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Gabriel Dumont Institute  
40<sup>th</sup> 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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## GDI and LLIB Launch New teacher Training Program

By James Oloo

Gabriel Dumont Institute and the Lac La Ronge Indian Band have recently partnered to offer a 4-year Bachelor of Education, the Northern Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NITEP). The program will be delivered at Lac La Ronge from September 2019 with an expected inaugural cohort of about 30 students. To date, more than 140 inquiries and applications have been received. There is a strong support for NITEP from the local community, University of Regina, and the Northern Lights School Division.

The partnership between Gabriel Dumont Institute and the Lac La Ronge Indian Band to offer NITEP grew naturally from years of close relationship between the two organizations and a common desire to help address the issue of teacher shortage in northern Saskatchewan. The two Indigenous organizations have been working closely together since 2011 to provide skills training in La Ronge under the Gabriel Dumont Institute Indigenous Apprenticeship Program.

In August 2018, just as the 2018-2019 school year was about to start, Jason Young, the director of Northern Lights School Division, stated that the division was

experiencing difficulties in its attempt to recruit [14 full-time teachers](#) to work in the communities of La Loche, La Ronge, Pinehouse Lake, Sandy Bay, and Stony Rapids. Around the same time, President Patrick Maze of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF) said that parents and students in Northern Saskatchewan should be ["hugely concerned"](#) by the teacher shortage.

On September 19, 2018, 650 CKOM ran an article titled ["Union, province spar over northern teacher shortage"](#) and STF had a news release: ["STF Calls for Immediate Steps by Government to Solve Northern Teacher Shortage."](#) The STF media release criticized what it termed "short-sighted and damaging cancellation of the Northern Teacher Education Program (NORTEP) that allowed education students to train in the north."

First forward to May 2019. La Ronge NOW had an article ["For the North, by northerners': New teacher education program in La Ronge,"](#) while CBC announced, both online and on TV, that ["A northern teaching program resurfaces amid teacher shortage in northern Sask."](#)

As stated on its Vision statement, the Lac La Ronge

Indian Band Education Department (LLIB) endeavours to provide "educational experiences that interconnect the child's community, Cree language, history, and culture, the provincial curricula, and the world at large," so the Band's children are able to "acquire the skills, knowledge, and strength to enable them to assume productive roles as adults."

Gabriel Dumont Institute, on the other hand, has been training Indigenous teachers at its Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert locations for the past four decades. The Institute's Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) is a 4-year Bachelor of Education program offered in partnership with the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan. The Saskatoon StarPhoenix has referred to SUNTEP as a ["Saskatchewan success story."](#)

NITEP has an emphasis on Northern Indigenous culture, language, and land-based instruction. Tuition, books, and income support may be available. Interested Métis students should contact Michael Relland, Coordinator, Gabriel Dumont College, at [Michael.Relland@gdi.gdins.org](mailto:Michael.Relland@gdi.gdins.org) or while interested First Nations students contact Tammy Robinson, LLIB Post-Secondary Coordinator, at [tammy.robinson@llribedu.ca](mailto:tammy.robinson@llribedu.ca)





Lisa Lenkart  
On June 20, 2019, a retirement celebration lunch was held in Saskatoon to honour Lisa's career with the Institute. Lisa joined Dumont Technical Institute on July 11, 2016 as a Program Coordinator. Congratulations and best wishes in this next stage (Photo by Christine Fiddler).

## DTI: Fostering a Sense of Belonging

By Lisa Lenkart

Working at Dumont Technical Institute over the past three years has given me the opportunity to experience firsthand the sense of belonging expressed in Gabriel Dumont Institute's Organizational Values. Being surrounded by Métis culture in my work environment has been a gift. I value the opportunity I have had to get a glimpse into the powerful force this organization is for Métis in Saskatchewan. Repeatedly, I have seen evidence of the impact this sense of belonging has on the Métis who come here.

As a Program Coordinator, I have the opportunity to speak with many students who seek entry into the programs I manage. Consistently I hear that they have chosen Dumont Technical Institute because a friend or family

member has recommended they come here because it is a good place. It's been my experience that our former students are the best recruiting tool we have.

During programs, students complete feedback surveys; one specifically a cultural survey. The majority of students report that their experience at Dumont Technical Institute increased their cultural awareness and pride, and that they had a positive cultural experience (Business Plan 2018-2021). The infusion of cultural components into our programs is valued. I have witnessed many students experiencing their first academic success at Dumont Technical Institute as adult learners. The goals they have at the onset of the program, for example, completing an

Adult 12, grow to those of pursuing further post-secondary education. This nurturing Institute for Métis provides a place where positive change can and does happen.

After programs, many Métis graduates return to work at Gabriel Dumont Institute. I have been inspired by these coworkers who are truly committed to giving back some of what they have been given. Graduates of the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) and Dumont Technical Institute who work at Dumont Technical Institute have generously shared their stories with me. I know they will continue to create a sense of belonging for Métis who are fortunate enough to find their way to Dumont Technical Institute. 🌐



President Clément Chartier of the Métis National Council (left) and the federal Minister of Indigenous Services, Hon. Seamus O'Regan  
Photo courtesy of metisnation.ca

## Métis Post-Secondary Education Accord Signed

By James Oloo

On June 10, 2019, President Clément Chartier of the Métis National Council and Hon. Seamus O'Regan, the federal Minister of Indigenous Services, signed the Canada-Métis Nation Post-Secondary Education Sub-Accord. The Sub-Accord aims at improving the education outcomes of Métis Nation students at the post-secondary level. It supports three activity streams including student support, community-based programs and services, and governance capacity.

The signing of the Sub-Accord was preceded by a number of key events, beginning with the April 13, 2017 signing of the Canada-

Métis Nation Accord by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the Métis Nation as represented by the Métis National Council and its Governing Members, including the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan.

In October 2018, the Métis National Council and the Government of Canada entered into the Canada-Métis Nation Education Memorandum of Understanding on developing Canada-Métis Education sub-accords. The same year, the federal Budget 2018 provided a one-time investment to support Métis Nation post-secondary education through grants towards Métis Nation endowments and a 10-year

Métis Nation Post-Secondary Education strategy.

And on March 19, 2019, the Federal Budget 2019 proposed an investment of \$362 million over 10 years and \$40 million ongoing support for Métis Nation post-secondary education, with the goal of supporting over 7,000 Métis Nation post-secondary students across the country.

President Chartier noted, "This significant, long term federal financial support for our post-secondary students marks a giant first step in enabling the Métis Nation to reduce that gap and opens new opportunities for our population to participate fully in the new economy."

*Continued on Page 3*



## MN-S Provides Stability for Métis Labour Market Programs

In the spring of 2018, discussions with Métis Nation–Saskatchewan officials—President Glen McCallum, Education Minister Earl Cook, and CEO Richard Quintal—resulted in good news for Métis labour market programs and services in Saskatchewan.

The Métis Nation–Saskatchewan formalized their commitment to have the Métis Nation’s training arm, the Gabriel Dumont Institute, deliver labour market services for Saskatchewan Métis. The decision secures stability and continuity for these services to the Métis.

Since 2006, when Gabriel Dumont Institute started delivering Métis employment and training services through the Gabriel Dumont Institute Training and Employment, thousands of Métis citizens have accessed jobs, apprenticeships, and funding for training. Maarsii to the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan for helping Métis people access opportunities and improve our lives and our community. 🌱



April 12, 2018

Patricia A. Hajdu  
Honorable Minister of Employment,  
Workforce Development and Labour

Dear Minister Hajdu,

As Minister of Education for the Metis Nation – Saskatchewan I would like to thank you for your investment in the development of Saskatchewan Metis people through the Aboriginal Skills Employment and Training Strategy (ASETS). Over the years through this program we have provided thousands of Metis people with an opportunity to improve their lives through training and skills development leading to employment.

In Saskatchewan, the Metis Nation has elected to have our Education and Training Institute, *Gabriel Dumont Institute Training & Employment (GDI T & E)* deliver these services for Saskatchewan Metis. As we move forward with the new ISETS agreement on April 01, 2019, I would like to advise you that we wish to maintain the status quo and continue to direct ISETS funding through GDI T & E for our citizens. Please inform your program officials that GDI T & E will continue to be the MN-S delivery agency for the new ISETS agreement set for April 01, 2019.

In closing, these are exciting times for the Metis Nation and Federal Government. We greatly appreciate the Nation-to-Nation collaboration that has taken place and look forward to working with you to enhance the lives of Metis people in Saskatchewan.

Meegwich,

Dr. Earl Cook,  
Minister of Education, Chairman of GDI T & E  
Metis Nation – Saskatchewan

CC:  
President Glen McCallum, Metis Nation - Saskatchewan  
President Clem Chartier, Metis National Council  
President David Chartrand, Manitoba Metis Federation  
Minister Caroline Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations & Northern Affairs  
Minister Jane Philpott, Minister of Indigenous Services  
Richard Quintal, Chief of Staff, Metis Nation - Saskatchewan

## Métis Post-Secondary Education Accord ... *Continued from Page 3*

As the post-secondary education arm of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S), Gabriel Dumont Institute was represented at the national Métis Nation working group that helped lay the groundwork for the development of the policy around the sub-agreement.

Using internal data as well as those from Census Canada, the Institute showed how there was a gap in educational attainment between Métis and

non-Indigenous populations in Saskatchewan at all levels of education. The Institute further noted that the education gap was widening between Métis and non-Indigenous peoples with university education.

The new Canada-Métis Nation Post-Secondary Education Sub-Accord will expand opportunities for funding to Métis students attending post-secondary institutions and will not be limited to just the last year of a degree program.

Much like the delivery of labour market services to the Métis, the Institute is hopeful the MN-S will recognize its capacity, experience, and expertise to deliver post-secondary supports under the newly signed accord.

The sub-agreement was announced just as GDI and Lac La Ronge Indian Band had launched a new 4-year post-secondary education program - the Northern Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NITEP) to be offered in Air Ronge starting fall 2019. 🌱





Gabriel Dumont Institute 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Culture Conference will take place on February 7 & 8, 2020 in Saskatoon.

The Order of Gabriel Dumont bronze, silver, and gold medals will be awarded at the event. A Call for Nominations will go out in the next few months.

#### Dumont Technical Institute

##### Director Brett Vandale To Take Leave

Brett Vandale will on a scheduled seven week annual leave from July 2 to August 18, 2019. The Vandales will be taking 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 is a graduate of the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP). She has been working at Dumont Technical Institute since 2006.

## GDITE's Path Forward Under the New ISET Program

By Audrey Hestand

Gabriel Dumont Institute Training & Employment (GDITE) programs and services have received a long-awaited and much-needed face lift with the transition to the new Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) Program.

The ISET Program offer significant improvements over its predecessor, the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS). It is less prescriptive and allows greater flexibility in designing and delivering programs and services tailored to the unique needs and circumstances of Saskatchewan's Metis, fulfilling the GDITE model of relentless support.

In January, GDITE reconvened the Policy Recommendations Committee, which was then tasked with reviewing and recommending changes to GDITE programs and policies in light of the new ISET Program. As a result, GDITE Programs have been reorganized and renamed to match the criteria of the ISET Program, and basic client eligibility has been expanded to allow for upgrading, upskilling, and professional development. Other changes are as follows:

The cap on tuition has been raised to \$12,000 per year while travel amounts for bus passes and parking have been increased to \$600 a year. Also, apprentices are now eligible for up to \$600 in employment related supplies.

GDITE is now offering two completion bonuses to clients: a \$100 bonus to clients who successfully complete their program and submit course completion documents (such as final transcripts or a copy of their

tickets, diploma, or degree) within four months of completing their program; and a one-time \$300 Employment Transition allowance for clients who successfully find and report employment to GDITE within six months of completing their program.

Approval processes have also been updated to allow for greater flexibility to meet client needs. Employment Services Managers, for example, now have the authority to approve client applications with up to 10 active training days with a total cost of less than \$2,000. As well, GDITE now has eight distinct programs available:

**Career Assessment Program** provides career research and exploration, diagnostic assessment, and employment counselling. It also assists eligible Métis clients who require monetary assistance to acquire documents necessary for admissions into approved training or employment.

**Pre-Career and Skills Development Program** aims to assist Métis clients to transition to the labour force, completing Grade 12 equivalency, or post-secondary education or training.

**Occupational Skills Training Program (OST)** aims to assist Métis clients to prepare for the workforce by attending recognized provincially or federally accredited learning institutions. Programs must be student loan eligible or industry recognized. Financial support includes tuition, books and supplies, income support, day care, travel, and special needs.

**Work Experience Program** assists clients to develop

marketable skills and experience, and transition to career related employment. It includes wage subsidies for summer students and those transitioning into permanent employment.

**Indigenous Apprenticeship Program** assists Indigenous clients to secure apprenticeship positions with employers to help them develop marketable skills and experience with a plan leading to journey person certification.

**Pathways for Entrepreneurship** assists Métis clients to prepare for, create, maintain, and/or expand a personal business with a goal of increasing Métis entrepreneurship in Saskatchewan.

**Employment Maintenance Program** supports Métis clients to start, or to keep their job. Clients with a written offer of employment are eligible for a one-time Employment Transition allowance for expenses such as work boots, fuel, bus ticket, appropriate work attire, medical examination, etc. Clients who are recent graduates from a GDITE sponsored intervention are eligible for professional development supports.

**Partnership Program** gives GDITE the ability to contribute to partnerships with other organizations to improve training and employment services for Métis clients in Saskatchewan. Usually, partnership programming involves a memorandum of understanding (MOU) or partnership agreement. These partnerships build innovative approaches that further the objectives of the ISET. 



# GDSF Golf Tournament Raises Record Amount

By James Oloo

The Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation (GDSF) Eighth Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament, held at Moon Lake Golf and Country Club in Saskatoon on May 31, 2019, hit a hole in one, raising a record \$46,870.

Congratulations to the top scoring team comprising [Sakitawak Development Corp.](#) (Tyler Morin and Jeff) and [Clarence Campeau Development Fund](#) (Ryan Patterson and Dean Villeneuve) and to all the 35 teams that participated.

Special thanks to all sponsors, volunteers, and the GDSF head Amy Briley. 🏌️



## Payroll Cutoff Calendar, July 2019

By Carmala Thiessen and Veronica Verzonowski

Institute staff at the Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation Golf Tournament on May 31, 2019  
 From left: Christina Desjarlais, Ryan Nordmarken, Gabriel Olver, Angie Rathgeber, Catherine Demontigny, and Trevor McGowan  
 Photo by James Oloo

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

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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Back issues of this newsletter  
can be obtained at:

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

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**GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE**  
of Native Studies and Applied Research

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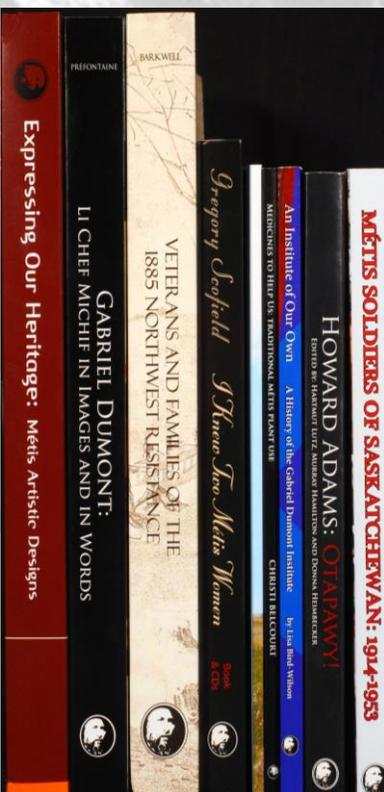
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[https://gdins.org/student-  
services/library/](https://gdins.org/student-services/library/)

### 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