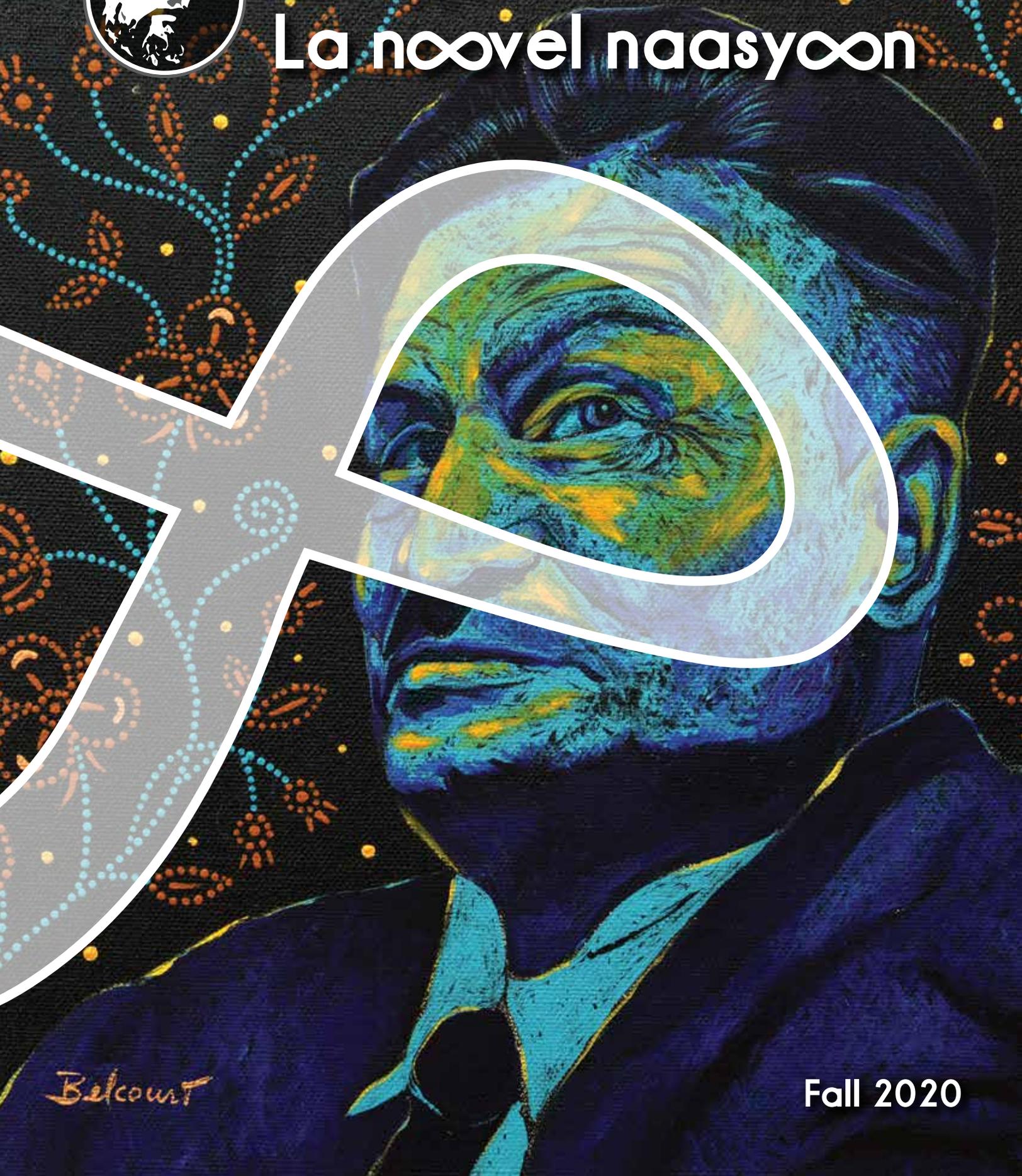




The New Nation

La noovel naasyoon



Belcourt

Fall 2020

EDITORS

Lisa Bird-Wilson
Karon Shmon

EDITORIAL BOARD

Geordy McCaffrey
Lisa Bird-Wilson
Karon Shmon

CONTRIBUTORS

Desirae Barker
Lisa Bird-Wilson
Brendon Demerais
Audrey Hestand
Geordy McCaffrey
David Morin
Fraser Needham
Darren Préfontaine
Kristi Ross
Karon Shmon
Jayda Taylor / *Prince Albert Daily Herald*

DESIGNER

Murray Lindsay

COPYEDITING

Darren Préfontaine
Desirae Barker

COVER ART

Christi Belcourt



The New Nation

La noovel naasyoon

A publication of the
Gabriel Dumont Institute
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Applied Research Inc.

Any correspondence or inquiries can be made to:
The Gabriel Dumont Institute
917-22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9
Telephone: 306.242.6070
newnation@gdins.org

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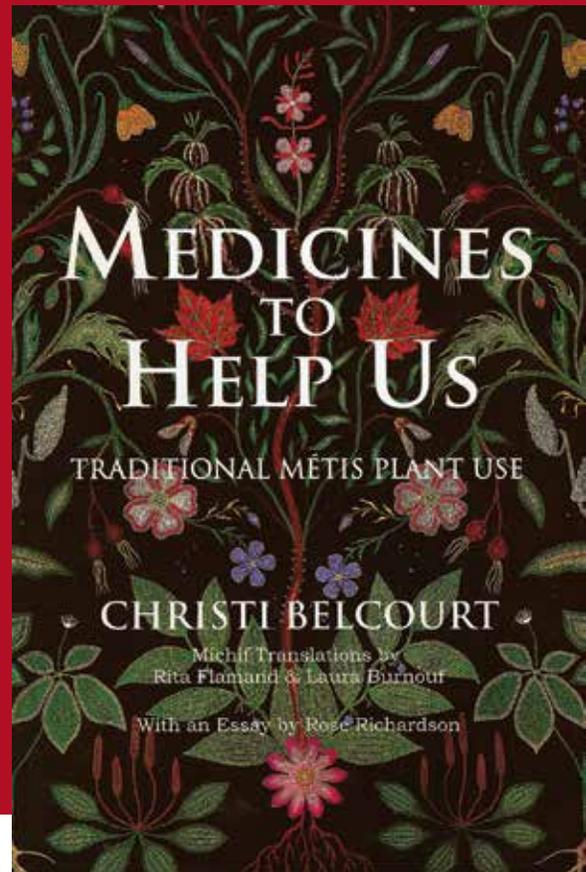
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Métis artist Christi Belcourt generously gifted this portrait of James Brady to the Institute when she completed it in 2020. The Gabriel Dumont Institute is proud to house the largest collection of her work in the GDI Gallery and Museum in Saskatoon. This portrait is a wonderful complement to her portrait series, *Great Métis of My Time*, which pays homage to Métis men and women who have made significant contributions to the Métis in contemporary times.

Medicines to Help Us, one of the larger pieces of Christi's work proudly owned and displayed by GDI, also exists as a best-selling book and a study print set authored by Christi. As the painting depicts 27 plants used by Métis and First Nations women for medicines, information about each plant is provided along with a thumbnail of how it was depicted in the painting, where it grows, in Canada, and a photo of what it looks like. Elder Rose Richardson provided the traditional uses of these medicinal plants in combination with Christi's knowledge about them. The plants are also named in Cree, Michif, Latin, and common English.

More about Christi and her stunning work can be found at:
<http://christibelcourt.com/gabriel-dumont-institute-collection/>

Message from the Gabriel Dumont Institute Executive Director

Tanishi,

Welcome to the fall edition of *The New Nation: La noovel naasyoon* magazine. Published by the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), the quarterly *New Nation* magazine promotes Métis culture, highlights GDI's programs and successes, and showcases good news stories of Métis across the province. We are pleased to provide free access to the magazine on the *Virtual Museum for Métis History and Culture**. A limited print run will also be available.

In this issue, I'm particularly happy to see a reprint of a *New Breed* article from November 1980 showcasing the Institute's grand opening forty years ago. The reprint depicts a photo collage from GDI's opening celebration. I'm sure many readers will see a number of familiar faces. In addition, we've reprinted the facing page from the 1980 *New Breed* which includes photos of the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Regina and SUNTEP Saskatoon students. More familiar faces!

The fall issue contains numerous GDI program updates, including an exciting new funding announcement about our Métis Entrepreneurship program, which operates in partnership with the Clarence Campeau Development Fund and the Sask Métis Economic Development Corporation. An article on the Métis Nation University Sponsorship program will bring you up-to-date on the latest round of funding supports for Métis attending university. University post-secondary support is historic to the Métis and GDI is pleased to have a role in administering these funds.

It's our aim to celebrate community and achievement in *The New Nation*. About forty percent of the articles in this issue are dedicated to community happenings—news by and about Métis people and places around the province, including an interview about a fascinating new book examining the disappearance of Jim Brady in Northern Saskatchewan.

As always, thank you for your support for the Gabriel Dumont Institute. I hope you enjoy the fall issue of *The New Nation: La noovel naasyoon*.

maarsii,

Geordy McCaffrey
Executive Director, GDI



**Geordy McCaffrey, Executive Director,
Gabriel Dumont Institute**

* www.metismuseum.ca/newnation
www.metismuseum.ca/newbreed

New Second-Phase Funding for Entrepreneurship Programming by Brendon Demerais

On August 9, 2020, Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) announced \$745,000 in funding to the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) to support Indigenous peoples to fully participate in the economic growth of Saskatchewan. The new funding, designated for GDI Training and Employment, will support the second phase of its Pathways for Entrepreneurship program.

The first phase of the program (November 2017 – March 31, 2020) had significant success supporting Métis business growth and development in Saskatchewan. GDI is looking to continue this with a renewed second phase.

“The mutual partnership with WD will help the Gabriel Dumont Institute support Métis entrepreneurs on their journey toward business start-up or expansion,” said Geordy McCaffrey, GDI Executive Director. “Since the days of the fur trade, the Métis continue to embody a bold entrepreneurial spirit. GDI is enthusiastic to provide Métis communities and entrepreneurs with programs and services to advance Métis economic inclusion and development in Saskatchewan.”

Given the current COVID-19 business climate, starting a new business sounds like a risky and scary proposition. There are high levels of customer uncertainty and some industries and sectors will see significant struggle. However, in any environment there are opportunities to carve out a niche and succeed.

There are also several advantages to being small that allow opportunities for change and growth. When faced with once-in-a-lifetime events like COVID-19, businesses that can pivot and adjust the quickest are often the ones that survive and hopefully, thrive. One major benefit of being small is having the agility and control to implement rapid change. Prudent business owners must assess the impact to current revenue streams and look for opportunities to measure revenue changes and adjust. Small businesses that can minimize fixed costs and overhead can be in a much better financial position than some large businesses.



Métis entrepreneur, Chad Berg in front of his business, Saskatoon Clayworks

Another benefit for Métis businesses is the opportunity to build strong relationships with Métis lending agencies and members of the local community. Métis businesses who are facing hardship should reach out to the Clarence Campeau Development Fund (CCDF) and the SaskMétis Economic Development Corporation (SMEDCO) to discuss loan repayment deferrals, or special emergency COVID-19 funding options.

Strengthening relationships with other business partners, vendors, and supply chains can also keep small businesses stronger. Being aware of other local businesses and supply chains can help keep the Métis business community strong and will support community employment. Utilizing social media to engage local community members will encourage customers to shop local and support community employment.

The GDI Pathways for Entrepreneurship team can assist Métis business owners. Métis entrepreneurs who are looking to grow their businesses can apply for training support and professional consulting support. There are also unique supports for brand new start-ups.

Virtual Concerts and Virtual NIPD

by David Morin

With the physical world upended in early 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) wanted to bring joy to communities by bringing amazing entertainment right to everyone's home. These concerts also enabled GDI to support artists at a time when most live, in-person concerts were cancelled. Conceived by Karon Shmon, GDI Métis Culture and Heritage Department Director, the Institute began the Métis Monday Night Concert Series on April 20, 2020 with a virtual concert by renowned Métis entertainer, Donny Parenteau.



John Arcand
Master of the Métis fiddle

Following Donny's performance, the concert series continued with a concert from Jess Lee, in which he sang many songs about Métis culture from his tipi. Master of the Métis Fiddle, John Arcand, was the next to share his legendary talents with close to 14,000 viewers watching since it first aired on May 4, 2020! More artists joined the fun, including Tristen Durocher, Lucas Welsh, Dean Bernier, Angela Rancourt, and Tahnis Cunningham. In total, the eleven Métis Monday Night Concert Series entertained nearly 54,000 viewers!

Another aspect of GDI's cultural offerings affected by the COVID-19 pandemic was the annual events held with our partners at Batoche National Historic Site (Parks Canada) and Friends of Batoche. Each year, the three organizations provide Métis cultural programming on National Indigenous Peoples Day, Canada Day, Back to Batoche Days, and Louis Riel Day. The pandemic didn't slow our partnership down as we came together to bring a wide range of performers together virtually on National Indigenous Peoples Day! The 75-minute show was emceed by Donny Parenteau, with an opening prayer by Elder Margaret Harrison, Métis and Canadian anthems sung by Reanne Gareau, and with greetings from GDI Executive Director Geordy McCaffrey, Métis Nation—Saskatchewan President Glen McCallum, and Parks Canada Field Unit Superintendent for the Saskatchewan South Region, Adriana Bacheschi.

Elder Sophie McDougall brought greetings from St. Louis, SK and shared a fun story! Next came a variety of performances, including the drummers and dancers from Batoche's neighbouring One Arrow First Nation, jiggling from Kate Boyer, historical information from Adam Matheson, poetry from Greg Scofield, and music from Donny Parenteau, Angela Rancourt, Tristen Durocher, and Jess Lee. Scofield read "The Sewing Circle," which was highlighted by the unveiling of a Project Bookmark plaque featuring the poem. The event concluded with Donny Parenteau's moving song, "Would You Do Today"

honouring our Métis veterans featuring footage of the National Métis Veterans Monument at the Back to Batoche grounds and images of our Métis veterans.

Canada Day at Batoche National Historic Site brought a second collaboration between GDI, Parks Canada, and Friends of Batoche. The event opened with Adam Matheson performing on bagpipes as the Canada and Métis flags were raised, followed by the Métis and Canadian anthems sung by Reanne Gareau. Kathleen Zolinsky and Denise Parenteau offered an opening prayer followed by honour songs provided by the drummers and dancers from One Arrow First Nation. Fiddler Dean Bernier, accompanied on guitar by Gary Larson, shared a few songs. To round out the event, Gregory Scofield read a poem and Rachele Deault gave a tour of the new Pchi Shmaen Trail at Batoche National Historic Site. Overall, it helped us feel like we were on site, something missed by many this year.

These concerts and events are still available to enjoy on the GDI Facebook page during the pandemic. (www.facebook.com/gabriel Dumont Institute) as well as GDI's YouTube Channel (www.youtube.com/gabriel Dumont Institute).

GDI Gets Set to Say Goodbye to Long-Serving CEO

by Lisa Bird-Wilson

Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) Education Minister Dr. Earl Cook announced that the CEO of the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), Geordy McCaffrey, has determined that the time has come to pursue new challenges and opportunities.

“Geordy began his journey with GDI as a student and 27 years later leaves the school stronger than it has ever been,” said Cook. “We thank him for his service and dedication, particularly during his eighteen years as Chief Executive Officer, and are so grateful for the legacy he leaves behind.”

Cook outlined McCaffrey’s accomplishments since taking the helm as CEO in 2003, which include but are not limited to: unprecedented academic stability and curriculum growth; a 500 percent increase in revenues for programs and services; a quadrupling of student enrollment; establishing GDI Training and Employment; and securing university funding for

Métis students. McCaffrey played an instrumental role in developing GDI’s invaluable Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NSITEP) in La Ronge in 2019. He presided over the relocation of the Institute to its beautiful new building in Saskatoon, which is also home to a Métis museum, art gallery, and special collection of Métis historical artifacts.

“I’m proud to have been a part of the Gabriel Dumont Institute’s growth and evolution, and am looking forward to seeing what comes next, both for the school and for myself,” said McCaffrey. “GDI has provided me with a wonderful career, and I feel strongly that it makes sense for me to exit when it’s at such a high point in its history.”

“Making this decision was admittedly much easier knowing the incredible staff that I’m leaving behind to continue building upon GDI’s success,” continued McCaffrey. “Myself, the Métis people of Saskatchewan, and the entire province can rest assured

that GDI’s strong future and adherence to tradition remains in the most capable of hands.” The Institute has a full-time staff complement of 200 located throughout 20 different locations in the province.

GDI’s board of directors have resolved to extend McCaffrey’s contract, due to expire at the end 2020, in order to enable a national search for his replacement by an executive search firm, which will be selected in the near future to assist in a comprehensive recruitment strategy. McCaffrey will continue at the helm of GDI as its CEO until June 2021.



Fall Classes for GDI

by Lisa Bird -Wilson

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) worked closely with our partners in post-secondary education to plan for fall delivery. GDI's situation is unique, delivering programs and services in communities across the province in partnership with a variety of institutions and organizations. Plans for each centre are tailored to the accrediting institution and the best needs of each particular program and community.

In consultation with Public Health, Advanced Education, programming partners, and the Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Health Officer, the Institute implemented a hybrid/blended approach to education delivery for the fall, as appropriate. Leveraging the best practices of face-to-face in person classes and online/distance education instruction gives our students the best chance of academic success in the ever-changing

environment of the COVID-19 global pandemic. The approach provides the flexibility needed to manage the risks of the pandemic while ensuring the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff.

Measures being taken at each centre include screening and hand sanitizing protocols for visitors, students, and staff; masks for indoor common spaces where physical distancing is not possible; mitigation measures in the event someone becomes ill; sanitation procedures; and additional site-specific controls.

A pandemic plan/guide is in use throughout all the Institute's programs and is updated regularly. The top priority continues to be the safety and well-being of GDI students, staff, and visitors.



The top priority continues to be the safety and well-being of GDI students, staff, and visitors.

Bison Hunting and Métis Settlement In and Around Saskatoon Dates from the 1850s

by Darren Préfontaine

The bison¹ economy sustained the Métis for at least three generations. This is widely known. Few know, however, that the Métis hunted bison in and around Saskatoon, and that this region was part of a larger Métis settlement of communities located along the South Saskatchewan River.

In 1924, Patrice Fleury (1844 or 1848-1943), a Métis leader during the 1885 Resistance, recounted assisting in an organized bison hunt in the spring of 1858 in the Saskatoon area, which was a Métis bison hunting ground from the 1850s until the mid-1870s. He recalled meeting his future brother-in-law, Gabriel Dumont during this hunt:

In the spring of 1858 a hunting party was organized and I came West again to assist in a buffalo hunt. With this party was Gabriel Dumont, then a young man noted as a great shot and perfectly fearless, who subsequently became famous as the late Louis Riel's Lieutenant, and our objective point was the Plains east, west and south of where the city of Saskatoon

*now stands, which at that time was a famed buffalo feeding ground as the brunch, or buffalo grass was plentiful and the south Saskatchewan River accessible, and the vast herds appeared to make these plains a permanent summer pasture.*²

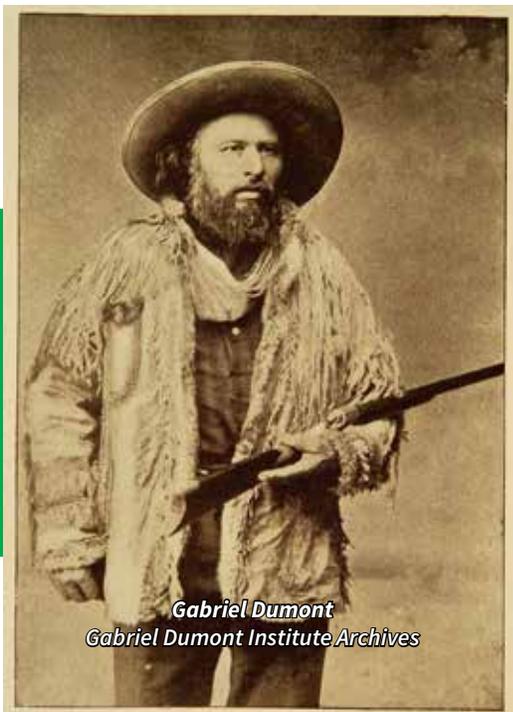
A 1927 memoir by Archie Brown also tells of a bison hunt in what is now Saskatoon, which Gabriel Dumont related to him. Brown and Dumont were helping their friend "Andy," a Métis ferryman who lived near the site of the present-day Rawlco Radio building, recuperate after he split his foot open cutting wood.

*During the first snowfall a party of them (Dumont and his bison-hunting party) were running buffalo on the flats where Saskatoon now stands. He had shot a buffalo and, getting off his horse straddled the buffalo intending to cut its throat. The buffalo rose to its feet and started with him on its back or neck. He soon fell off, however, and the buffalo went a short distance and fell again. He then finished him and he had a ride on a wild buffalo.*³

1. North American bison (Bison bison) are members of the bovine tribe which also includes cattle and yaks. Historically, these animals have been known as "buffalo," even though they are only distantly related to true buffalo, such as the Asian water buffalo and the African buffalo. The Michif word for bison, *lii buffloo*, was used long before people knew these animals' true taxonomic and genetic history.

2. Patrice Fleury Recalls Days when he Lordly Buffalo Roamed Plains of Central Saskatchewan," Prince Albert Herald, March 15, 1924 1. Arthur Silver Morton Collection. University of Saskatchewan Special Collections. MSS C555/2/10.30.

3. "Narrative of Archie Brown. Sent to him from California to Mr. S.R. Ross," 1927, 42-43. Arthur Silver Morton Collection. University of Saskatchewan Special Collections. MSS C555/2/4.2c.



Gabriel Dumont
Gabriel Dumont Institute Archives



Henri Julien, *Grandes chasses*
Gabriel Dumont Institute Archives

By the 1870s, present-day Saskatoon was part of a larger Métis community that included la Prairie Ronde Settlement (near Dundurn) to the south as well as the Southbranch Settlements to the north: St. Louis, St. Laurent de Grandin (1871), Batoche (1873), Petite Ville (an hivernant or “wintering” community, 1870), and Tourond’s Coulee/Fish Creek. This contrasts with the dominant historical narrative which indicates that Saskatoon was “founded” as a temperance colony by Ontario Protestants in 1882. However, as indicated above, the site of Saskatoon was occupied and used by the Métis prior to 1882.

Saskatoon had a Métis name. As late as 1889 in his dictation of the life and the events of the 1885 Resistance, Gabriel Dumont called Saskatoon “Bois de flèche” or Arrow Woods.⁴ For the Métis, the area in and around Saskatoon was more than a hunting ground, they also had the beginnings of a permanent settlement here. They had riverlots in the Saskatoon region which they wanted to ensure their title to, but the Temperance Society’s leader John Lake conspired

4. Patrice Fleury Recalls Days when he Lordly Buffalo Roamed Plains of Central Saskatchewan,” Prince Albert Herald, March 15, 1924 1. Arthur Silver Morton Collection. University of Saskatchewan Special Collections. MSS C555/2/10.30.

with the federal government to take this land away from them in the early 1880s.⁵

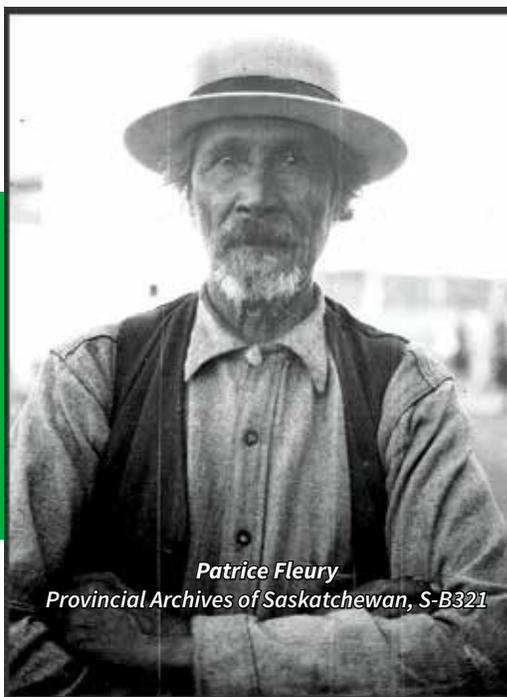
Even before it was incorporated as a city, Saskatoon had a significant Métis presence, including various nearby Road Allowance communities, such as “Frenchman’s Flats.”⁶ Métis Road Allowance communities, largely residents from La Prairie Ronde (or Round Prairie as it more commonly known), existed in Saskatoon’s Nutana and Exhibition areas well into the 1950s.⁷ From these early beginnings, the Métis presence in Saskatoon has only grown considerably. Today, Saskatoon is home to a large vibrant Métis community of over 15,000 people.⁸

5. Scott Larsen, “Saskatoon founder John Lake was a ‘scallywag,’ says U of S professor,” CBC News, March 20, 2019. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatoon/saskatoon-founder-john-lake-scallywag-1.5062985>.

6. Alan Anderson, “French and Métis Settlements,” The Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan,” https://esask.uregina.ca/entry/french_and_metis_settlements.jsp.

7. See: Cheryl Troupe. *Métis Women: Social Structure, Urbanization and Political Activism, 1850-1980*. M.A. Thesis. Saskatoon: University of Saskatchewan, 2009

8. Publications Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Aboriginal Peoples. (2016 Census). <https://www.uaps.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/UAPS-Saskatoon-report.pdf>.



Patrice Fleury
Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan, S-B321



Successful Launch of 2nd Year of Métis Nation University Sponsorship Program

by Audrey Hestand

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) was contracted by the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN—S) to deliver the first two years of the Métis Nation Post-Secondary Education Strategy. The Métis Nation University (MNU) Sponsorship Program is actively reducing the Indigenous education gap in Saskatchewan by ensuring Métis citizens have the same opportunities for success as other Canadian students pursuing post-secondary studies. The first year wrapped up successfully in August 2020, with an overwhelming majority of the 461 students sponsored having very positive feedback on the program.

An updated online application process launched in June for the Fall 2020 intake, and saw 636 applications come in before the July 1st deadline. For the 2020-21 academic year, GDI received \$5.65 million to deliver direct financial support to Métis students, a 30% increase over the previous year, allowing for second/advanced degree applicants to be approved this year.

The regional selection committee approved 611 students for the 2020-21 academic year using a blind adjudication process, including 574 confirmed citizens and 37 whose citizenship application is in progress. The number of applicants with their citizenship in place demonstrates just how hard the MN—S Provincial Métis Registry has been working to ensure citizenship that applications are processed efficiently.

For the 2020-21 academic year, GDI updated the funding options to reduce the reporting burden on students. New for this year is a start-up allowance option, which enables students to access a portion of their education benefit early for start-of-term expenses, such as books and supplies, but gives the students autonomy on what they do with the funding. 44% of students opted for the start-up allowance.

Other funding choices included GDI sponsorship to pay the students' tuition and fees directly to their chosen

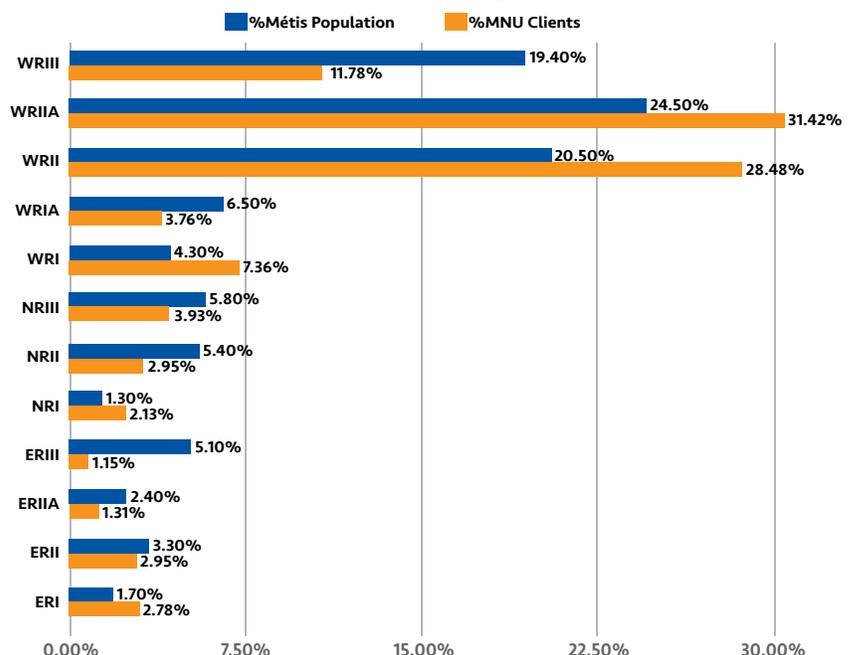
institute. 33% of students chose this option. 53% of students chose to accept their education benefits as biweekly income support, while 8% chose to have the tuitions they paid personally reimbursed. 6% of students have yet to decide as of September 1st.

These options allow students to make decisions on how the MNU benefits can best support their needs. Further supporting student needs, GDI reimburses child care expenses for eligible students, provides a travel allowance where needed, and reimburses parking expenses related to attending school. Students with disabilities can access additional supports for assistive devices, counselling, and tutoring.

Due to the unique situation brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, over half of sponsored students are likely eligible for Employment Insurance. GDI is leveraging its referral authority to ensure MNU students are able to continue accessing Employment Insurance benefits while completing their studies.

GDI is expecting another incredibly successful year for the MNU program. The Winter intake is open at www.gdins.org/university and will close midnight October 1, 2020.

Comparison of % of Métis Population by MN—S Region and MNU Funding by Region, 2020-21



Order of Gabriel Dumont

by Lisa Bird-Wilson

The Gabriel Dumont Institute invites you to nominate a person to the *Order of Gabriel Dumont*.

The Order of Gabriel Dumont is awarded by the Gabriel Dumont Institute to a small number of persons who have served the Métis of Canada with distinction. Recipients of the *Order of Gabriel Dumont* need not be Métis.

“*The Order of Gabriel Dumont* is one of the Métis Nation’s highest civilian honours,” says Geordy McCaffrey, the Institute’s Executive Director. “It’s awarded to Métis and non-Métis individuals based on their achievements and lifetime contributions.”

The Order of Gabriel Dumont **Gold** medal recognizes lifetime of outstanding service to the Métis of Canada. The **Silver** medal honours those who have made significant contributions to the Métis. To date, a total of 35 gold and silver medals have been awarded.

The Order is presented in the form of a medal (sterling silver or gold) and a certificate signed by the Officers of the Institute which enrolls the recipient in the Order. The awards will be presented annually at the Gabriel Dumont Institute’s Annual General Meeting.

Nomination forms are available online at www.gdins.org.
Anyone may submit a nomination.

*Deadline for receipt of nominations
is October 31, 2020.*



Jim Sinclair—Politician and GDI Founder

by Lisa Bird-Wilson

Jim Sinclair was elected President of the Métis Society in 1971. At that point, he had been involved in Métis politics since the early 1960s. He held the position of President of the Métis Society/ Association of Métis and Non-status Indians of Saskatchewan (AMNSIS) for a total of 18 years.

During his political career, Sinclair became adept at using confrontation politics to gain attention of both the government and the media. The particular social concerns of the time centred on housing, justice reform, education, and jobs.

While a lot of people had the idea for a Métis educational institute, it was really Jim Sinclair who carried the vision forward. Doug McArthur was the Saskatchewan Minister of Education from 1978-1982 in the last years of the Blakeney NDP government. He says, “Jim was quite committed to the idea of an education centre that would sustain and advance the cultural and historical identity of Métis people. Jim carried the energy around that vision.” Doug



Jim Sinclair, President of the Association of Métis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan, speaking at the presentation of Louis Riel's diary to the Saskatchewan Archives Board by the Saskatchewan government in Regina, Feb. 23, 1984.

From the D.H. Bocking Collection.

Image courtesy of the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan.

McArthur stresses that GDI was very much a Métis Society plan—“they had the plan, not [the] government.”

During his political career, Jim lobbied for the inclusion of the Métis in Canada's Constitution and in 1982, he was one of the leaders successful in negotiating the term Métis into section 35(2) of Canada's Constitution.

In 1987, during the last of four conferences on the Constitution that were mandated by section 37.1, Jim took a strong and much publicized stand with the Premiers of Saskatchewan and British Columbia, who opposed the rights of Métis people to a land

base and self-government. The 1987 Constitutional Conference was a failure for the national Indigenous leaders. No agreement was reached to entrench self-government into the Constitution, as the Indigenous leaders had hoped.

Jim gave a scathing final speech to the Prime Minister and Premiers at the conclusion of the 1987 Constitutional Conference, which was televised nationally. Many Métis have viewed the ten-minute video clip, available on YouTube¹. However, if you haven't watched it in a while, I urge you to look at it again. In the clip you will see that Jim Sinclair doesn't shy away from telling the world that Saskatchewan was spending millions of dollars to keep Native people in prisons, while at the same time doing nothing to assist Indigenous people with self-government and running our own affairs. He's fearless in pointing out

Jim Sinclair was the only national Indigenous leader to attend all four of the constitutional conferences, and he did so on behalf of, and representing, the Métis.

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZCopoMJYoY0>

then-Premier Grant Devine the irony of Saskatchewan being willing to subsidize wine and whisky for northern communities, but not milk for northern children.

“Any time you heard Jim speak it was like opening yourself up inside, it made you want to go home and work for your people. It inspired you to be a good leader, to be there for the people.”
- Cecile Blanke

You will also see scores of Indigenous people in the gallery standing up behind Jim Sinclair, standing in support and applauding his words. Jim Sinclair was the only national Indigenous leader to attend all four of the constitutional conferences, and he did so on behalf of, and representing, the Métis.

Sinclair possessed a dynamic personality. He was a natural public speaker with a flair for passionate and eloquent speeches. Cecile Blanke, President of the Lake Pelletier Métis local 35 in Swift Current said, “Any time you heard Jim speak it was like opening yourself up inside, it made you want to go home and work for your people. It inspired you to be a good leader, to be there for the people.” She added, “Jim was concerned about our livelihood and our education and our children.”

In 1988, Sinclair was forced out of the leadership role of AMNSIS

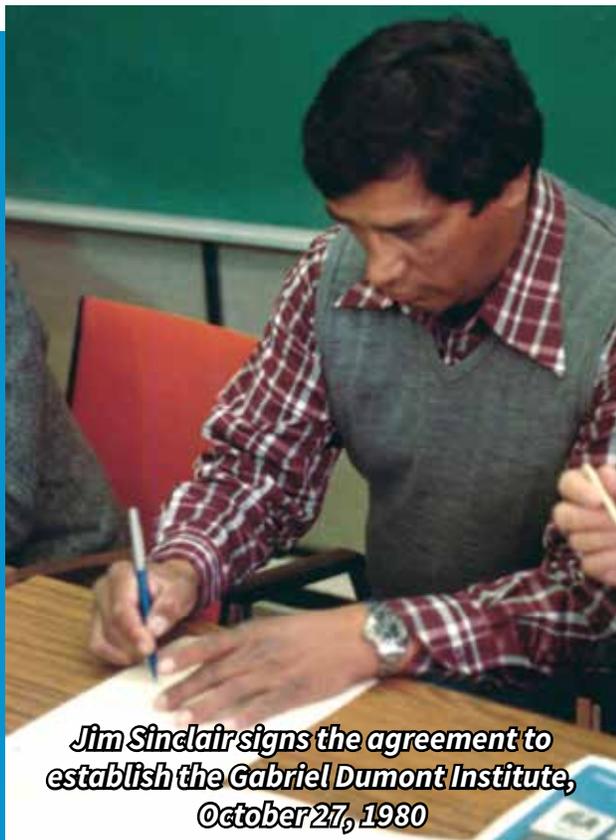
when the organization split—with a reconstituted Métis Society taking over the AMNSIS corporation and all its assets. In a bitter twist to a storied political career, Sinclair, who had led the Métis through four constitutional conferences, was ousted by his own organization.

Jim Sinclair died November 9, 2012 at the Allan Blair Cancer Centre, Pasqua Hospital, in Regina. He was 79.

At his funeral, letters of condolence from national and provincial leaders were read, impressing upon anyone who might not have been aware, the influence and range that Jim Sinclair had as a politician and as a national Indigenous leader. Prime Minister Stephen Harper noted that Jim Sinclair’s work to include the Métis in the Constitution would endure and form his legacy; a similar message was echoed by former Prime Ministers Paul Martin and Brian Mulroney; Premier Brad Wall declared that the flags at the Saskatchewan Legislature would fly at half-mast in Jim’s honour.



Jim Sinclair speaks at the final First Ministers' Conference on Aboriginal Constitutional Matters, Ottawa, March 27, 1987



Jim Sinclair signs the agreement to establish the Gabriel Dumont Institute, October 27, 1980

Jim's close friends, Wayne McKenzie and Lyle Daniels, each gave a eulogy. As co-emcee Graham Murdock noted, the family had a difficult time narrowing down who would do the eulogy because Jim had so many close friends. Over the duration of the four-hour funeral it became apparent that above all else, a great many people considered themselves fortunate to call Jim a good friend.

As a human being, he had a knack for making people feel significant and worthy. The first eulogy given by Jim's long-time friend, Wayne McKenzie, was filled with humorous stories about a man with a flair for negotiating everything, from politics to food. Wayne was first among many to refer to Jim's penchant for, "Hot soup. Good hot soup. Boiling."

Quite fitting at the memorial service of such a strong political leader, current national and provincial Indigenous leaders were called upon to make remarks. Among those to speak were Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo; Métis National Council President Clément Chartier; Congress of Aboriginal Peoples Chief, Betty Ann Lavallee; Métis Nation-Saskatchewan President

Robert Doucette; Federation of Saskatchewan Indigenous Nations Chief Perry Bellegarde; and Saskatchewan MLA Buckley Belanger.

Chief Atleo described Jim as "a true giant among our people," while President Chartier called Jim Sinclair "the greatest First Nations and Métis leader of the 21st century." Chief Lavallee said the enduring lesson she learned from Jim was "humility above all else." Perhaps the strongest acknowledgement of Jim Sinclair's legacy came from Chief Bellegarde. Bellegarde noted that Jim Sinclair will be remembered among our greatest leaders: "Poundmaker, Big Bear, Louis Riel, Gabriel Dumont, Jim Sinclair," he said. Chief Bellegarde then surprised many in attendance by singing a beautiful honour song for Jim that left many damp eyes amongst the crowd.

Sinclair's legacy of ensuring Métis inclusion in the Canadian Constitution will endure as will his legacy of building many Métis institutions, here at home, and setting their foundations deep and true.

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) owes a debt of gratitude to this leader, who lobbied, advocated, organized, and mobilized people, and ultimately negotiated a strong agreement for Métis education in Saskatchewan. Forty years later, GDI carries on that legacy, as the largest, most well established, and most successful Métis educational institution in Canada.

"The greatest First Nations and Métis leader of the 21st century."

***-Clément Chartier,
President,
Métis National Council***

Dumont Technical Institute Testing Services

by Kristi Ross

The Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) has offered GED® (General Educational Development) testing for over 18 years, and in 2013 became an approved GED® testing centre through Pearson Vue to offer computer-based testing in Saskatoon and all across Saskatchewan using the Mobile Testing lab. The Saskatoon testing lab is located at 1003 22nd street building. We currently have nine computers available to clients to write their GED® exams online. GED® is the system of standardized examinations, which entitle those who pass to receive a credential, which is considered as an equivalent to a completed high school diploma. The GED® Test is a five-part exam measuring high school equivalent skills and knowledge in these subject areas: Language Arts–Reading, Language Arts–Writing, Math, Social Studies, and Science. We have delivered 1521 exams in our Saskatoon lab. In 2019, we fully renovated the space and upgraded all the computers.

In 2016, DTI began to offer Next-Generation Accuplacer to assist our clients in entry requirements for apprenticeship and college-level programs. Accuplacer is a testing system that measures your strengths and needs in math, reading, and writing. The computerized exams offer multiple-choice questions that increase or decrease in difficulty, depending on your answer. The testing department has delivered over 900 exams across Saskatchewan.

In 2019, the testing department was approved to offer the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination (CPNRE). CPNRE is a comprehensive exam for those who have successfully completed an accredited Practical Nursing program. An entry-to-practice exam, CPNRE is a computer-based and is delivered via Pearson Vue. Students have the option to write these exams four times a year. DTI has currently had 53 students write these exams.

As well in the later part of 2019, we became an approved site to offer IXL learning to our apprenticeship clients who do not have the education requirements to indenture. IXL Learning's skills are aligned to the Saskatchewan Curriculum Outcomes providing comprehensive coverage of Math and English Language Arts. Clients taking the Entrance Requirements Training will have a certain period to complete the training, and must meet the required score in each learning outcome before they can move forward with becoming an apprentice. Currently, we have 24 clients accessing IXL. Three clients have recently finished and their applications have been sent forward to the next step to becoming indentured.

If you have any questions, please contact Kristi Ross at 306.657.2242 or testing@gdins.org.



Artists Reflect on 5-week Mentorship Project Exploring Métis Values

by Jayda Taylor / *Prince Albert Daily Herald*

Prince Albert's Danielle Castle and Leah Dorion have now completed their five outdoor art installations, but the pair of Métis artists hope the value of the project lingers far longer.

On Friday, Castle and Dorion set up horse cutouts painted with Métis values—such as sharing, balance and love—outside of the Art Hauser Centre. The words are presented in English on one side of the horses and in Michif on the other.

Ribbons tied around the stakes blew in the wind, which was particularly aggressive throughout the installation.

“I feel that we've brought a lot of positive visual storytelling into the city this summer and I'm really encouraged. I've had so many people comment and connect with me. People from Saskatoon have been following us. I was shocked,” said Dorion.

Castle, too, felt the project was uplifting. She and Dorion said they met their goal of sharing Métis values in a way the public can easily connect with.

“The willow walkway was one of my favourites. A lady told me that she was going to come back and do meditation and tai chi the next morning, and so we created that special space for her and I'm getting lots of pictures of the bison being sent to me. They're just really loving the colours and the whole project,” she said.

“That's what I mean, I feel fulfilled.”

The mentorship began with a pastel mural on the cement leading into the Mann Art Gallery. The project branched off of Dorion's mini-residency at the gallery, where she led workshops teaching guests how to make Métis moss bags and Plains-style ribbon skirts. The mentorship was also inspired by her children's book *The Giving Tree: A Retelling of a Traditional Métis Story*.

The project continued as the pair decorated a living giving tree, harvested willow trees to create a labyrinth, staked painted bison along the rotary trail and, lastly, installed the horses.



Leah Dorion ties ribbon around the stake of one of the horses for the last installation of the Intergenerational Métis Artist Mentorship Project on Aug. 7, 2020.

“I think this project is actually acknowledging something the community has already really honoured,” said Dorion, referring to the Métis culture.

She recently helped guide and inform the city for signs along the riverbank providing a brief history of the area's six Indigenous groups, including the Métis.

“Anybody can benefit from thinking about these values and thinking about how they connect with them in their own lives, so it's really on a personal and cultural level. There is a universal truth that is embedded in the principles that we have shared.”

In an interview before the project took off, Castle and Dorion said they hoped to gain a following from installation to installation.

The McInnes family, in particular, followed them all of the way through, even gifting each of them tea and haskap jam at the last installation.

“It's kind of a way to get them more in touch with that culture, which they haven't had a significant exposure to in the past,” said Amy McInnes about her children.

“I think I heard Elder Liz (Settee) speaking about opening a conversation and that's what it is for us—it's a conversation. It shows very clearly what the values are and we can explore it in fun, interesting, different ways.”

The installations are all temporary. Dorion said they'll be taking them down, starting with the willow labyrinth, late next week.

This article first appeared in the Prince Albert Daily Herald, August 7, 2020. Reprinted with permission.



One side of the horses read a Métis value in English, and the other side read the same value in Michif.



Danielle Castle paints on a horse cutout as part of the fifth and final outdoor art installation at the Art Hauser Centre on Aug. 7, 2020.

A Métis Woman's Storytelling about Métis Women's Stories

by Karon Shmon

The recent re-release of Maria Campbell's first book, *Halfbreed*, now with pages that were excluded without her knowledge and consent, signals a new, and long overdue, era of honesty and truth-telling of Indigenous stories without the heavy hand of a colonial editor. First published in 1973, several pages deemed too risky by the publisher were removed, something Maria didn't learn until the book was printed and released.

It has warmed many hearts to learn that Maria is currently working on two new books that will feature Cree stories from the oral tradition. One book will feature short family stories told while people were working and the other book will feature longer family stories often told in the evenings around a campfire. Both publications, slated for a 2022 release, will feature illustrations by Christi Belcourt.

Our stories remain as the foundation of our oral histories, complete with the love, laughter, and pain that makes them so real and so memorable. Maria Campbell has long-cherished these stories and has gifted all of us with books like *Stories of the Road Allowance People*, *Little Badger and the Fire Spirit*, and, of course, *Halfbreed*. What is preserved, besides the stories themselves, is the voice of our people, the way we once spoke, and the worldview or perspective shaping the storytelling. These are invaluable for the Métis who, like other Indigenous peoples, endured tremendous forces to assimilate. Through the strength and tenacity of Maria and others who refused to forget and give up our culture, language, and stories, we are fortunate to have stories that connect us to our past and which strengthen our resilience to hold fast to what those who came before us so valiantly protected.

The Gabriel Dumont Institute is deeply honoured that Maria Campbell has been the keynote speaker at numerous celebrations, the latest being the Institute's 40th Anniversary. Maria was one of the early advocates for the creation of the Institute, so it is especially meaningful that her voice helped celebrate this milestone.

Maria has long-been a women's advocate and the Institute is equally honoured that she agreed to provide the foreword for the Institute's 2019 publication, *Women of the Métis Nation*. Her foreword is abridged in this article but can be read in its entirety at <http://www.metismuseum.ca/resource.php/149695>

WOMEN OF THE MÉTIS NATION



COMPILERS:
LAWRENCE J. BARKWELL AND LEAH MARIE DORION
WITH
ANNE CARRIÈRE-ACCO

ISBN-13 : 978-1926795812
Gabriel Dumont Institute Press, 2019

To put together a book that honours the Women of the Métis Nation by remembering their names, their accomplishments, and their families is a raising up of our people and culture, and is indeed a celebration. For it was always the women—our grandmothers, mothers, and aunties—who were the cultural, spiritual, and in more recent times, the economic strength of our families and community life. Without them, times would have been much harder; for it was they who supplemented meagre family incomes with their sewing and crafts. Many of us remember the flickering lamps, late at night, and the bent heads of the women in our family as they beaded and embroidered beautiful jackets, moccasins, and gloves cut from the moose, deer, and elk hides they had scraped and tanned. They hooked and braided rag rugs, made willow and bark baskets, and pieced and quilted blankets, which were all sold or traded at the general store for cloth to be used for clothing, rubbers to be worn over moccasins, groceries, and if we were lucky, licorice candy. They cooked and cleaned, gardened, and delivered babies for the new settlers and were paid with ground grains. They planted huge gardens for their families, harvested and preserved wild berries, and smoked and dried bags of fish and meat. “It seemed like all they ever did was work,” a friend once laughed as she recalled the women in her family.

Makes you wonder when on earth they ever had the time to tell us stories?”

But storytelling was something they did all the time. They wove the stories of wahkotowin and the



histories of our people in and out of their beading, embroidery, and berry picking. In my own family I am not able to separate the memories of stories and woman’s work. The two are interwoven.

Everything was an opportunity to tell stories of birthings and deaths, of medicines and beautiful horses and, of course, about heroic men and women who were always, in some way, our wahkomakanak, lee parawn. Their stories were as rich and beautiful as the beaded, quilled, and embroidered clothing, colourful quilts, and rugs they made.

Today, family genealogies, our lives, our work, and stories are being researched and documented, not only by the scholarship of women like Sherry Farrell Recette, Heather Devine, Brenda Macdougall, Cheryl Troupe, and many others, but by Métis families themselves. They are all bringing a new pride and sense of family and place, and with it, an underlying commitment to the values learned by mothers, grandmothers, and all the other significant women in our lives.

We are in a new and exciting times—exciting and sometimes scary because there is a new change happening. However, our roles and responsibilities as women will always remain the same, but are strengthened by hard-won rights and freedoms. And because of this, change is not so daunting and the journey forward is exciting. Women of the Métis Nation is michinn or muskike, because it names the women whose strength and love have bound us together to create a rich nation. It is the beginning of another new story, and like you, I am always ready for a new story.

--Abridged Foreword. *Women of the Métis Nation*,
Maria Campbell, 2019

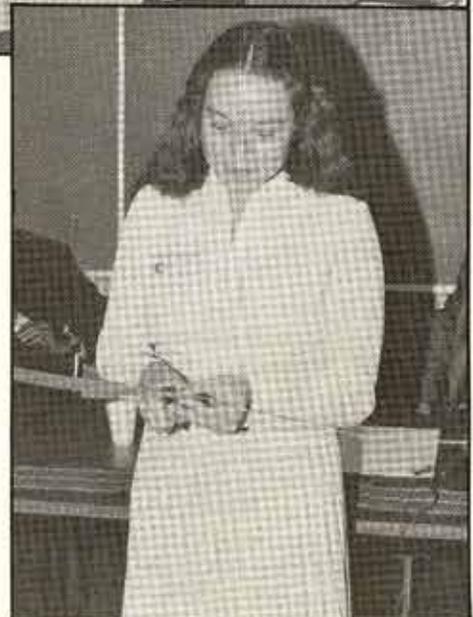
Photo by Donna Heimbecker
© Gabriel Dumont Institute

Official Opening of Dumont Institute

Monday, October 27, 1980



*Top: This time, we had witnesses
The agreement setting out the terms for the establishment of the Institute between the Metis and Non-Status Peoples and the Government of Saskatchewan was signed (r. to l.) by Walter Smishek, Minister of Urban Affairs; Jim Sinclair, President of AMNSIS; and Doug McArthur, Minister of Continuing Education. The witnesses were Kenn Whyte, Institute Director; Joe Amyotte, elder and first president of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan; and Patty Lou Racette, a SUNTEP student.*



Top: "Into the Eighties" as Patty Lou Racette, one of the first SUNTEP students, cuts the ribbon officially opening the Gabriel Dumont Institute with Joe Amyotte in the background. Symbolically, the President of AMNSIS and the Minister of Continuing Education held the ribbon.



*Top: The Heads of two firsts
Ida Wasacase, head of the first degree granting "Indian" Colleges in North America, the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College, is snapped with Drs. Kenn Whyte and Walter Currie, the heads of the first Metis and Non-Status Indian institute at the post-secondary level in North America, during the Institute's opening.*



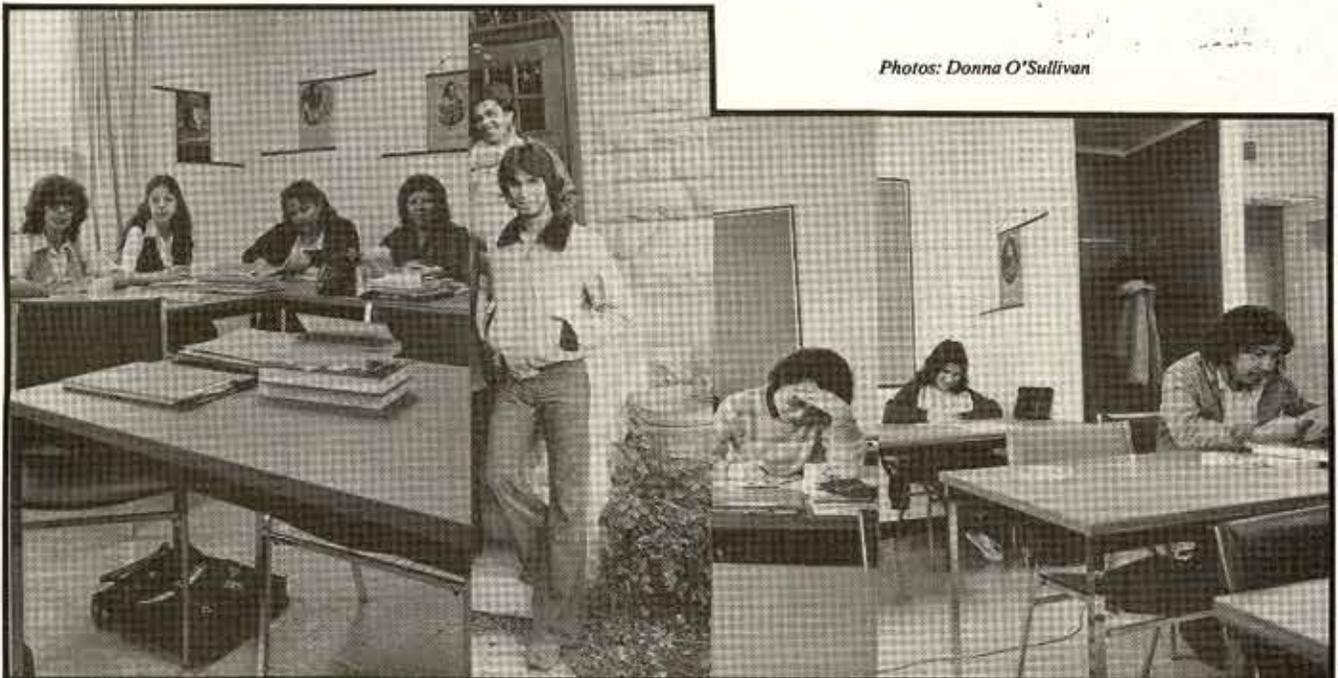
Regina and Saskatoon SUNTEP students



Regina Campus: (left to right) Seated: Martina Sayer, Brenda MacDonald, Rema Alexson, Allan Donald, Patty Lou Racette, Esther Cardinal, Hazel Arnold, Beverly Worsley. Standing: Terri MacPhail, Melona Palmer, Lianne Yuzicappi, Lynne Daniels.

Saskatoon Campus: (left to right) Irene Clarke, Nora Corrigan, Marie Dumais, Mary Jane Jenkins, Randy Ledoux, Brian Gallagher, Marie Maurice, Jackie Bouvier Wiebe, Dennis McLeod.

Photos: Donna O'Sullivan



Métis Youth, Gavin Blondeau Reflects on International Internship

by Karon Shmon

Gavin Blondeau was one of 20 Indigenous youth from across Canada to work and live overseas with a non-profit organization for four months. He was also the only Métis youth from Saskatchewan selected. Gavin's internship placed him in Kenya where he worked with the Rift Valley Resource Centre and "Run for Life" assisting with programs related to clean water, environmental conservation, and community sustainability.



L to R: Ezekiel Chebii (trail manager & guide), Izaria Bowe, Brennan Googo, Gavin Bondeau, Blake Gardebois. Photo by Izaria Bowe used with permission.

and Saskatoon, and to work with, and adapt to, people that have world views different from you.

KS: What was one of the challenges you experienced?

GB: Things seemed pretty tough during the internship and there were many challenges every day, but, the more time passes, the happier I am with it and the experience has become increasingly more rewarding.

Getting organized, being on time, and making stuff happen was a challenge. Time commitments are more relaxed there which was challenging given our workload. I ended up being the one called upon to be the leader even though I am sure things would have worked out fine without me. We didn't have a supervisor with us so often times the Kenyans looked to me because I am male and fair skinned. It was frustrating at times.

KS: Were you able to share any Métis culture with the Kenyans you met?

GB: I had a book from GDI, *Relatives with Roots*, a children's book by Leah Dorion about a kohkum and her

granddaughter. The book is beautifully illustrated with some amazing artwork. I also showed my sash and the people of Kenya really love the material and designs. I explained how people wear the sash and its many uses and significance.

KS: Did you make any correlations between the Kenyan people and the Métis, or the Indigenous peoples of Canada in more general terms?

GB: Their colonial history is very similar to ours. The Kenyan people are still very connected to the land. Although commercialism is encroaching, there are still people with very traditional ways of life and who practice traditional ceremonies.

KS: Is there a big connection to families and communities as well?

KS: Hi Gavin. I was so delighted to hear of your selection to experience such a fantastic opportunity. What made you want to apply?

GB: I was always interested in traveling globally and experiencing new cultures while discovering my own. I found this one online while looking for opportunities for Indigenous youth.

KS: Was the experience what you expected it to be?

GB: When we gathered in Ottawa for training, they said the number one challenge is meeting your starting expectations. A lot of it didn't meet my expectations but in a lot of ways it exceeded my expectations too, particularly the challenge of going to live somewhere that is very different than Canada,

GB: Yes, a huge connection. Most families are big. One time where there was a family meeting and over one hundred people came in for the day. This is common. The male elders speak and traditional roles for people still exist. The women keep the family together.

KS: You've had an experience that will impact you for the rest of your life. How has this experience changed you or directed your future plans?

GB: It has definitely changed me a lot. Before I left, I was a commerce student at the University of Saskatchewan. After I got back and I went to a few more commerce classes, I thought, "That's it. I don't want to be a commerce student anymore." I want to follow my interests and to use the skills I learned in Kenya and learn more about sustainable development. So I changed my program, I am now in Urban and Regional Development. I observed opportunities there that would be useful here, especially with Indigenous communities. The more I worked in this area in Kenya, the less it seemed like work, and many things fell into place. I realized that doing something I like empowered me in such a way that I didn't really have to try so hard, and things were just happening on their own. This convinced me that being where I didn't fit would be a hard path and that as long as I find something where I actually fit, things will work out.

KS: In what way will what you have learned from this experience be of benefit?

GB: I was recently invited by John Carson, who founded the internship program, to sit as an Indigenous and youth board member on his organization, "Run for Life." I look forward to sharing my experience as an intern and I hope it will help guide them in their planning.

KS: What would you say to other Métis youth who may be interested in applying for an internship?

GB: Don't be afraid, especially if you haven't traveled outside of western Canada. Interacting with other cultures is exciting. They are more similar to us than you think. If you are passionate about experiencing this, just go ahead and do it.

KS: Now that you have switched your program to Urban and Regional Development, what kind of career might you find?

GB: It could be anything really. It gives you a good strong social science background with a practical standpoint where you can plan and design a system approach to things.



Gavin, Blake, and Izaria with some of the Kenyan children with whom they worked. Photo by Izaria Bowe used with permission.

KS: Maarsii, thank you, for the time and interview, Gavin. I had the pleasure of meeting your grandfather, Guy Blondeau when he served on the Gabriel Dumont Institute Board of Governors. I know he would be very proud of you for taking such a bold step and for sharing your time, talent, and heritage with others. All the best in your future endeavours.

GB: You are most welcome!

New Bilingual Michif/English and Michif/French Resources from Gabriel Dumont Institute Press

by David Morin

Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Press is proud to announce the release of its latest Michif resources, the *Taanishi Books Emergent Readers Series II*, written by David Morin and Karon Shmon, and translated and narrated in Michif by Norman Fleury and in French by a team of educators highlighted later in this article. This series consists of nine new titles covering themes of transportation (Red River carts), relationships with nature, and clothing (capotes). Created with funding by the Government of Canada and Creative Saskatchewan, this series is available in Michif/English and Michif/French editions.

The original 27-book *Taanishi Books Series* was created to provide print resources for our youngest of readers featuring Métis stories, culture, and themes. Series II was created to continue to meet this need. GDI Press also responded to the call for more Métis-themed resources for young readers in French. GDI Press reached out to Hélène Préfontaine, before she retired from the Prince Albert Catholic School Division, to assemble a team of translators and a narrator that could bring the stories to life in French. The complete French team joining Hélène were Elizabeth Blondeau, Isabelle Campeau, Daniel Fletcher, Diane Lacasse, Véronique Loewen, and Robert Tessier.

GDI continued to build partnerships for this exciting project with Westmount Community School and St. Michael Community School, because both schools have Métis-focused programming. *The Very Scary Beary Pick* was illustrated by many of the students in

Pam Schaan's class at Westmount, while Cort Dogniez helped gather illustrations from many classrooms at St. Michael for *The Wheels on the Red River Cart*, *My Red River Cart*, and *Red River Cart Journey*. *Tasty Berries*, *Medicine Picking with Kohkum*, *My Capote*, and *Mooshoom's Capote* all feature photography by Peter Beszterda with the modelling help of Sheila, Kim, and Hazen Pocha. The final story, *How to Make a Capote* was created using photographs by Bonnie Hrycuik as she made her own capote.

While these stories will help bring Michif to a younger audience, GDI has many resources to help preserve, promote, and revitalize Michif. A large number of these resources are available free on The Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture (www.metismuseum.ca/michif_tools.php). You can also access our Heritage Michif dictionary and Northern Michif dictionary apps on the Google Play and Apple App Store, as well as the Michif Lessons app, which features over 60 exercises.

SaskBooks invited GDI Press to share two of the stories with students as part of Saskatchewan Book Week, September 28 – October 2, 2020. GDI selected *The Very Scary Beary Pick* and *Red River Cart Journey*, which were narrated by the authors and shared with students at Westmount Community School, followed by a question and answer session. Kishchi maarsii to Chandrelle Marshall and Lloyd Laliberte from Westmount for their help and support in sharing this work. The video is available through SaskBooks, and on the GDI Facebook page (www.facebook.com/gabrieldumontinstitute), as well as GDI's YouTube Channel (www.youtube.com/gabrieldumontins).

SASKBOOKS

SASKATCHEWAN BOOK WEEK 2020

September 28-October 2

**Taanishi Chi Ooshihfaahk
Aen Kaapoo**

How to Make a Capote



**Aen Shaykishihk Aen
Mooshook Avik Aen Noor**

The Very Scary Beary Pick



**Aen Mooshahkinamihk la
Michim Avik Noohkoom**

Medicine Picking with Kohkum



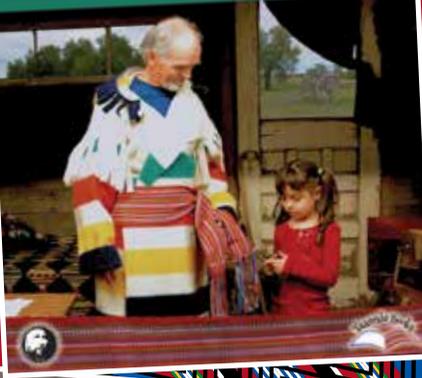
**Lii Roo Disseu la Shaaref di la
Rivgayr' Roozh**

**The Wheels on the
Red River Cart**



Mooshoom Soon Kaapoo

Mooshoom's Capote



**Lii Waayaazh di Shaaref
di la Rivgayr' Roozh**

Red River Cart Journey



Moon Kaapoo

My Capote



**Ma Shaaref di la
Rivgayr' Roozh**

My Red River Cart



**Lii Grenn Ka
Wiikashihki**

Tasty Berries



James Brady: Activist, Photographer, Mystery Figure

by Karon Shmon

James (Jim) Brady is remembered more for his leadership and activism: he founded both the Métis Association of Alberta and the Métis Association of Saskatchewan. He also helped establish the Métis Settlements in Alberta. He was also an avid photographer. We cannot be certain of why he took the photos, but they now stand as an invaluable record of his own life and of life in the northern parts of the Prairie Provinces during his time there. In 1967, James Brady and Absolom Halkett vanished and their disappearance was never solved, although a recent lead may unravel this mystery.

A forthcoming book, *Cold Case North: The Search for James Brady and Absolom Halkett* chronicles the investigation by the book's authors, who worked with Indigenous people local to the La Ronge, SK area, to discover more about the disappearance of these two men.

Karon Shmon recently interviewed Métis scholar and author Deanna Reder about their investigation.

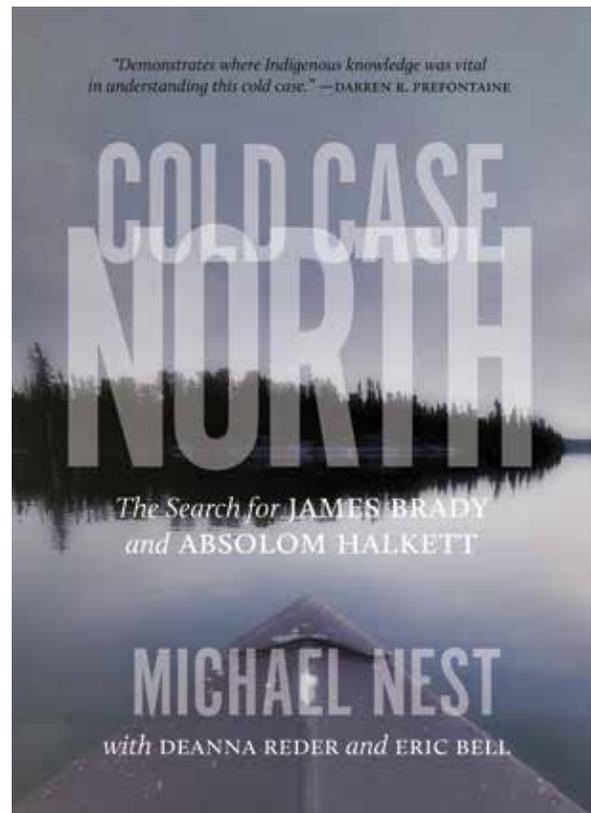
What made you interested in this cold case and determined to help solve it?

My uncle, Frank Tomkins, whose dad was one of the Famous Five, grew up around Jim Brady and remained devastated by the disappearance of Jim and Abbie in 1967. Frank told me his suspicions about the disappearance for years but in 2016, he called me explicitly to reopen the search. Out of respect and love for Uncle Frank, I felt the obligation to follow up.

How did the collaboration between you and author Michael Ness come about?

This search was greatly aided by researcher Michael Ness, whom I met when he was in Vancouver for a semester visiting his in-laws; he had reached out to me at SFU to ask questions about Indigenous autobiography because of a project he was working on.

Even when I first met Michael I was quickly impressed by how much he knows, how many



Official release date is November 7.
Pre-order from the University of Regina Press.
<https://uofrpress.ca/Books/C/Cold-Case-North>

places he has lived in, and how easy he was to talk with. I learned all about his research on the mineral Coltan, and that he and his partner were moving from Australia to Montreal. I became a little opportunistic when I learned that he was moving to Canada. I knew that he would be between projects and besides having a lot of time on his hands, would be looking for ways to understand the new country he was living in. I told him all about the mysterious disappearance of Jim and Abbie and eventually took him to visit Uncle Frank, knowing that Michael would be intrigued to learn more.

I did all this knowing that while Michael is non-Indigenous, he understands the legal and ethical issues that surround topics of importance to Indigenous peoples. I knew that this topic would intrigue the researcher and writer in him but that he would back off if asked to stop. In the end, when my cousin Eric Bell joined the search, we formed a real dream team. If Michael thought of someone he wanted to interview, Eric typically found a way to reach out to that family.

The three of us were constantly talking to each other and to our families, trying to put the pieces together. Michael, an anti-corruption specialist in the mining sector and accomplished researcher, brought his own skills.

Since this sheds new light on the disappearance of James Brady and Absolom Halkett, what are you hoping will happen as a result?

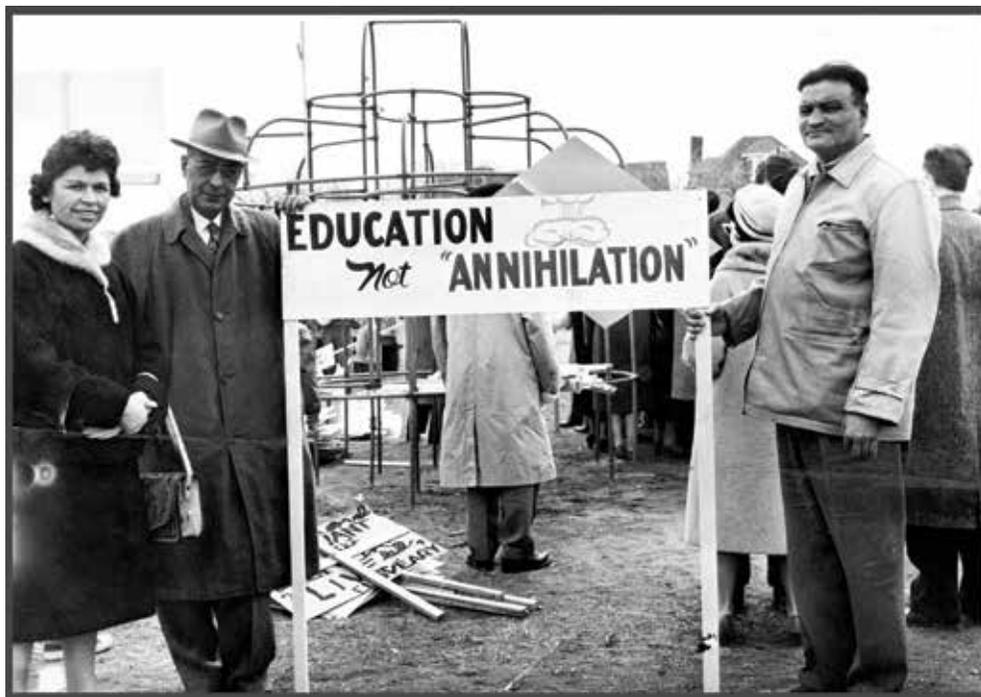
I have many hopes, but first, I hope that Jim and Abbie's families and the community find comfort in what we have uncovered. There is a memorial in La Ronge about the disappearance that only mentions Jim, who it says went missing with "his Cree friend." I hope that we can amend that memorial to add Abbie Halkett's name. The bulk of the royalties for the book will be donated. We plan to split it between Cree and Métis organizations. I would love this book to fund bursaries for books for the next generation. Both Jim and Abbie valued books and education, and so I hope we can find some appropriate way to honour their memory.

What do you feel has been James Brady's most significant contribution to the Métis?

Jim Brady was one of the foremost Métis intellectuals of the 20th century. His library alone is a testament to the value he placed on reading and learning. He is often credited as an activist, and recently as a photographer, and what he achieved changing public policy and in creating art is impressive. Even more impressive to my mind is the Indigenous intellectual inheritance that he left behind, that I hope inspires 21st century Métis.

Best wishes on the book to you and your collaborators, Deanna. Maarsii for your tenacity and commitment to investigate this so thoroughly.

More can be learned about James Brady from the Gabriel Dumont Institute's Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture, at <http://www.metismuseum.ca/browse/index.php/400>



This image is from the current exhibition *The Photography of Métis Activist James Brady*, curated by Paul Seesequaisis. Some of the photos are available at this link provided by the Glenbow, an art museum in Calgary, AB, currently closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://www.glenbow.org/exhibitions/enclosing-some-snapshots/>

Jean Cuthand, M. F. Norris, and James Brady at demonstration in Regina, Saskatchewan, ca. 1961. Glenbow Collection, PA-2218-943.

Métis Education for Métis Self-Government

by Lisa Bird-Wilson

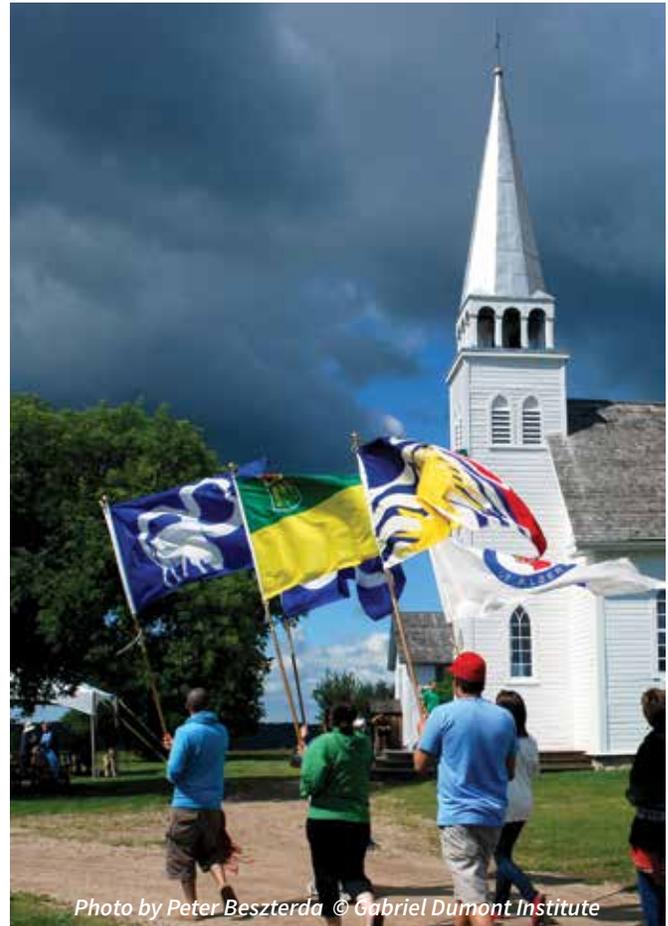
After 40 years of training and educating the province's Métis, and with thousands of Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) graduates and alumni, there is no shortage of homegrown Métis talent here in Saskatchewan. Many of their success stories are printed regularly in GDI publications, such as *The Communicator* and this magazine, *The New Nation*. Many are hired by GDI and other Métis Nation—Saskatchewan affiliates which makes sense—people from here and trained here understand the local Métis history and stay where their families are. There is no need to have Métis relocate or to pay hefty travel expenses to bring Métis talent to the province.

“GDI graduates possess multiple levels of credentials and experience, including Masters degrees, advanced skills, and years of experience,” said GDI Executive Director, Geordy McCaffrey. “It’s always a surprise to me when we bring HR to the province that could be found here. We have significant Métis expertise in this province. What does that say to GDI-educated Saskatchewan Métis? I think it sends the wrong message.”

The Institute’s founders envisioned a Métis-specific education and cultural entity to prepare future generations of Métis for Métis self-government. In 1986, Rick Thatcher, former GDI Executive Director (1984), noted that the Métis politicians and leaders of the day “placed the greatest emphasis on [Métis] self-government and economic development, with education being viewed as an essential buttress to both.” Thatcher’s statement makes clear the link between Métis-specific education and Métis self-governance.

GDI’s establishment as a mechanism to train and educate Métis people for Métis self-government was connected to ongoing concerns around patriating the Canadian Constitution and ensuring the inclusion of Indigenous rights, including self-government. For our leaders, Métis education was a means of supporting and populating our own governance structures with homegrown Métis talent.

The close connection between education and Métis self-government was expressed by Métis Society/



AMNSIS President (1971-1988) Jim Sinclair, who specifically saw the Institute as a means to educate Métis in order to take part in Métis self-governance. Chris Lafontaine, one of the Institute’s early Executive Directors (1985-1991), noted that the whole motivation for establishing the Métis institutions and affiliates, such as GDI and others, was to establish all the institutions needed for self-governance. The objective was to demonstrate that the Métis were ready for self-government and that we had the institutions, the trained people, and the skills and knowledge within our Métis Nation to support our own governance structures.

Today, that cadre of trained Métis people, envisioned back in the late 1970s, exists for the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan to draw from. We are fortunate to have the trained and educated Métis citizens with the knowledge, skills, and experience to support our governance structures.

Métis Nation—Saskatchewan Launches New Significant Partnerships

by Desirae Barker

July 2020, the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN—S) launched two important programs for Métis citizens: The Parks Canada Open Doors Program and the Cancer Transportation Pilot Program.

In early July, the MN—S signed an agreement in partnership with Parks Canada that allows all registered card-carrying Métis citizens free access to national parks and national historic sites in Saskatchewan operated by Parks Canada.

During a press release, MN—S president Glen McCallum stated, “Métis people have always respected the land. With this agreement, Métis citizens can explore the beauty of our province’s green spaces and connect with the land that binds us together as Métis people and as Canadians.”

The Open Doors Program will provide Saskatchewan Métis residents with specially-designed passes for complimentary entry. The partnership remains in effect until March 31, 2026.

Following this announcement, the MN—S launched the Cancer Transportation Pilot Program at the end of July, with the goal of reducing the travel barriers related to accessing healthcare services in Saskatchewan for Métis cancer patients. As there are only two cancer clinics in Saskatchewan located in Regina and Saskatoon, many citizens were traveling up to eight hours to receive cancer treatments and appointments. Through this program, Saskatchewan Métis applicants can be reimbursed for medical travel costs, including fuel and parking.

The pilot program is a \$30,000, two-year partnership between the MN—S, the Canadian Partnership against Cancer, and Saskatchewan-based cancer agencies and universities.

The Open Doors Program and the Cancer Transportation Pilot Program are substantial in the well-being, culture, and history of all Métis citizens in Saskatchewan. The implementation of these programs will undeniably create a positive impact within the Métis communities across the province.



SUNTEP Graduate Kristian Roy Recognized by CAFE with Master Thesis Award

The purpose of the Canadian Association of Foundations of Education (CAFE) Outstanding Master's Thesis Recognition Award is to acknowledge outstanding research accomplishments of recent master graduates in the Foundations of Education.

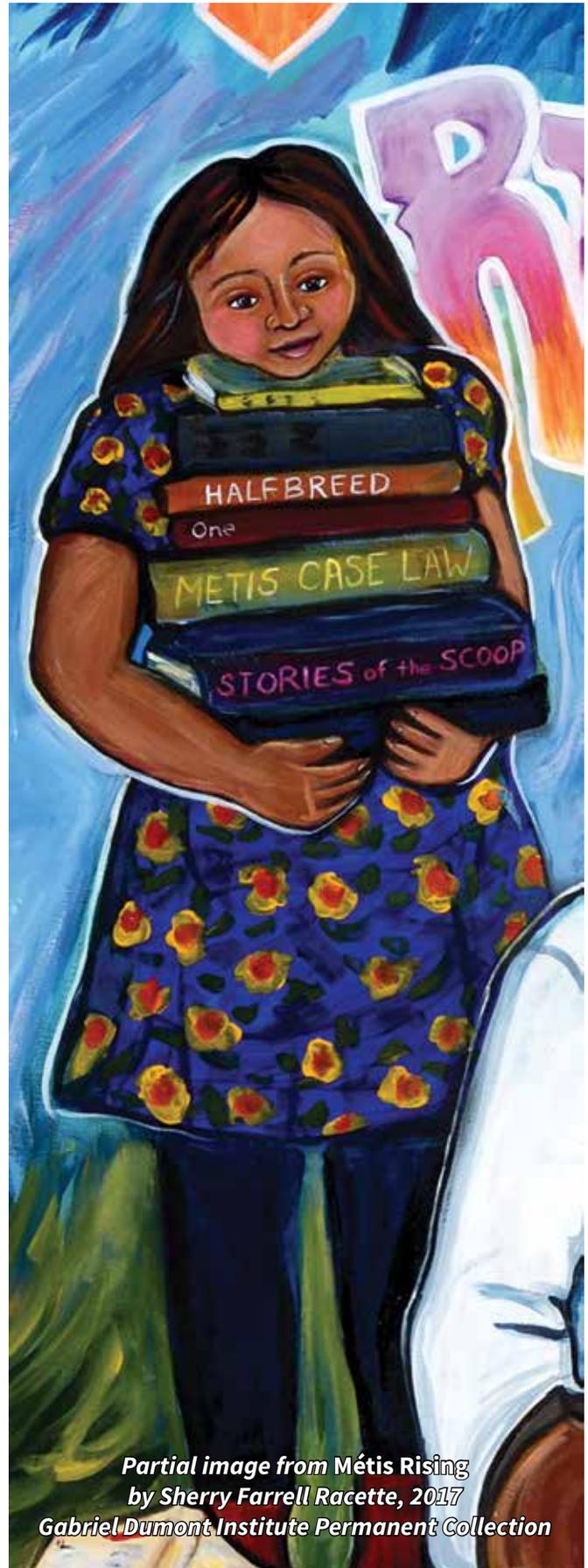
The recipient of this year's award is Mr. Kristian Roy for his Master's thesis titled: *Whitemud: A Narrative Inquiry into the Experience of Self-Identifying Métis Educators*. Mr. Roy was nominated by his supervisor Dr. Marie Battiste who shares significant appreciation for Mr. Roy's ability to engage the method of narrative inquiry in this thesis, as well as the strength that emerged in Mr. Roy working from authentic and layered experience as a Métis educator.

Through weaving interviews with Métis educators and lived experience, Mr. Roy was able to raise the distinctive experience of Métis educators being exposed to racialized narratives of Indigenous peoples by educational colleagues and the



implications of this for education. External examiner Dr. Evelyn Steinhauer comments that: "this thesis represents an outstanding piece of work", and it is "evident that this work was carried out with a high degree of rigor, integrity, and that careful attention was given to both institutional and community ethics". It is with pleasure that we award the CAFE Outstanding Master's Thesis Recognition Award to Mr. Kristian Roy, and share our appreciation to his supervisor Dr. Marie Battiste for this nomination.

This article is a reprint originally published at <https://www.cafe-acefe.com/copy-of-award-recipient-2019>.



*Partial image from Métis Rising
by Sherry Farrell Racette, 2017
Gabriel Dumont Institute Permanent Collection*

Northwest Saskatchewan Entrepreneur, Environmental Activist Succumbs to Cancer

by Fraser Needham



Ric and Rose Richardson

A well-known northwest Saskatchewan ecotourism and sustainable development advocate has passed away. Green Lake Mayor Ric Richardson died Wednesday June 17, 2020 after a battle with cancer.

His stepdaughter Angela Bishop said Richardson and his wife Rose were an inseparable team and the hub of many of their activities was the local business they owned: Keewatin Junction Café and Cultural Centre.

“They did so many kinds of cultural workshops, like plants as medicine,” she said. “They really were land-based advocates. Promoting an economy that was consistent with traditional cultural practices.” Bishop added although Richardson had been dealing with cancer for about three years, his health had taken a particular turn for the worse in the past year.

“There was a little shift in his health that we had noticed. Late last summer, he ended up getting an eye infection and he had started to take cortisone and he had an allergic reaction to it.”

In recent days he had been in and out of hospital and died in the Meadow Lake Health Centre.

Richardson was serving his first term as Green Lake mayor after being elected in 2016.

He and Rose Richardson opened Keewatin Junction in 2002 at the junction of highways 155 and 55. Built in 1931, the structure had originally served as the Canadian Pacific Railway station in Meadow Lake.

Ric and Rose were married for 20 years after being introduced at a meeting in Calgary where they were both there as activists, according to Bishop.

From then on it was pretty much love, at first sight, she said as both committed their lives to the environment, northern Saskatchewan, traditional medicine, Métis rights and Indigenous historical preservation.

“He was a tireless advocate of the north. Working to create opportunities in the north. For all the time I had known him, there was always a focus on ecotourism, both him and mom.”

Bishop said there has been no decision yet made on when the funeral will be or what particular form it will take because of COVID-19. However, she did say Richardson’s body will be donated to science as per his wishes.

This article is a reprint originally published by Missinipi Broadcasting Corporation on June 18, 2020. Photos courtesy Angela Bishop.

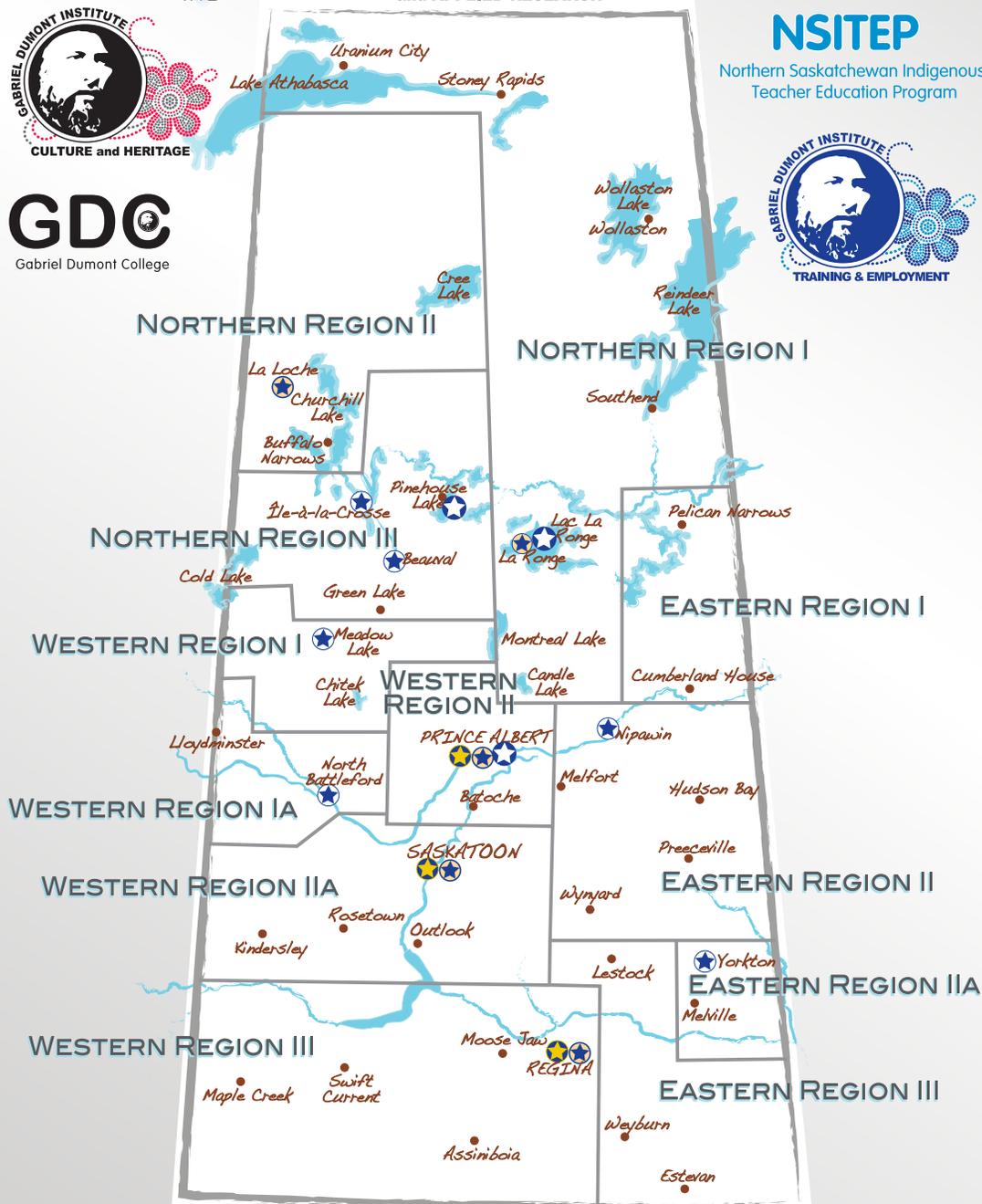


*Keewatin Junction Cafe and Cultural Centre
Photo by Tristen Durocher courtesy of Angela Bishop*



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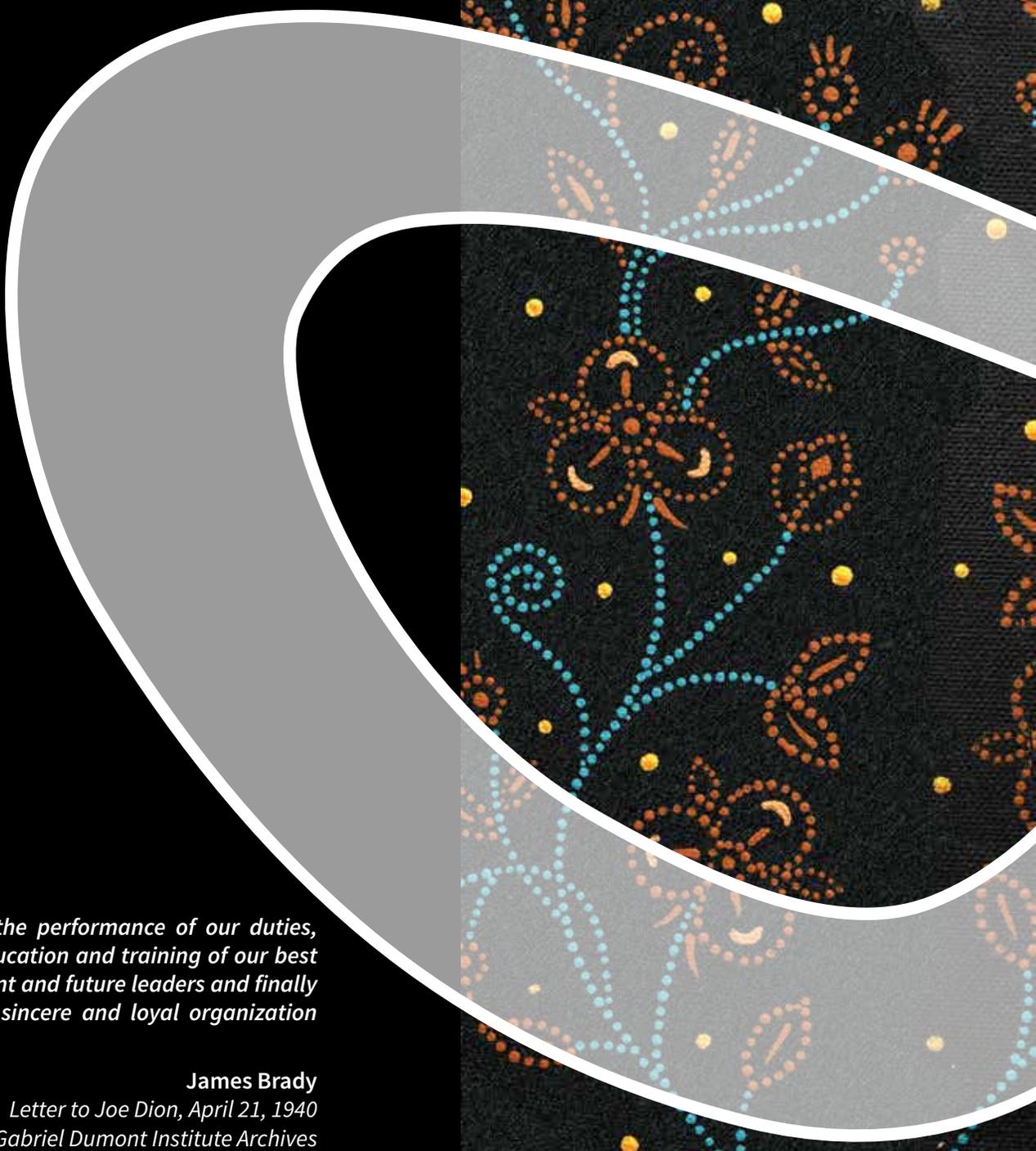
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Portrait of James Brady
Christi Belcourt, 2020
Gabriel Dumont Institute

*" . . . this means the performance of our duties,
this means the education and training of our best
members as present and future leaders and finally
the building of a sincere and loyal organization
around us."*

James Brady
Letter to Joe Dion, April 21, 1940
Gabriel Dumont Institute Archives