



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

In this issue:

Driver Training Update

GDI 40th Anniversary Celebration

Payroll Cutoff Calendar

Highlights:

Travis Sjogren: 'It Doesn't Hurt to Invest in Education' 1

IT Update 3

GTI Partners with Corrections Canada to Create Jobs 4

Travis Sjogren: 'It Doesn't Hurt to Invest in Education'

By Randi Ross and James Oloo

We recently caught up with Travis Sjogren for a chat about his experience since he first visited the Gabriel Dumont Institute. Travis is a Métis man. He graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the Edwards School of Business at the University of Saskatchewan in 2018.

Travis works as a Financial Advisor at a large financial institution in Saskatoon. "The work experience and knowledge I have gained from my employment has been extremely beneficial toward my personal and professional growth," he says, adding, "I am very passionate about providing customers with advice and solutions to help them become better off financially."

While currently enjoying his job, Travis discussed his future career goals noting, "I aim to continue increasing my knowledge in the banking industry as the sector is constantly changing." He asserts, "With the knowledge gained, I hope to move through different roles so I may put this knowledge to use and assure myself that this is the career path I should pursue. My goal is to one day be an executive at one of the major banks."

Travis first came to Gabriel Dumont Institute during his

second year of university studies following advice by his great-aunt that the Institute provides financial assistance to Métis post-secondary students. Travis was assigned an Employment Counsellor at Gabriel Dumont Institute Training & Employment – Randi Ross – who worked closely with him. As he put it, "Randi provided me with guidance in regard to obtaining funding from other sources. Gabriel Dumont Institute pointed me in the right direction and paid for my fourth-year tuition and books."

Asked about his experience with Gabriel Dumont Institute, Travis stated that "I have nothing but excellent things to say about Gabriel Dumont Institute. I had the opportunity of receiving a couple of scholarships from Gabriel Dumont Institute. Gabriel Dumont Institute also funded the last year of my Business School which made my life a whole lot easier and enabled me to concentrate on my studies."

Travis was asked if there is anyone in his life who has inspired him to get to where he is today. He paid tribute to his "family and friends," who "have played an important role in where I am at today. If I had to choose one person it would most certainly be my mother. My mother raised me

and taught me everything she knew. She inspired me to better myself through receiving post-secondary education." Travis asserted that "I am truly blessed to have my mother and to draw all my successes from her unconditional love and support."

We asked Travis about the secret to his success despite challenges that he faced as a student. His response was as follows: "All my success stems from my family and friends as they have always been there for me through the good and through the bad." He added, "Throughout my education and career journey, I had the opportunity of meeting someone special who has also been very influential in my success."

That special person is "my girlfriend Colby Chisholm. I am extremely lucky to have her in my life." Travis pointed out that "Colby has been very supportive of my choices and always encourage me to keep working hard for what I want in life. Now that I have completed my schooling and I am currently working, she continues to inspire me to be the best person I can be."

Travis talked about the importance of self-discipline, determination, and resiliency in attaining success in anything one does.

Continued on Page 5



Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Regina

Driver Training Update

By Michelle McNally



Application deadline for September 2019 Admission to the Bachelor of Education Program at SUNTEP Regina is May 15, 2019
More information: Erma Taylor (306) 347-4110 www.gdins.org

Dumont Technical Institute and the Gabriel Dumont Institute Training and Employment have partnered to offer the Class 5 driver training program since May 2017. To date, eight programs have been offered in seven communities across Saskatchewan.

The Class 5 driver training program has been widely successful so far and is in the plans for the future as well. The program itself consists of a classroom portion that allows participants to gain their Class 7 learners license, six hours of required practice driving with a qualified instructor, as well as Class 5

road exams when clients are eligible.

A total of 84 clients have enrolled in the driver training program. Of these, 75 clients have successfully completed the program and received a Class 7 learner's license or a Class 5 driver's license, depending on what each client needs. The Class 5 driver training program is helping remove barriers for our Métis clients, which aids in the process of finding meaningful employment in the future. The Institute continues to see success with programs aimed at empowering clients and is encouraged by the progress made thus far.

There is currently a driver training program in progress in Prince Albert that began in March 2019. The program has 21 clients enrolled and it is anticipated that the clients will complete the necessary in-car driving by mid-May.

Another program is scheduled to begin in Regina in early May. Recruitment has been strong so far and it is expected that the program will be filled by the start of May. We are in the initial stages of planning training at other locations for this coming year (2019-2020). Currently, the Institute anticipates offering the Class 5 driver training program in three communities. 🌐

The 8th Annual Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation Golf Tournament



When: May 31, 2019
Where: Moon Lake Golf & Country Club, Saskatoon
More information: Angie Rathgeber golf@gdins.org

GDI 40th Anniversary Celebration

By Lisa Bird-Wilson

Gabriel Dumont Institute was founded in 1980 to provide educational and cultural programming to Saskatchewan's Métis and Non-Status First Nations. Since the early 1990s, Gabriel Dumont Institute's focus has been entirely Métis-specific.

Darren R. Préfontaine, an award-winning author and curriculum developer at Gabriel Dumont Institute's Métis Culture and Heritage Department, describes the Institute as "a multifaceted institution committed to ensuring a strong Métis voice as an educator, employment trainer, cultural resource producer, and social justice advocate."

The Institute 40th Anniversary Celebration and Culture Conference will take place February 7 & 8, 2020 in

Saskatoon. A logo has been developed for the 40th anniversary that you will begin to see in use across the Institute.

The conference will have various streams of workshops and presentations that fit with Gabriel Dumont Institute's cultural and education mandate.

Please note that the Order of Gabriel Dumont bronze, silver, and gold medals will be awarded at the event. The Order of Gabriel Dumont is awarded by the Gabriel Dumont Institute to a small number of persons who have provided service to the Métis of Canada with distinction. A Call for Nominations will go out in the next few months.

Please note the Order of Gabriel Dumont Bronze award is specifically a student award

intended for Gabriel Dumont Institute students. More information will follow regarding the nomination process for these awards.

The Gabriel Dumont Institute 40th Anniversary Celebration and Culture Conference is being planned by a committee with representatives from across the Institute. If you have particular workshop or session ideas, presentations your department would be interested in developing, presenter ideas, etc please speak to a member of the planning committee. 🌐



IT Update

By Gareth Griffiths

IT Staffing Changes

Well, it has been a hectic few months at the IT Department. Never before have I lost every staff member of my department. That was fun (but not necessarily an experience I want to repeat).

First, Gordon Holtlander decided to go to sunnier climates, and is living it up on beautiful Vancouver Island enjoying semi-retirement. I would like to wish him well and thank him for all the hard work he has put in over his 10+ years with Gabriel Dumont Institute.

Kent Barnes and Kyle Manley moved on to new positions in Saskatoon, and again I would like to acknowledge and thank them for the dedication and hard work they put in over their short time here.

And now to the new guys. I would like to welcome Bruce McDonald to the Saskatoon Offices. He joins us from the University of Saskatchewan where he worked as a Systems Analyst. Bruce is highly skilled in software and web development, as well as General IT Support.

In Prince Albert (and covering the North), I would like to welcome Ed Van Der Koot. He joins us most recently from Muskoday First Nation Community School and has extensive experience in IT Support in an education environment.

Website

Overall, there were 44,495 Page Views and 10,125 visitors (76% of these were new visitors) in April 2019. Some highlights of activity are as follows. About 10% of

visitors went to the home page, 7.5% (or 759 visitors) clicked on What We Offer, 3.4% (or 344 people) went to the scholarships page, 2.9% (294 people) went to the Training and Employment, and 2.7% (or 273 people) went to the jobs page.

From a demographic point of view, 78% of the visits were from Canadian locations, 11% from the United States, and approximately 1.1% from the United Kingdom, South Africa, and India.

If you would like any website information changed, or to add anything please contact the Website and Social Media Committee via webgroup@gdins.org.

Social Media Summary

The following are some brief stats from our Social Media channels in April.

Facebook: We have broken the 10,000 barrier. The total page likes at the end of April was 10,546. Total Engagements (number of links clicked, likes or comments) in this month was 4,726 over 16 posts. Total reach of posts (number of people who saw a post in their feed) was 75,163 with 13,861 impressions (number of times a GDI page appeared in others' news feeds). The most popular post was the Northern Michif App ("Maarsii, CBC, for making this happen...") with a reach of 10,300, 402 post clicks and 400 Likes, comments and shares.

Twitter: 28 tweets earned 26,300 impressions. There were 19 new followers in the month, 51 mentions, and 813 Profile visits. The top tweet was "Thinking of becoming a

teacher" (SUNTEP Regina Open House), earning 4,274 impressions. Top mention was the "I'm so impressed w/ the work these 1st year SUNTEP students produced..." by Brenna Pacholko with 245 engagements. Top media tweet was "We are hiring..." (Faculty recruitment SUNTEP Regina) with 950 impressions. We currently have 1,941 followers.

If you need to promote any information, whether it is an event, a department, or just to drive numbers up, please contact the Website and Social Media Committee with details. We can advise the best way to approach and market this. We can usually be contacted at webgroup@gdins.org.

Phishing/Virus

Just a quick reminder to be vigilant on all emails received. Please be wary of emails asking for account or password information (phishing attacks).

Some of the recent ones appear to be asking you to look at the attached invoice or a payment, with a word document, or a hyperlink in the body of the email. Also, recently seen emails reporting to be from mailserver saying your account is compromised and asking to provide you password.

A couple of tips to identify a phishing email. 1) Look at the from email address. Usually has no reference to the organization it is purported to be from, or will be slightly distorted.

Continued on Page 4

#NursingWeek2019
The week of May 5-11, 2019



Diane Timm, Faculty Practical Nursing Saskatoon.

We salute faculty, staff, and the approximately 300 Indigenous nurses who have graduated from the Dumont Technical Institute Practical Nursing Program

Photo courtesy of Dumont Technical Institute



For more information on GDI Indigenous Apprenticeship, please contact Dwayne Docken at apprenticeships@gdins.org



GDI Training & Employment

"I received two scholarships from Gabriel Dumont Institute. The Institute also funded the last year of my Bachelor of Commerce degree which made my life a whole lot easier and enabled me to concentrate on my studies."

- **Travis Sjogren, BComm**
Is a Financial Advisor at Scotiabank, Saskatoon



Corey Spence, is our first Métis client to complete training and get employment as a result of the partnership between Gabriel Dumont Institute and Correctional Service Canada. Corey works in Prince Albert.

Photo courtesy of C. Spence

IT Department Update ... Continued from Page 3

or call: 1-877-488-6888.

For instance, if the email is rbc.support@hotmail.com.co. and it really was from RBC, then chances it would be .@rbc.com or ..@rbc.ca. We have seen @gdimail.com. 2) If the email has a link, hover over it, and look at the address it is sending you to. Usually, this bears no relation to the company it is purported to be. 3) Use your knowledge of the company to identify false information. For example, someone from IT or

HR will not be asking you about international students. If an email is suspicious, do not open the attachment, click on its links, or reply to it. The safest option is to delete it.

Final thought (I know at least one person that misses these). This is in for the new guys: A computer engineer, a systems analyst, and a programmer were driving down a mountain when the brakes gave out. They screamed down the

mountain, gaining speed, and finally managed to grind to a halt, more by luck than anything else, just inches from a thousand-foot drop to jagged rocks. They all got out of the car. The computer engineer said, "I think I can fix it." The systems analyst said, "No, I think we should take it into town and have a specialist look at it." The programmer said, "I think we should push it back up the hill and see if it does that again." 🌐

GDI Partners with Corrections Canada to Create Jobs

By James Oloo

A Partnership Agreement between Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) and the federal Correctional Service Canada (CSC) was initiated in 2018 to help create opportunities for Saskatchewan Métis in the federal public service.

The agreement highlights GDI's commitment to providing "financial assistance to a maximum of 10 Métis qualified candidates with training allowances" for the Correctional Training Program. The training has a duration of 12-13 weeks to be completed in Kingston, Ontario. GDI complemented the CSC Correctional Training Program with a 26-week wage subsidy to support employment success for Métis candidates. The original MOU has since been expanded to include health-related opportunities in the CSC system.

In the summer of 2018, GDI, as represented by Executive Director Geordy McCaffrey and GDI Training and Employment Director Audrey Hestand, and Correctional Service Canada, represented by Nick Fabiano, Acting

Assistant Commissioner for Human Resources Management, signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at working together to enable Métis individuals gain employment with the CSC.

This month, a top civil servant at CSC, Director General Nathalie Dufresne-Meek, sent a letter to Geordy stating that she looks "forward to continued collaboration in accomplishing our shared goal ... and to hire Métis candidates."

The Institute has co-hosted informational recruitment and testing sessions with the CSC across Saskatchewan. The next session will be held at the Dumont Technical Institute facility on 1003 – 22nd Street West, Saskatoon, on May 14th and May 15th between 6:00pm – 9:00 pm.

Bill Lehne, an Employment Services Manager at GDI Training and Employment, Saskatoon, heads the project. Bill stated that an "internal process to accommodate public inquiries has been developed at the Institute to pre-register clientele and to ensure that GDI is able to accommodate

interested clientele wishing to attend the evening event." Bill asserted that there is a growing public interest in the partnership with attendance at our information and recruitment sessions across the province growing each time. "This is an exciting career opportunity. It is the first time GDI has gained access to the federal public service commission," he said.

Corey Spence is the first of our clients to complete the program. He was offered employment with the CSC in Prince Albert as soon as he completed his training in March 2019.

Bill noted that the partnership with CSC will create a variety of career opportunities for Métis clients, including as correctional officers, parole officers, and health-related positions with the federal government. Métis with post-secondary credentials, including those from Dumont Technical Institute, Gabriel Dumont College, and the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP), will find more federal job opportunities. 🌐



Travis Sjogren, a Success Story ... *Continued from Page 1*

GDI Training & Employment

"I give credit to myself for my willingness to further my education and having the persistence to attain a Bachelor of Commerce degree which enabled me to get a job I like."

Towards the end of our conversation, Travis had a word of advice for Indigenous students who may be thinking of post-secondary education after high school. "Please, just do it. You are probably not going to know what you want to do after high school until you give post-secondary a try."

This is an opportunity to find out what you really want to do in life, as well as what you don't like." Travis stated that, "Overall, it doesn't hurt to invest time and money into education as you may find that special something you enjoy doing. It may be easier said than done, but in this day and age, information is easier to access and help can be found through several avenues."

Travis concluded our conversation by thanking "Gabriel Dumont Institute

Training and Employment and my Employment Counsellor Randi Ross for providing me with guidance, encouragement, and resources I needed to complete the Bachelor of Commerce program offered through the Edwards School of Business."

Randi remembers Travis as "an incredibly positive person who is patient, and driven. Travis has a passion for his work and his personal life. He takes pride in his community, and in being there for his family and friends." 



Travis Sjogren is a Financial Advisor in Saskatoon. He received two scholarships and funding for his final year of business school from Gabriel Dumont Institute

Photo courtesy of T. Sjogren

Payroll Cutoff Calendar, May 2019

By Carmala Thiessen and Veronica Verzonowski

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
				Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/P Invoices	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student May 10 Direct Deposits		A/P Cheque/ EFT Run Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheets & Payroll Revisions for May 15 Payday	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/P Invoices	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for May 24 Student Payroll		Staff Payday	Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/P Invoices	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Victoria Day Stat Holiday	Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student May 24 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/P Invoices	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for TMS & Payroll Revisions for May 31 Payday Cutoff @4:30 for June 7 Student Payroll			Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Staff Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/P Invoices	

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

917 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK
S7M 0R9

PHONE:
(306) 242-6070

FAX:
(306) 242-0002

E-MAIL:
general@gdi.gdins.org

Visit us at
www.gdins.org

Back issues of this newsletter
can be obtained at:

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

Follow us on Twitter!
@gdins_org



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research

GDI Locations

GDI Central Office Saskatoon

917 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9
Phone: (306) 242-6070
Fax: (306) 242-0002

GDI Publishing Saskatoon

2, 604 22nd Street West
Saskatoon SK S7M 5W1
Phone: (306) 934-4941
Fax: (306) 244-0252

GDI Finance and Operations

917 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9
Phone: (306) 242-6070
Fax: (306) 975-0903

DTI Central Office Saskatoon

917 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9
Phone: (306) 242-6070
Fax: (306) 242-0002

Toll Free (DTI):
1-877-488-6888

SUNTEP Prince Albert

48 12th Street East
Prince Albert, SK
S6V 1B2
Phone: (306) 764-1797
Fax: (306) 764-3995

SUNTEP Saskatoon

Room 7 McLean Hall
University of
Saskatchewan
106 Wiggins Road
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5E6
Phone: (306) 975-7095
Fax: (306) 975-1108

SUNTEP Regina

Room 227 College West
University of Regina
3737 Wascana Parkway
Regina, S4S 0A2
Phone: (306) 347-4110

GDI Training and Employment Central Office

917 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9
Phone: (306) 242-6070
Fax: (306) 683-3508

Toll Free (T&E):
1-877-488-6888
Fax: (306) 347-4119

GDI Library Regina

Room 218 College West
University of Regina
3737 Wascana Parkway
Regina, S4S 0A2
Phone: (306) 347-4124
Fax: (306) 565-0809

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

GDI Library Prince Albert

48 12th Street East
Prince Albert, SK
S6V 1B2
Phone: (306) 922-6466
Fax: (306) 763-4834



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