

December 2019
Volume 13, Issue 12
Gabriel Dumont Institute
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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Employee Appreciation Year End Luncheon

By James Oloo

As is always a December tradition at Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), the Institute employees across the province held year end luncheons to mark the end of the year and kick off the holiday season.

In Saskatoon, the luncheon and employee appreciation was held on December 20, 2019 at the Saskatoon Inn. The event brought together GDI Board members as well as employees from the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Saskatoon, Finance and Operations, Gabriel Dumont College, Culture and Heritage Department, Dumont Technical Institute, and Gabriel Dumont Institute Training and Employment.

Dr. Earl Cook, the GDI Board Chair, thanked the Institute staff and board members for their dedication and hard work, noted that “GDI is the leading Métis post-secondary institution in Canada.”

Executive Director Geordy McCaffrey highlighted successes of all GDI companies and programs during 2019. Some highlights are presented below.

GDI Training & Employment

We became the first Métis organization to deliver on the Canada-Métis Post-Secondary Accord. More than

470 Métis students in Saskatchewan were approved for funding through the Métis Nation University Sponsorship program.

The GDI Indigenous Apprenticeship Program has resulted in more than 500 new jobs since 2017. Because of our impressive results, GDI will receive \$1.15M in additional federal funds to strengthen the program.

Over the past year, almost 1,800 Métis clients accessed GDI Training and Employment programs across all Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) regions, an increase of 100% from the previous year. Further, GDI Training and Employment served 102 clients with self-identified disabilities – the largest number on record.

Dumont Technical Institute

In the 2018-2019 school year, Dumont Technical Institute had a total enrolment of 940 students in its programs across. This was the largest enrolment in DTI history.

DTI delivered the Indigenous Birth Support Worker program in partnership with the Saskatchewan Health Authority, GDI T&E, and Saskatoon Tribal Council this fall. It is the first program of its kind in Saskatchewan. The program registered 100%

graduation rate, and 90% of graduates found jobs with the Saskatchewan Health Authority.

To date, 322 individuals have graduated from the Practical Nursing program. This is very significant given that more than 50% of healthcare professionals in Saskatchewan received their training outside Saskatchewan.

Gabriel Dumont College

25 students in the Community-based Master of Education program in Prince Albert graduated last summer. To date, a total of 70 students have earned their Master of Education degrees at GDI.

In September, we launched a new teacher education program in La Ronge. The four-year Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NSITEP) will help address challenges for teacher recruitment and retention in Northern Saskatchewan. GDI is offering the program in partnership with the Lac La Ronge Indian Band and the University of Regina.

GDSF

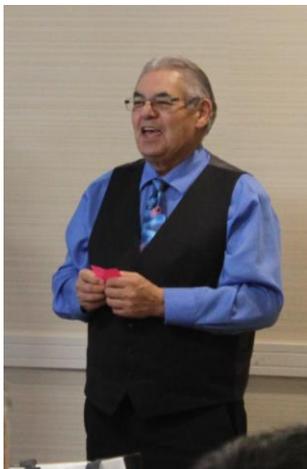
Over the past year, the Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation (GDSF) awarded 400 scholarships worth \$448,800 to Métis students. This was the largest amount of student financial assistance in the history of the Institute.

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First Cohort of Liberal Arts Program Graduates

By University Advancement and Communications



Dr. Earl Cook, Chair GDI Board of Governors, at the December 20, 2019 Christmas luncheon



Jimmy Durocher, outgoing GDI Board member, speaking at the year end luncheon

Photos by James Oloo



Jolene Tinker (left) and Sherry Larivière (right) - daughter-mother duo graduated together with their Liberal Arts Certificates in Pinehouse

Photo Courtesy of J. Tinker

On December 17, 2019 at a graduation ceremony in the northern village of Pinehouse, SK, the first cohort of 19 Indigenous students celebrated the successful completion of the Liberal Arts Certificate program. The program is delivered by Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) in partnership with the University of Regina.

The partnership between GDI and the U of R was first established 40 years ago. The partnership recognizes the sovereignty of Indigenous peoples and enables GDI to deliver University of Regina programs to Métis students. First Nations and Inuit students also attend GDI. With a main goal of providing Métis people with access to post-secondary education, GDI is owned by the Métis people of Saskatchewan and one of its key goals is to help expand educational opportunities for the Métis.

“The U of R has a strong goal of working with Indigenous communities in Saskatchewan, including

Dumont Technical Institute Christmas Celebration

By Kristen Rутten

The staff and students at Dumont Technical Institute Regina Campus held a Christmas celebration on December 16, 2019. For a moment in time, the programs coordinated schedules, clinicals, and exams to ensure everyone's participation. The halls were filled with Ugly Sweaters, Elves, Christmas Jammies and Festive Outfits galore.

Laughter rang through the building as we engaged in a Christmas Kahoot and Métis

Métis and other communities in northern Saskatchewan,” states Professor Harvey King, Director of the Centre for Continuing Education at the University of Regina. “In Fall 2018, Dr. Vianne Timmons, U of R President and Vice-Chancellor, and others (myself included) visited Pinehouse as part of our northern community tour. There was shared excitement for this program to help their students and communities grow and achieve development and success. We are honoured to work with GDI to help the Pinehouse community and students to achieve their goals.”

An enhanced affiliation agreement renewed in October 2019, has led to a number of partnerships, including GDI and the U of R working together to offer the Liberal Arts Certificate program offered in Pinehouse and La Ronge.

“In the end, it becomes more than just GDI or U of R, because there is community ownership and buy-in,”

Kahoot competition. “I learned a lot about my Métis culture,” one Office Administration student said about the competition.

Following the Kahoot, the students created their own Métis inspired Christmas decorations. They used the Medicines to Help Us kits for inspiration. Their creations were amazing! It was a perfect infusion of Christmas and Métis culture. As one of the students noted, “I like that I made my first Christmas

explains GDI Research Coordinator James Oloo. “GDI delivers the program; grads earn a U of R credential. It is a win-win situation for GDI, U of R, and Indigenous students.”

The Liberal Arts Certificate is a cohort model that is delivered via face-to-face instruction in the community. As such, the program is designed to be portable with the ability to relocate as need and demand requires. The program is offered over a 12-month period and the course load is modified and reduced to ensure success.

“In 2014, I was accepted to SUNTEP in Prince Albert. My kids were very small and it was my first time leaving the community. I did not succeed,” reflects graduate Jolene Tinker. “So when they offered the Liberal Arts Certificate program right here in Pinehouse, I jumped at the opportunity. I got to stay in my community, around my kids and my supports – this increases the likelihood of success.”

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decoration with a Métis symbol and my name.”

In true Métis style, we had a gigantic feast. The potluck dishes were endless. The food was nourishing to our bodies and souls, and the conversation was rejuvenating. The Christmas party marked a great start of the festive season.

Thank you to GDI Training and Employment for providing prizes for our games and competitions.

Much fun was had by all. 🌐



Christmas Luncheon in Saskatoon ... *Continued from Page 1*

Human Resources

The number of our employees has been increasing by an average of about 5% annually over the past five years. Last year, 213 people were working at GDI – the largest number in the Institute history.

Almost one out of every four (23%) of our employees has been with the Institute for more than 10 years.

Métis Culture and Heritage

The GDI Publishing Department was renamed the Métis Culture and Heritage Department to reflect our broad cultural mandate. The Department moved to a brand new location. It also produced Northern Michif To Go app that has been quite popular.

Karon Shmon, the Director of Métis Culture and Heritage, was honoured by the University of

Saskatchewan for her contribution to Indigenous education.

Dr. Cook thanked outgoing board members Glenn Lafleur and Jimmy Durocher, for their service to the Institute and the Métis Nation. Mr. Lafleur represented the MN-S Northern Region I on the GDI Board, while Mr. Durocher has been the representative of Northern Region III. 🌐

Christmas Luncheon, Saskatoon



Glenn Lafleur, Speaking at the year end luncheon, said: "I'm proud to have been a part of GDI as a Board member. Thank you everyone for the great job you do."

Testing Services Update

By Kristi Ross

The Gabriel Dumont Institute Testing Services Department, located at the Dumont Technical Institute Building on 1003-22nd Street West Saskatoon, had a busy year with clients writing their exams and renovations going on at building. We have worked closely with the Institute's Facilities Management and Operations to create a space where students and clients can feel comfortable before writing their exams. The space has been used regularly by all students and continues to grow.

In 2019, we administered tests to 399 individuals. These included 192 who wrote their General Educational Development (GED); 77 who sat for the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination (CPNRE); and 100 clients who did Accuplacer. As well, 14 clients wrote IXL while 16 nursing students were also served by the Testing Centre.

The numbers of students and clients who wrote their exams in Saskatoon decreased slightly from 2018 because the Testing Services Department was opened just one day each

week (on Thursdays) due in part to staff shortages.

Our advertisement campaigns and community outreach resulted in an increasing number of students and clients from outside Saskatoon using our testing services.

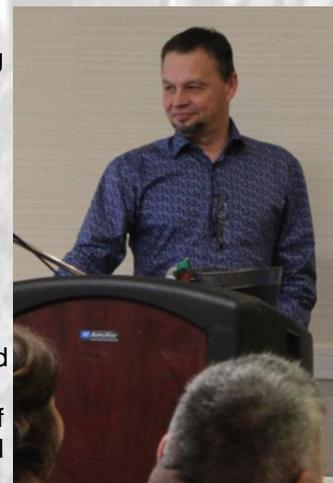
Our friendly staff makes our facility a welcoming place and we have received numerous positive remarks from our clients. Janelle Duplessis works the testing department on Thursday's with Dumont Technical Institute Administrative Assistants covering when needed. I would like to thank Janelle for her continued efforts in helping at the Testing Centre while performing her regular duties as position as Faculty in the Adult Basic Education program. She continues to provide me with great feedback and keeps us updated with concerns if they come up.

In September, the Testing Centre partnered with the practical nursing program to provide support and testing for their online exams. Each week, students and staff use the space which provides the

Centre with more traffic on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The Practical Nursing staff and the Testing Services have ensured that we are providing the proper equipment and space for our students. We will continue to work with the program to provide their testing.

Our hope for the New Year is to remain open Thursdays and gradually opening the centre more when we can utilize staff during quieter periods. We will continue to work with programs to provide their online testing needs. Further, the Testing Services mobile lab will be working in Buffalo Narrows to assist with the GED program.

We will continue to provide Accuplacer and IXL services to GDI Training and Employment and continue expanding our services and reaching more students and clients. As well, discussions with the Correctional Services are ongoing with the goal of establishing a mutually-beneficial partnership. Overall, the 2019 calendar year has been rewarding and I am excited to see more growth and numbers climb. 🌐



Geordy McCaffrey Executive Director



Cory McDougall Director of Finance
Photos by James Oloo



A World of Information on Your Desktop

By GDI Library Staff



From left: Abby Pelletier, Janelle Duplessis, and Kristi Ross. Dumont Technical Institute, Saskatoon
Photo by James Oloo

Did you know that even if it is inconvenient for you to use one of the three Gabriel Dumont Institute Library locations in Prince Albert, Regina, or Saskatoon, you can still access library resources at your desk or in your classroom? Through participation in the Saskatchewan Electronic Resources Partnership (which enables post-secondary, public, and special libraries in Saskatchewan to pool funds to purchase access to licensed digital content) and by leveraging the capabilities of our library management software, GDI Libraries are able to provide Institute staff, students, and clients with access to a wide variety of electronic content.

There is something for everyone, whether you're looking for car repair manuals, historical documents, health research, news, or just to browse the latest issue of your favourite

magazine. In the coming months, GDI Library staff will be profiling some of the content that you and your students or clients can access from an Internet-connected device at any of the Institute's locations across the province. First up: Frontier Life.

Frontier Life:

Borderlands, Settlement & Colonial Encounters is a database of digitized content dealing with Indigenous-settler relations in Africa, Australia and New Zealand, Central America, and North America. A co-operative effort between museums, libraries, and archives on those continents, it contains digitized copies of documents dating from the 17th century to the mid-20th century.

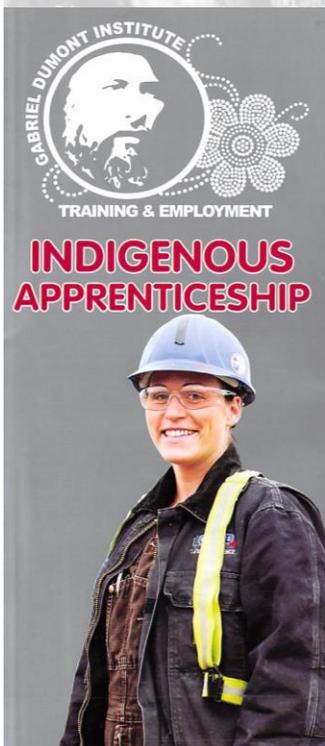
Of particular interest are contributions from the Glenbow Museum, the Manitoba Museum, and the Hudson's Bay Company Archives. Materials that previously could only have been viewed by way of an out-of-province road trip

are now available on your computer screen, including censuses of the Red River Settlement; diaries, letters, and wills of people living there and in other parts of what later became Western Canada; and hand-drawn maps, land registers, account books, fur-trade post journals, images, etc.

There are two ways to retrieve content from this database. The first is to do a search on keywords in [Quick Find](#) (the GDI Libraries' catalogue) and then click through to view the digitized content in the Frontier Life interface. This is a good strategy if you're looking for something very specific that you know is included in Frontier Life, and you just want to go straight to it as quickly as possible.

Alternately, you can search for "Frontier Life" in the Quick Find search box, and click through to the database's interface.

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For more information about GDI Indigenous Apprenticeship Please contact Jodi Dolter, Admin Assistant apprenticeships@gdins.org 1-877-488-6888

Pinehouse Liberal Arts Program ... *Continued from Page 3*

Tinker and her mother and fellow graduate Sherry Lariviere, both described their experiences as challenging and hard work. They were both grateful for the instructors who provided thoughtful and timely support, and who were approachable and helpful, always taking the time to answer questions.

The daughter-mother duo were able to support each other – ensuring neither gave up – and where one struggled, the other offered help within subject areas in which they excelled.

"I loved going to school and being challenged. It was awesome and I would do it again," exclaims Lariviere. "Thank you to Gabriel Dumont Institute for this opportunity and for bringing the University of Regina to our small community – this program opens doors to various fields we might be interested in."

Tinker and Lariviere hope to see this type of program offered in other northern communities, where it will open doors to education for Indigenous students previously thought shut.

Other programs delivered by the Institute in partnership with the University of Regina include the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) in Regina, the Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NSITEP) in La Ronge, as well as Community-based Master of Education program and Justice Studies program in Prince Albert.

This article first appeared on the University of Regina [website](#). It is reprinted here with permission. 



Gabriel Dumont Institute Library Update ... *Continued from Page 4*

Dumont Technical Institute

Once you are in the database, you can browse by thematic group, region, contributing organization, document type, etc.

This is an effective strategy when you want to familiarize yourself with the scope of the database's content and use some of its internal features to limit your searching by format, contributor, or region.

If you have questions or difficulty accessing Frontier Life or any of the licensed digital content available through the GDI Libraries' catalogue, please [contact](#) library staff for assistance.

Happy browsing! 🌟



Office Administration Class Photo Back row: Sara Healey, Deirdra Cossette, Michelle Easterby, Steve McNeill, Michelle Carr, and Salieena Harvey. Middle row: Kristen Rutten, Lorelei Linklater, Sam Ironchild, Desiree Vilbrunt, and Arienne Erhardt. Front row: Jaime Rockthunder, and Amanda Lowe

Photo Courtesy of Kristen Rutten

(Please see page 2)

Payroll Cutoff Calendar, January 2019

By Carmala Thiessen and Veronica Verzonowski

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

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.



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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

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Fax: (306) 244-0252

GDI Finance and Operations

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Fax: (306) 975-0903

DTI Central Office Saskatoon

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Fax: (306) 242-0002

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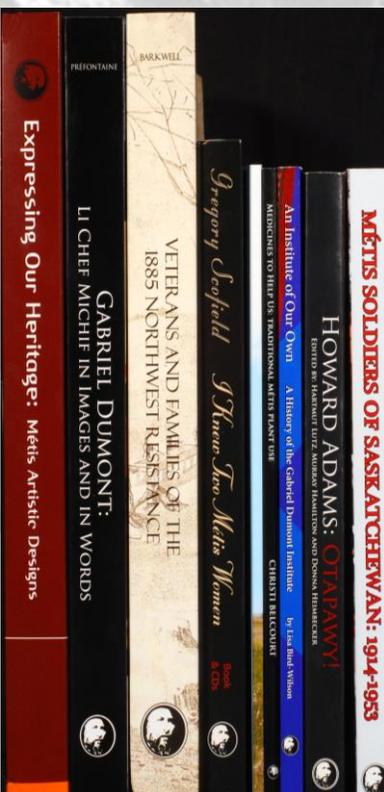
GDI Library Regina

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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