



# THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



Brett Vandale, Jennine Krauchi, Laura Burnour. Photo 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

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## LEGEND

- DTI**—Dumont Technical Institute
- GDC**—Gabriel Dumont College
- GDI**—Gabriel Dumont Institute
- GDITE**—Gabriel Dumont Institute Training and Employment
- GDSF**—Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation
- NSITEP**—Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program
- SUNTEP**—Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program

## ORDER OF GABRIEL DUMONT GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS PRESENTED TO FIVE INDIVIDUALS

By Bethani Groat, Communications Coordinator

On March 27, 2026, GDI invested five new members into the Order of Gabriel Dumont. Investment into the Order is one of the Métis Nation’s highest civilian honours recognizing those who have selflessly dedicated their lives to service of the Métis.

The Order of Gabriel Dumont Gold Medal recognizes a lifetime of great distinction and service to the Métis. The achievements of these individuals have created a legacy of Métis pride, culture, rights, and prosperity for generations to come.

The 2026 Gold Medal recipients are:

Jennine Krauchi (Winnipeg, MB) is an internationally recognized Métis artist, and she has spent many years learning from her Métis and First Nations elders.

She champions the shared inheritance of Métis beadwork, and her work connects its rich past to contemporary concerns. She is currently working on a major permanent outdoor beadwork facade for the Red River Métis National Heritage Centre in Winnipeg.

Joseph Welsh (Lebret, SK) is a Métis author, playwright, and storyteller, and a respected Old One. He is the author of *Jackrabbit Street*, a book that speaks to life on the Road Allowance. He also wrote *Sacred Places*, which honours Métis Veterans. His stories are frequently shared at cultural events, schools, and community gatherings to help young people connect with Métis history and identity.

**Story continues on Page 2...**





# UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR FALL 2026



**Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NSITEP)**

La Ronge

Ongoing



**Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP)**

Saskatoon, Regina, Prince Albert

Ongoing



Apply early to ensure your spot in these popular programs!

[WWW.GDINS.ORG/UNIVERSITY](http://WWW.GDINS.ORG/UNIVERSITY)

## ORDER OF GABRIEL DUMONT GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS PRESENTED TO FIVE INDIVIDUALS

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The Order of Gabriel Dumont Silver Medal recognizes those who have made significant contributions to the Métis in their careers to date. GDI has presented the silver medal to Language Keepers, educators, community leaders, activists, artists, and mid-career professionals who have made a difference in their Métis community.

The 2026 Silver Medal recipients are:

Angela Bishop (Green Lake, SK) is a distinguished lawyer and activist with a lifelong commitment to Métis self-determination and empowerment. For more than three decades, Angela has served as legal counsel with the Government of Canada, where she works to advance the recognition of Indigenous rights and negotiate foundational self-government and rights-based agreements with the Métis and First Nations across Canada.

Janice Henry (Prince Albert, SK) is a trailblazer in Métis governance.

She was elected as the first president of the Métis Women of Saskatchewan in 1995, later serving on the Executive of the Métis National Council of Women. She negotiated a tripartite agreement between the Métis Women of Saskatchewan, the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan, and the Government of Saskatchewan.

Shirley Isbister (Saskatoon, SK) is president of the Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. (CUMFI). Shirley has helped grow the organization into a respected community resource that supports housing initiatives, mobile housing and community resource centre bus, and the "Coming Home Program," to help bring children home from foster care.

Since the 1980s, 112 individuals have been invested in the Order by the Institute. For more information about the awards and past recipients, please go to:

[HTTPS://GDINS.ORG/METIS-CULTURE/THE-ORDER-OF-GABRIEL-DUMONT-CALL-FOR-NOMINATIONS/](https://gdins.org/metis-culture/the-order-of-gabriel-dumont-call-for-nominations/)

# MICHIF WORDS OF THE MONTH

**MAAR**

March

**AEN BOON VWAAZAYN**

Neighbourly

**ITA KA NAAKAMOOHK**

Opera House

**KISCHI MISHOW**

Immense

**ENN SELIBRASYOON**

Jubilee

**KIKISHKAYHTAYN**

Knowledge

**KIIYAAM POONIHTA**

Let It Be

## DTI CCA GRADUATES ENTERING THE WORKFORCE

by Chantelle Jule, Candy Schiele, and Shawna LaRocque-Desjarlais

The DTI Continuing Care Assistant (CCA) Programs will celebrate the graduation of students in May 2026 at the Prince Albert, Saskatoon, and Regina campuses. This year's cohort includes a dedicated group of Métis students who have shown a strong commitment to building careers in healthcare and supporting the well-being of others.

Throughout the program, students balanced classroom learning with hands-on clinical experience as they prepared to enter a profession grounded in compassion, respect, and

dignity. For many students, the decision to pursue a career as a CCA was inspired by personal experiences caring for loved ones or a desire to give back to their communities.

CCAs play an important role in Saskatchewan's healthcare system. They support patients and residents with daily living and personal care in hospitals, long-term care homes, personal care homes, and community home care programs.

**Story continues on Page 3...**





# UPCOMING DTI PROGRAM DEADLINES



**Continuing Care Assistant**  
Prince Albert  
**April 15**




**Practical Nursing**  
Prince Albert  
**April 20**




**Office Administration**  
Regina or Saskatoon  
**April 15**




**Mobile Crane Operator Program**  
Regina  
**April 30**




**Early Childhood Education Level 2**  
Online  
**June 30**




**Industrial Mechanic (Millwright)**  
Pinehouse  
**Ongoing**




**Heavy Equipment Operator**  
Various  
**Ongoing**



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

## DTI CCA GRADUATES ENTERING THE WORKFORCE

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Beyond these responsibilities, CCAs often build meaningful relationships with those they care for, helping people feel valued, safe, and supported.

DTI Saskatoon student Shania MacDonald joined the CCA program in September 2025 because of her passion for working in healthcare. “I am excited to graduate from the CCA program because there are so many job opportunities in different areas such as acute care, long-term care, and home care,” she said.

Graduates are entering a workforce where the need for skilled CCAs remains high across the province. Many CCA positions are within the Saskatchewan Health Authority, with additional opportunities available through private long-term care providers and community care agencies. As Saskatchewan’s population continues to age, the demand for long-term care, home care, and community-based health services is expected to grow.

Current labour market data reflects this ongoing need, with more than 100 active CCA job postings across Saskatchewan. The greatest demand

**References:**

<https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/marketreport/jobs/24688/SK>

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/health/health-human-resources/incentives-for-healthcare-professionals/saskatchewan-rural-and-remote-recruitment-incentive>

is in the Prince Albert and Regina-Moose Mountain regions, each reporting 26 openings. The Saskatoon-Biggar region follows with 24 postings, while Yorkton-Melville has 22 and Swift Current-Moose Jaw reports 21.

DTI is currently recruiting students for all three locations this fall. Shania encourages others who are considering a career in healthcare to explore the program. “If you are thinking about working in healthcare, the Continuing Care Assistant program at Dumont Technical Institute is a great place to start. You learn so much and have a lot of support along the way. The teachers and classmates create a team environment where you can learn and grow as a student. I am honoured to be a Continuing Care Assistant student.”

As these graduates prepare to begin their careers, they carry with them not only the knowledge and skills gained through the program, but also a strong commitment to compassionate care. Many will go on to serve the communities that supported them throughout their education, helping to strengthen Saskatchewan’s healthcare workforce and ensuring patients and residents receive respectful, person-centred care. 🌐



### GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE NOW

Maarsii to everyone who attended the Annual General Meeting on March 27, 2026. In case you missed it, you can read all about what GDI has been up to in our Annual Report and Financial Reports available on our website, or by emailing [communications@gdins.org](mailto:communications@gdins.org).

[HTTPS://GDINS.ORG/ABOUT/REPORTS](https://gdins.org/about/reports)





## GDI LIBRARY IN REGINA HOSTS WORKSHOP WITH MELANIE ROSE

by Kim Kovacs, GDI Librarian

On a windy and unseasonably warm Saturday afternoon in early March, a group of Institute students, staff, graduates, and community members gathered in the GDI Library in Regina to participate in a felting workshop led by Melanie Rose. Melanie, who is of Métis and Ukrainian descent, is an award-winning visual artist and story-keeper whose work has been exhibited across Saskatchewan and elsewhere in Canada.

Melanie began the workshop by showing participants the beautiful artwork that can be created using a few simple tools: a needle, wool blankets, wool roving, and a sponge. She shared her own personal creations, as well as examples of collaboratively felted story blankets created in the community. Melanie talked about “felting as medicine,” touching on how she and many of the people she has taught find the process meditative, soothing, and healing.

After Melanie demonstrated basic techniques, participants decided on their designs, chose their preferred colours from the selection of roving provided, and began creating their first felting pieces. The afternoon flew by as everyone chatted and shared stories, worked away with their needles and wool, and admired each other’s emerging creations. Participants had positive things to say about the experience: “It was a lovely day. The atmosphere and company were great. I have picked up a new hobby!” said one. Another participant commented, “It was an enjoyable afternoon, and I learnt a lot from the facilitator.” Yet another participant expressed gratitude: “We need to celebrate, teach and uplift community. I am very grateful to be a part of this. Maarsii.”

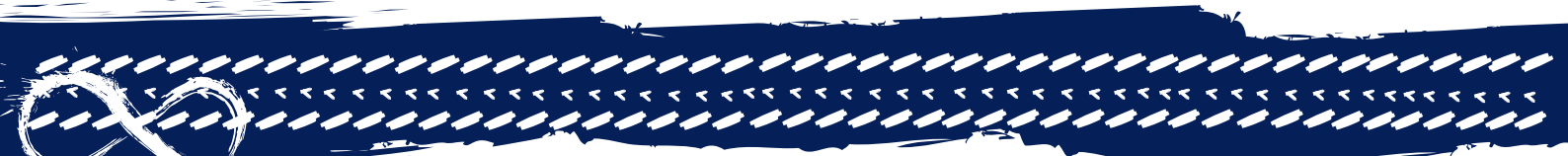
While the Library’s primary function is to provide Institute students and faculty with access to resources and information literacy support, they need to excel in their studies and teaching. Learning comes in many forms and is more meaningful when it is rooted in culture and connected to community. An important secondary function of the GDI Library is to provide a gathering space in which students and staff from different Institute programs—and members of the wider Métis community—have chances to meet, learn new skills, strengthen networks, and share knowledge.

To this end, in addition to occasional workshops with guest artists like Melanie, the GDI Library in Regina also hosts weekly come-and-go “Craft & Chat” sessions on Thursday evenings between October and the end of April. Everyone is welcome, and regular attendees include students and their family members, staff, graduates, and community members of all ages who enjoy catching up with old friends or making new ones while keeping their hands busy on a craft project. Others just come for a cup of tea and lively conversation!

While the GDI Regina Library doesn’t have additional facilitated workshops planned in the immediate future, weekly Craft & Chat sessions continue Thursday evenings from 4-6 PM until the end of April. If you’re in Regina and interested in dropping in, we’d love to see you there! 🌐



Photos submitted by Kim Kovacs





### The Scholarship Application Portal is Now Open!

- Scholarships are available for:
- Métis students
  - Residing in Saskatchewan
  - Enrolled full-time
  - In an accredited post-secondary program

Deadline to apply is **May 1, 2026**  
[GDINS.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS](http://GDINS.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS)



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**13TH ANNUAL**  
GABRIEL DUMONT SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

**∞ GOLF ∞**  
MAY 29, 2026

**TOURNAMENT**

**MOON LAKE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB**  
905 VALLEY ROAD, SASKATOON

#### READY TO SUPPORT MÉTIS STUDENTS REACH THEIR GOALS?

We are looking for volunteers to work at the event, help collect prizes, and sell sponsorships.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN HELP PLEASE CONTACT [GOLF@GDINS.ORG](mailto:GOLF@GDINS.ORG)

GOLFER REGISTRATION OPENS  
APRIL 1, 2026 AT:  
[WWW.GDINS.ORG/GOLF](http://WWW.GDINS.ORG/GOLF)

### LETS GET SOCIAL



Stay in touch on our socials:  
Gabriel Dumont Institute  
@GDINS\_ORG

[WWW.GDINS.ORG](http://WWW.GDINS.ORG)

## INTRODUCING JODI LETENDRE, SUNTEP PRINCE ALBERT PROGRAM HEAD

By Bethani Groat and Jodi Letendre

On March 2nd, 2026, the Gabriel Dumont Institute welcomed Jodi Letendre as the new Program Head for SUNTEP Prince Albert. A proud SUNTEP alumna, she began her journey with SUNTEP at 18 years old, and she is excited to be returning 30 years later to guide the next generation of educators. Jodi brings over 25 years of experience with the Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division, where she served in many roles, including Indigenous Perspectives Consultant and most recently as Vice Principal at Queen Mary Public School. Jodi is also a proud member of MacDowal Local 83, and she believes in the importance of community, reciprocity, and giving back.



Photo of Jodi Letendre by Celine Grimard

helped shape the program, and she is grateful for the paths they trod and the barriers that they helped move so that SUNTEP Prince Albert could become the strong, culturally affirming program it is today.

In February, Bonnie Novotny left SUNTEP to pursue new opportunities, and Jodi is ready to pick up the reins for a smooth transition. In her role as Program Head, Jodi commits to ensuring that SUNTEP Prince Albert remains a quality program while being responsive to the changes in education. She deeply admires the work of the past program heads whose leadership

Guided by the strength of our Métis ancestors, Jodi hopes to share her passion for education while fanning the fire within the hearts of SUNTEP students as future educators; encouraging them to become the very best teachers they can be because that is who their future students deserve. Welcome to the team Jodi!

### APRIL 2026 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Accounts Payable Payment Run - Noon for Friday Pmts	ISETS Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Apr 10 Accounts Payable	Good Friday Stat Holiday	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Easter Monday Stat Holiday	Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on MNU Student Apr 10 Direct Deposits	AP Payment Run - Noon for Friday Pmts Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheets & Payroll Revisions for Apr 15 Payday		MNU Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Apr 17 Accounts Payable	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on ISETS Student Apr 17 Direct Deposits	Staff Payday Accounts Payable Payment - Noon for Friday Pmts		ISETS Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Apr 24 Accounts Payable	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on MNU Student Apr 24 Direct Deposits	Accounts Payable Payment Run - Noon for Friday Pmts	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheets & Payroll Revisions for Apr 30 Payday	MNU Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for May 1 Accounts Payable	
26	27	28	29	30		
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on ISETS Student May 1 Direct Deposits	Accounts Payable Payment Run - Noon for Friday Pmts	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



