



# THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



The GDI Communicator is an internal newsletter intended to increase communication between management and staff of the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research

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## LET'S GET SOCIAL



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## NSITEP SUPPORTS CULTURAL COLLABORATION IN THE CLASSROOM

By Suzanne Depeel & Desirae Barker

Educators have been known for incorporating engaging and educational content into classrooms through bulletin boards. These boards outside of the classroom often reflect what is happening inside, display student work, and make learning visible. This year, the Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NSITEP) has taken its bulletin boards to a new, cultural level.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the faculty and staff at NSITEP created the bulletin board content. After a year of online classes, NSITEP returned to in-class learning this fall. The shift from learning at a distance to learning together has been an adjustment, so the staff and faculty wanted to find a way to initiate community, belonging, and hands-on learning throughout this academic year. This is where the

idea to have students create the bulletin board content began!

Each month, students are given a theme for their bulletin boards and time to collaborate and create. This monthly project will help NSITEP students start experiencing the teacher mindset while building a portfolio of board ideas they can take with them once they have convocated.

"These bulletin boards are a way for students to build culture by integrating their native tongue into their board presentation. They also promote subject matters that are not fully developed in the curriculum, give inspiration to students, create conversations, follow the seasons, and add culture to the beautification of the school environment," explained Morris Cook, NSITEP Program Head.

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## THE NEW NATION: LA NOOVEL NAASYOON FALL 2021 EDITION OUT NOW!

By Desirae Barker

The Fall 2021 edition of The New Nation: La noovel naasyoon magazine is now available online. Published by the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI); the quarterly magazine promotes Métis culture, highlights GDI's programs and successes, and showcases good-news stories of Métis across the province.

The art depicted on this edition's cover is by Métis artist Dennis Weber. In 2013, GDI commissioned Dennis to create a painting in honour of Métis veterans. He has aptly paid tribute to our heroes through a montage of images which highlights the many ways, and times, Métis veterans served in the air, at sea, and on land.

The contents of this edition highlights the latest Institute news

including a new partnership between GDI, SIIT, and the U of S named the Oyateki Partnership, which will support Métis and First Nations youth transitioning to post-secondary education, while in post-secondary, and into meaningful employment. GDI's Indigenous Apprenticeship Program will be one of the activities supported through the partnership.

In other Institute news, Leonard Montgrand was recently appointed as the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan Minister of Education and Skills development, a portfolio that includes serving as the chair of the GDI board of governors. A short introduction and biography on Minister Montgrand are included in this edition.

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### Christmas Break 2021-2022

The GDI Board of Governor's approved the following dates as the Christmas Break:

The Institute will be **CLOSED** from Friday, December 24, 2021 to Monday, January 3, 2022 (inclusive) to return on Tuesday, January 4th, 2022.

## SUCCESS STORY SPOTLIGHT



Photo submitted by: Kelsey Reiber

Kelsey Reiber became a GDI Training & Employment client in September 2018. The GDI individual sponsorship program she accessed helped her focus all of her efforts on completing the Denturist Technology Program at Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) in Edmonton, AB. This summer, Kelsey graduated and secured employment as a Denturist at Saskatoon Denture Clinic. What she enjoys most about the position is getting to do what she's always wanted, create smiles! Her future goals within the industry are to become a partner at a Denture Clinic, she has always admired the idea of doing what you love while being your own boss. Kelsey believes it is crucial to have a Métis presence in post-secondary to allow students to feel comfortable and confident that they have the resources to be successful, which is why GDI is important for Métis people. She credits her employment counsellor, Randi Ross and GDI for making her post-secondary experience greater than she could have imagined.

*"Always keep the end in mind. Times can get tough and school can become overwhelming, but with education it is always worth it!"*

**KELSEY REIBER**



2021 ONLINE ELECTION  
NOVEMBER 5 & 6

Métis Nation Saskatchewan

Provincial Métis Youth Council (PMYC)  
Presidential Election

To be eligible to vote you must have a valid MN-S citizenship card and be between the ages of 16 and 29.

Online voting and all election information:  
[mnselection.ca](http://mnselection.ca)

It's up to YOUTH!

Profiles of the candidates nominated to date can be found online at:  
<https://mnselection.ca/list-of-pmyc-candidates>

SAWCI Presents  
ÂNSKOHK INDIGENOUS LITERATURE FESTIVAL  
November 4 – 6, 2021

JORDAN ABEL · LISA BIRD-WILSON · MARIA CAMPBELL · ROSANNA DEERCHILD · MARILYN DUMONT · ALICIA ELLIOTT · MONIQUE GRAY SMITH · WAUBGEESHIG RICE · GREGORY SCOFIELD · RICHARD VAN CAMP

sawci.ca #anskohkfest

FROM WOODSMOKE TO BANDWIDTH

## REMEMBERING LOUIS RIEL & MÉTIS VETERANS

By Karon Shmon

Louis Riel Day, November 16th, marks the day in 1885 that Louis Riel was hung. Both the morality and legality of what led to this outcome will be discussed for years without consensus. Most can agree that to lose your life for a cause is the ultimate sacrifice. Standing up for the rights of the Métis cost Riel his life.

Some non-Métis assume November 16th is Riel's birthday or the date of a remarkable victory in our history. They are somewhat taken aback to learn it is the date of his execution, a day we commemorate Riel's courage and commitment to the Métis.

Remembrance Day is a similar day commemorating Canadians who died in service to Canada from the South African War to current missions. It is held every November 11th. Métis fought bravely to defend their families, lands, and rights in 1885, in both World Wars, the Korean War, and still defend Canada in current conflicts. We remember their sacrifice as well.

A few years ago, I had the privilege to be at St. Peter's Mission in Montana, the place where Louis Riel and his family lived while he was teaching school there. It is also where Gabriel Dumont and a small delegation of Métis went on horseback to urge Riel to come, once again, to help the Métis defend their rights. Being on-site made me realize what a challenging decision Riel had to make and what a sacrifice it was for him to agree. It is a place surrounded by natural beauty.

I can only speculate, but I wonder if Riel thought to himself, "My family is safe here. We live peacefully among our relatives, and I am doing work I love, work that enables me to

provide for my family. Should I go back to an unknown future? Should I risk losing the good life, la bonne vie, I am currently living?" I am sure this is a question many soldiers have asked themselves as they enlist.

For me, Louis Riel Day and Métis Veterans Honour Day is a mix of solemnity, solace, and celebration. It is always hard to recall our losses, especially of our loved ones. We can take some solace that they will always be remembered. Personally, I am touched that we continue to pay homage to Riel and the Métis veterans who fought in 1885 and every instance since they were called to defend the rights and freedoms of Canada and others.

We must always remember the Métis, their courage, and their sacrifice. Louis Riel Day is also a time to celebrate that our culture is thriving because some of our heroes stepped up to make sure it was protected. I like to think Louis Riel and the rest of the Métis veterans would be pleased to know we will always remember them.

This year, as we continue to face another life and lifestyle-threatening enemy, the COVID-19 virus, I will continue to remind myself of the bravery of those who went through a war. They are heroes because they put their lives at risk on our behalf.

Whether it was at home or abroad, peoples' lives were at stake, and what we had before was forever changed.

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WHO ARE WE?

HCSK works with our post-secondary education partners to support the mental health and wellbeing of their students.

Institutional Partners:

- Carleton Trail College
- Northlands College
- Parkland College
- Southeast College
- Saskatchewan Polytechnic
- Cumberland College
- Luther College
- Briercrest
- University of Regina
- Campion College
- St. Thomas More College
- University of Saskatchewan
- Canadian Mental Health Association Saskatchewan
- Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission

Community Partners:

f @HealthyCampusSaskatchewan  
g @healthycampussask  
t @HCSask

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## NSITEP SUPPORTS CULTURAL COLLABORATION

Continued from page 1

Bulletin boards are a means of building community in a friendly competition between the NSITEP cohorts. "It is a way for students to incorporate what they are learning in the classroom to outside the classroom through the collaboration and interpretation of what they are learning and sharing it with others. Ultimately we want to initiate students engaging in the learning process," said Nancy Lefleur, NSITEP Faculty.

Once the bulletins boards for the month are complete Elders come in and vote on the board they feel encompasses the theme of that month and the winning class gets a treat from the staff.

In September, the theme of the month was in honour of residential school children. Each class did a magnificent job on their interpretation of the theme! ☺

## PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Fundamentals of Finance

Two-part series that teaches participants how to take ownership of their financial future and master the money mindset. Registration and further information here:

[www.gdins.org/about/events/the-fundamentals-of-finance/](http://www.gdins.org/about/events/the-fundamentals-of-finance/)



### Online Métis Entrepreneurship Workshop

If you are a Métis person looking to start your own business or are interested in entrepreneurship, register for free at [www.skentrepreneur.ca](http://www.skentrepreneur.ca) or call toll free at 1 (855) 295-7180 ext 3!

### Upcoming Application Deadlines

Class 5 Driver Training  
Cumberland House  
Multi-Sector Safety  
Tickets Moose Jaw

NOV 5

NOV 5

## THE NEW NATION: LA NOOVEL NAASYOON FALL 2021 EDITION OUT NOW!

Continued from page 2

A very important section of this edition is dedicated to informing readers on the history of residential schools, the Métis experience in these schools, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action. GDI commemorated the survivors, their families, and those that lost their lives to residential schools with a special Every Child Matters Display and tribute by John Arcand detailed in this edition.

GDI press announced a new book release coming November, 2021 by Darren R. Préfontaine. Darren is a trained historian and has been employed with the Institute's Métis Culture and Heritage department for nearly 25 years.

His book titled *Changing the Course of Canadian History: The Life and Works of Olive Patricia Dickason*, will release this year on the tenth anniversary of Olive Dickason's passing.

Throughout this edition are various new program announcements, supports available for students, and access to Métis culture and Michif resources.

GDI is pleased to provide free access to the magazine on our website at: [www.gdins.org/metis-culture/the-new-nation](http://www.gdins.org/metis-culture/the-new-nation). A limited print run will also be available. ☺

## REMEMBERING LOUIS RIEL & MÉTIS VETERANS

Continued from page 3

Wars result in the loss of people who are loved and care about. I will resist underplaying the severity of the pandemic and resist overplaying the worry and inconvenience that has come with it. After all, we are here because of those who came before us

faced our enemies with courage and sacrifice.

In remembrance of this, I can be courageous and make the necessary sacrifices with much less hardship than those who fought in and endured wars. ☺



# COVID-19



## Drop-In Covid-19 Vaccination & Flu Shot Clinic

**Gabriel Dumont Institute  
Main Floor Classroom  
1003-22nd St. W  
Saskatoon, SK**

**Friday, November 5, 2021  
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

- ∞ Open to the public, students & staff
- ∞ Photo ID and health card required
- ∞ No prior registration is required. First-come, first-served
- ∞ Clinic to provide first & second doses of Pfizer and/or Moderna & the flu shot



## COVID-19 UPDATE

Due to the current rising COVID-19 cases in Saskatchewan, the Institute continues to implement precautionary safety protocols throughout all facilities across the province for the wellbeing of students, faculty, and staff:

- ∞ Masks required in all indoor common spaces
- ∞ Group tours/vists on hold
- ∞ Safety signage, masks, hand sanitizer at all entrances
- ∞ Rapid tests at each GDI facility

### Vaccination Requirements

GDI is strongly encouraging all students, faculty, and staff to receive their COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible. Attestation of vaccination status remains with each individual. Those who have not been fully-vaccinated are expected to self-monitor with regular rapid testing once per week and complete a daily symptom checklist before participating in any

in-person activities. Anyone who is feeling unwell should not attend a GDI facility. Anyone exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or who receive a positive rapid test should follow SHA guidelines, call the Healthline at 811, and make arrangements to be tested.

### Rapid Testing

Regular rapid testing is ongoing as of October 18, 2021 for asymptomatic, unvaccinated staff and students. Unvaccinated staff and students are required to self-administer weekly rapid tests. The rapid test must be self-administered prior to attending your first day of work or in-person class each week. It is up to each of us to keep our community safe.

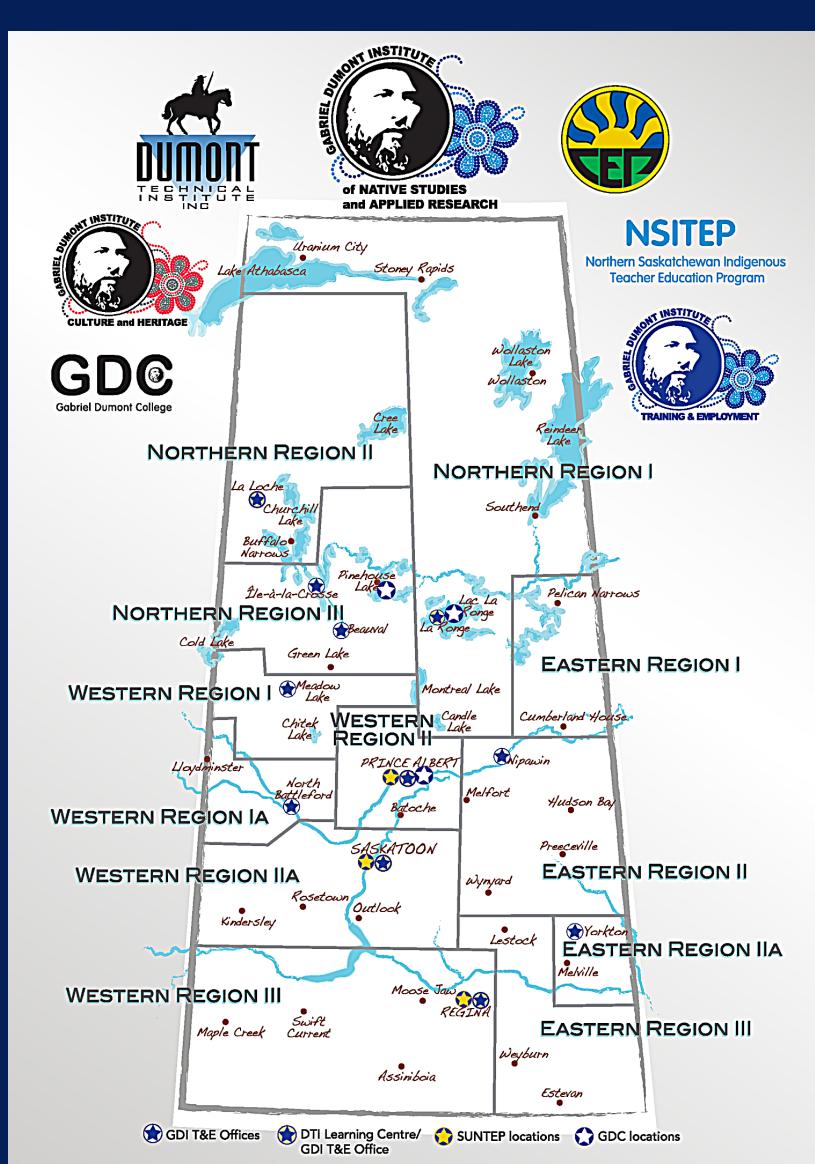
For more information including detailed rapid testing instructions, FAQs, and Institute COVID-19 updates, visit our website at [www.gdins.org/covid-19](http://www.gdins.org/covid-19).

## NOVEMBER 2021 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

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

EMPLOYEE CONTRACTS DUE AT PAYROLL UPON JOB ACCEPTANCE. PAYROLL MUST RECEIVE CONTRACTS PRIOR TO PAYROLL CUTOFF DATE IF RECEIVED AFTER THE CUTOFF DATE, THE EMPLOYEE WILL BE PAID ON THE FOLLOWING PAY PERIOD MRTS DUE BY THE 15TH OF EVERY MONTH

# CONTACT US



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Previous issues of the Communicator can be found online at [www.metismuseum.ca](http://www.metismuseum.ca)

If you would like to submit an article for the Communicator please contact Desirae Barker at [desirae.barker@gdins.org](mailto:desirae.barker@gdins.org)

