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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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SUNTEP PA: GDI Holds First-Ever Virtual Graduation

By James Oloo

Gabriel Dumont Institute held its first ever virtual graduation ceremony to honor the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Prince Albert Class of 2020 on May 14, 2020.

While everyone at SUNTEP and the Institute at large had hoped to celebrate the joyous occasion at the E. A. Rawlinson Centre for The Arts in Prince Albert, this could not be possible because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Geordy McCaffrey, GDI Executive Director, Bonnie Novotny, the Head of SUNTEP Prince Albert, and SUNTEP Prince Albert faculty and staff thanked and congratulated the 17 graduates.

The graduates included Shelby Constant, Susan Cox, Leah Drabot, Jennifer Durocher, Tia Ewashko, Amanda Hoey, Fayth Kaiswatum, Brett Little, Nicole Magnin, Ryan Munshaw, Jolene Peters, Kelsey Petit, Kelley Scriven, Ashley Smith, Brandi Soles, Tiffany Ross, and Cylie Williams.

"Graduation is a time of celebration and accomplishment for students," Said Bonnie Novotny. "It is a privilege to be part of SUNTEP Prince

Albert students' journey as they go through self-discovery, academic and personal accomplishments, and the ultimate success of completing their degree."

Bonnie, who is a SUNTEP Prince Albert graduate, asserted that "I know first-hand how empowering the program is. The students leave SUNTEP with friends, a sense of belonging, and a strong understanding of Métis and First Nations culture."

Geordy McCaffrey noted, "Everyone at the Institute is proud of the hard work, resilience and adaptability of the SUNTEP Prince Albert Class of 2020 in the face of the pandemic and what has become an unprecedented celebration of their achievement."

A common thread across the comments made by the graduates was positive words of gratitude and appreciation.

Shelby Constant said, "I want to thank staff at SUNTEP for their commitment and support over the past four years. I thank my family, without them, I would not be here today. I want to also thank me for not quitting and for doing the hard work."

Jennifer Durocher said, "SUNTEP has been my family for the past four years. I am grateful for my children for all the support and

patience, and for my mom and sister who were always just a phone call away. Thank you to my co-op teacher who was very supportive."

Tia Ewashko was quite candid in her reflection: "This journey was not always easy. So, I want to thank those who helped me along the way. SUNTEP Faculty, and the Catholic School Division for welcoming me with open arms and all the support during my practicum. I thank my students who were always in their best behavior, especially, when we had guests come in. Thanks to my friends and family. I am proud of myself and my classmates."

Fayth Kaiswatum explained why she was grateful: "SUNTEP has changed my life for the better. I am grateful to become an Indigenous role model for all the kids out there that need somebody just like I did. It was tough being a mom and full time student. But the people around me were loving, caring, and understanding." She continued, "Because of SUNTEP's supportive environment, I was able to earn my degree. I am excited about the future."

Amanda Hoey stated, "I thank my Creator, SUNTEP, and my mentors for each internship I had. A huge thank you to my mom and Dad."

Continued on Page 3



Gabriel Dumont Institute



For more information about GDI Indigenous Apprenticeship Program, please contact **Jodi Dolter** at 1-877-488-6888 or apprenticeships@gdins.org

Métis Enhance Culture and Programming

By Valerie G. Barnes-Connell

Much has happened with Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN-S) and thus, with the Jim Brady Métis Local #19 Corporation Inc. in recent months with the signing of the agreement between the federal Liberal government and MN-S.

On June 27, 2019, MN-S and the Government of Canada signed the Métis Recognition and Self-Government Agreement according to the MN-S news release dated June 27, 2019.

The signing was termed 'historic' and 'a momentous step toward reconciliation,' and recognizing MN-S's right to 'self-government and self-determination,' where the way is open to start working on basic governance concerns, including such areas as citizenship, leadership selection and financial accountability.

'This historic agreement is a major step toward guaranteeing our rights to our land, our resources, our education, and our culture. It is real progress for our people.' Glen McCallum, MN-S President, is quoted as saying in the news release.

The Agreement was the base for several initiatives here in La Ronge. The launch of the Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NSITEP) is history in the making, Earl Cook, MN-S Minister of Education, said at the launch September 5, 2019.

While there have been many new initiatives over the intervening months, MN-S's focus has been on supporting their members in the COVID-19 pandemic. MN-S announced \$2.88 in COVID-19 relief for Métis households for childcare supports, personal protective equipment (PPE) and cost of living hardships, according to the MN-S news release dated March 31, 2020.

MN-S announced programs to support Métis people through this pandemic – the Emergency Housing Support Program and the Personal Protective Equipment. Information is available through their regional representatives or by calling 1-833-343-8391. For Childcare Support, please contact Lisa Fleming at lfleming@mns.work or call 1-833-343-8391.

Among initiatives MN-S had been working on before the pandemic – early learning and childcare and post-secondary education, setting up a regional office in La Ronge, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) education and employment office with a counsellor.

The Métis Registry is another initiative, through with MN-S assists people with their membership registration. People can get assistance with this through their regional offices.

As a direct result of the signing of the Agreement, three new offices, housed in the Kikinahk Friendship Centre in La Ronge, opened in the fall of 2019. They are: an MN-S regional office with Manager Anne Dorion; GDI Training and Employment, with Employment Counsellor, Victoria Murray; and the Jim Brady Métis Local Corporation Inc. with President Laura Burnouf. Earl Cook is the Regional Representative and MN-S treasurer.

This article first appeared in the Spring 2020 edition of *Community Connections*, a publication of the Kikinahk Friendship Centre, La Ronge, Saskatchewan. 



Jack Shorter, 60 was one of the 18 graduates who earned their high school diplomas from the Dumont Technical Institute Adult Basic Education Level 4 Program in Saskatoon (See story on page 3). Photo by James Oloo

Dr. Stevenson Named Research Chair in Métis Studies


By James Oloo

Dr. Allyson Stevenson has been appointed the new Gabriel Dumont Research Chair in Métis Studies at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) College of Arts and Science.

The Gabriel Dumont Research Chair in Métis Studies position was established in 2018 as part of

[a five-year partnership](#) between USask and the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI). In total, GDI will contribute \$200,000 to fund the chair's research initiatives.

"Professor Stevenson is a highly productive educator and scholar. A past recipient of the GDI Graduate Student Bursary, Allyson's research on

Indigenous reproductive justice and child welfare have been funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council," said Geordy McCaffrey, GDI executive director. "Her work on the Métis Advisory Committee of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls was commendable. 



GDI Library Staff Ready to Help

By Kim Kovacs

As we settle into the strange new normal of life in a global pandemic, and as faculty across the Gabriel Dumont Institute's many programs begin planning for fall course offerings under challenging instructional circumstances, staff at the GDI Libraries – in Prince Albert, Saskatoon, and Regina – want you to know that we're ready to help.

Do you need help finding digital materials to replace paper-based class readings? Are you confused about copyright compliance for

materials uploaded to course management software? Are you having trouble accessing electronic resources from your home office? Are there physical materials you absolutely can't do without? Do you want to schedule online research skills tutorials for your students?

Library staff in Prince Albert and Regina are ready and willing to help you navigate these issues, and any others you may encounter as you adapt your instruction to meet our students' dual need for engaged learning and physical safety. (The Saskatoon Library is currently

unstaffed, but staff in Regina and Prince Albert are happy to assist Saskatoon folks from a distance).

If you've got a specific question in mind, or you just want to find out more about what the GDI Libraries can offer you and your students in the current environment, please get in touch.

The GDI Library catalogue is available [here](#). Contact information for staff can be found [here](#). We look forward to hearing from you! 🌐

DTI Holds Virtual Graduation for ABE Class of 2020

By Marilyn Black

The Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) Adult Basic Education (ABE) program in Saskatoon held a virtual graduation ceremony on May 25, 2020. We celebrated achievements of 18 students who completed ABE Level 4 and earned high school diplomas.

The 18 graduates included Tyson Bueckert, Brandon Caisse, Destiny Dzik, Richard Johnson, Kristin Kalk, Ryan Klyne, Brandon Larocque, Lisa Moberly, Josh Morin, Jesse Natewayes, Shelly Nesdole, Breanna Poitras, Morgan Ratt, Morgan Scott, Jack Shorter, Shaun Vandale, Gillis Norton, and Tyler Ramsay.

Another 13 graduates had successfully completed their upgrading: Kasie Ausland, Courtney-Dawn Ballendine, Shawna Battersby, Gloria Brown, Matt Desjarlais, Georgia Dolter, Kimberly Harris, Krystal Kirchner, Tyanna Seright, Katlyn Sharp,

Dawn St. Germain, Ryan Thompson, and Brandi Tourand.

Also honoured were 14 students who completed ABE Level 3. All 14 plan to return to DTI in September 2020 to complete their Level 4 studies.

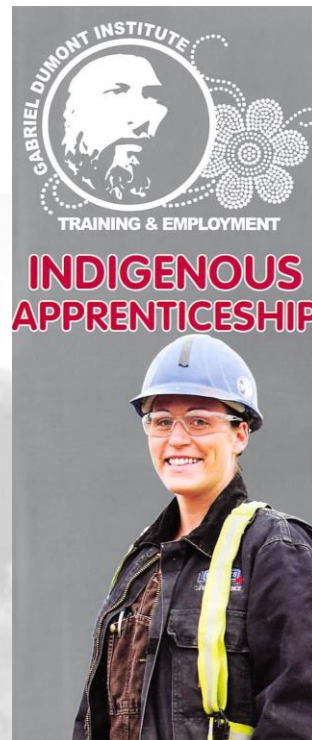
It's been a rather unique year. First, learning was moved from face-to-face to remote learning amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the amazing ABE instructors got down to task to ensure that all students had what they needed to continue on with their learning at home using various remote learning platforms such as Goggle Classroom, Facebook groups, and Zoom. Everyone quickly adapted to the new 'norm' for the remainder of the year.

It was an honour to work and learn alongside these goal-oriented graduates whose future plans include pursuing further studies in certificate, diploma and degree programs.

The graduation program opened with prayers followed by a speech by Cort Dogniez (Métis education consultant with Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools). The program coordinator, Marilyn Black and instructors each shared achievements and stories from the year, which showcased the determination and grit of the students, and Métis heritage in general.

Tyson Bueckert gave the valedictorian address and his family helped to decorate his home background. This was a beautiful show of DTI's impact students, families and the larger community. Each graduate received an 'award' and a blanket with an embossed DTI logo, along with the usual certificate and sash. More importantly, we learned that we are all strong, resilient and can learn in different settings – which is incredibly empowering and a characteristic of Métis people! Jennifer Mahlberg was the videographer. 🌐

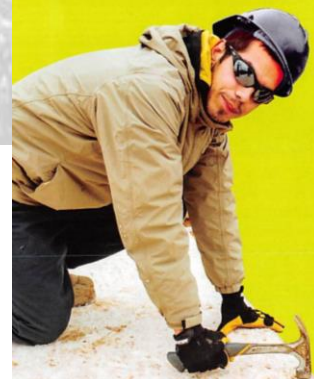
GDI Training & Employment



To qualify for the GDI Indigenous Apprenticeship you must

- ☞ Be an Indigenous person (Métis, First Nation or Inuit)
- ☞ Be unemployed or underemployed
- ☞ Have a genuine interest in working in the trades, and
- ☞ Meet eligibility requirements for registering as an apprentice.

*If you do not meet eligibility requirements for registering as an apprentice, GDITE has programs available to assist you to become qualified.



apprenticeships@gdins.org



Gabriel Dumont Institute

Métis Nation University Funding Application Opens

By James Oloo



Geordy McCaffrey, GDI Executive Director (right) and **Earl Cook**, Métis Nation-Saskatchewan Treasurer, when Dr. Cook presented a cheque to the Institute for the 2020/21 Métis Nation University Sponsorship Program. Photo by James Oloo

Geordy McCaffrey, GDI Executive Director, received a cheque from Dr. Earl Cook, Treasurer of the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan, for the Métis Nation University Sponsorship on May 27, 2020.

The Métis Nation University Sponsorship flows from the Canada-Métis Nation Post-Secondary Education Sub-Accord which was signed by the Métis National Council (MNC) President MNC President Clément Chartier and the Federal Minister of Indigenous Services Hon. Seamus O'Regan in 2019. It provides direct supports for Métis university level students.

The Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN-S) is a governing member of the MNC and will receive over \$80 million over 10 years. As the post-secondary education arm of the MN-S, GDI is tasked with administration of the Métis Nation University funding.

Applications for Métis Nation University Sponsorship for 2020/21 are now open. Please apply online at www.gdins.org/university. Application deadline is extended to July 1, 2020.

This is the second year in which Métis university students can access the funding. In

2019/20, a total of 483 Métis students from Saskatchewan received \$3.92 million in financial assistance. The funding covers tuition, income support, travels, dependent care allowance, and special needs costs. The students were from all the 12 MN-S Regions.

GDI was instrumental in providing research and guidance to the Métis post-secondary file. We thank the Government of Canada, MNC, and the MN-S for this investment in education. For more information, please contact us via email at usponsorship@gdins.org. 

SUNTEP PA Virtual Graduation ... *Continued from Page 3*

"My mom has always been there for me," said Brett Little. "When I told her that I will be graduating with a bachelor of education degree, she cried and said she was very proud of me. Now I can support my mom, she has helped me throughout my journey."

Referring to SUNTEP as a "movement," Jolene Peters said, "I'm thankful for the opportunity to be part of a movement I am so passionate about. Thank you for the four years of cries, laughs, support, and encouragement."

SUNTEP, like other GDI programs, incorporates Métis culture and ways of knowing. Kelsey Petit stated, "I am thankful for the opportunity to be a part of something that helped me explore my culture, roots, and identity, in a welcoming space to help me grow in order to become a successful teacher. I conquered many obstacles."


These are a small sample of the words spoken by the SUNTEP Prince Albert Class of 2020. We could not include quotes from all the 17 graduates because of space.

Michael Relland, the Gabriel Dumont College Program Head, was the keynote speaker for the SUNTEP Prince Albert virtual graduation ceremony. He stated, "This graduation is special to you as individuals and also for SUNTEP. This year we celebrate SUNTEP's 40th anniversary. You are joining just under 1,400 other SUNTEP graduates out there who have helped transform education in Saskatchewan."

Noting that nothing worthwhile is ever easy, Michael said, "This grad shows that you are probably stronger than you ever thought, that you have lots of perseverance, ability to sacrifice, and have a drive to be successful."

Not just for yourself, but also for your family. Education teaches you who you are, and helps you find your place in the world."

While wishing the graduates success as they leave SUNTEP, Michael asserted thus, "You have chosen an honourable profession where you can make a real difference in this world, and make the world a better place. I hope you enjoy your time working in the schools. Wishing you best of luck moving forward, and I hope you have a wonderful career."

GDI offers SUNTEP in Prince Albert and Saskatoon in partnership with the University of Saskatchewan, and in Regina in partnership with the University of Regina. Graduation ceremonies for SUNTEP Saskatoon and SUNTEP Regina have been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 



Michael Relland, the Gabriel Dumont College Program Head, gave the keynote address during the the SUNTEP Prince Albert virtual graduation ceremony. Photo courtesy of B. Novotny



SUNTEP Prince Albert 40th Graduation ... *Continued from Page 4*



SUNTEP Prince Albert Class of 2020.

Back Row:
Cylie Williams, Leah Drabot, Tiffany Ross, Nola Halabiski, Ashely Smith, Susan Cox, Shelby Constant, Fayth Kaiswatum.

Middle:
Jennifer Durocher, Jolene Peters, Bandi Soles, Kelsey Petit, Tia Ewashko
Front:
Ryan Munshaw

Missing:
Amanda Hoey, Brett Little, Nicole Magnin, and Kelley Scriven.

Photo courtesy of Bonnie Novotny

Payroll Cutoff Calendar, June 2020

By Carmala Thiessen and Veronica Verzonowski

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

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

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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/)

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