



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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SUNTEP Student Aims to Lead Through Positivity

By John Shelling

The first week in February the University of Saskatchewan celebrates the successes and contributions of Métis, First Nations and Inuit students, staff and faculty through [Indigenous Achievement Week \(IAW\)](#).

The festivities include a public art project, speakers and celebrations in various locations across campus.

On Feb. 7, Indigenous students will be honoured at a ceremony to recognize their academic excellence, leadership, research endeavours or community engagement.

Kelly Camponi, a third-year student in the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Program (SUNTEP), will be receiving an award for community engagement. Camponi, a proud Métis father, demonstrates professional and respectful leadership in his studies and within his community.

We asked Camponi a few questions about what motivates him.

Why did you choose SUNTEP?

I chose SUNTEP because I am a proud Métis person and it has such a great reputation for producing a diverse group of very qualified Métis teachers and citizens. I very much wanted

to be a part of something that asks nothing more of its students than to be great teachers and leaders in the communities they serve.

What advice would you give to other parents pursuing higher education?

I'd tell them to remember why they are doing it. Who is it for? I know that for some it's for their children as well as for themselves, for others it may be because they just want something better and rewarding in life and for some it might be because they want to make a positive impact on someone's life. Whatever their reason is they should always try to remember why. This will help to get through some of the difficult times all students face.

What plans do you have for the future?

I hope that my future holds the opportunity to be in a classroom doing what I am really passionate about, but one can never be too sure what is in store for them. Whatever my future holds I hope it is helping to shape young minds into becoming respectful, happy and loving citizens.

Has there been someone in your life who has inspired you to get to where you are today?

There have been so many people who have helped me to get to this point in my life.

From friends and family, to the faculty and staff here at SUNTEP. I had a teacher in elementary school who really changed me and helped me to see the potential I had. He really made me want to become a teacher. I have to say that my fellow students in SUNTEP have really been an inspiration to me as well. To see people who "aren't supposed" to succeed fight through that stigma and be successful helps me to believe that I can also be successful. Of course a special thanks goes out to my sister who is also a SUNTEP student. She really pushed me to return to school and finish my education.

This year's theme of the IAW is Powerful Voices. If there is one thing you can use your voice for in this moment what would it be for?

I think I would say that it is never too late to make positive change, be it for yourself or for others. Be kind to one another and never stop striving to become a positive person in someone's life. Stop and see the world around you and do whatever you can to help others because we all need a little help once in a while.

John Shelling is a Publications Specialist, Teaching and Learning, at the University of Saskatchewan. The article was first published on news.usask.ca. It is reprinted here with permission.



Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP)

Barry Popowich: Goodbye to a Friend and Colleague

By James Oloo



Barry Popowich, PhD
1952 - 2018

On December 25, 2018, shocking news came that Barry Popowich had suddenly passed away on Christmas Day.

Dr. Popowich joined Gabriel Dumont Institute as a lecturer in the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education

Program (SUNTEP) in Prince Albert in 1999. Over the past two decades, Barry has taught and mentored thousands of SUNTEP students in both Prince Albert and Saskatoon.

“Barry’s compassion, dedication, and knowledge will be greatly missed by the

Institute and our students,” said Jim Edmondson, the Human Resource Director.

It is quite hard to reconcile the last memories of Barry being alive and passionate about teacher education, with the news of his death. Rest in peace Barry. 🌍

SUNTEP Saskatoon Students Receive Awards

By Sheila Pocha



Matthew Delorme,
3rd Year Student,
SUNTEP Saskatoon

The Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Saskatoon is extremely proud of all our students as they consistently demonstrate determination, commitment, and dedication to the program, the College of Education at the University of Saskatchewan, and their academic studies. We appreciate their work in teacher preparation, their work in planning and attending events that promote our Métis culture and knowledge, as well as their promotion of presenting themselves as professional pre-service teachers.

awarded to students entering the university for the first time based on their high school average.

Vanessa Johnson, a Fourth Year SUNTEP Saskatoon Elementary/Middle Years Student, received the Ralph and Gay Young Prairie Roots Scholarship. The scholarship is open to continuing undergraduate Elementary/Middle Years and Secondary Education students in the teaching areas of Native Studies and Social Sciences/Social Studies. Recipients must demonstrate knowledge base as it relates to Western Canadian and Plains Native American history and culture.

The University of Saskatchewan Undergraduate Scholarship is awarded to students based on academic merit. Aaron Gosselin, a Third Year SUNTEP Saskatoon Secondary Student, and Trevor McGowan, a Fourth Year SUNTEP Saskatoon Secondary Student, received the awards.

Three SUNTEP Saskatoon students: Matthew Delorme, Third Year Elementary/Middle Years; Vanessa Johnson, Fourth Year Elementary/Middle Years; and Aimey Parent, an Elementary/Middle Years 2018 Graduate, were on the College of Education Dean’s Honour Roll. The Dean’s Honour Roll is based on academic achievement and is awarded to the top five percent of students in each Bachelor of Education program.



Jennifer Foy,
4th Year Student,
SUNTEP Saskatoon
Photos by P. Bezterda

Several SUNTEP Saskatoon students were recently recognized at the U of S College of Education Awards Celebration in Saskatoon. In addition to Gabriel Dumont Institute Publishing Director Karon Shmon being recognized and added to the College of Education Wall of Honour, the following SUNTEP students accepted awards.

Fourth Year SUNTEP Saskatoon Elementary/Middle Years Student Jennifer Foy was the recipient of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan Bursary. The bursary is awarded to a student entering his or her final year of undergraduate study at the College of Education, University of Saskatchewan.

Vanessa Johnson, a Fourth Year SUNTEP Saskatoon Elementary/Middle Years Student, was awarded a University of Saskatchewan Scholarship. The award is based on student academic achievement.

In addition, Jennifer Pritchard, a Third Year SUNTEP Saskatoon Elementary/Middle Years Student, received the Dr. Grace E. Maynard Bursary—based on demonstrated financial need and academic performance. Congratulations to all SUNTEP Saskatoon award recipients. We are very proud of you. 🌍



GDI Director Recognized for Work on Indigenous Education

By Lisa Wilson

Karon Shmon is a recent recipient of a College of Education Wall of Honour award recognizing her significant contributions to Indigenous Initiatives. On Saturday January 19, 2019, the Gabriel Dumont Institute Director of Publishing was honoured in a ceremony by the College of Education, University of Saskatchewan.

Karon's career in education is highlighted by her dedication to Indigenous teaching and learning, her community engagement and cultural leadership, and her drive to make education equitable for all. Karon has worked in the K-12 system as a classroom teacher and as an Indigenous education consultant. In the post-secondary system, Karon's career includes Advisor for Saskatchewan Polytechnic and of course her current role as Director of Gabriel Dumont Institute Publishing Department.

In all of her work, Karon acknowledges the importance of her early foundational

experiences as a classroom teacher. "The teacher hat is the one permanently welded to my head. It has served me well at all times because having a role in peoples' growth and success never gets tired," she said in her acceptance remarks.

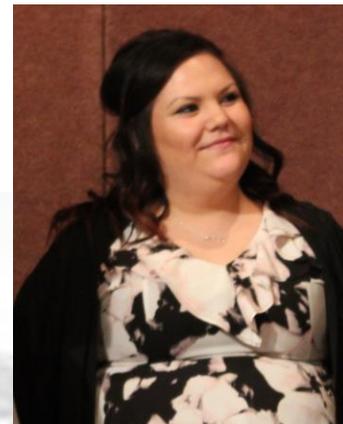
Anyone who has the opportunity to talk with Karon will see her passion for the work she does at the Publishing Department. Karon refers to her work at Gabriel Dumont Institute as her true calling. She considers it a privilege to work with Métis Elders, authors, artists, poets, performers, knowledge keepers, and community members, and to preserve their voices and legacy through publications and resources created through the Institute. Most recently, Karon led the work which resulted in the Métis volume of Canadian Geographic's Indigenous Atlas of Canada.

The College of Education Wall of Honour acknowledges the significant successes and

contributions of outstanding alumni who have graduated from the College's programs. The Wall of Honour is a feature wall on the main floor of the Education building and houses the names of all previous recipients. Since 2007 the College has honoured over 60 alumni, all of whom have exemplified the spirit of the mission, vision, and values of the University of Saskatchewan.

Award recipients are chosen for their outstanding achievements and innovation; commitment to excellence; community engagement and leadership; and contributions to the social, cultural and economic well-being of society.

Karon is a previous recipient of the Saskatoon YWCA Women of Distinction Awards (Education) in recognition of her achievement and leadership in education, and for her contributions to the larger community. Congratulations Karon! 🌍



Vanessa Johnson
4th Year Student,
SUNTEP Saskatoon
Photo by James Oloo



Aaron Gosselin
3rd Year Student,
SUNTEP Saskatoon
Photo by Peter Beszterda
Please see story on Page 2

Continuing Care Assistant Program Back to DTI

By Daniel Downs

Dumont Technical Institute has had a long history of offering Health related programming in Saskatchewan. From Health-Entry programs to Practical Nursing, Dumont Technical Institute has covered the gambit of health options for Métis of Saskatchewan. Indeed, Dumont Technical Institute is the second largest training provider for practical nurses in Saskatchewan.

This fall (after several years), Dumont Technical Institute

was proud to re-introduce two Continuing Care Assistant (CCA) programs in the communities of Regina and Saskatoon headed by two new and two returning instructors. In Saskatoon, Anita Bergen and Gayle Penner joined Dumont Technical Institute to help steer the Saskatoon CCA ship.

Prudence Bergen and Holly Levac have come back on-board to work with our Regina program. Prudence previously instructed in Dumont Technical Institute's Regina Medical

Device Reprocessing program, and Holly has previously provided Clinical Supervision for our students.

By the time you will have read this, both groups of students will have completed their first clinicals - the first big show of their newly acquired skills and abilities. My first program ever as a Program Coordinator with Dumont Technical Institute was a CCA program in Regina.

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Kelly Camponi
Photo by Carey Shaw
Story on Page 1.



Mental Health Awareness

By Jim Edmondson



St. Mary's School Jiggers
Saskatoon
Photo by Bonnie Hrycuik

Last week saw the anniversary of Bell Let's Talk campaign, the one day of the year where employers across Canada come together to voice their support of mental health awareness. Gabriel Dumont Institute has identified mental health as a priority and has enrolled many of our staff in mental health training initiatives.

For example, over the past three months, the Institute has facilitated three two-day workshops on Mental Health First Aid. Gabriel Dumont Institute employees across the province were invited to participate and the numbers of those who are taking the training is very encouraging.

Mental illness affects all of us irrespective of age, gender, economic status, or ethnicity. Whatever our situation, we are all potentially at risk of poor mental health at some point or stage in our life. Research shows that among the top reasons why employees seek assistance at the workplace are related to mental or emotional health, relationships, family and children, and stress and anxiety disorders.

Just like mental illness affects everyone, good mental health is an essential component of overall health and well-being. Yet, it is sometimes overlooked in the workplace. It is, therefore, of critical importance that we keep on top of mental health in the workplace and in our home lives as well.

Implementing a sound mental health plan makes good financial sense to organizations. According to the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), approximately 500,000 employed Canadians are off work due to mental health problems. The World Health Organization (WHO) suggests that mental illness will be one of the leading causes of disability by 2020. Mental health conditions account for 30% of disability claims and 70% of disability costs. By getting ahead of the curve, we can reduce and mitigate the impact of mental health issues on our business and workforce.

What's more, being cognoscenti of health and safety potentials contributes to decreased workplace incidents and injuries. Most jobs require employees to have good

concentration, social skills, and the ability to solve problems effectively. These can be negatively impacted by psychologically unsafe workplaces.

Through the increase in mental health awareness among Institute employees, we hope to develop mental health champions in the workplace to help create and sustain a focus on this important subject. The Institute believes that increasing awareness of mental health and creating a workplace environment that supports employees is beneficial to everyone.

Essentially, it is not about whether this type of initiative comes with a cost. Rather, it's about the wellbeing of our staff, students, and clients. Mental health awareness helps create safe and secure workplaces. With the rise of mental health issues in our society, we all have a role to play in prevention and resolution.

Let's all work together to ensure that we have inclusive and safe workplaces that enable all individuals to thrive!



Bonnie Hrycuik, a SUNTEP graduate, is a Program Coordinator at Dumont Technical Institute
Photo courtesy of GDI Publishing Department

Coming This Winter ...

By James Oloo

February is Aboriginal Storytelling Month. Several activities have been planned at Gabriel Dumont Institute Libraries in Prince Albert, Saskatoon, and Regina.

The idea of Aboriginal Storytelling Month is quite appropriate because historically, it was usually during the cold winter nights that children were taught

about their history, spirituality, creation stories, and all the creatures that live among us.

Indigenous Achievement Week at the University of Saskatchewan will be held February 4 – 8. The week often features Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) students and faculty. SUNTEP Saskatoon will host Métis Dinner and Dance

on Friday, February 8 between 4:30 - 7:00 pm.

GDI Publishing Department Presents Jess Lee on Friday, February 15 between 10:30 - 12:00 noon. Jess Lee is an award-winning Métis country music singer-songwriter.

GDI Board meeting and Annual General Meeting will be held on March 15 at Saskatoon Inn.



Continuing Care Assistant Program ... *Continued from Page 3*

I remember taking over the program from another Coordinator after the program had already started. I was nervous, apprehensive, and shared much of the same emotions that the CCA students felt as they learned their craft.

Over the years though, I learned that nervousness was normal in programming, and that it is almost a pre-requisite to be nervous when (as a student) you act as “The eyes and ears of the frail and vulnerable.”

Throughout the months, the students have learned

empathy and compassion for others, a willingness to serve, and an understanding of what the end-of-life truly is like for many in this province. It is amazing to see how they have grown both as students and healthcare professionals. Watching them, I am constantly reminded of what Dumont Technical Institute does; and how it is mirrored in our students... a simple desire to improve the quality of life for others. 🌍



Karon Shmon, Director of GDI Publishing (right), is congratulated by Dr. Michelle Prytula, Dean, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan (Please see Page 3). Photo by Peter Bezterda

Payroll Cutoff Calendar, February 2019

By Carmala Thiessen and Veronica Verzonowski

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
					Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/P Invoices	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Feb 15 Student Payroll			Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/P Invoices	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheet & Payroll Revisions for Feb 15 Payday	Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Feb 15 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Staff Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/P Invoices Student Payday	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Family Day Stat Holiday	Cutoff @ Noon for Mar 1 Student Payroll		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/P Invoices - Timesheets & Payroll Revisions for Feb 28 Payday	
24	25	26	27	28		
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Mar 1 Direct Deposits		Staff Payday Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run		

Employee contracts due at payroll upon job acceptance
 Payroll must receive contracts prior to payroll cutoff date, otherwise the employee will be paid on the following pay period.
 MRTS due by the 15th of every month.

Gabriel Dumont Institute/Dumont Technical Institute

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can be obtained at:

[www.Métismuseum.ca/browse/
index.php/833](http://www.Métismuseum.ca/browse/index.php/833)

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[https://gdins.org/student
-services/library/](https://gdins.org/student-services/library/)

GDI Library Prince Albert

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GDI Mission:

To promote the renewal and the development of Métis culture through research, materials development, collection and the distribution of those materials and the development and delivery of Métis-specific educational programs and services.



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research