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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

GDI and the Provincial Curriculum Advisory Committee

by Lisa Bird-Wilson

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) is represented on the provincial Curriculum Advisory Committee (CAC).

The CAC was established to develop recommendations for the Minister of Education from education sector and non-sector partners regarding potential changes to curriculum and Saskatchewan's high school graduation requirements. The CAC will be in place until 2023.

The committee met in January and February 2020 to recommend areas of curriculum renewal.

A number of recommendations went forward to the Minister for renewal of curriculum in the Practical and Applied Arts, Secondary Arts Education, and Secondary Social Sciences, including new social sciences courses for grades 10 -12 students which could replace some of the current social sciences options, as per the recommendation from the Secondary Social Sciences Reference Committee.

The Gabriel Dumont Institute endorsed this

recommendation after discussion and consultation with the Institute's Adult 12 managers and faculty.

In June 2020, the CAC again met twice to discuss the foundational pieces of the curriculum—the Broad Areas of Learning and the Cross Curricular Competencies.

These documents represent goals and concepts foundational across curricula, including the goals that students will develop a sense of self, community and space, be lifelong learners, and engaged citizens.

Some of the Curriculum Advisory Committee discussions involved mining what might be missing from the foundational documents.

Notes on the broad discussion are available in their entirety by request, but include the following:

- To include knowledge and understanding of the significance of traditional territory in the foundational concept of "sense of place"
- Add "resiliency" as a skill to be developed in students—the ability to

adjust to unexpected and unplanned events

- Developing attitudes of inclusion, valuing diversity, ability to think critically about taken for granted assumptions, recognize unearned privilege

- Utilize the Cree concept of miyo wâhkôhtowin—good relationships and relatedness with others, the land, society; a connectedness and an obligation to our relations—intentionally include relationships and connectedness as skills, knowledge, and understandings to foster in students
- Skills, vocabulary, and language to talk about social justice and anti-racism

Suggestions and contributions are welcome to add to the above discussion.

Comments can be directed to Lisa Bird-Wilson, Director of Gabriel Dumont Institute. Her contact information can be found in GDI's internal phone list...

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Program Update: Pathways for Entrepreneurship

By Brendon Demerais

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) *Pathways for Entrepreneurship* program is a three-year initiative (2017-2020) that enhances Métis entrepreneurship in Saskatchewan. GDI Training and Employment received a \$1.16 million federal investment from Western Economic Diversification Canada to support Métis entrepreneurs on their journey towards self-employment.

The Pathways for Entrepreneurship program develops capacity among Métis entrepreneurs through unique supports. The program has developed several in-house training workshops for Métis entrepreneurs, including: A Métis start-up entrepreneurs' workshop; cash-flow, financial management and credit workshops; digital marketing; a 15-week professional business planning series, and a 150-hour Adult Basic Education

entrepreneurship course. Designated funding for professional services and consulting, business planning assistance, milestone bonuses, and a transitional allowance to assist with full-time business start-up are also available to successful applicants.

Cumulative from November 1, 2017 to May 1, 2020, GDI has assisted in the creation or expansion of 103 Métis-owned businesses in Saskatchewan. Of these 103 businesses, 93 have been operational or reached an operational stage throughout the project period. 66 businesses were new start-ups, with 27 receiving supports to maintain or expand an existing business. The result of 103 businesses supported more than triples the established target of 30.

GDI also had a target of training 70 Métis entrepreneurs across the

first phase of the project. GDI is happy to report that 272 Métis individuals received training via workshops, with 56 entrepreneurs accessing externally funded training opportunities and 51 individuals accessing professional services and advising. In total, GDI trained 379 Métis entrepreneurs to help them build stronger businesses.

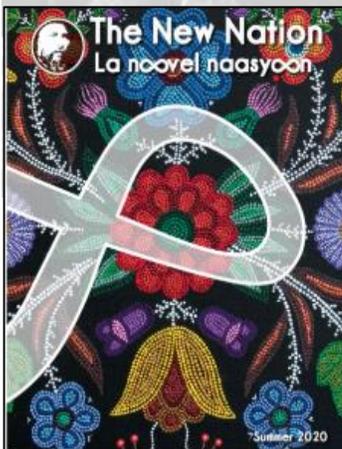
During the first phase of the project, GDI had a target to assist in training 20 staff members who were employed at Métis-owned businesses. Over the span of the project, a total of 41 employees of Métis businesses were able to take short-term training leading to hiring or upskilling.

GDI is happy to report that it has successfully completed the first phase of the program and has secured an additional \$745,000 in federal funding to extend the program for an additional three years (2020-2023). An

official announcement will be forthcoming.

Rallying on the success of the first phase of the program, GDI will look to continue training and consulting supports and will look to foster community development. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it has never been more pertinent for businesses to be flexible and adaptable. Project partners, the Clarence Campeau Development Fund (CCDF) and the SaskMétis Economic Development Corporation (SMEDCO) have both recently announced emergency COVID-19 related funding to assist Métis businesses in hardship.

GDI is excited to start the second phase of the Pathways program this summer to strengthen new start-ups, renew partnerships, and help strengthen Métis businesses in Saskatchewan. 



Front cover of the *New Nation* Magazine. Cover art by Christi Belcourt

GDI Relaunches *The New Nation: La noovel naasyoon*

By Desirae Barker

July 21, 2020 was the official relaunch of the Gabriel Dumont Institute's (GDI) magazine, *The New Nation: La noovel naasyoon*.

The magazine is a quarterly publication, which promotes Métis history and culture, the Institute's activities and programs, and the larger Métis community in the province. The last publication of *The New*

Nation was back in 2013. This 2020 summer edition release prompts the magazine revival with fall, winter, and spring editions planned for the upcoming year.

This edition of *The New Nation* magazine has articles highlighting news and events about GDI including updates on programming, staff, students, and alumni from

the past year. One exciting feature in the magazine is a reprint of an archival article from the 1976 Culture Conference, where the resolution to create GDI occurred.

The *New Nation* magazine is available in a limited print version and for free online (www.metismuseum.ca/newnation). 





Photo by Desirae Barker

GDI Thanks Dr. James Oloo for Nearly a Decade of Service

By Desirae Barker

“For the past nine years, James has never missed producing the monthly issue of *the Communicator*,” states Lisa Bird-Wilson, Director of the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI). With over 100 issues of *the Communicator* under his belt, Dr. James Oloo, former Research Coordinator at GDI, has contributed significantly to the history of the Institute.

James began his career with GDI in April 2011. His first responsibilities were performing research and reporting for the GDI Training and Employment’s Aboriginal Apprenticeship Initiative. He remembers his first day quite vividly, and laughs at the fact he did not know the meaning of the words “apprenticeship” or “journey person.” He recalls that in his native Kenya, they used the term vocational training. Needless to say, now, he is very familiar with the words.

Over time, James’s role transitioned to providing research and reporting more broadly for the Institute overall. Essentially molding

the position into what it is today, James worked hard to bring each department together for research, reporting, and communication. He was known as a “go-to person” for information.

“James has been a good employee, always ready to help, and always has the Institute at heart,” says Geordy McCaffery, GDI Executive Director.

One of James’ passions was being able to share the student success stories that develop at the Institute. “It’s really great what GDI does in making a difference in people’s lives,” says James, adding that “I have always felt truly honoured and humbled to be entrusted with personal stories of lived experiences.” The joy in sharing the education journeys of students stems from his own background. James holds an undergraduate degree in education from the University of Lethbridge, a master’s degree in public policy from Simon Fraser University, and a doctorate degree in

education from the University of Regina.

A large focal point in James’ studies was Indigenous education. His published thesis available online at URegina.ca is titled “A narrative and post-/anti-colonial approach to understanding the experiences of foreign certified teachers in rural Saskatchewan schools.” James credits his career at the Institute for helping further his knowledge of Métis-specific history, relations, and culture valued at GDI.

During James’ last week at GDI in June, staff gathered to thank him for the commitment and enthusiasm he brought to his roles at the Institute. At the celebration, James was presented with an *Order of Gabriel Dumont Bronze Medal*. This medal signifies an appreciation for the years of dedication and service James contributed to the Gabriel Dumont Institute.

All the best in your future, James! You will be missed. Always remember, no matter where you go, you have a family at GDI. 🌍

CHRISTMAS IN
July

Just kidding. But even though it’s only July, the GDI Board of Governors has already set the Christmas break for the end of the year.

The Institute will be closed from Thursday December 24, 2020 to Sunday January 3, 2021 (inclusive). The Institute will re-open on Monday January 4, 2021.

GDI and the Provincial... *Continued from Page 1*

Please consider the following questions based on Métis-specific perspectives and in the context of GDI’s mission and values:

- What are the most important qualities kindergarten to grade 12 youth should develop while in school and as they transition beyond grade 12?

- Consider: knowledge, skills, attitudes, understanding, values, and processes.
- What is important to include in future foundational pieces of Saskatchewan curricula, given current provincial pieces, as well as national and international trends?
- What should be kept/updated that is currently foundational in Saskatchewan curricula?
- What could be removed or given less emphasis in order to make room for emerging needs?
- What should be added to address gaps or future needs of Saskatchewan students? 🌍



A Conversation With Deana Kempel, New Principal of RVCI

By James Oloo

Deana Kempel graduated with a Bachelor of Education degree from the Gabriel Dumont Institute's Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) in 2008 and is an educator at the Prairie South School Division in Saskatchewan. In March 2020, Deana started her new role as the Principal at Riverview Collegiate High School (RVCI) in Moose Jaw. We sat down with Deana for a chat.

We asked Deana why she chose a career in teaching and administration. "I have always wanted to become a teacher. I remember playing school with an old chalkboard and teaching my younger sister how to read when she was only 3 or 4," said Deana. Deana draws on her experience to highlight the importance of cultivating student self-belief, motivation, and encouragement. "As a student at SUNTEP, I was always told by Professor Wilfred Burton that I that I was going to be an administrator," she reminisced, adding that "I set my goals early in my career to become a school administrator."

Before taking her current position, Deana spent two years as vice-principal of Empire School in Moose Jaw, where she takes pride in knowing all her students by name, strength, and need. As she puts it, "I love getting out with the students for recess and to their extracurricular activities. In these less structured environments, I found I could really get to know them."

We asked Deana how SUNTEP prepared her to be a teacher in this day and age. "SUNTEP really instilled the value of teaching all students about Indigenous history and culture. It also showed me how important it is to ensure that Indigenous students can see themselves within the curriculum." Deana noted that "when we take the time to build relationships with students they learn better. All students can learn but everyone learns more when they know that they have someone rooting for them."

Regarding a [study](#) out of MacEwan University which found that some teachers have difficulty reaching their Indigenous students or including Indigenous content in the curriculum, Deana said, "I pride myself in being an advocate for professional development opportunities for teachers who are uncomfortable teaching Indigenous content. I also share resources, books, and information whenever I can." Deana noted that teacher collaboration and collegiality in her school makes it easier for teachers to support one another in their professional growth.

Transitioning from the classroom to the principalship can have its challenges. So how was Deana able to do it? "I was lucky enough to have mentorship from my principals, Kelly Logan and Don Hand, as well as my superintendent Darran Teneycke who I worked closely with. Darran and I completed a formative supervision process over the last two years which involved me working closely with him to learn my new role," she

said. The transition has also led to personal growth for Deana: "Administration is one of those jobs where you learn something new almost every day. Although there are plenty of times when you need to jump in and lead with your gut, being able to pause and reflect is an important part of the role."

Deana moved to her new position at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. We asked her about what it is like to be a leader during such challenging times. As she put it, "It has been very interesting leading new staff, new students, in a new building, and establishing a new delivery model. Deana felt that during this uncertain time, a willingness to try new things and not getting it right the first time, every time, is OK. She noted that "Moving to high school as a principal has been a huge learning curve, but I am up to the challenge!"

Asked if there was anything she would add, Deana said, "SUNTEP was pivotal for me in my education career as it helped to give me a passion for ensuring that all students get what they need to be successful in school. I feel fortunate to have gone through SUNTEP and often think back to my classmates and professors."

She continued, "SUNTEP is a family and really teaches the importance of relationships, community, and culture. In every school that I am in, I can see the value in building those relationships, that community, and that culture. I am so grateful to have learned those lessons from SUNTEP!"



Photo courtesy of Deanna Kempel



Student Experience Telephone and Chat Support

Talk to a keep.meSAFE counsellor who:

- ✓ Is available 24/7 and at no cost to you
- ✓ Keeps your information confidential
- ✓ Understands your culture
- ✓ Speaks your language

Get help and advice about anything:

- ✓ Being successful at school
- ✓ Practical issues while studying abroad
- ✓ Relationships with friends and family
- ✓ Language and cultural barriers
- ✓ Anxiety and stress
- ✓ Sadness and loneliness
- ✓ Balancing work and school
- ✓ Managing finances
- ✓ Adapting to new cultures



New Partnership with United Way to support Northern Sask Students

By Desirae Barker

July 24, 2020, The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) partnered with the United Way of Saskatoon & Area to support Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous students through the COVID-19 Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF). ECSF is funded in part by the Government of Canada.

This partnership will support students from GDI's two most northern

Learning Centres in La Ronge and La Loche.

The DTI Learning Centres in these communities serve up to 275 Métis and First Nations students in the area, including literacy and upgrading learners, teacher candidates, and carpentry apprentices with educational programming.

Due to COVID-19, DTI has shifted its education delivery model to include part-time distance learning. The main priority of the

funding received through this partnership will be to provide safe learning environments and facilitate the delivery of remote classes without compromising the quality of education.

In total, GDI received \$50,000 from the partnership for both northern locations. The funding will be used to equip classrooms with new smart technology to improve virtual learning content and permit wireless

connections to devices, provide students with immediate access to laptops and portable printers, and enhance health and sanitization equipment.

Thanks to this generous partnership with the United Way of Saskatoon & Area and the Government of Canada, GDI is able to continue supporting the health and safety of students during the pandemic. 🌐

Payroll Cutoff Calendar, August 2020

By Carmala Thiessen and Veronica Verzonowski

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Heritage Day Stat Holiday	Finance Cutoff @ Noon for Aug 14 Student Payroll		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheet & Payroll Revisions for Aug 14 Payday	Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Aug 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
	Finance Cutoff @ 4:30 for Aug 28 Student Payroll			Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Pmts on Student Aug 28 Direct Deposit Cutoff @ 4:30 for TMS & Payroll Revisions for Aug 31 Payday		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
30	31					
	Staff Payday Finance Cutoff @ 4:30 for Sep 11 Student Payroll					

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.

LOCATIONS & MAP

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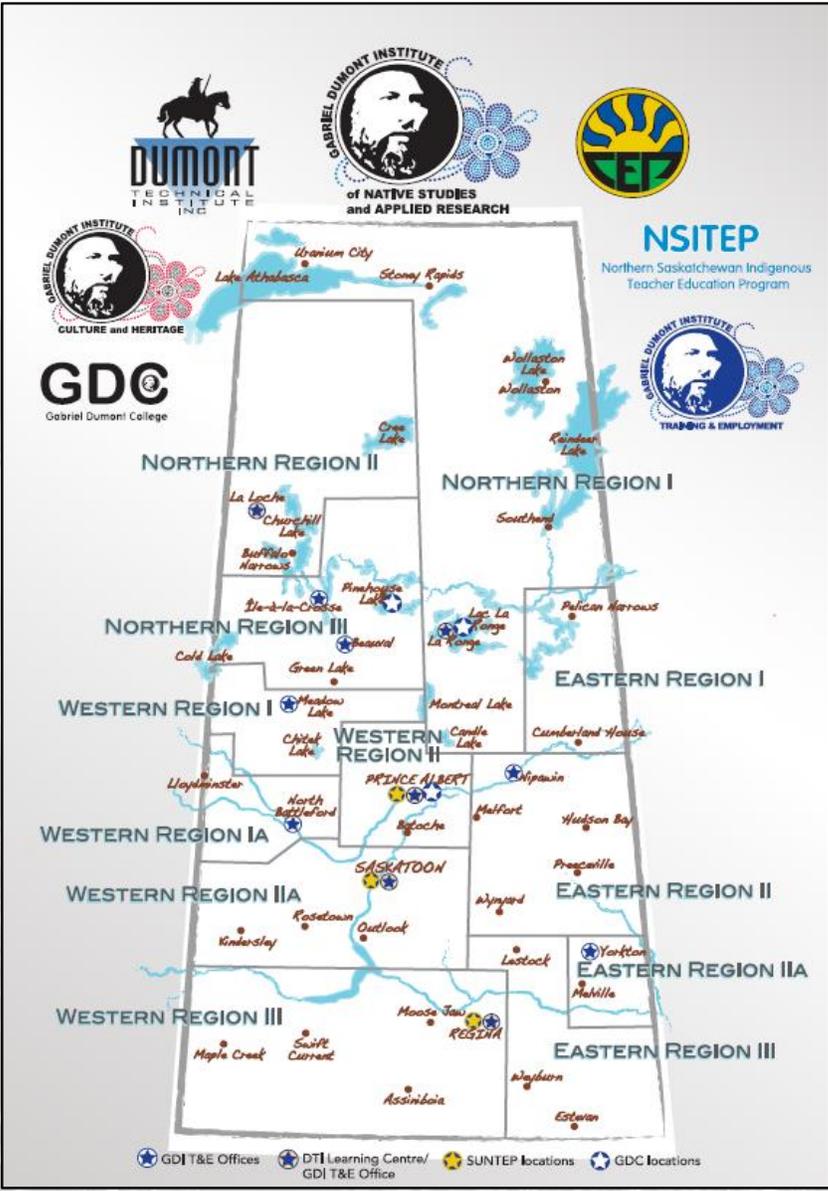
www.gdins.org

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www.Métismuseum.ca



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SUNTEP Regina
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GDI Library Regina
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<https://gdins.org/student-services/library/>

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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.

