the week of events Louis Riel and Métis Veterans Honour Week through which we hold a number of cultural events.

This year, on November 15th, we held a special event at the Remai Modern in Saskatoon at which we screened the GDI film, *Honouring Our Heroes*, which engages the six Métis performing artists featured on the recordings that were made to raise funds for the National Métis Veterans Memorial Monument, now fully erected at the Batoche Festival Grounds. The event was complemented by readings from Gregory Scofield and entertainment from Donny Parenteau. Scofield read from his book, *Louis the Heretic Poems* while Parenteau performed some of the

songs from the fundraising CD and several newer songs as well. It was an honour to pay tribute to our recently departed Métis veteran, Edwin St. Pierre who passed away in late September. Edwin's widow, Harriet Oaks St. Pierre was invited to be a special guest as we honoured Edwin with a tribute delivered by Karon Shmon.

Story continued on Page 3.

They shall grow not old, as we
that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor
the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them.



"FOR THE FALLEN"
BY LAURENCE BINYON

GDI PRESENTED THE 2023 PERSEVERANCE AWARD

By Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

On November 3rd, 2023, the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification of Commission (SATCC) hosted an awards celebration in Regina at the Conexus Arts Centre, which the Gabriel Dumont Institute Training & Employment department was pleased to attend and sponsor. The SATCC gives two awards to the apprentices who received the highest marks on their exams, as well as an additional 11 industry awards, including the new GDI Perseverance Award.

The GDI Perseverance Award is a new annual award celebrating Métis apprentices whose resilience and self-determination exemplify perseverance. The award includes a \$750 cash award

granted from the GDI Training & Employment Endowment Fund. Dylan Arcand was the proud recipient of the GDI Perseverance Award this year. Dylan is a third year carpenter apprentice from Saskatoon. "The GDI Perseverance Award celebrates one Métis apprentice whose self-determination and accomplishments exemplify the true meaning of Métis resilience," said Audrey Hestand, who brought greetings on behalf of the Institute. "In a world that often values instant gratification, these apprentices have chosen the path of perseverance." Audrey continued encouraging apprentices to be proud of all they have achieved and to step forward to become skilled experts in their community. 🌐

MICHIF

WORDS OF THE MONTH

AHKAAMAYMOWIN
Perseverance

LII FLEUR POOR LII SAALDAA
Poppy

AEN NOOVRIYII
Carpenter

MIYOOKIYAAMASHTEW
Peaceful





TRIBUTE TO ELDER AND VETERAN EDWIN ST. PIERRE

Karon Shmon Tribute Continued from page 2



Harriet Oakes St. Pierre & Edwin St. Pierre

UPCOMING PROGRAM DEADLINES



Outdoor Equipment Repair Program
Beauval
Dec 15th





Workplace 101: Ready to Work...
North Battleford
Dec 15th





Indigenous Education Doctorate
Prince Albert
Feb 15th





Practical Nursing
Various
Ongoing



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

I offer my sincerest condolences to Edwin’s family and friends. We are all going to miss him. I will remember him fondly and I wish to share a few of the highlights I find the most memorable.

Ed’s Work Ethic: This was simple for Ed; “try the best to do your best. Leave things better off than you found them.” That he did, while being a wonderful role model for the rest of us.

Edwin was a Proud Michif: Ed was enormously proud of his children and family (his late wife, Edna, was also a Michif language keeper, as is Harriet). He was proud of all of you.

Edwin was proud of his own career accomplishments, of Harriet’s Michif contributions, and of her support to bring his book to completion. He was especially proud of being Michif.

Edwin’s Commitment to Service: Ed saw helping others as his purpose, setting a fine example for us all. He served our country and was a proud veteran with whom we worked for many special events such as Indigenous Peoples Day, Remembrance Day, and Louis Riel Day. There will be a huge void but we will always have him in our thoughts on these days. He continued his service as a government worker helping Métis and others join the workforce. He was a proud Michif and served as a Michif language keeper and storyteller with his biography. Ed’s upbringing was familiar to many Métis of his time and this memoir ensures younger generations will know that although life was hard, your outlook on your situation will help you remember the love and good times.

Ed chose love and laughter as his lifestyle. Ed was almost always in a good mood and you could count on sharing many smiles and laughs with him. He was a gentle teaser, the best kind, a Métis way of showing affection and love to others. His devotion to these ideals never wavered. At last year’s Louis Riel and Métis Veterans Day of Honour at Batoche National Historic Site, Edwin was once again our honoured veteran. He had frequently recited the poem “For the Fallen”, a 1914 work by Laurence Binyon, honouring fallen soldiers. I share this one stanza as it remains a vivid memory for me, from the many times Ed recited this at special events.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

I will think of Edwin any time I hear this poem and I will imagine him in his ball cap, cheering on the Blue Jays while sharing a few laughs and smiles. We will remember him.





L to R: Rozalyn Iron (SIIT), Randi Ross (GDI), Bonnie Hartman (GDI), Dylan Arcand (GDI), Audrey Hestand (GDI)



L to R: Hailey Novotny (DTI), Mattia Gregory (DTI), Michelle McNally (DTI), Pearl Gardiner (GDI), and Brett Vandale (GDI)



Empowerment Grant Recipient



Brett Vandale and Brian Gallagher



Elders Panel

OYATEKI PARTNERSHIP COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE GATHERING ENRICHING NETWORKS OF KNOWLEDGE

By Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

On November 1st and 2nd 2023, the Oyateki Partnership held their Community of Practice Gathering at Wanuskewin for tri-partners (GDI, SIIT, and USask) to gather, network, and share their work to scale efforts to transform Indigenous education and employment in Saskatchewan. Oyateki is a Dakota word meaning all people together and leaving no one behind, which speaks to the vision for this project. The Oyateki partnership was launched in 2021, and this is the third year in the five-year partnership.

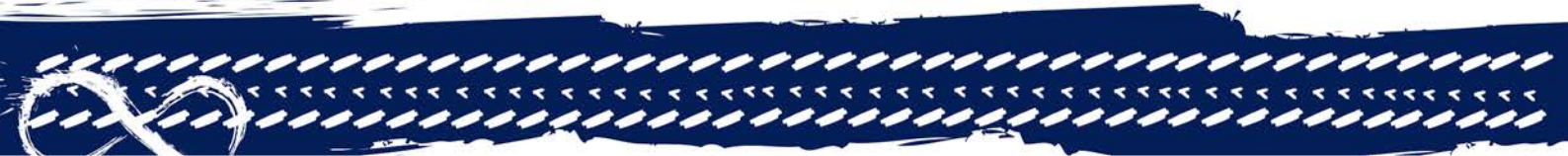
Both days began with a Pipe Ceremony, breakfast, and the Métis National Anthem to ensure the conference started in a good way. GDI Training & Employment staff Randi Ross and third-year carpentry apprentice Dylan Arcand presented at the World Café about the Indigenous Apprenticeship Program. Participants also asked questions about support available for students who need to complete their Grade 12 before pursuing their trade of choice. Our staff then had the opportunity to listen to our partners present on their projects, including SIIT Job Connections in Northern Saskatchewan which helps make the transition to living and working in Saskatoon easier.

In the afternoon, Elders from each tri-institution sat down with DTI Director Michelle McNally to discuss how the current challenges in Indigenous education are connected to the past. Elder Brian Gallagher spoke to a graph that the USask Indigenous Graduate Student Program had presented, showing that over 50% of Indigenous students enroll in Education compared with other majors at the

university. He credited this to key decisions and policies that the founders of GDI and SUNTEP made to increase the number of Indigenous educators. Elder Joesph Naytowhow spoke as a survivor of residential schools about the importance of Indigenous teachers, not only working classrooms, but teaching on the land and sharing in culture outside of the educational institutions.

On day two, the Youth Advisory Council presented a panel of students from each institution to discuss what barriers or challenges they often witness Indigenous students facing on the ground. They talked about the financial pressures many faced to balance work and school. They also talked about the pressures of balancing family and school, either caring for young children or elderly relatives. Chante Speidel stated, "The definition of success needs to be changed to something more circular" to account for more than just good grades. The sentiment was echoed later in the day by students who spoke about how the Empowerment Grant helped them to overcome amazing odds to attend school, from gang violence to poverty to addictions and mental health challenges. For Indigenous students who are facing additional challenges in their lives, success means being able to give energy in all the areas of their lives that make them healthy, happy, and whole, not just their academic pursuits.

The mood leaving the conference was hopeful, joyful, and connected. The two days were spent learning from each other and sharing resources, infusing attendees with renewed purpose. 🌱





ÎLE-À-LA-CROSSE HOME BUILD PROJECT COMPLETED!

Continued from Page 1

With the ongoing partnerships that DTI has held with Île-à-la-Crosse School District, a decision was made to work with them to build a new home for them to assist with their teacher recruitment efforts.

Utilizing DTI resources, funding through the Indigenous Apprenticeship Initiative, training supports from Prairie Arctic Trades Training Centre, and materials and supplies provided through the district, DTI began the process of building a three-bed and two-bath home for the school district in August of 2023. We knew that student training would be slower than a professional crew and that the home would not be finished by the time the snow flew, but it was our mission to complete as much as was necessary that interior work could be done over the colder winter months.

DTI (with the help of an amazing student crew) was able to complete all of the exterior and interior framing, installation of trusses, roof, shingles, soffit/fascia, exterior windows and doors, siding, and interior insulation. Essentially, everything that is required for the sub-trades to work comfortable inside during the Winter and Spring months. This home was one of the largest projects undertaken by DTI students, and the amount of work they completed given having limited experience in construction was nothing less than outstanding.

Île-à-la-Crosse School District will now be able to benefit from increased teacher housing, and DTI students will be able to use their new-found skills to accept and maintain employment within Saskatchewan's construction industry. 🌐



Share your Métis pride with GDI!

We are looking for photos and stories about GDI staff and students out in your local community. Whether it's an event your class attended, or a milestone your department reached, we want to celebrate you!

You can send your photos and stories to: communications@gdins.org

Important dates

December 14, 2023
Final Cutoff for Timesheets and Payroll Revisions for Staff December 29 Payday.

December 15, 2023
Cutoff at 4:30 p.m. for A/P invoices.

December 19, 2023
Final Cheque/EFT Run of 2023.

December 22, 2023
Office Closed for the Holidays. Regular office hours resume January 2nd, 2023.

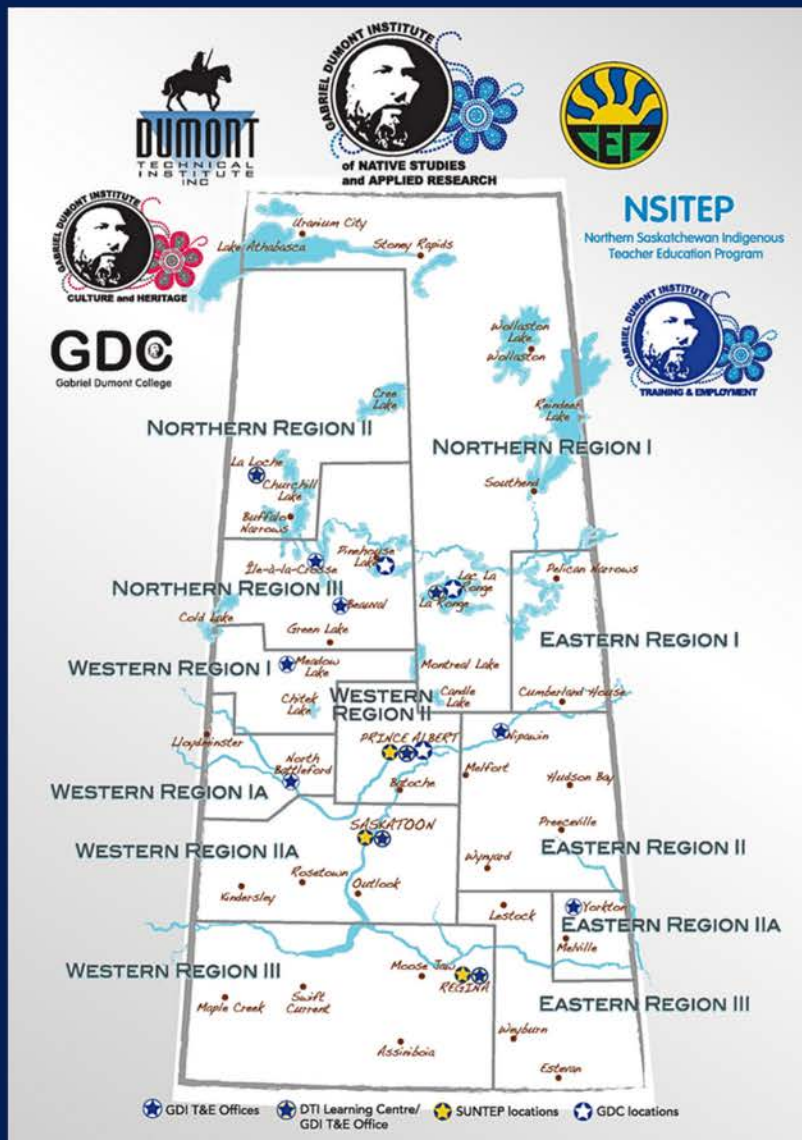
DECEMBER 2023 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

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

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

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

