

November 2019  
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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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## Métis Student Honoured For Outstanding Research

By NC Raine

Adam McInnes, a biomedical engineering student at the University of Saskatchewan (U of S), is being recognized for research that could one day impact millions of lives.

McInnes, a Métis student, was recently awarded the prestigious Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship, \$150,000 over three years, for demonstrating excellence in research at a Canadian university. His research is looking at promoting tissue growth for 3D printing of artificial organs that may be used for transplants.

"I don't know if it's really sunk in yet, to be honest," McInnes said about receiving the Vanier. "It was quite a shock, a good shock."

More specifically, McInnes is looking at two different proteins that the body finds favourable to work with, and putting them together. He hopes, by putting them together, they will complement each other's strengths and reduce the drawbacks – creating a protein that will degrade slower and have improved biocompatibility. His PhD research will focus on printing this protein into a scaffold that he can then attempt to grow tissues with.

"It sounds complicated, but to me it's rather straightforward," he laughs.

The kernel to work in tissue engineering was planted at a young age, he said, about 13 or 14, when he saw a program about the Vacanti mouse (aka ear mouse), a laboratory mouse which appeared to have a human ear on its back. It was an early proof of concept that showed McInnes what the possibilities were in science.

Now McInnes is working towards making a significant contribution to regenerative medicine, which has the potential to be a multi-billion-dollar industry.

"This larger field (of regenerative medicine) is going to revolutionize how we practice medicine. It looks at how we rejuvenate, repair, or even replace damaged tissues in the body," he said. "It can get into organ transplantation, hypothetically being able to grow a liver or kidney (...) that's the eventual hope."

McInnes also said several other applications are possible, including in pharmaceutical research for developing and testing new drugs.

"If this works, we can get a better understanding during the early phases of these tests, and hopefully help the drug development process." When he's not working to revolutionize contemporary

medicine, McInnes is involved with the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) as the President of the Métis Local 126. Some of their current efforts include applying for different academic grants, a housing grant for Métis people in Saskatoon, and starting a 4H club to teach Métis culture to kids.

"I did not grow up around that culture or community, so I am trying to learn more about my culture, who I am, and where I belong within the Métis community," he said. "Not just as a scientist, but as a human being, I think I have an obligation to be a role model and help the next generation."

Dr. Adam McInnes has a Doctor of Medicine degree from the U of S College of Medicine. The Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship program was launched in 2008 to establish Canada as a global centre of excellence in research and higher learning. Vanier Scholars demonstrate leadership skills and a high standard of scholarly achievement in graduate studies in the social sciences and humanities, natural sciences and/or engineering and health. Incredible leadership Adam!

*This article first appeared in the Eagle Feather News in October 2019. It is reprinted here with permission.*

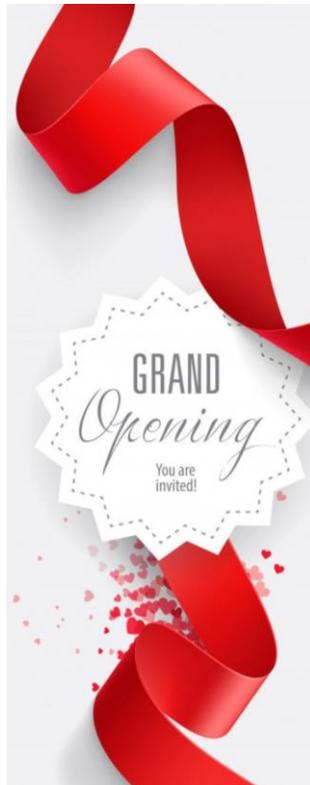


Grand Opening  
of the GDI  
Métis Culture and Heritage  
Department



When: November 14, 2019  
@ 1:30 pm

Where: 917 22nd Street West  
Saskatoon



GDI Board of Governors  
approves motion for 2019  
**Christmas Break:**

18/19 - MOVED BY:  
Viola Bell;  
SECONDED BY:  
Dennis Langan

"That the GDI Board of  
Governors approve the  
following dates as the  
Christmas break:

The Institute will be CLOSED  
from Monday December 23<sup>rd</sup>,  
2019 to Wednesday,  
January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 (inclusive).  
To return on Thursday  
January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020."  
CARRIED.

## Driver Training Program Update

By Ashley Goy

Gabriel Dumont Institute Training and Employment (GDI Training and Employment), in partnership with Dumont Technical Institute (DTI), has begun another programming year with a successful Class 5 Driver Training Program. This program provides students the opportunity to gain their Class 7 Learner's License and/or their Class 5 Driver's License. Having a Driver's License is oftentimes a key component for employability and can be a barrier for clients who do not have one.

By providing the Class 5 Driver Training Program, GDI

Training and Employment and DTI are giving each student an opportunity to reach their goals of obtaining a Class 5 Driver's License. So far this school year, the Driver Training Program has been delivered in Buffalo Narrows and Weyakwin, Saskatchewan. The Buffalo Narrows students completed the six hours of in-class instruction and the six hours of practical in-car instruction along with writing/driving their examination(s). The Weyakwin Class 5 Driver Training Program began at the end of October and runs through November. The instruction for each of the

programs follows the Saskatchewan Government Insurance's (SGI) requirements and the Buffalo Narrows and Weyakwin tests are also administered by SGI.

The students from the Buffalo Narrows Class 5 Driver Training Program had excellent results, with 86% of the students passing their Class 7 Learner Exams, and 80% of the students completing the necessary requirements of the program. GDI Training and Employment and DTI are looking forward to another successful program year for the Class 5 Driver Training Program. 🌐

## GDI Holds Grand Opening for New Facility

By James Oloo

On November 14, 2019, dignitaries, invited guests, community members, partners, board members, and staff gathered at Gabriel Dumont Institute Central Office in Saskatoon for the grand opening of the Institute's newly renovated and expanded facility.

The 8,400 square foot expansion houses the Institute's Métis Culture and Heritage Department and Gabriel Dumont Institute Press. It also includes the Métis museum, art gallery, a new boardroom, and office space. Geordy McCaffrey - GDI Executive Director and emcee for the event - noted that with the new space, the Institute now owns about 74,000 square foot of property across Saskatchewan.

The Honourable Russell Mirasty, Lieutenant Governor

of Saskatchewan, started his speech by saying, "It is a pleasure to be here at Gabriel Dumont Institute. You have a beautiful facility here." Noting that "Métis are resilient people," Mr. Mirasty said, "It warms my heart to see Indigenous people providing educational opportunities for our people. I want to thank GDI for the work you have done in promoting education across Saskatchewan."

President Glen McCallum of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) commended GDI for its work as an educational and cultural institute.

Dr. Earl Cook, who serves as the Chair of the GDI Board of Governors and MN-S Minister of Education, acknowledged the presence of representatives of the Clarence Campeau Development Fund, CIBC,

and other partner organizations. He also recognized Institute employees for their work and dedication.

His Worship Charlie Clark, Mayor of Saskatoon, stated that "To be a good leader, you have to know who you are and where you are coming from," adding that, "GDI plays a great role as a place where future leaders come for their education and be grounded in their identity and history."

Geordy thanked the over 200 "Institute staff who work hard each day to help us meet our mandate." He also said, "Sorry to employees who were displaced during the construction."

The Honourable Mirasty, Elder Margaret Harrison, and President McCallum commemorated the celebration with the untying of a Métis sash.

*Continued on Page 5*



## Important Dates To Remember

The 13th annual Gabriel Dumont Institute Saskatoon staff Secret Santa gift exchange will be held on Wednesday December 18, 2019 at the 1003-22nd Street West Building. This will be done over lunch hour (12pm to 1pm) in the Community Room. For more information, please contact Randi Ross at randi.ross@gdite.gdins.org.

The annual Gabriel Dumont Institute Christmas Saskatoon luncheon will take place on December 20, 2019 at the Saskatoon Inn at 11:30 am. The luncheon will be held in conjunction with our December board meeting. It is expected that those who plan to attend have confirmed their attendance with Rhonda Pilon (rhonda.pilon@gdi.gdins.org).

The last day of work before Christmas break is December 20, 2019. Gabriel Dumont Institute will reopen on Thursday January 2, 2020. Please see page 5 for the December 2019 Payroll Cutoff Calendar. If you have any questions, please contact Robbie Walliser at robbie.walliser@gdi.gdins.org. It has been a great year! 🌍

## In Conversation with Dayna Georges

By James Oloo and Kaylie Bell

We recently sat down with Dayna Georges for a conversation about her journey through the Gabriel Dumont Institute Indigenous Apprenticeship Program to attain the highest certification in her chosen skilled trade.

Dayna is a Métis woman and mother. She recently attained her Interprovincial Journeyman-certification as a Heavy Duty Equipment Technician (Class of 2019), and currently works with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure as a mechanic. The Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission describes Heavy Duty Equipment Technician program as a 'male-dominated trade.'

Dayna noted that she has always enjoyed making things with her hands. After completing high school, she decided to visit Gabriel Dumont Institute to learn about opportunities that are available. "Well, I am Métis and the Gabriel Dumont Institute Indigenous Apprenticeship Program offers funding and support to Métis people. So, it was a good choice."

She started the apprenticeship program in January 2011 and soon completed Heavy Duty Equipment Technician Level 1. Dayna then took time away from the apprenticeship program and got a job.

She returned to continue her training and successfully wrote her journeyman exams in August 2019.

About Gabriel Dumont Institute and the Kaylie Bell, the employment counsellor who worked closely with her, Dayna says, "They stood by me from the moment I began this journey. Even after stepping away from my career goal for a little while, it was not hard to go back to where I left off." She continued, "Gabriel Dumont Institute did not give up on me. Rather, they stood by me until I achieved my goal of becoming a journeyman."

When asked if there was any specific experience with Gabriel Dumont Institute that she would like to talk about, Dayna said: "All of my experiences with Gabriel Dumont Institute are positive! From funding, down to receiving help to get to school, and preparing for exams. And having such an amazing

counsellor, Kaylie Bell, who helped me with everything I needed, and kept me on top of all the paper work was fantastic."

So, what was it like for Dayna to be a woman in male-dominated trade? "It was tough, I am not going to lie," she said. Adding, "But there were also positives as well. In my own experience, I had to prove myself a lot. There were always those who doubted my ability and drive. However, as each year passed, I think I did okay, that is why they kept me around."

When asked about her current employment, Dayna said, "I love working at the Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure in Meadow Lake. I get to work on a variety of equipment alongside amazing coworkers who have become important part of my life."

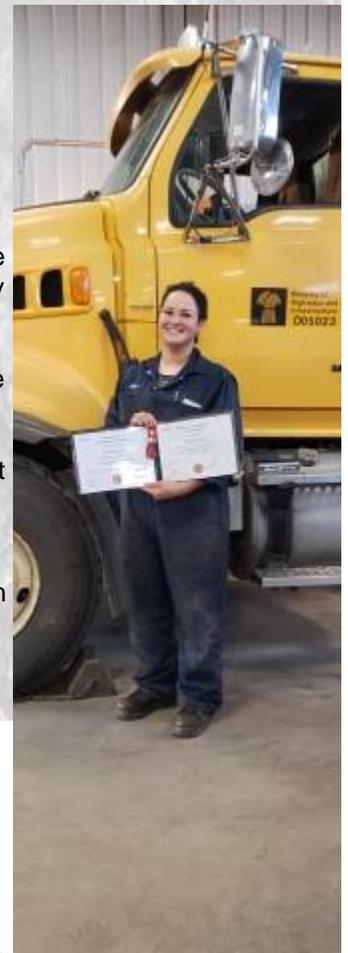
Dayna offered a few words to those, especially Indigenous women, who are considering careers in the skilled trades: "Keep your head up. There will always be good and bad in every situation."

*Continued on Page 4*

### GDI Indigenous Apprenticeship



**Dayna Georges** is all smiles. She is a Red Seal Interprovincial Journeyman-certified Heavy Duty Equipment Technician



Photos courtesy of D. Georges



GDI Training & Employment

# GDI Apprenticeship Clients Honoured at Awards Gala

By James Oloo and Jodi Dolter



Jayden Roufosse received Outstanding New Journeyperson Award



Craig Mamer received SaskPower Outstanding Journeyperson Award



Dayna Georges  
Photos courtesy of GDITE

Three past participants in the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Indigenous Apprenticeship Program - Jayden Roufosse, Mathew McCallum, and Craig Mamer - were honoured at the 19th Annual Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission (SATCC) Apprenticeship Awards gala on November 1, 2019 in Regina. The annual event celebrates “outstanding achievements within Saskatchewan’s apprenticeship system.”

Jayden Roufosse received two awards: an Outstanding New Journeyperson award, and a First Nations and Métis Scholarship Award.

Jayden joined the GDI Indigenous Apprenticeship Program in March 2016. He completed his Red Seal Interprovincial Journeyperson Certification (Welder) in April 2019 having worked with the same company, D.A.B. Welding and Repair Ltd., Saskatoon, and the same employment counsellor – Audrey Arcand.

Audrey is an employment counsellor at GDI Training and Employment in Saskatoon. As she noted: “Jayden was a great client to work with and I wish all my clients were like him. He was also the first client I have ever worked with from when they started the apprenticeship program to when they attain their journeyperson certification.”

Mathew McCallum is an Interprovincial Journeyperson-certified Carpenter from Pinehouse. He received the SIIT Joint Training Committee Journeyperson’s Award. Matthew worked closely with Marina Morin – as his employment counsellor. Marina looks after the GDI Training and Employment office in Beauval.

Craig Mamer received SaskPower Outstanding Journeyperson Award. He holds an Interprovincial Journeyperson certification as a Powerline Technician. Craig completed the first two years of his apprenticeship through the GDI Indigenous Apprenticeship program in Meadow Lake, in a

partnership between GDI and SaskPower. His employment counsellor at GDI Training and Employment office in Meadow Lake was Kaylie Bell.

Interprovincial journeyperson examinations for each designated trade in Saskatchewan are generally developed by a national committee of worker and employer representatives. They are based on industry’s standards and expectations.

Dwayne Docken, Manager of the Indigenous Apprenticeship Program, and Jodi Dolter, the Indigenous Apprenticeship Administrative Assistant, attended the SATCC awards gala. Also in attendance was Brett Vandale, the Director of Dumont Technical Institute and Métis representative on the SATCC Board.

Congratulations to Jayden, Mathew, and Craig, and to all employment counsellors at the GDI Training and Employment offices across Saskatchewan. Good job Audrey Arcand, Kaylie Bell, and Marina Morin.

## Dayna Georges: A Success Story ... *Continued from Page 3*

Dayna continued, “Keep reading your schoolwork even when you don’t have to;” and “Always, always ask questions. People are generally supportive and willing to help you succeed.”

Dayna pointed out that “the best way to learn [is to] get your hands dirty.” As she put it, “You learn by doing. That is what apprenticeship is about.”

Now that she has successfully completed

training and started her career with the Ministry of Highways, what are Dayna’s professional goals? Her answer is simple. “To further my knowledge, and to train someone as good as the guys who trained me.”

Dayna concluded our conversation by expressing gratitude for the support she received along the way. “Thank you so so much to Gabriel Dumont Institute and the Ministry of Highways for sticking by me and pushing me to finally be where I need to

Over the years, Gabriel Dumont Institute’s partnership with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways has provided opportunities for several Indigenous people to complete their apprenticeship training at the Ministry’s facilities across the province. Dayna Georges is the latest Métis woman to complete her journeyperson certification via the GDI Indigenous Apprenticeship Program and has been offered employment by the Ministry of Highways.



# Grand Opening of GDI Facility in Saskatoon ... *Continued from Page 4*

Also present at the grand opening ceremony were board members Viola Bell, Dennis Langan, Glenn Lafleur, Tracy Tinker, Jimmy Durocher, Jackie Kennedy, and Juanita Tuharsky.

The MN-S was represented by Billy Kennedy, Sports and Recreation Minister; Mervin Bouvier, Minister of Environment; Jaycee Bell, Minister of Youth; and Lisa McCallum, the Secretary.

Others dignitaries included Dr. Ryan Meili, MLA for Saskatoon Meewasin; Mr. David Forbes, MLA for the Saskatoon Centre; and Mr. David Buckingham, the MLA for Saskatoon Westview.



Elder Margaret Harrison, President Glen McCallum of the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan, and Hon. Russell Mirasty—the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan untie a Sash to commemorate the grand opening celebration at Gabriel Dumont Institute, Saskatoon  
Photo by James Oloo

## Payroll Cutoff Calendar, December 2019

By Carmala Thiessen and Veronica Verzonowski

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

# Gabriel Dumont Institute/Dumont Technical Institute

917 22<sup>nd</sup> Street West  
Saskatoon, SK  
S7M 0R9

PHONE:  
(306) 242-6070

FAX:  
(306) 242-0002

E-MAIL:  
[general@gdi.gdins.org](mailto:general@gdi.gdins.org)

Visit us at  
[www.gdins.org](http://www.gdins.org)

Back issues of this newsletter  
can be obtained at:

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

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**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

### Métis Culture and Heritage Department/ GDI Press

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

### 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

Phone: (306) 347-4110

### 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