



THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR

CELEBRATING YEARS OF SERVICE



2023 Prince Albert Service Award Recipients (all years)

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

- ∞ 2023 Staff Service Awards Presented
- ∞ GDI Partners to Launch New Indigenous Education Doctorate Program
- ∞ Mental Health Matters!
- ∞ SUNTEP Prince Albert work to make Christmas a little merrier this year...
- ∞ 2022/2023 GDI Annual Report Available Now

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2023 STAFF SERVICE AWARDS PRESENTED

By Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

In December 2023, the Gabriel Dumont Institute celebrated our long-time staff at the Christmas lunches around the province. Staff service awards recognize staff who have worked with the Institute for increments of five years. The HR Department and the Métis Culture & Heritage Department work together to organize the awards on behalf of the Institute to recognize the long-serving staff who make GDI a success. This is the first year that the service awards have been presented since the pandemic, so the list of recipients was longer than usual.

GDI recognized 31 staff with the five-years of service award, 26 staff with the ten-years of service award, and 21 staff with the 15-years of service award. Additionally, the Institute was pleased to recognize our most long-serving staff who have dedicated 20+ years to supporting GDI's mission.

Seven staff were awarded the 20-year service award, two staff received the 25-years of service award, two staff received the 30-years of service award, and another two staff received the 35-years of service award — the highest honour.

The GDI Board expresses the deepest gratitude and appreciation to all our employees for their years of service. Without hardworking and innovative staff, GDI would not be able to deliver exceptional educational and career support to Métis across the province. The Institute is committed to maintaining a strong Métis workforce and preserving Métis culture and heritage. The Institute strives to be a respected and inclusive workplace. May there be many more decades of teamwork, collaboration, and exceptional service to the Métis people of Saskatchewan. 🌐





APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR GDI UNIVERSITY BASED PROGRAMS



Northern Saskatchewan Teacher Education Program

Earlybird Feb 15

- Four-year Bachelor of Education Degree
- La Ronge
- September 2024 - May 2028



Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program

Early bird Feb 15

- Four-year Bachelor of Education Degree
- Regina, Saskatoon, or P.A.
- Sept 2024 - May 2028



Indigenous Education Doctorate Program

Deadline Feb 15

- Three-year Doctorate of Education Degree
- Prince Albert
- July 2024 - April 2027

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

MICHIF WORDS OF THE MONTH

LI ZHOOR DI NOWEL
Christmas

LA BAARB BLAAN
White Beard

BOON KEUR
Generous

ENN DAANS
Party

GDI PARTNERS TO LAUNCH NEW INDIGENOUS EDUCATION DOCTORATE PROGRAM

By Desirae Barker, GDI Senior Program Coordinator

Early this winter, Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), in partnership with the University of Regina (UofR), launched a new three-year Indigenous Education Doctorate Program in Prince Albert, SK.

The Indigenous Education Doctorate program is a cohort and community-based program designed to provide students and communities in Northern Saskatchewan with advanced educational options. The program emphasizes Métis local knowledge, history, spirituality, culture, and how the locality interacts and is positioned within broader national and international contexts.

Overall, the program aims to provide students access to a full Ed. Doc program, stimulate collaborative community development by addressing local educational issues through Indigenous-centered coursework and practice-focused research; respond to professional development needs of school divisions and other educational groups outside of the normal geographical recruitment range of the University; and make an essential step towards our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.

This 24-credit hour program also includes nine Indigenous Dissertation of Practice (IDIP) hours and offers students the flexibility to learn in class, on the land, and online. Fall and winter courses will be held during evening and weekends, and over summer courses will be held in person.

GDI is incredibly proud to offer this program in partnership with the UofR. After graduating nearly 1,500 Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Indigenous educators and 141 Indigenous Community-based Master of Education graduates, this program was a natural next step in pursuing and creating higher education opportunities for Métis people. The Indigenous Education Doctorate program is one of the first of its kind. It will ensure that Indigenous people are well-represented and have strong voices as decision-makers and administrators in the education system.

The Indigenous Education Doctorate program opened applications in mid-November and will accept applications until February 15, 2024. Two open houses are scheduled to introduce prospective students to the program; one was held on December 4, 2023, and the second will be held on January 4, 2024. Registration details can be found on our website at www.gdins.org/events. The initial information session drew a significant audience, reflecting substantial community interest and highlighting the program's remarkable appeal.

The first cohort of Indigenous Education Doctorate students will start classes in July 2024 and are expected to be a part of the Spring 2027 convocation ceremony. 🌍

For further program information, including admission requirements, application details, tuition and fees, please visit:

gdins.org/doctorate





DTI Adult Basic Education, La Loche



DTI Office Administration Program, Regina

UPCOMING DTI PROGRAM DEADLINES

	ABE Level 4 Flex Program Online Jan 17th	
	Workplace 101: Office & Computer... Île-à-la-Crosse Jan 9th	
	Workplace 101: Job Readiness... North Battleford Jan 9th	
	Practical Nursing Saskatoon or Prince Albert Ongoing	

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

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS! by Mattia Gregory, DTI Program Coordinator

Now more than ever, making mental health a priority has never been more important. Statistics Canada reported that over 5 million Canadians aged 15 and older met the criteria for a mood, anxiety or substance use disorder in 2022, and half of them have not spoken with a healthcare professional about their mental health in the past year (Stephenson, 2023).

What can we do to help increase Mental Health awareness and the importance of looking after our mental health? Dumont Technical Institute has been working on a Mental Health Initiative for our students. DTI created mental health support pamphlets full of great information and ideas about where and how to get support. We also have created mental health wellness boards throughout our campuses, focusing on **you and your mental health matter**. We want our students to know that they are not alone and that we are here to help. We may not have all the answers, but we can listen and will help get students pointed in the right direction to find the right support. Open and honest communication, active listening, and compassion can make a world of difference.

Keep.meSAFE is another mental health program DTI has available for our students. It promotes early intervention and 24/7 access to mental health support. Helping students manage their mental health so they can fully participate in academic life and complete their studies. Students can text or call to speak to a certified counsellor at any time, day or night, help is available.



We have recently started promoting **Embracing Life**, which is a suicide prevention initiative. Embracing Life has a free app where students can journal, have daily check-ins with themselves, create a safe space, and access resources available to them 24/7. The app has all the Saskatchewan emergency numbers for students who need emergent intervention.

Embracing Life has sent us wallet cards with all the Saskatchewan emergency numbers, along with suicide prevention stickers. The stickers can be put anywhere: doors, binders, laptops, water bottles, etc. These stickers are to make others aware that they can talk about their mental health struggles with the person who has the sticker. This is so students know who they can talk to if they are struggling, whether that be their Program Support Facilitator, Instructor, another student, or anyone with a sticker.

One step at a time, we will continue to work towards normalizing talking about mental health and increasing our support because *you and your mental health matter*. 🌍

YOU MATTER

Stephenson, E. (2023, September 22) *Mental disorders and access to mental health care*. Insights on Canadian Society.





SUNTEP Prince Albert Christmas Hampers 2023



GDI Training & Employment, Meadow Lake



GDI Training & Employment, Regina



DTI Mental Health & Wellness Program, Meadow Lake

SUNTEP PRINCE ALBERT WORK TO MAKE CHRISTMAS A LITTLE MERRIER THIS YEAR...

By Beige Unger, SUNTEP Faculty

The students and faculty at SUNTEP Prince Albert have been busy this month making things a little merrier for local families in need this Christmas. For approximately the past 15 years SUNTEP has partnered with local schools to sponsor families at Christmas.

Students in their first, second, and third years of study do everything from making personal donations, gathering donations from outside businesses and family, shopping and wrapping. Hampers include the fixings for a traditional Christmas dinner, additional groceries to carry families through the holiday season, gifts and treats for children in the family, as well as family activities such as board games. This year with the donations received and the hard work students and faculty put in, we were able to partner with three different schools in the city, providing hampers to three families in need.

The hamper program brings our SUNTEP family together.

Students are instilled with a keen understanding of what can be done when we work together to help others. The program helps students to see first-hand the connection between schools and families and prepares them for some of the duties they will have as future teachers in the city. The schools involved host many SUNTEP students during the Extended Practicum as well as Field Experiences and the additional connection helps students to feel a part of their communities.

Faculty and students at SUNTEP Prince Albert hope to be able to continue to expand the hamper program in coming years to bring joy and kindness to more schools and families in the city. 🌍



SUNTEP Prince Albert

GDI ANNUAL REPORT IS NOW AVAILABLE

By Desirae Barker, GDI Senior Program Coordinator

The 2022-2023 Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Annual Report is now available online and in print! If you require any printed copies of this report, please email desirae.barker@gdins.org.

Through each of the Annual Report's pages, you'll see how the Institute's departments worked together to support Métis students and clients and our first few steps forward in implementing the new 2022-2027 Strategic Plan, "Proud Past, Bright Future."

Highlights from the year included the inaugural NSITEP graduating class, hosting the National Michif Speakers Gathering, program expansions, and the overall outreach and partnerships the Institute fostered to further deepen connections with communities across Saskatchewan. To read the full report online, please visit www.gdins.org/reports.

Looking forward to the year ahead as we continue working towards the Institute's missions and creating positive impacts within the Métis community. 🌍





2023 STAFF SERVICES AWARDS PRESENTED

Story Continued from Page 1.

Congratulations to all recipients!



Donna Biggins receiving her 35-years of service award from Brett Vandale in Prince Albert



Darren Prefontaine received his 25-year service award in Saskatoon



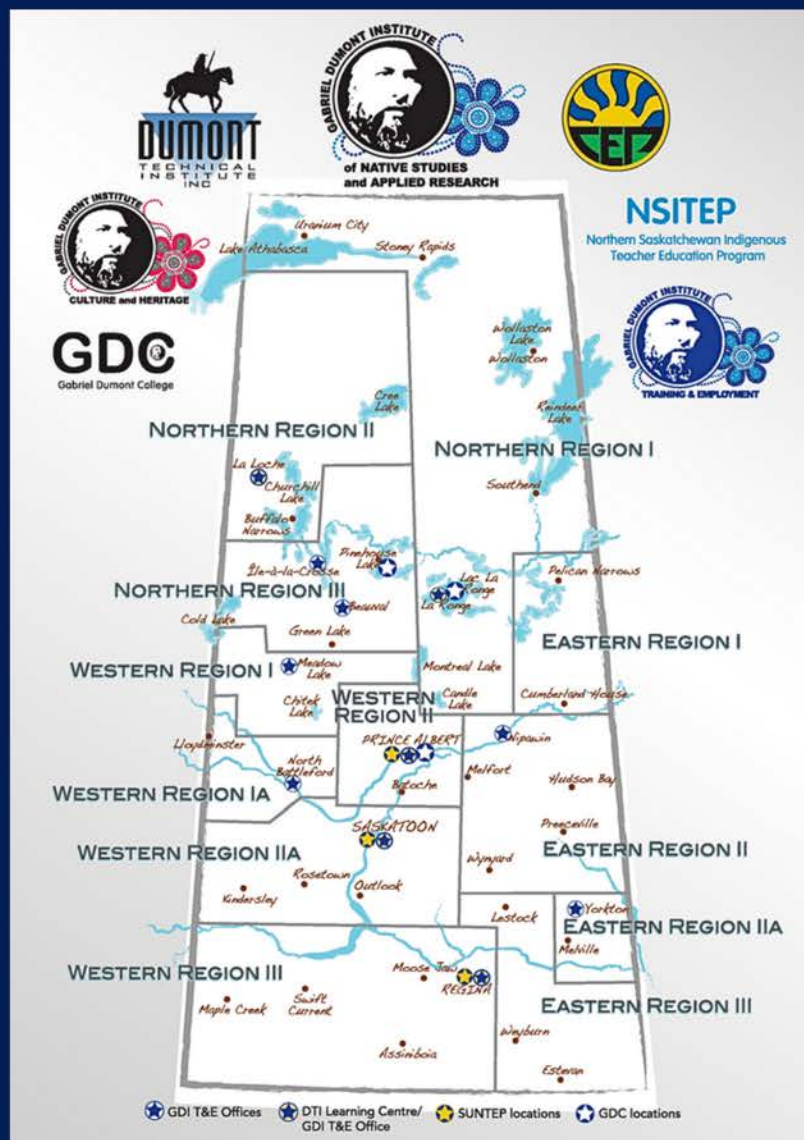
JANUARY 2024 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	New Year's Day Stat Holiday			Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheet & Payroll Revisions for Jan 15 Payday	Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Jan 12 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Staff Payday			Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Jan 26 Direct Deposits	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheet & Payroll Revisions for Jan 31 Payday	Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
28	29	30	31			
			Staff Payday			

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

