



# THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



Photo by Jon Perez/SASKTODAY

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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## 2022 ORDER OF GABRIEL DUMONT AWARDS GALA

By Desirae Barker

A special awards Gala was held at TCU Place in Saskatoon on the evening of March 25th to honor the 2022 Order of Gabriel Dumont Gold and Silver Medal recipients.

The three honored at this gala were Doris McDougall and Geordy McCaffrey as gold inductees; and George Fayant as a silver inductee.

Opening the awards gala, Senator Nora Cummings acknowledged the recipients and welcomed all attendees with a prayer. The gala was emceed by Donny Parenteau and featured entertainment by talented musicians John Arcand, Cathy Sproule, and Jordan Daniels.

Family and friends gathered along with many members of the Métis community and Institute staff to celebrate the achievements of each inductee.

In opening remarks, Lisa Bird-Wilson, GDI Executive Director, explained, “The awards come from the desire to acknowledge selfless individuals for their dedication, commitment, outstanding contributions, and achievements. The awards are important not just because they celebrate outstanding achievement, but also because they remind us of the possibility for each person to reach their full potential.”

The Order of Gabriel Dumont awards, which began in the 1980s to honor outstanding service to the Métis of Canada, has invested 86 individuals to date. Investment into the Order is one of the Métis Nation’s highest civilian honors.

The Order of Gabriel Dumont Gold Medal recognizes a lifetime of outstanding service to the Métis

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## THE 2022 GDI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

By Lisa Bird-Wilson

On March 26, 2022 the members of the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) came together at the Institute's Annual General Meeting. Members were provided with an update report on the most recent year of activities at GDI, including a financial report.

The Institute's Board of Governors also brought twelve suggested bylaw amendments forward at the 2022 AGM for the membership to consider. Principles guiding the bylaw amendments included considering the best interests of Métis students, maintaining GDI's strong connection as an affiliate of the MN-S, and preserving the long-term stability of GDI. The bylaw amendments were passed by the voting delegates with a high rate of approval: over 91% in favour on each amendment.

Much credit goes to the GDI Board of Governors for shepherding in these bylaw amendments, supporting clarity and good governance practices for the Institute into the future.

The AGM was well attended by the Métis community, including voting delegates from Métis Locals across Saskatchewan. Senator Nora Cummings provided the opening prayer and words of wisdom to keep delegates grounded in their mission. Delegates selected by acclamation Buckley Belanger, former provincial MLA, as the speaker for the assembly. Mr. Belanger adeptly applied principles of parliamentary procedure to run the meeting's agenda without a hitch.

In addition to the voting delegates, the meeting was attended by Elders, community leaders, GDI alumni, students, staff, and faculty. For those unable to attend the event in-person, a Facebook livestream was created. The livestream was also well attended online, reaching over 1.5k of GDI's followers and friends.

Maarsii to all who attended and demonstrated support for GDI at the 2022 AGM. 🌐



## SUCCESS STORY SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to each of the Saskatoon and PA SUNTEP Students who were awarded University of Saskatchewan Indigenous Achievement Awards. The awards broadcast is available online here: [https://youtu.be/FwTtPrEa\\_Ok](https://youtu.be/FwTtPrEa_Ok)



Kiefer Paul  
SUNTEP PA



Theoren Novotny  
SUNTEP PA



Jennifer Kenny  
SUNTEP PA



Connor Johnston  
SUNTEP Saskatoon



Jacob Fritz  
SUNTEP Saskatoon



Skye Landrie  
SUNTEP Saskatoon





Photo Submitted by: Ashley Grimard

## SELF-CARE AT GDI PRINCE ALBERT CAMPUS

By Ashley Grimard, SUNTEP PA Faculty

During the months of February and March, The Gabriel Dumont Institute campus in Prince Albert focused on self-care to help boost peoples' spirits and mental health. We all know that this past winter felt especially long with the extreme cold, snowy weather, and the ongoing, persistent waves of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As we approached Spring, we hoped we could give students and staff something to look forward to. The self-care bingo consisted of many activities to help boost student and staff mental health and morale, such as taking part in meditation, practicing gratitude, spending time outside, treating yourself to dessert, etc. Along with these specific events, we included cultural activities as well.

Cultural activities included listening to an Indigenous Podcaster or YouTuber, taking part in a weekly smudge, learning about a new Indigenous business, and reaching out to a Grandparent, Elder, or Knowledge Keeper. There were a total of 24 squares to fill and six weeks to complete it. We had multiple entries submitted, and participants often noted how they were thoroughly enjoying the benefits of taking part in helping their own well-being through all parts of self: mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical.

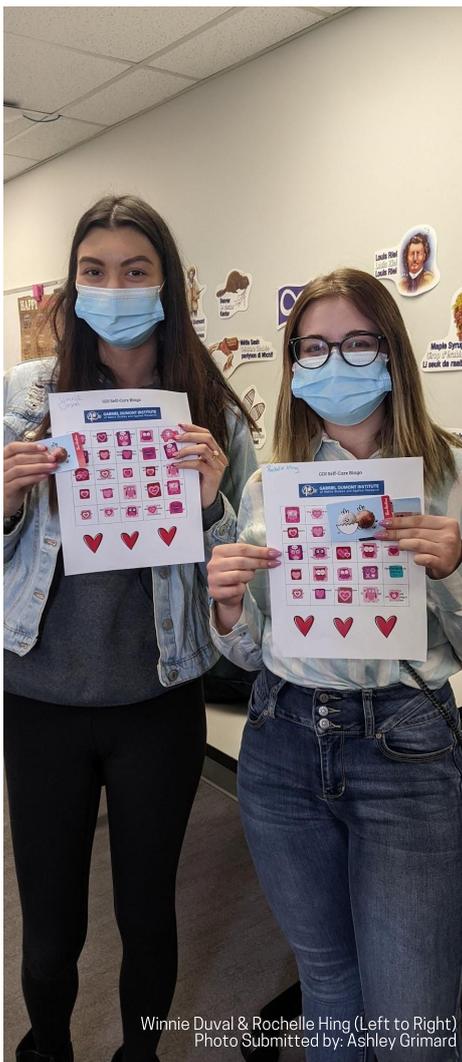
*"I liked that the self-care bingo included a variety of ways to take care of yourself. There was something to appeal to everyone. I liked how these tasks were already a habit for many SUNTEP students. The benefit of taking part in self-care bingo gave me the incentive to take a step back from the school work that needs to be completed in March Madness. I am a student who hands in assignments early or on time, so this was a nice reminder for me to relax.*

*I find that during such busy times it's easy to fall behind in self-care because my mind is set on completing schoolwork. This challenge also showed me that Bonnie, Ashley, Christine and Beige care about our holistic wellbeing because this bingo sheet was staff made. It is nice to know you have instructors who care about your self-care because it often is overlooked by many."*

**- Brooke Andrews, SUNTEP Student**

*"I really enjoyed the self-care bingo and found it was a good way to slow down and take some time for myself and do a few things I normally wouldn't make the time for. As a working single mother and student it can be difficult to fit things into a day such as reading for fun, exercise, and actually enjoying a good relaxing meal but I made these a priority. It also got me to try a few new things such as listening to an Indigenous podcast and journaling.*

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Winnie Duval & Rochelle Hing (Left to Right)  
Photo Submitted by: Ashley Grimard

“Here are a few words from the staff and students who participated.”





# 2022 ORDER OF GABRIEL DUMONT AWARDS GALA

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Photo by: Desirae Barker



Photo by: Desirae Barker

of Canada and the Order of Gabriel Dumont Silver Medal honours those who have made significant contributions to the Métis.

Each inductee accepted their award and thanked GDI and the Métis community.

### **Doris McDougall - Gold**

Doris McDougall, gold medal recipient, grew up in the Lepine Flats region and was an educator for 33 years, spending many years teaching Michif and Métis culture in northern communities. Now retired, Doris plays a huge role in her small community of St. Louis, volunteering at the senior center and local parish.

“Being invested into the Order is a humbling experience,” said Doris. She follows in the footsteps of her father, Medric McDougall, who was among one of the first recipients of the Order in the 1980s.

### **Geordy McCaffrey - Gold**

Geordy McCaffrey, gold medal recipient, graduated from Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Saskatoon in 1993 and

joined the GDI staff shortly after. Geordy’s career at GDI extended over 27 years, and in that time, he made a significant mark on Métis education and heritage in the province.

“It’s an honor and privilege to receive this award. This award is from your community that’s why there is a sense of pride in receiving this from GDI, a place that I know and love,” Said Geordy.

### **George Fayant - Silver**

George Fayant, silver medal recipient, is well-known across the province for his teachings on Red River Carts. Since 1998, George has been building Red River carts. Over the years, his work has expanded to include workshops on their history, showcasing the ingenuity and celebrating the resilience of the Métis.

During his acceptance of the award, George explained how honored he was to create the Red River Cart for the new addition of the Saskatoon Gabriel Dumont Institute building and how it was one of the largest he has ever built. 🌐



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Hospitality &  
Culinary Services**  
Pinehouse  
**April 22**



**Continuing  
Care Assistant**  
La Loche,  
Saskatoon,  
Regina  
**April 30**

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## SELF-CARE AT GDI PRINCE ALBERT CAMPUS

*Continued from page 3*

*My children and I did some of the activities together and I really enjoyed that as I have three teenagers and it can be hard to find ways to have quality time together with everyone’s busy schedules and them being typical teenagers who don’t want to leave their rooms or be off their cell phones. Probably my favorite activity though was practicing gratitude. It has been a hard couple year due to*

*COVID-19 for a lot of people, myself included, and I found being grateful for the small things made a big impact on my day because while every day might not be great it made me find the something great in every day. A big thank you to the SUNTEP staff for coming up with this idea!"*

**- Teresa Simmonds, GDI Staff** 🌐





# NEW HIGHER EDUCATION SIS-ERP SYSTEM UPDATE

By Michelle McNally

The new higher education student information system and enterprise resource planning system will be launching at GDI/DTI in the next year and will impact GDI staff in an unprecedented way. Information sessions have begun with the Finance and Human Resources departments. In preparation for all staff to adapt to the new system for daily, weekly, and monthly tasks, there will be information pieces provided throughout the next number of months. Below is a summary of some of the common features within this system:

**Favourites** allows staff to favourite pages or tabs they visit frequently and they will populate on the side screen for easier access. Pages or tabs that are favorited will populate under the top as well as along the side of the page.

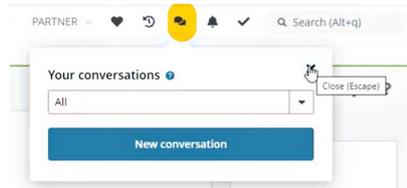


**Recently used** populates automatically, this feature allows you to easily access the pages you, as an individual employee, used

previously. This is an easy way to go to a previous location within the system that you since left.



**Real time chat** is a feature that allows you to chat with internal employees quickly. A notification will populate when someone messages you. Your previous contacts you have chatted with previously will automatically come up as an option, if you're looking to send a quick chat to an employee you haven't chatted with before, it is as simple as typing in their name.

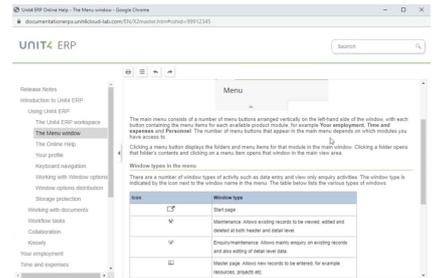


**Notifications** will show any upcoming events, workflow tasks that are assigned to you, as well as deadline notifications. Staff will be able to stay on top of tasks that come up with reminders that are automatically set based on each

individual's calendars and workflow assignments.



Lastly, there is a **contact help function** on every page, this help page is populated with common questions or issues people have. There is also a search option if your issue isn't resolved in the common questions area.



Although this new system will require a great deal of process changes, they are changes to make the Institute better. Staff are encouraged to engage in system learning as early as possible to keep up with the transition. We look forward to sharing more information on the new system throughout the next year. 🌍

## APRIL 2022 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

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

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

