

January 2020
Volume 14, Issue 1
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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Kitchen Table Talks: Decolonizing Teacher Education

By Russell Fayant

In traditional Michif pedagogy (ways of teaching), the classroom was the kitchen, the Old Ones were the teachers and the land was the textbook. From the buffalo hunt, to the road allowance era, the skills we needed to survive and thrive as a people were often imparted around a kitchen table. It's a pedagogy that centers relationships, modeling, listening, watching, doing and the maintaining of high expectations.

Contemporary classrooms and learning resources offer us much in the way of making knowledge accessible and easily distributed, but they do not always offer a real and tangible connection to community, the land and ancestral knowledge.

At the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Regina Centre, we strive to assist our students in the reclaiming of their traditional ways of knowing and being, and to teach them how to engage with this knowledge in order to navigate and enhance mainstream education and classrooms. It is with this in mind that SUNTEP Regina staff and students recently organized and hosted a Métis kitchen table party as a culmination of a semester long journey of exploration and discovery.

The Faculty of SUNTEP Regina are constantly looking

for new ways to collaborate and to provide our students with unique and decolonizing experiences. Prior to the beginning of the semester, Faculty members Brenna Pacholko, Erin Kramer, Natalie McNabb and Russ Fayant met to discuss the possibility of a collaborative assignment. It was decided that a kitchen table party would be a great way to allow students of different years and classes to work together and to connect to community all while achieving curricular goals for our respective classes.

Erin Kramer's first year EPS 116 (Professional Studies) students were put in charge of cooking, invitations, and set up. This allowed them to build some valuable and necessary event organizing skills which come in handy as a classroom teacher.

Natalie McNabb's KHS 139 (Movement Education) class was in charge of the entertainment. SUNTEP Regina offers KHS 139 as a semester long Métis dance class. The students worked throughout the semester with Natalie and renowned Métis dance expert Jeanne Pelletier to practice three Métis square dances and of course the Red River jig which had all those who attended thoroughly entertained. In Russ Fayant's INDG 221 (Métis History) course,

second year students were tasked with researching an aspect of Métis/Michif history and re-telling it as a historical narrative.

The audience was regaled with recollections of Métis fur trade maven Madame Laframboise in addition to stories about Jim Brady, the Northwest Resistance and the loves of Louis Riel. Finally, Brenna Pacholko's third year EAES 215 (Educational Aesthetics) course had students reconstructing a portion of a road allowance house that was used as the backdrop to the dancing and storytelling.

Throughout the semester, Brenna's class informed themselves of road allowance construction techniques by visiting Kohkum's cabin at the Gabriel Dumont Institute Building in Saskatoon. They also took visits to the Lebrét Métis farm and talked with Old Ones about the types of materials used in constructing road allowance houses. Finally, they had well known Red River cart builder George Fayant visit their classroom to teach about traditional tools and wood joining techniques.

A number of students reflected on the process. This included third year student Kyra Menhart whose reflection was quite philosophical. As she put it:

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Decolonization of Land-Based Education

By Mandi Reigh Elles



"Life on the land is daily Ceremony."
- Mandi Reigh Elles, B.Ed,
SUNTEP Regina

Indigenous people across Canada are familiar with colonization and its lingering impact on our social and economic well-being. As Matthew Wildcat and others (2014) [remind](#) us, "if colonization is fundamentally about dispossessing Indigenous peoples from land, decolonization must involve forms of education that reconnect Indigenous peoples to land and the social relations, knowledges and languages that arise from the land."

Observing our world in realer than real environmental distress is no joke. We are part of a universal web of existence; we are not greater than the land. Yet the devastating effects of our modern lifestyles are causing great destruction and divide in our world today. My Nookum always tells us, "We need Mother Earth, she doesn't need us. Who knows when she will lift her skirts and shake us off?"

As a SUNTEP graduate, educator, mother and a concerned human, I believe a direct relationship with the land gives us a true understanding of our place and purpose on Mother Earth.

Indigenous stories, identity and worldviews are all tied to the land so our relationship with it means taking our responsibility of stewardship

seriously. From the classrooms and urban centers to on-reserve communities across Canada, Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) graduates are facilitating amazing land based experiences for citizens and students alike.

It is very exciting to see GDI taking a lead in promoting land-based education through its programs. The Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NSITEP), offered by GDI in La Ronge in partnership with the Lac La Ronge Indian Band and the University of Regina, is an excellent example of how Land-based education honours the relationship Indigenous peoples have with the land.

Land-based pedagogy is the progressive teacher that will provide us the tools to build healthy communities with sustainable futures. How can we better teach empathy? Instill responsibility and be examples of honorable human reciprocation? History? Survival skills? Land-based education offers higher levels of thinking not always found in traditional Western education. From harvesting plant medicines, to gardening and learning to track animals, there is a plethora of lessons to take from every season. There are no textbooks; instead we learn to read the land with our senses.

Life on the land is also daily ceremony. It connects us to our ancestors, develops strong communities and nourishes the interrelationship between the land and us. Indigenous ways of knowing are revitalized and passed down as the Elders and youth are able to bond over stories of language) term 'wahkotowin' is a word that is used to describe kinship as well as our relationship with natural systems of law.

We learn to be humble in knowing that as humans, our lives depend on other living things to survive. This also enables each of us to grow as a person. We are able to achieve mastery at different skill levels, feel a sense of belonging in groups and develop as leaders and protectors of our lands.

This year, I invite you to journey with me and the GDI Communicator as we explore the landscapes, Indigenous ways of knowing and stories of Saskatchewan. We will take a closer look at identifying traditional plant medicines, share recipes and beautiful photos. This ancient love and wisdom is the very medicine that will guide us to take action to grow and heal with Mother Earth. Ekoshi

Mandi Reigh Elles holds a bachelor of education degree from SUNTEP Regina. She is a teacher in the Regina Public School Division. 🌱

Kate Boyer: Métis Student Receives Academic Award

By Ashley Sharp and John Shelling

Kate Boyer is a first-year College of Arts and Science student in the Gabriel Dumont College program

where she is known for her commitment and ambition towards her Métis citizenship. She is culturally, academically,

and artistically talented with a dedication to life-long learning and always strives for excellence. *Continued on Page 4*



Photo by Mandi Reigh Elles



Gabriel Dumont Institute Celebrates 40th Anniversary

By James Oloo

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), a Métis-owned post-secondary and cultural institution, first opened its doors in Saskatoon in 1980. Today, GDI has offices and program delivery centres in 16 locations across Saskatchewan.

The Institute will hold its 40th Anniversary Métis Culture and Education Conference in Saskatoon from February 6 to 8, 2020. The Conference has a lineup of 50 workshops and presentations that fit with GDI's cultural and education mandate.

Twenty five individuals will be inducted into the Order of Gabriel Dumont (OGD). The OGD awards will be

presented to persons who have provided a service to the Métis of Canada with distinction, as well as to current and past Métis students for their excellence in leadership, academic and community work.

The GDI 40th Anniversary Métis Culture and Education Conference will also include a gala night of Métis entertainment. Keynote speakers include Maria Campbell, a renowned Métis author and Order of Canada recipient, and Jesse Thistle – a Métis scholar and best-selling author.

GDI has achieved significant milestones. Last year, over 3,300 students and clients accessed GDI programs.

In 1980, the first students at GDI had their class at a rented facility. Today, the Institute owns buildings in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, and La Loche covering over 74,000 square feet and is paying \$120,000 in property taxes to local communities annually.

GDI has contributed to Indigenization and reconciliation at Saskatchewan schools in several ways, including in teacher education. In 1980, then-Saskatchewan Education Minister Doug McArthur stated that there were “eight native teachers in Saskatchewan’s major urban centres out of a total teaching staff of 3,700.”
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Decolonizing Teacher Education ... *Continued from Page 1*

“The house is a piece of art that tells stories of our people. As students, our aim was to be authentic. The authenticity was driven by our goal to honour our Old Ones, their stories, and their memories within our house. Displaying it at the Métis kitchen party allowed us to see some of our biggest Métis role models enjoy it most. The party helped to weave together our stories, memories and laughter!”

The event was held at Eastview Community Center on November 22, 2019. It was important for the staff and students to bring the event to the Old Ones and community members, rather than asking them to travel to the university campus. Over 100 people attended, including Michif Old Ones Jeanne Pelletier, Irma Klyne, Jeanette Grams, Delora Parisian, Norma and

Joe Welsh, and Cliff Laplante. Others included former GDI employees Calvin Racette, Joanne Pelletier, and Beverly Cardinal.

We were also joined by the students, faculty, and staff from Dumont Technical Institute Adult Basic Education program which is currently housed at Eastview Community Center. In addition to the dancing and storytelling, invitees feasted on a student prepared meal of bannock, boulettes and stew.

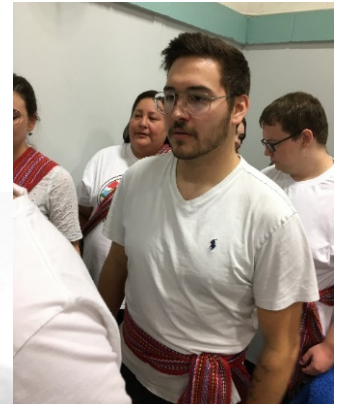
Michif cultural carrier and Old One Irma Klyne stated, “This was a great way to help our students understand how lii Michif lived on the road allowance. Most have no idea of what people needed to do daily to survive and how resourceful we were. This project allowed them to research that aspect of our lives.”

The road allowance home will continue to inform and inspire students and visitors to the GDI Library as the house has been transported and set up permanently within the library.

Overall, the day was a great success. Old Ones mingled with students as they shared road allowance memories sparked by the reconstructed home. Students were proud to share what they had learned with the community. Throughout the process, faculty observed high levels of commitment and engagement from students and we are excited to plan future collaborative assignments which will allow our SUNTEP community to continue to connect to our extended families and histories in the broader Michif community of Southern Saskatchewan.

Ekoshi. 🌐

SUNTEP Regina



Kurtis Noels, a SUNTEP Regina student, gets ready to demonstrate his Métis dance skills



Enn vway (Michif Old One), Jeanette Grams, checks out the Road Allowance house



Third year students Jordan Parisian and Kaleb Desjarlais help to set up the Road Allowance house in its new home in the GDI Library Regina
Photos by Russ Fayant



Award for Academic Excellence ... *Continued from Page 2*



Kate Boyer a first year student At Gabriel Dumont College will receive an award for academic excellence at the 2020 University of Saskatchewan Indigenous Student Achievement Awards on February 6, 2020

Photo by Carey Shaw

Boyer will receive an award for academic excellence at this year's Indigenous Student Achievement Awards on February 6, 2020. Indigenous students from across the University of Saskatchewan (USask) will be honoured at a ceremony to recognize their academic excellence, leadership, research endeavours or community engagement.

The award ceremony is part of [Indigenous Achievement Week](#), which celebrates the successes and contributions of Métis, First Nations and Inuit students, staff and faculty. The festivities include a public art project, speakers and celebrations in various locations across campus. We asked Boyer a few questions about her time at USask and what motivates her.

As a first-year student, you seem to have a good academic and social life balance. What has helped you to stay motivated and committed to your studies?

This makes me sound sort of weird I guess but in all honesty, I love learning. It's not that I love homework or anything (I definitely don't love that) but I like the challenge. In the olden days, they used to have battles and tests where people proved

themselves, but nowadays the equivalent to that is being a student, using your mind to prove yourself. Being a student is like being a modern-day hero. If I ever feel discouraged about school or anything like that I just remember what my dad told me: "love what you do, no matter what always find the fun in it."

What advice would you give to an Indigenous student just starting university classes?

I am speaking directly to Métis students here, those of you who are like me and don't look Indigenous and might feel like outsiders. Basically my philosophy is: If you cannot fit in anywhere then you might as well stand out everywhere. I mean you shouldn't feel trapped into being what other people expect of you. You should lead by your passions and your inner fire, not the guidelines set out for you.

What plans do you have for the future?

Well, I am open to whatever the universe has in store for me but what I would love to do is create public spaces that help bring about social solidarity and equality through design. If I can just make life a little better for a lot of people then that counts as a success to me.

Has there been someone in your life who has inspired you to get to where you are today?

Actually I am always inspired by Robin Williams. Though he wasn't in my life, I share his outlook on the importance of making people laugh or even just smile. I think there is no nobler pursuit than trying to make someone smile. As for someone in my life inspiring me... well, I'm inspired by everyone I meet in a different way. Everyone has a part of them that is totally amazing and admirable and I think we could all better ourselves by looking for that part in everyone.

This year's IAW theme is Indigenous knowledge systems. How can Indigenous knowledge systems improve the world we live in?

Well, since the world is holistic (as are most Indigenous knowledge systems) I believe it is very important to use these systems when solving global issues. Without looking at the full picture it is impossible to see the problem clearly. It would be like continuously filling a pail with water instead of fixing the hole.

The article was first published on news.usask.ca. It is reprinted here with permission.



INDIGENOUS APPRENTICESHIP

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

GDI 40th Anniversary Celebrations ... *Continued from Page 3*

The same year, the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) was launched. SUNTEP is a four-year Bachelor of Education program offered by GDI in Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert in partnership with the University of Regina,

the University of Saskatchewan, and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Advanced Education.

Over 1,300 Indigenous men and women have graduated from SUNTEP with Bachelor of Education degrees to date. Most of the graduates are

Most of the graduates are working in Saskatchewan schools as teachers and administrators there by impacting lives of thousands of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students across the province each day.

Continued on Page 5

40 Years of Métis Education and Culture ... *Continued from Page 4*

GDI 40th

Further, GDI, together with the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, and the University of Regina, launched a new Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NSITEP) in September 2019. NSITEP is a timely program that will reduce the challenge of teacher recruitment and retention in the north.

Another 70 students have graduated from the community-based Master of Education program that is delivered by GDI in Prince Albert in partnership with the University of Regina.

GDI has taken a lead in training Indigenous nurses.


by offering Practical Nursing programs in Regina, Prince Albert, and Saskatoon. To date, Dumont Technical Institute (a branch of GDI) has graduated 322 licensed practical nurses, or about 10% of the 2,977 licensed practical nurses who are currently working in the province.

Last fall, Dumont Technical Institute delivered the Indigenous Birth Support Worker program in partnership with the Saskatchewan Health Authority, and Saskatoon Tribal Council. 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.

GDI became the first Métis organization to deliver on the Canada-Métis Post-Secondary Accord. More than 470 Métis students in Saskatchewan received over \$1.1 million in funding through the Métis Nation University Sponsorship program in the fall of 2019.

The GDI Indigenous Apprenticeship Program has supported more than 1,000 jobs across Saskatchewan since 2011.

This article was first published in the *Maple Creek Advance Times*. 

Order of Gabriel Dumont Recipients

Gold Award:

John Arcand
Lawrence Barkwell, Posthumous
Clément Chartier

Silver Award:

Glenn Lafleur
Norma Welsh

Bronze Award:

Nicholas Bage
Taylor Carriere
Will Crawford
Dayna Georges
Laureen (Lucy) Guetre
Tanzy Janvier
Tracie Léost
Jennifer McGillis
Gwen Hardy Munro
Nikki Natomagan
Darren Quaal
Rhonda Roberts
Tyson Ross
Davida Ryan
Daulton Sinoski
Dylan Smart
Ashley Smith
Luke Smith
Rosine Thibault
Sarah Woytas

Payroll Cutoff Calendar, February 2020

By Carmala Thiessen and Veronica Verzonowski

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Finance Cutoff @ 4:30 for Feb 14 Student Payroll			Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run Cutoff @ 4:30 for TMS & Payroll Revisions for Jan 15 Payday	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheet & Payroll Revisions for Feb 14 Payday	Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Pmts on Student Feb 14 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Staff Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices Student Payday	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Family Day Stat Holiday	Finance Cutoff @ Noon for Feb 28 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for TMS & Payroll Revisions for Feb 28 Payday	Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Pmts on Student Feb 28 Direct Deposits	Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Pmts on Student Jan 31 Direct Deposits	Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	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.Métismuseum.ca/browse/
index.php/833](http://www.Métismuseum.ca/browse/index.php/833)

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

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Prince Albert, SK
S6V 1B2
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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