



THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



Norman Fleury and Dorothy Aubichon from the Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture, Beadwork from USask

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

IN THIS ISSUE

- ∞ GDI Partners on New Michif Certificate at University of Saskatchewan
- ∞ Janessa Sholter: Client Success Story
- ∞ The Kahkisiw Approach to Student Success Services at Dumont Technical Institute
- ∞ GDI Library in Prince Albert Provides Connection, Culture, and Community

LEGEND

- DTI**—Dumont Technical Institute
- GDC**—Gabriel Dumont College
- GDI**—Gabriel Dumont Institute
- GDITE**—Gabriel Dumont Institute Training and Employment
- GDSF**—Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation
- NSITEP**—Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program
- SUNTEP**—Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program

GDI PARTNERS ON NEW MICHIF CERTIFICATE AT UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

By Celine Grimard, GDI Communications Officer

The Gabriel Dumont Institute is proud to announce a new partnership with the University of Saskatchewan to offer a Michif Language Certificate program focused on Southern Michif. The certificate is also in partnership with Saskatoon Public Schools, and the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan.

Michif belongs to the Métis. An oral language, it has been commonly passed down through families and relationships. Southern Michif is distinct with influences from Cree (verbs and syntax) and French (nouns and articles).

“Our Michif language is a gift from the Creator. It is a God-given language, gifted to the Métis Nation,” said Li Vyeu Norman Fleury.

GDI played a pivotal role in preserving and sharing Métis traditions by bringing

together Language Keepers and Elders, including Fleury, to develop this new program.

This certificate will strengthen the community of Michif speakers. It also supports young Métis who are working to reclaim the language of la paarantii kaayash ooshchi (ancestors.)

Michif languages are already being taught in early learning settings, universities, and with the occasional online class at GDI, but most fluent speakers are over 75 years of age.

“Michif is a critically endangered language,” said David Morin, director of Gabriel Dumont Institute Culture and Heritage. “When a language is lost, so is a worldview. It’s important to do what we can to promote, preserve, and revitalize Michif.”

Story continues on Page 5...





UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR FALL 2026



Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NSITEP)

La Ronge

Ongoing



Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP)

Saskatoon, Regina, Prince Albert

Ongoing



Indigenous Community-Based Master of Education

Saskatoon

Mar 15



Apply early to ensure your spot in these popular programs!

WWW.GDINS.ORG/UNIVERSITY

MICHIF WORDS OF THE MONTH

KISHSHINAHAMAKAYHK
Educate

NIIKAAN
First

PAHPHIIHKASHOOT
Giggle

ZHWAAL
Horse

JANESSA SHOLTER: CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

by Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

Janessa Sholter completed the Indigenous Community-Based Master of Education Program with GDC and the University of Regina in July 2025. She applied to the graduate program seeking to integrate her Métis worldview with her professional teaching experience. Janessa's passion for lifelong learning set her on this path, and the support from the Métis Nation University Sponsorship (MNU) program helped her to achieve her goals.



Janessa Sholter

Statistics Canada reports that only 3% of people who hold a master's degree in Saskatchewan are Métis (2021), so Janessa is part of a small group of trailblazers leading the way for Métis people in higher education. The MNU graduate sponsorships help Métis educators and scholars advance their careers in leadership, post-secondary teaching, research, and increase salary earning potential and career longevity.

The support from MNU helped remove financial barriers, so Janessa could focus on succeeding in her program. She said, "This support empowers our people to advance their education and, in turn, create meaningful opportunities for other Métis learners and youth."

Janessa started out as a Student Support Coordinator with SUNTEP Saskatoon at the University of Saskatchewan. After completing her masters, she was able to move into a teaching faculty position. "Janessa has been an amazing addition to our SUNTEP faculty," said Sheila Pocha, SUNTEP Saskatoon Program Head. "She mentors, supports, and listens to her students with understanding to ensure they feel a sense of belonging."

Janessa says that the best part of her job is creating meaningful learning opportunities for the teacher candidates. She taught Educational Foundations, introducing students to the historical and cultural contexts of education. Janessa said, "My hope is that they will carry forward the knowledge, perspectives, and pedagogical approaches they gain from my instruction."

She is a proud SUNTEP Alumnus, and she brings 18 years of applied elementary teaching experience with the North East School Division in her home community of Nipawin, Saskatchewan. She teaches her students the importance of creativity, reflection, climate and social justice, and the continuing the significant contributions of Indigenous scholarship. Her colleagues describe her as a compassionate leader with a quiet positive charisma.

For anyone considering the Indigenous Community-Based Master of Education degree, Janessa says she would strongly encourage them to pursue it because the knowledge, confidence, and opportunities that come with graduate-level education can open many doors. GDI is proud of all of Janessa's many successes. 🌟

Sources: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/71-607-x/71-607-x2024017-eng.html>





UPCOMING DTI PROGRAM DEADLINES



Continuing Care Assistant
P.A., Regina, or Saskatoon

March 15




Wastewater & Water Treatment Program
Buffalo Narrows

March 15




Indigenous Birth Support Worker
Saskatoon

March 31




Office Administration
Regina or Saskatoon

April 15




Mobile Crane Operator Program
Regina

April 30




Industrial Mechanic (Millwright)
Pinehouse

Ongoing




Heavy Equipment Operator
Various

Ongoing



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

THE KAHKISIW APPROACH TO STUDENT SUCCESS SERVICES AT THE DUMONT TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

by Damon Steadman, DTI Program Coordinator

At DTI, we believe that education is more than just what happens between the covers of a textbook. Student Success Services looks at our students as a whole person and the most important part of our learning community. DTI's mission is deeply rooted in the success of Métis learners. To us, "student services" isn't just a department name, it's a promise to meet our students exactly where they are without judgement.

We recognize that our students balance a complex mix of academic history, current family responsibilities, and future career aspirations. To support this, DTI employs a holistic wrap-around model where we don't just provide a desk and a curriculum, we provide a safety net.

Our approach to Student Success Services focuses on four key pillars:

Academic Advising: We ensure that every student has the help they need to access all resources available to them. Whether it's navigating planning for the future, bridging a gap in study skills, or seeking help for a learning disability, our Program Support Facilitators act as personal navigators through the academic landscape.

Financial Guidance: Navigating the world of funding, grants, and scholarships can feel like an impossible task. Our team provides hands-on assistance to help students access the financial resources they need to focus on their studies rather than their bank statements.

Employment Readiness: The goal of DTI is to help our students to be successful not just while they are students, but also as they venture forth to other opportunities. From

employability skills workshops to resume and interview coaching, we are here to help our students transition from school into the workforce and beyond.

Cultural & Personal Wellness: We honour the Métis identity. By facilitating access to Elders and Knowledge Keepers, cultural programming, and mental health resources, we strive to provide an environment where students feel seen, heard, and culturally grounded. We want every student to realize that they are important not just to us but also to our community and the world.

What sets DTI apart is our commitment to cultural humility and pride. Our student services are designed to be culturally relevant and recognize that a sense of belonging is a primary driver of retention. When a student visits us, they aren't a student number, they are part of a community. We weave Métis values of family, community, and perseverance into the very fabric of our support systems.

The success of our students isn't a solo act. It is the result of tireless collaboration between our instructors, program coordinators, GDI, and a wide network of community partners. By breaking down the barriers to education, be they financial, personal, or systemic, we aren't just helping students pass tests, we're helping them transform their lives.

Our focus remains on supporting our students. DTI is committed to growing alongside our students. Because when our students succeed, the entire Métis community thrives. 🌟



GDI LIBRARY IN PRINCE ALBERT PROVIDES CONNECTION, CULTURE, AND COMMUNITY

by Ayu Dayat, GDI Library Resource Facilitator Prince Albert

January and February 2026 have been exciting and meaningful months at the GDI Prince Albert Library!

On January 21, 2026, the GDI Prince Albert Library proudly donated a special basket in support of Abby Tiessen, our student library worker, who served on the committee for the 9th Leadership Symposium. The event took place at the E.A. Rawlinson Centre in Prince Albert. We were honoured to contribute to such an inspiring educational event. Our donated basket featured Métis storybooks, educational kits, art supplies, and other thoughtful items celebrating culture, learning, and community. It was a small way for us to support an event that uplifts student voices and leadership.

“We look forward to building on the momentum of past years and once again showcasing the strength, resilience, and leadership of post-secondary students from across northern Saskatchewan and beyond.” —Bonnie Novotny, SUNTEP Program Head

In early February, we added a little extra excitement to the library with both a book draw and a gift card draw. Congratulations to Claudia Youngbird from the SUNTEP program for winning the book draw, and to Logan Struk, also from SUNTEP, for winning the gift card draw! Throughout February, visitors will also notice two special displays in the library. One highlights Mental Health Awareness Month, and the other celebrates Indigenous Storytelling Month. These displays not only recognize important events for each month but will also help patrons to easily discover

meaningful books and resources. We always enjoy seeing our patrons find the resources they need faster, participate in our program, and celebrate the joy of reading.

GDI Prince Albert Library also continues to promote new resources within our collection. By regularly promoting new books and other materials within our community, we help our patrons stay informed and up to date with the latest additions to our library. February was also month of kindness and love, so in another corner of the library, we introduced a heartwarming initiative called “A Note to a Stranger.” This simple yet powerful activity has been a wonderful success, filling our space with anonymous messages of kindness, encouragement, and positivity. Watching our patrons uplift one another through words has truly reflected the spirit of our community.

The GDI Prince Albert Library continues to be a place of connection, culture, and community support, and we are deeply grateful to everyone who helps make it so special. 🌍



Logan Struk



Claudia Youngbird



Indigenous Storytelling Month Display



Love & Kindness Display





TRAPPERS HUT DISPLAY BY GDI PRESS



Photo by Bethani Groat

"Winter in the old prospector's tent was difficult, Clara found it hard to stay warm. Pa packed straw around the outside of the tent to help insulate it. They didn't have a proper stove and Papa improvised using an upsidedown wash tub. He dug a shallow hole in the center of the tent and lined it with rocks. He cut 1 hole in the bottom of the tub and connected a stove pipe that extended out of the hole up through the roof of the tent. Another hole was cut into the tub and had a siding metal cover which was how they put wood into the makeshift stove to heat the tent and cook their meals."

- **Growing Up Métis: Stories of Resiliency** by Cort Dogniez and illustrated by Jade McDougall. **Passage from Page 79.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 13 & 14 - Free Rug Hooking Workshop in Saskatoon. FULL.

Mar 13, 15, 16, or 17 -Free Métis Ribbon Skirt Workshop in Prince Albert. FULL.

Mar 27 - Order of Gabriel Dumont Awards Ceremony & Luncheon, tickets \$50 or \$400 for a table. Purchase from ryan.nordmarken@gdins.org

Mar 27 1:30 p.m. - GDI Annual General Meeting at Delta Hotel Downtown, Ballroom B & C, free and open to all.

LETS GET SOCIAL



Stay in touch on our socials:
Gabriel Dumont Institute
@GDINS_ORG

WWW.GDINS.ORG

GDI PARTNERS ON NEW MICHIF CERTIFICATE...

Story Continued from Page 1

"By offering the Michif Indigenous Language Certificate, we are providing an opportunity for people to embrace the language and the Michif worldview in order to keep the language alive" added David Morin.

This course will focus on teaching Heritage/Southern Michif through Indigenous methodologies. In Saskatchewan, there are three distinct Michif languages: Southern Michif, Northern Michif, and Michif-French.

GDI's Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture has a large amount of Michif content, including oral histories. It also contains a Heritage (Southern) Michif dictionary and phrase primer, as well as a Northern Michif Dictionary. A complete comprehensive resource list can be found online. No Métis institution has produced more Michif-language resources than GDI.

This two-year program will ensure those who are passing on Sourthern Michif are qualified to teach its culture, and related worldviews comprehensively.

Sources: https://www.metismuseum.ca/michif_tools.php

<https://unesdhttps://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000187026oc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000187026>

The course serves two key purposes:

To cultivate new Michif speakers who are deeply rooted in Michif/Métis culture and history, and to equip these speakers with the necessary tools and skills to teach Michif to others.

In just 30-credit hours, learners will meet the standards for the Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board for an AQC.

USask will be adding this program to its Indigenous Languages section, where there are already Cree classes offered to the public.

Southern Michif meets the UNESCO^ criteria for being a critically endangered language. It is now more important than ever for a new, younger generation of speakers to emerge.

The program is open to anyone eager to learn this endangered language, and GDI is thrilled to support the growth of a new generation of Michif speakers!

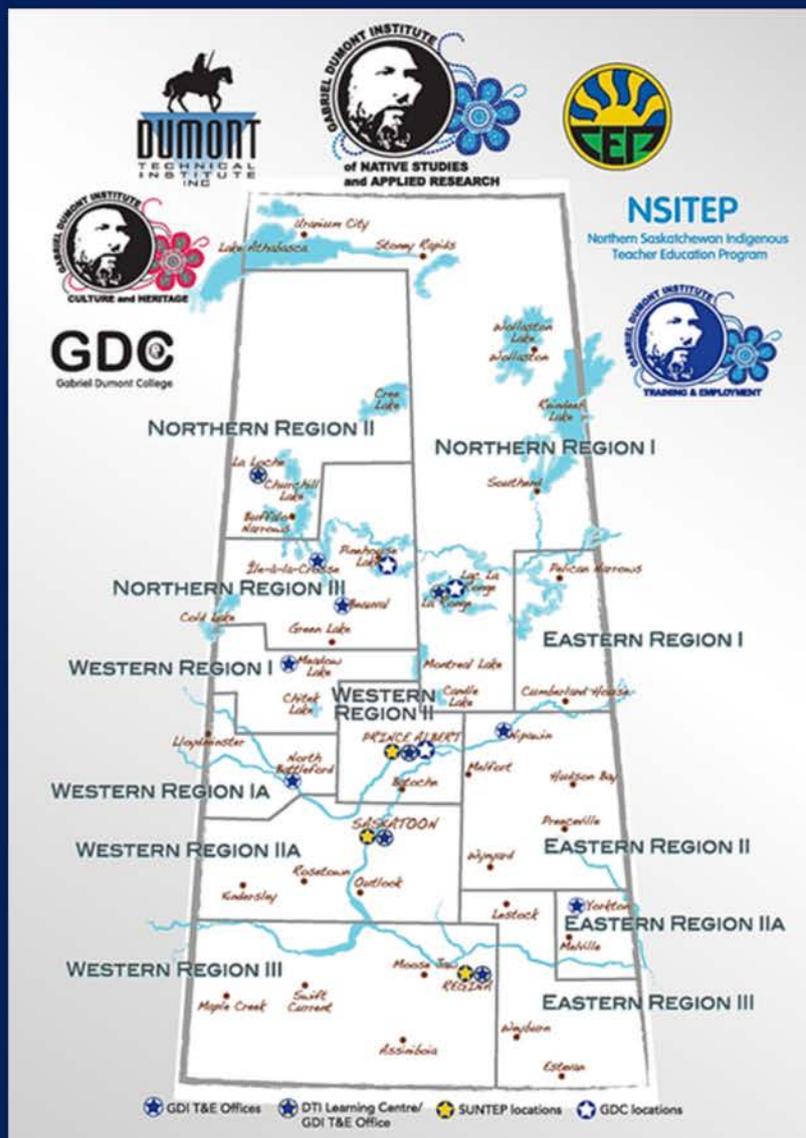
MARCH 2026 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on ISETS Student Mar 6 Direct Deposits	Accounts Payable Payment Run - Noon for Friday Pmts		Cutoff @ 4:30 for Mar 13 A/P - Timesheets & Payroll Revisions for Mar 13 Payday ISETS Student Payday	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on MNU Student Mar 13 Direct Deposits	Accounts Payable Payment Run - Noon for Friday Pmts		MNU Student Payday. Cutoff @ 4:30 for Mar 20 Accounts Payable Staff Payday	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on ISETS Student Mar 20 Direct Deposits	Accounts Payable Payment Run - Noon for Friday Pmts		ISETS Student Payday. Cutoff @ 4:30 for Mar 27 Accounts Payable	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Pmts on MNU Student Mar 27 Direct Dep. Cutoff @ 4:30 for TMS & Payroll Revisions for Mar 31 Payday	Accounts Payable Payment Run - Noon for Friday Pmts		MNU Student Payday. Cutoff @ 4:30 for Apr 2 Accounts Payable	
29	30	31				
	Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on ISETS Student Apr 2 Direct Deposits	Staff Payday				

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



WWW.GDINS.ORG

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 Bethani Groat communications@gdins.org

