



THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



SUNTEP PA Students. Photo Submitted by: Beige Unger

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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SUNTEP PRINCE ALBERT'S GIVING WEEK TRADITION RETURNS

By Beige Unger, SUNTEP PA Faculty

Things are beginning to look like a new normal at the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) in Prince Albert. We have started another academic year and are happy to see more faces on campus.

Recently elections were held, and a 2021-2022 Student Representative Council (SRC) was chosen. The SUNTEP SRC takes an active role in the leadership of the student body by planning and organizing extra-curricular events in our communities and across campus. All activities help students reduce stress, spend time supporting each other, and often promote wellness.

This year, the council's first order of business was to get students engaged and helping in our local community. Both activities have been hard to do during the past

year as students spent the majority of time learning and engaging from home. The SRC came up with a great idea to bring the community and students back together with an initiative named "Giving Week." From October 12-15th, students worked towards the common goal of giving back to the community.

The student body consisting of the first, second, and third-year students participated in the SRC-led "Giving Week". Students spent the week collecting and bringing in donations for the Prince Albert Food Bank. The Food Bank provides emergency hampers to those in need which include food and other household supplies. They also serve as a pet-friendly winter warm-up shelter, providing pet food, coats, and other supplies to those in need in Prince Albert.

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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.

GDI TO HOST THE 2022 ILSA CONFERENCE

By Desirae Barker

On October 4, Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), Indigenous Literary Studies Association (ILSA), and Saskatchewan Aboriginal Writer's Circle Inc. (SAWCI) entered a partnership that will see GDI host the 2022 ILSA Conference.

The Indigenous Literary Studies Association was created in 2013 to address the need for a scholarly body based in lands claimed by Canada that focuses specifically on the study and teaching of Indigenous peoples' literature. Their mission is to honour the history and promote the ongoing production of Indigenous literature in all forms; advance the ethical and vigorous study and teaching of those literatures; to reaffirm the value of Indigenous knowledges and methodologies within literary expression and study; to foster respectful relationships within and between academic and non-

academic communities; to facilitate mentorship and professional development; and to advocate for responsible institutional transformation..

Since 2013, ILSA has helped bring established and new scholars and writers together to provide resources for teaching, studying, research, conferences, and publishing in a diverse range of Indigenous literary activities.

"GDI looks forward to sharing knowledge, promoting Métis literature, and encouraging community-building among all participants at the 2022 ILSA Conference. We are honoured to host the vibrant, intellectual community that will be attending this gathering," said Lisa Bird-Wilson, GDI Executive Director.

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SUCCESS STORY SPOTLIGHT



Photo submitted by: Wyatt Zdrill

In 2016, Wyatt started his Heavy Duty Mechanic trade journey through GDI's Indigenous Apprenticeship Program. Over the past five years, Wyatt worked on completing his technical training and gained apprenticeship hours with Forbes Brothers and the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure. This year, Wyatt received the highest achieved Red Seal mark in Saskatchewan in his trade, earning 87% on the exam. He will receive a special award at the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trades Certification Commission (SATCC) awards this month. Wyatt is now employed as a Journeyman Heavy Duty Mechanic at the Saskatchewan Highways Fleet Services department within the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure. He enjoys the diverse scenarios he works with every day and is glad he was able to go to school and learn from teachers that came directly from the trade.

"GDI is very important because it helps people succeed, & helps them find paths in life they may not have otherwise known about! Keep an open mind & learn as much as you can!"

WYATT ZDRILL





Holiday DOOR DECORATING CONTEST

GDI Training & Employment invites all GDI staff and classrooms to participate in this year's holiday door decorating contest!

Participation is at your own expense and may include all sorts of workplace appropriate decorations, office supplies, etc.

To enter, simply decorate your office door, classroom door, or a door/wall in your facility/home and take a picture!

All submissions can be emailed to angie.rathgeber@gdins.org. Please include your name or classroom and location.

Deadline for submissions is December 10, 2021

Winners will notified on December 16th

A SEASON FOR TRADITIONAL VALUES

By Karon Shmon

After twenty months of coping with the pandemic, we have become somewhat accustomed to the health and safety measures necessary to protect ourselves and our communities. Under these circumstances, many have lost loved ones, lost jobs, lost homes, and lost the contact that keeps us socially connected. Those affected less than this are fortunate, bringing a consciousness of gratitude to our minds more often than we may have had in the past.

Thanksgiving 2021 was also different for most of us as whether we could meet with others; to what extent, before it became a safety issue. It demanded our attention and our gratitude and helped us remember that we still have much for which we can be thankful.

Soon after, we remembered the service and sacrifice of veterans who defended our rights, especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice. This segued into Louis Riel Day, a time when we remember the great service and sacrifice of those who defended Metis rights during the 1885 Resistance.

These sobering acknowledgements certainly put the sacrifices we are making in perspective. I think of our ancestors and what we know about the lives they lived, they made the best of the situations they had, while keeping the ties to those in their families and communities strong. I have witnessed many individuals doing the same in the past twenty months, simply making the best of the situation.

As we approach the holiday season, we will still be dealing with the challenges and threats posed by the pandemic. This may look different for another year with less travel and smaller gatherings. We have made big and small changes throughout the past year and half in hopes of getting back to what we know as normal, or what will be a new normal. It may not be perfect, but it is what works and keeps our community and its vulnerable members safe. This is our new normal for a while longer.

Thinking once again about our ancestors and how they made the most of the situations they were given, we can emulate their attitudes and actions simply by being more mindful of what they have shown us. Be kind to others, share a smile, a kind word, or a helping hand. Sharing random acts of kindness is not a new concept, but something we can recall from our blood memory.

Although the holiday season this year may look much different from previous years, each one of us can make it special and unique for other by, writing someone a thoughtful card, making an ornament or craft something by hand, baking a treat, or offering help to those in need.

Gifts made from what you have on hand, or what you can harvest from nature, do not have a huge cost associated with them. These are small gestures that take time and thoughtfulness.

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HEALTHY CAMPUS SK

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

Institutional Partners

Community Partners

@HealthyCampusSaskatchewan



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

kanātan nīpīy
(the water is clean/clean water)

Water Distribution & Collection Training Course

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

City of Saskatoon (or other municipalities)	Industrial plants	Provincial & federal government agencies
First Nations communities	Engineering firms	Parks
Mining, oil & gas industry	Contractors	Private utility companies

- Essential skills (4 weeks)
- Water Collection and Treatment Training Level One (2 weeks)
- Wastewater Collection and Distribution Training Level One (2 weeks)
- First Aid/CPR, WHMIS, Service Best (1 week)
- Work experience (2 weeks)

Start date: Jan. 10, 2022
Application deadline: Dec. 10, 2021
FREE tuition
Living allowances available
Apply by emailing below requirements to kanatanipiyproject@gmail.com

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- Grade 12 or GED
- Class 5 Saskatchewan Driver's Licence
- Driver's Abstract (within the last 3 months)
- Resume (includes 3 references)
- Must be Indigenous

INFO SESSION:
Learn more about this training opportunity by attending our Zoom info session on Dec. 7, 2021, from 2-3 p.m. To register, email polrina.powder@saskatoon.ca

The Water Distribution & Collection Training Course is being delivered by Saskatchewan Polytechnic and Radix Community Centre in partnership with the Saskatoon Tribal Council, Ojibwa Cultural Centre, and City of Saskatoon.

For more information on the Water Distribution & Collection Training Course please visit: www.gdins.org/about/events/water-distribution-collection-training-course

UPCOMING DTI PROGRAM DEADLINES

Multi-Sector Safety Ticket

Moose Jaw

Dec 12

Intro to Welding Saskatoon

Dec 31

For more program information & to apply online : www.gdins.org/programs

SUNTEP PRINCE ALBERT'S GIVING WEEK TRADITION RETURNS

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Over the past year, the Prince Albert Food Bank provided an average of 1,000 hampers per month, assisting around 3,000 people, with 50% of those being children. This organization is integral to the community and creates a large impact on everyone who uses its services.

Every day during "Giving Week" SUNTEP students could be seen hauling in canned/dry goods, pasta, diapers, and hygiene items that the Food Bank was in desperate need of. By the end of the four days, the classrooms were full of donations, and the job of counting and sorting began. Overall, the students collected just over 1,600 items and delivered two truck boxes full of donations to the Food Bank.

As an added gesture, the donation was made in the late John Thorton's name. John was a long-term Indigenous Studies sessional instructor at SUNTEP. At the time of his passing in lieu of flowers, his family requested donations be made to the Prince Albert Food Bank.

Our students donated hours of their time to this initiative and we are very proud of their dedication to our community. We are happy to work with this organization and believe in its mandate to support families and children through food security. The Prince Albert Food Bank is always looking for volunteers and donations, visit them online at pafoodbank.ca for more information! 🌍

GDI TO HOST 2022 ILSA CONFERENCE

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The 2022 ILSA Annual Gathering will be held from June 16 -18, 2022. The gathering will be both an academic conference and a community-based celebration of Métis literature. The gathering will have a focus on Métis literature, which aligns well with GDI's mission to promote the renewal and

development of Métis culture.

With SAWCI's mandate to share Indigenous literature and art, the three organizations will commit to working together to plan a gathering that will advance the missions of each of the three organizations. 🌍

A SEASON FOR TRADITIONAL VALUES

Continued from page 3

We have many gifts that cost nothing more than to remember the gift we were given by our ancestors — our traditional values.

to prove it than to be fully present for ourselves and others in our traditional ways of being kind, thoughtful, inclusive, and generous under some challenging circumstances. Our ancestors did so. We can make our ancestors proud by showing that we hold their legacy as our most precious gift. 🌍

Think about our ancestors and how fortunate we are to be here at all. Each of us is a miracle. In a season meant to remind us that miracles exist, I can't think of a better way





COVID-19 UPDATE

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/visits on hold
- ∞ Safety signage, masks, hand sanitizer at all entrances
- ∞ Rapid tests at each GDI facility

unwell should not attend a GDI facility.

SHA COVID-19 & Flu Shot Clinic

GDI and the SHA hosted another drop-in campus clinic in Saskatoon on November 5, 2021. This is the fourth clinic held at a GDI campus. The clinic was open to students, staff, and the public providing the flu shot and COVID-19 vaccinations to eligible individuals. The clinic went well, 26 COVID-19 vaccinations and 21 flu shots were given to individuals at the clinic.

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 and complete a daily symptom checklist before participating in any in-person activities. Anyone who is feeling

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 prior to attending their first day of work or in-person class each week. It is up to each of us to keep our community safe. 🌐

Available now! 2020-2021 GDI Annual Report

Desktop Version

Mobile Version

Print Version

Available online at www.gdins.org/reports
 If you require any printed copies, please email desirae.barker@gdins.org

DECEMBER 2021 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

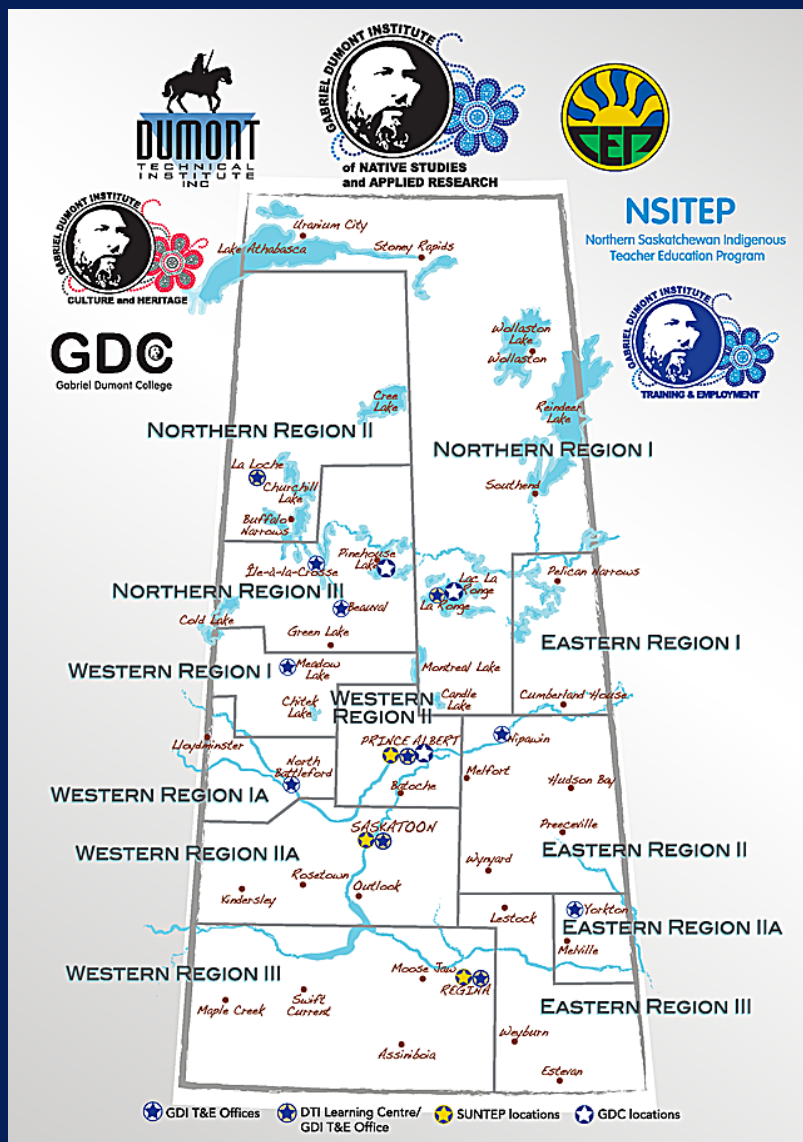
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
				A/P Cheque/EFT Run Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheets & Payroll Revisions for Dec 15 Payday	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable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

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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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1-877-488-6888

info@gdins.org

Previous issues of the *Communicator* can be found online at www.metismuseum.ca

If you would like to submit an article for the *Communicator* please contact Desirae Barker at desirae.barker@gdins.org

