



THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



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 PA CULTURAL SPRINTER FESTIVAL EXPANDS

By Beige Unger, SUNTEP PA Faculty Member

The Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Prince Albert campus has a long-standing tradition of participating in an annual Cultural Sprinter Festival. Traditionally the Spring/Winter event, held at Little Red River Park on the outskirts of Prince Albert, includes competitive events such as log sawing, fire starting, tea making, animal calling, log toss, and a variety of other Michif outdoor activities. This year an opportunity presented itself, one that SUNTEP staff and students could not pass up.

Earlier in the school year, W.J Berezowsky Public School secured a grant to put on a cultural event for their students.

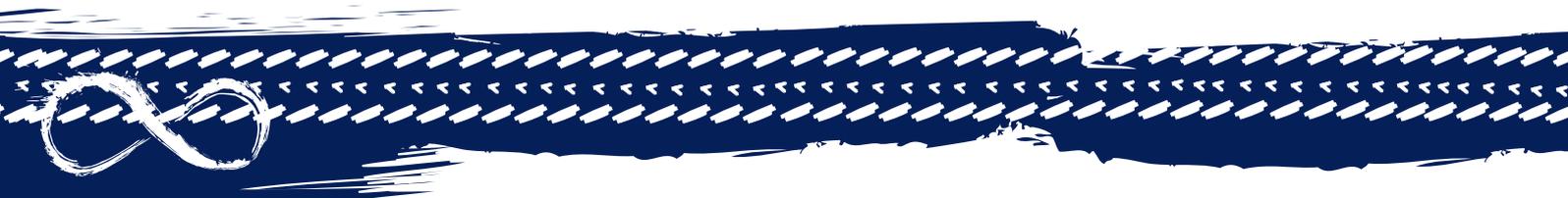
The school administration approached SUNTEP with the opportunity for SUNTEP students to facilitate the event.

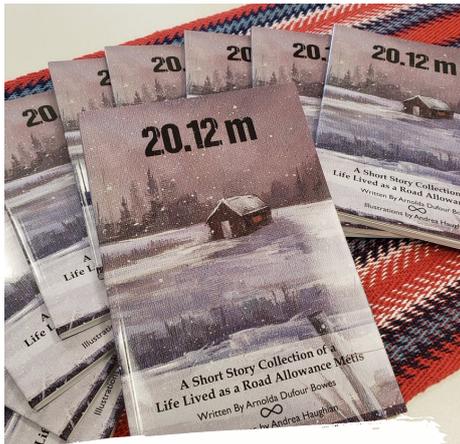
SUNTEP staff jumped at the opportunity to collaborate with the local school, as throughout the pandemic, additional planned teaching opportunities for students had been difficult to achieve.

It was decided that the SUNTEP students would facilitate a Cultural Sprinter Festival for the school in place of their typical SUNTEP-only event from previous years. When the idea was presented to the first, second, and third-year students, you could feel the excitement in the air. They immediately began brainstorming and planning their sessions.

The Cultural Sprinter Festival event was held on Friday, March 25, 2022.

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SHORTLISTED

The Gabriel Dumont Institute is pleased to share the good news that the GDI Press publication, **20.12m: A Short Story Collection of a Life Lived as a Road Allowance Métis** has been shortlisted for the Danuta Gleed Literary Award for the best first collection of short fiction by a Canadian Author!

Check out Shop GDI to purchase your copy of the title: <https://gdins.org/product/20-12m/>

SEASONS OF CHANGE

By Karon Shmon, Director GDI Culture & Heritage

I look forward to spring each year in Saskatchewan as it usually follows a winter that necessitated becoming hardier as we make our way through it. There are good things about winter. Some of the days are beautiful, but spring, summer, and fall allow us to experience so much more. We are fortunate to have four diverse seasons, something that is denied those in other climates. So, just by living here, we come to know something about transitions.

With admiration, I imagine our ancestors surviving these same challenges when it took a lot of hard work with much less to help them at their disposal. Nowadays, we make our homes, and feed and clothe ourselves in a different way. The transition to a time where we have less physical work and more leisure time and money is thanks to all those who came before us, clearing a path that became a little smoother and a little wider with each season. I think we are also doing that for future generations, but we are less aware of it because

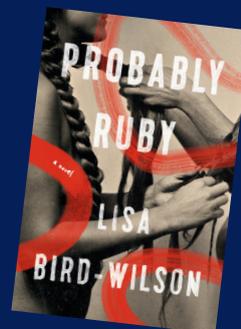
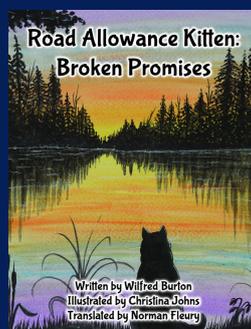
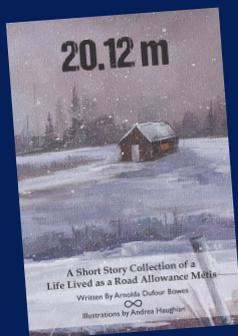
we are living in the moment. The stories that have been made, and those that will be made, as we experience the pandemic will be a full range of extraordinary stories. Many will be filled with sorrow and loss, some will extol our resilience and triumph, and some will encompass a full range. I like to think it is blood memory that has helped us adapt to such a large-scale lifestyle change and one that is life threatening at the same time. The Métis weren't just brilliant about adapting, they were also very creative about it. But that story is for another time.

Spring is bringing a new season. We are going to experience more warmth, greater growth, and a flowering of positive changes. Students can take pride in what they have achieved over the past academic year under such challenging circumstances. Their teachers are to be applauded, too. Our communities also persevered.

This story continues on page 4

SASKATCHEWAN BOOK AWARDS

On April 22nd, The 2022 Saskatchewan Book Awards Shortlist was released. Congratulations to GDI Press, Lisa Bird-Wilson, Arnolda Dufour Bowes, Andrea Haughian, Wilfred Burton, and Christina Johns on making the shortlist!



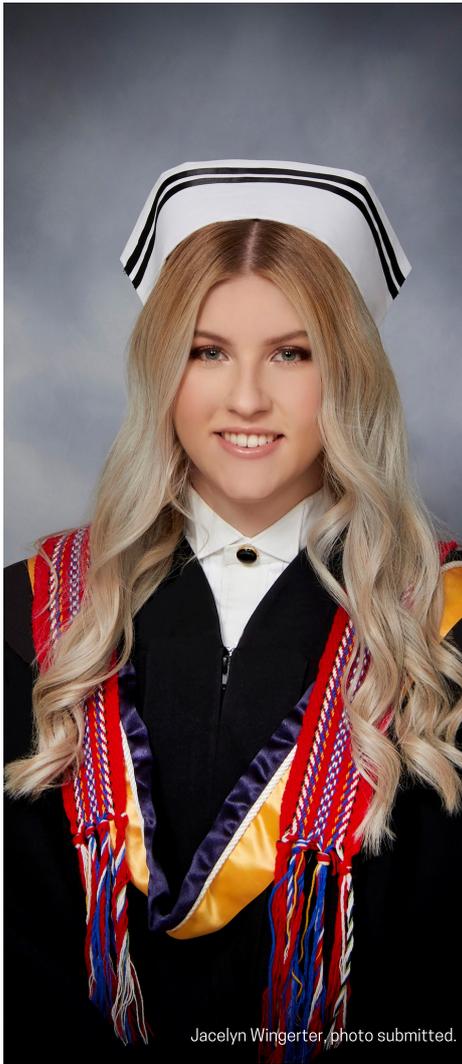
20.12 m: A Short Story Collection of a Life Lived as a Road Allowance Métis was shortlisted for the Ministry of Culture, Recreation, and Sport First Book Award, Rasmussen & Co. Indigenous Peoples' Writing Award

GDI Press is being recognized in the Saskatoon Public Library Indigenous Peoples' Publishing Award

Road Allowance Kitten: Broken Promises has been shortlisted for the G. Murray and Edna Forbes Foundation Children's Award

Probably Ruby by GDI Executive Director, Lisa Bird Wilson, has been nominated for three awards including Book of the Year!





Jacelyn Wingarter, photo submitted.

STUDENT SUCCESS STORY: JACELYN WINGERTER

By Desirae Barker

This past December, Jacelyn Wingarter graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree through a Saskatchewan Collaborative program between the University of Regina and Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

With much determination and the help of the Métis Nation University Sponsorship (MNU) program, Jacelyn fast-tracked to finish her degree in three and a half years instead of four. "The MNU program allowed me the privilege of not having to stress about how I was going to pay for my tuition while going to school full time. It allowed me to cut back on working during my semesters and focus on my studies and be successful in my classes," said Jacelyn.

After passing the NCLEX exam on the first try in February, Jacelyn became a Registered Nurse. Shortly after, she accepted her dream job

as a nurse at the Royal University Hospital (RUH) Adult Emergency Department.

"The RUH ER is a very busy and fast-paced critical care setting, and my role as a nurse changes with every single patient I care for. I love every minute of my job, even when things get tough and patients are acutely ill. Nursing is truly my passion and calling in life," explained Jacelyn. Her future goals in the industry are to become a flight nurse with Saskatchewan Air Ambulance or STARS.

Jacelyn is a proud Métis woman her advice to future Métis students is, "Never give up! You are capable of achieving your goal if you truly set your mind to it. The only thing that got me through my degree was staying dedicated and never giving up. I always had my mindset on my end goal of becoming a Registered Nurse," stated Jacelyn.



Nicolle Degagne, photo submitted.

STAFF SUCCESS STORY: NICOLLE DEGAGNE

By Desirae Barker

Nicolle DeGagne is the Library Resource Facilitator at Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) in Prince Albert and is also pursuing her Master of Library and Information Studies degree online through the University of Alberta, anticipating a 2023 graduation.

This year, Nicolle is the recipient of the Maureen Woods Education Bursary. This bursary is awarded to recipients that demonstrate academic achievement, leadership potential, interest in the profession, and demonstrate the competencies required of professional librarians. The bursary was established to promote the continued growth of professional librarianship in the

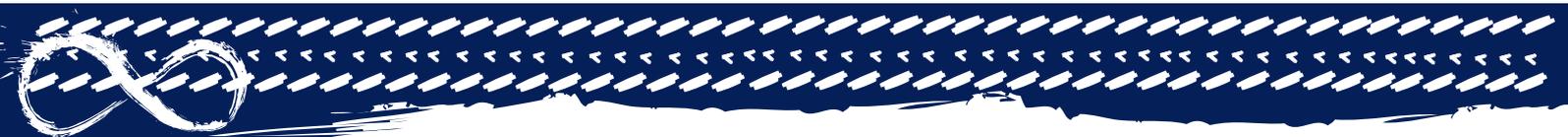
province of Saskatchewan. Nicolle believes libraries are essential to communities and works to facilitate both a cultural and educational environment for students and staff at GDI.

Beading and knitting are just two of the lunch-hour programs she teaches that bring both staff and students to the library to learn and have fun. She strives to keep her library's collection reflective of prairie Métis experience.

Nicolle will be presented the award at the Saskatchewan Libraries Association 2022 Conference in Regina on May 6, 2022. Congrats Nicolle!

For more information on the Saskatchewan Libraries Association & bursaries visit:

www.saskla.ca/about/awards/saskatchewan-libraries-education-bursary





SUNTEP PA CULTURAL SPRINTER FESTIVAL

Continued from page 2



Elders Drumming
Photo Submitted by: Beige Unger



Jigging
Photo Submitted by: Beige Unger



Four Directions Teachings
Photo Submitted by: Beige Unger



Furs
Photo Submitted by: Beige Unger

Weather and snow had been a concern throughout the planning process as many events were outdoors, but any concern dissipated that morning as the day dawned bright and sunny.

Students arrived at the school early to set up their events and activities prior to opening ceremonies. The school was alive with the sound of excited chatter and laughter, drummers warming up, notes of the Red River Jig, and the bright colours of student's Métis sashes, ribbon skirts and shirts.

The Sprinter Festival our students had planned was finally here!

The day began with an opening ceremony presented to the classrooms via Zoom from the school gym. A land acknowledgment and welcome were shared, followed by the offering of tobacco to elders and guests. An Opening Prayer and Smudge was led by Elder Liz Settee to start the event in a positive way.

In total, four 40-minute sessions were offered to each of the nine classes ranging from Kindergarten to Grade Eight. W.J Berezowsky students had the opportunity to participate in the following indoor

and outdoor sessions:

- Storytelling and drumming
- Jigging and the Teachings of the Métis Sash
- Michif Language
- Métis Ribbon Skirt and Shirt Teachings
- Teachings of the Medicine Wheel and the Four Sacred Medicines
- Trapping, Tracking, and Furs
- Bannock on a Stick
- Snowshoeing
- Sprinter Challenge (Traditional Métis Games, Log Throwing, and Races)

The Cultural Sprinter Festival was an overwhelming success. The feedback received from administration, teachers, and staff at W.J. Berezowsky was that the SUNTEP students had outdone themselves with hands-on and engaging cultural learning for their students. Spending the day in the school, sharing their Métis and First Nations culture, had SUNTEP students walking away with a greater sense of confidence as student-teachers, pride in themselves, and a strengthened identity as future Indigenous Educators. 🌍

SEASONS OF CHANGE

Continued from page 3

I hope we look back with pride knowing that we are collectively learning to adapt to the pandemic by changing the way we live so we can go on. People of all ethnicities have ancestors who survived something. Of course they did, or we wouldn't be here. This won't be such a new experience for the Métis. We have always adapted in whatever ways needed at the time.

We had to move from being bison hunters to an agrarian lifestyle, to find our way as a distinct culture, to find new places to live and work when we were displaced from our lands, and to advocate for our rights. I think we know a great deal about survival and I look forward to each season and even to the ways I may need to adapt as each season brings its changes. 🌍





UPCOMING DEADLINES



Adult Basic Education Level 3 & 4
Saskatoon
May 30



Educational Assistant
Île-à-la-Crosse
May 31



Office Administration
Regina
May 31

For a full listing of all current programs and to apply online visit WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS

GDI TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT WEST-CENTRAL SELECTION COMMITTEE

Gabriel Dumont Institute Training & Employment (GDITE) invites applications from the Métis community for the following volunteer role:

West-Central Selection Committee Member (1 Vacancy)

GDITE established four selection committees to target training resources for eligible students and labour market priorities. The four selection committees are: Northern, East-Central, West-Central, and Southern. Committee membership represents the targeted demographic region to ensure GDI develops a strong community connection.

Selection Committee members should possess the following: Métis ancestry with solid awareness of Métis history and culture; knowledge, skills, and expertise in the area of training and employment; clear understanding of labour market demand and training

trends within the impacted demographic area; and must be reputable with a solid history of community service. Priority will be given to someone living in one of the following Métis regions: Western Region IA and Western Region IIA.

Committee members are responsible for allocating training funds based on established eligibility criteria and local labour market information. Training will be provided to selection committee members and meetings will be approximately six to eight times per year. Honorarium and travel expenses are provided as per GDI policies.

All inquiries and resumes can be sent to Angie Rathgeber by phone at (306) 242-6070 or via email angie.rathgeber@gdins.org.

The deadline for the receipt of resumes is June 30, 2022 at 12:00PM. 🌐

MAY 2022 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

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

