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40th Anniversary
1980 – 2020



GDI Communicator

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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ABE Grad: Adding a New Milestone in the Journey

James Oloo

It was a great honour to be invited to this year's Adult Basic Education (ABE) Level IV graduation on May 27, 2019 in Saskatoon. Over 100 people, including families, friends, and spouses, were there on a beautiful spring day. It was heartwarming seeing young children and 'Old Ones' beaming with pride as the names of the 17 graduates were called.

The Class of 2019 included James Alexander, Rita Marie Bird, Priscilla Blunt, Contara Bueckert, Kayla-Rai Chunyk, KC Dubois, Josette Dunn, Marissa Favel, Morgan Geering, Jenna Giesbrecht, Alaina Greenlaw, Kayla Harder, Samantha Kachur, Martha Petite, Maria Reddekopp, Cheyeanna Tourand, and Lanie Werminsky.

Cindy LaPlante, a faculty member in the ABE program, invited Contara Bueckert to give the Valedictorian Speech. It was silence as Contara's soft voice and powerful speech filled the room. She noted that though it was good to graduate with a high school diploma, the "experience meant more than just graduating with Grade 12." Generous with accolades, Contara described her teachers as "incredible, encouraging, and an inspiring influence" in her life

noting that the teachers did "so much more than teaching."

A similar message was repeated by Priscilla Blunt and Alaina Greenlaw who gave a 'Thank You' speech to acknowledge those who helped them along their journey to graduation.

As the ABE Program Coordinator Marilyn Black noted in her speech, graduation is a moment of pride, of looking back and recognizing that despite the sometimes challenging days, victory is possible. Graduation is also an opportunity for a new beginning.

As the graduates were celebrating their achievements, many also shared their plans for the future. Almost all of them had started the process of transitioning to higher education.

Rita Marie Bird will be returning to Dumont Technical Institute to start the continuing care assistant program in September. Samantha Kachur and Alaina Greenlaw have applied to the Dumont Technical Institute practical nursing program and are hopeful that they will get admission.

Morgan Geering has been accepted in the continuing

care assistant program at North West College in North Battleford, while James Alexander has been admitted to the power engineering program at the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology (SIIT).

Marissa Favel will be continuing her studies in the fall at the Saskatchewan Polytechnic for a two-year diploma program in hotel and restaurant management. Priscilla Blunt will also be attending Saskatchewan Polytechnic to pursue studies in the early childhood education program.

Cheyeanna Tourand had a compelling story of resilience, determination, and strength. She noted: "I attended Dumont Technical Institute five years ago and this year, I decided I was ready mentally and determined to graduate." Cheyeanna has been accepted in the MC College hairstyling program in Saskatoon. "I plan to get my journey person hairstylist certification so I can fuse my freelance make-up artistry and hairstyling together and own my own beauty business."

Some of the ABE graduates will be joining university in the fall. Lanie Werminsky will be pursuing a social work degree at the First Nations University of Canada.

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Dumont Technical Institute
And SUNTEP Regina

Red River Cart Workshop an Eye-Opener

By Candace Schiele



A Red River cart

Practical Nursing and Continuing Care Aide students at Dumont Technical Institute in Regina participated in a Red River Cart Workshop on May 8, 2019. The workshop was led by George Fayant, a Métis man from the Qu'Appelle Valley and a renowned Red River cart builder. George provided interactive opportunities for the students to have fun with the artistic and historic process as they built smaller versions of the Red River Cart.

George Fayant is no stranger to Gabriel Dumont Institute. The Institute previously commissioned a number of Red River carts from Fayant that are proudly displayed at the Gabriel Dumont Institute facilities.

Students were shown maps of the Cart Trails that wind down from Canada into the United States. George spoke

about the carts being a means for transportation and often pulled by oxen or sometimes horse. Students were amazed to learn that the sometimes up to 2,500 carts could be taken apart and floated across water ways in a single file line. George spoke about how one Métis Family may have had up to 10 carts.

Practical Nursing Instructor, Janelle Schentag reflected back on the day and shared that George took the students to the basement of Dumont Technical Institute where he had a smaller version of the cart. He showed the cart to the students and then took it apart and had students re-build it.

He had one full sized wheel and showed students how it could be taken apart and put back together and then students had an opportunity to build smaller versions of the Red River cart.

Students of both programs worked together so they had some good interaction amongst each other in this team building experience. In the end they were very proud of their hard work and the workshop was a great success. I would like to thank George and everyone who was involved in providing this experience to the students.

According to the Canadian Encyclopedia, the Red River cart was constructed entirely of wood and was tied together with leather. It was easily repaired and was wonderfully adapted to prairie conditions. The cart was buoyant and could be floated across streams, yet it was strong enough to carry loads as heavy as 450 kg. Two shafts attached to the axle were strapped to a pony or ox. The carts were gradually replaced by the steamboat and ultimately the railway. 🌐



Joe Welsh presents Tresley Tourond Bouvier with the Spirit of SUNTEP award for her avid community involvement and volunteerism.

SUNTEP Regina Holds Graduation Ceremony

By Brenna Pacholko

The Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Regina faculty, staff, alumni, Old Ones, family members and guests gathered on Friday May 3, 2019 to honor and celebrate this year's graduating group: Tresley Tourond Bouvier (Great Distinction), Alexandra McNabb-Sinclair (Distinction), Tyra Pelletier, Rebecca Wiens, and Alyssa Pelletier.

This year's theme, *nee mooshuhkinitonawn*, - We Lift Each Other Up, was fitting for this group of Indigenous women who gave unwavering support to each other as they

overcame many obstacles moving through their SUNTEP journey. The evening, hosted at the Delta Regina, started with entertainment by the Thompson Community School Jigging Club lead by SUNTEP alumnus Alison Kimbley. The dancers were accompanied by Indigenous fiddler Eve Turner.

The graduating group chose two SUNTEP Regina alumni to emcee the event: Chad Fisher (Educator with The Ranch Ehrlo Society) and Elsa Ramos-McKenzie (Educator with Regina Public Schools). The evening program included the First Nations drumming group Napewsak that

performed an honour song for the graduates.

Gabriel Dumont Institute Board Chair Dr. Earl Cook and Associate Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Regina Dr. Valerie Mulholland brought greetings. The keynote address by Russell Fayant and Garrick Schmidt outlined how the work of reconciliation takes place in our personal and lives, as well as through culture.

Alexandra McNabb-Sinclair was awarded the "David Amyotte Memorial Scholarship" to recognize her commitment to Indigenous education.

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SUNTEP Regina alumni Chad Fisher and Elsa Ramos-McKenzie were the emcees at the 2019 SUNTEP Regina graduation ceremony

Photos by Brenna Pacholko



SUNTEP Prince Albert Celebrates Class of 2019

By James Oloo

On May 16, 2019, families, friends, loved ones, as well as invited guests and dignitaries, congregated at the E. A. Rawlinson Centre for the Arts to celebrate the graduation of the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Prince Alberta Class of 2019.

The graduates included Haley Bighead, Kato Carriere, Taylor Carriere, Fawn Chartier, Chelsey Cyr, Caissey Fetch, Todd Fiddler, Erin Hansen, Kianne Henry, Cooper Skjeie,

Gabriel Dumont Institute Executive Director Geordy McCaffrey and Dr. Michelle Prytula, Dean of the College of Education congratulated the graduates.



SUNTEP Prince Albert Class of 2019, left to right: Cooper Skjeie, Kianne Henry, Erin Hansen, Todd Fiddler, Caissey Fetch, Chelsey Cyr, Fawn Chartier, Taylor Carriere, Kato Carriere, Haley Bighead, Photo courtesy of Bonnie Novotny

Grad: Adding a New Milestone in the Journey ... *Continued from Page 1*

Contara Bueckert will start her journey to becoming a teacher at the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program Saskatoon.

It was very encouraging that these individuals who had left K-12 system before graduating – having been pushed out of school by barriers that too often impede the success of Indigenous students in our province – earn their high school diplomas and are ready to transition to the next chapter of their careers. They know who they are, and what they want. All they needed was an educational environment that recognized their strengths and funds of knowledge that they – and every student – possess. An education environment that is caring, challenging, and affirms their cultures and identities.

As many of the graduates said, Dumont Technical Institute was ‘that’ education environment. These comments included: “Dumont Technical Institute provided me with a lot of support. It helped” (James Alexander); “DTI showed me that I was capable of actually working towards a career to support my future” (Kayla Harder); “I am very grateful to have been a student at DTI” (Morgan Geering); “Dumont Technical Institute gave me the extra help I needed” (Josette Dunn); “Dumont Technical Institute has the most amazing instructors I’ve ever met. No matter the situation, there is always someone there willing to help me get through anything” (Samantha Kachur).

Other comments by the graduates included: “Dumont Technical Institute is like a second family to me. I’ll be

sad to leave. I didn’t think I’d graduate, but having the support and the teachers not giving up on me made me feel like someone cared” (Jenna Giesbrecht); “Dumont Technical Institute had a lot of resources to help us reach our goals. The teachers were supportive and understanding, and my employment counsellor was a huge help in enabling me to establish my goals and reach them” (Chyeanna Tourand); “We had cultural day every end of the month where we learned something new about Métis culture” (Marissa Favel).

Dumont Technical Institute instructors, Janelle Duplessis, Brian Vass, and David Werner, and staff, including Kristi Ross and Abby Pelletier, were also present at the graduation ceremony. 🌐

DTI Director To Take Leave

Brett Vandale will be taking a scheduled seven week leave from July 2 to August 18, 2019 for a family vacation in Europe. Brett has been the head of Dumont Technical Institute since 2004.

In Brett’s absence, Tracy LaPrise will be the Acting Director of Dumont Technical Institute. Tracy, who is currently a Program Coordinator at Dumont Technical Institute in Saskatoon, holds a Bachelor of Education degree from the Saskatchewan an Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP). She has been working at the Institute since 2006.

Tracy can be reached at tracy.laprise@dti.gdins.org.



SUNTEP Saskatoon Holds 35th Graduation

By Sheila Pocha



The Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) in Saskatoon held its 35th Annual graduation ceremony on the 4th of May at TCU Place. We honored all 20 graduates with their well-deserved 'GDI – SUNTEP Saskatoon Sash'!

The 2019 SUNTEP Saskatoon graduating class included Lexi Brunet, Victoria Beaudin, Joshua Bodnarchuk, Sabrina Bourassa, Jade Charters, Shayln Fedler, Jennifer Foy, Joshua Gaudet, Meg Hadland,

Austin Hignett, Anna Hogue, Mackenzie Janzen, Vanessa Johnson, Ava MacLean, Sabrina Macnab, Trevor McGowan, Madison Noble, Tom Press, Stephanie Schmidt, and Curtis Vinish.

The graduation theme - "Do not follow where the path may lead. Go, instead, where there is no path and leave a trail" - was inspired by a Ralph Waldo Emerson poem and paralleled what we have seen in these pre-service teachers. Many of the graduates have already

received employment offers. They join the 1,315 SUNTEP alumni helping to make significant differences in the lives of many students and families within our Métis and greater communities. We are proud of these leaders and congratulate them on their great achievements!

Bob Lindsay was the keynote speaker. His parting words were: "We had a good time, we learned lots and look at you now. All the best to you all!"



SUNTEP Regina Class of 2019 ... Continued from Page 2



SUNTEP Regina Class of 2019. From left: Rebecca Wiens, Tresley Tourond-Bouvier, Tyra Pelletier, Alyssa Pelletier, and Alexandra McNabb-Sinclair (Photo by Brenna Pacholko)

Tresley Tourond-Bouvier was honoured with a Starblanket for the "Spirit of SUNTEP" Award in recognition of her commitment to leadership and volunteerism within the community.

Kayla Ward, a third year student, was awarded the Lebrez Métis Cultural Days Scholarship to acknowledge her familial connections to and activism within the community.

Lastly, this year's graduating class chose to honour a

respected Old One in our community, Joe Welsh, with "The Order of the Sash."

At the end of the evening, each of the five graduates was honoured with a Métis sash and a unique, hand-made leather portfolio in acknowledgment of their hard work in accomplishing their Bachelor of Education degree. At SUNTEP Regina, we are proud of each of the 2019 graduates for their commitment to education, future students, and the Métis community. We wish them the best in their future endeavours.



Saskatoon Practical Nursing Program Graduation

Dumont Technical Institute

By James Oloo

Dumont Technical Institute Practical Nursing program in Saskatoon held its graduation ceremony on May 31, 2019. The Class of 2019 included:

Back left to right: Nicole Henschel, Kayla Horbay, Kimberly Heilman, Meagan Dolter, and Buck Peters.

Front left to right: Stacey Nogier, Ashley Crowe, Aleisha Mckay, Alanna Murray, and Anissa Silbernagel.

Most of the graduates have received job offers. 🌐



Practical Nursing Saskatoon Class of 2019. The Dumont Technical Institute Practical Nursing Program is offered in Saskatoon, Prince Albert, and Regina. Photo by Jodi Dolter

Payroll Cutoff Calendar, June 2019

By Carmala Thiessen and Veronica Verzonowski

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

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.

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

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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