



THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



From Left to Right - Dr. Earl Cook, Lisa Bird-Wilson, Geordy McCaffrey

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

IN THIS ISSUE

- ∞ Lisa Bird-Wilson Named New CEO of GDI
- ∞ Healthy Campus Saskatchewan Comes to the Dumont Technical Institute
- ∞ GDI COVID-19 Update
- ∞ Saskatoon ABE Cultural Learning Project
- ∞ Dumont Technical Institute Student Information System

LET'S GET SOCIAL



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LISA BIRD-WILSON NAMED NEW CEO OF GDI

By Desirae Barker

On March 22, 2021, The Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN—S) Education Minister, Dr. Earl Cook, announced the successful search for a new CEO of the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI). Lisa Bird-Wilson has been named to the top job after long-serving CEO Geordy McCaffrey announced last year he will leave to pursue new challenges and opportunities.

“We are pleased to welcome Lisa Bird-Wilson into the position of CEO for the Gabriel Dumont Institute,” said Cook. “After a comprehensive search by a national executive search firm, we were able to validate our selection of an internal candidate who has over 23 years of experience at the Institute.”

Lisa is a familiar face within the Institute, the community, and the province. In 1997, she started her career at GDI, and over the years,

she has taken on a variety of leadership roles. In 2011, she published *An Institute of Our Own: A History of the Gabriel Dumont Institute*, which chronicles the Institute’s history. As a Saskatchewan Métis and nêhiyaw writer, Lisa’s work has appeared in literary magazines and anthologies across Canada. Lisa is also a founding board member and chair of the Ànskohk Aboriginal Writers Circle as well as the founding president of the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network.

“I’ve seen first-hand the incredible impact GDI has on Métis students’ lives,” said Lisa. “I also appreciate the background and history of the struggle for Métis education in Saskatchewan. I’m thrilled to help carry forward, and build on, the Institute’s important legacy.”

Story continues on page 4





UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 9, 2021

Virtual Michif Celebration with Kokum St. Pierre, Fiddle music, storytelling, Michif lessons, cooking tutorials & more!

Register by email
Ashley.Shaw@usask.ca

9:00AM-10:00AM CST

APRIL 14, 2021

Saskatoon Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Virtual Open House

Register by phone
(306) 934-2203

6:00PM-7:00PM CST

APRIL 15, 2021

Regina Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Virtual Introduction

Register by email
erma.taylor@uregina.ca

6:30PM-7:30PM CST



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Métis Nation University Sponsorship Program now accepting applications for fall 2021! www.gdins.org/university

Métis Nation Post-Secondary COVID-19 Relief Program still accepting applications. www.gdins.org/covid-19



New DTI Skills Training Programs announced! www.gdins.org/programs

HEALTHY CAMPUS SASKATCHEWAN COMES TO THE DUMONT TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

By Darcie DeBruyne, Program Support Facilitator, DTI

Healthy Campus Saskatchewan (HCS) was born out of a desire for post-secondary institutions to support the health and wellbeing of all students. HCS includes 19 post-secondary institutes and various community organizations throughout the province.

HCS's vision is to create healthy, resilient campus communities where students feel safe and supported. Their goal is for students to have the knowledge, tools, and resources they need to achieve their personal, academic, and future career goals.

The Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) was approached about becoming a partner in this initiative by creating a Peer Health Outreach Support Group within our institute. The group currently consists of three DTI student volunteers who are working together to create and present on topics they feel are important to their fellow peers. The goal of the group is to bring forward a new presentation every month.

All DTI students can have access to the Peer Health Outreach Support Group presentations on Brightspace in the "KeepmeSAFE" section.

The student volunteers completed their first Peer Health presentation to the Regina Office Administration program on March 2, 2021. The group presented on "Healthy Relationships." They presented a PowerPoint, played a Kahoot game, had discussion time, and ended with a student survey. The presentation was well received by the Office Administration students and is now posted in Brightspace. Make sure to check it out!

It is incredible to see and hear the excitement in the student volunteers. They are working together, increasing their self-confidence, learning, gaining valuable skills, and supporting each other while working on this project. Looking forward to seeing what else they will be creating. 🌍

COVID-19 UPDATE

Last week it was announced that due to the continued increase in COVID-19 variant cases in the Regina area, the Government of Saskatchewan has re-introduced stricter measures for Regina and the surrounding area. In response to these measures, DTI has moved to a mostly online delivery format for all programs being delivered in Regina.

As these measures have been implemented solely for Regina, these restrictions will not affect Institute operations outside of Regina and existing guidelines will continue for all other locations unless further restrictions are imposed by the Government of Saskatchewan and the Health Authority.

GDITE Regina will also be implementing an increased teleworking schedule for the duration of these expanded orders.

The Institute is continually monitoring this situation and will advise staff as quickly as possible should circumstances change. 🌍





SASKATOON ABE CULTURAL LEARNING PROJECT

By Cindy LaPlante & Desirae Barker



Saskatoon ABE Student, photo by: Cindy LaPlante

Last month, the Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) Saskatoon Adult Basic Education (ABE) staff and faculty took on a new venture to help connect students with Métis culture.

In place of the examinations, a Métis cultural learning project was created by the Saskatoon ABE staff and faculty. The cultural learning project involved a week of virtual workshops for students.



Kanesin, Saskatoon ABE Student, photo by: Marilyn Black

Due to the pandemic, departmental exams for the 2020-2021 high school year were suspended. Instead of a week of standardized examinations, faculty were now provided with extra time for teaching. "Typically, at the end of the semester, students would be writing departmental exams. This would normally be a very stressful week for our students. Since the exams are not required this year, we found ourselves with an unprecedented opportunity to do something super cool with our students!" said Marilyn Black, DTI Program Coordinator.

The first virtual workshop was held by Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) graduate and land-based educator Garrick Schmidt. During this workshop, the students learned about the Indigenous relationships with land, land claims, and treaty land entitlement. Garrick also explained the Indigenous understanding of medicines and ceremonies.

For the remainder of the week, students learned about the ribbon skirt movement with Tala Tootoosis.

Story continues on page 4

SUCCESS STORY SPOTLIGHT



Photo submitted by: Emma Dewald

EMMA DEWALD

Emma Dewald became a Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Training and Employment client in May 2018. Prior to approaching GDI, Emma had already completed her first year of post-secondary education and obtained a business certificate. After meeting with Employment Counsellor, Randi Ross, Emma was able to apply for the Individual Sponsorship to complete the Human Resources diploma program offered by Saskatchewan Polytechnic in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. She has now completed the program and obtained her Human Resources diploma in December 2020. Emma is currently employed as an Information Verification Analyst (IVA) for the Government of Saskatchewan in the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training.

"Reach and seek various opportunities that will support you and align with your education journey. Be confident in yourself, and you can achieve anything you set your mind to!"

- Emma





Anne, Saskatoon ABE Student photo submitted by: Cindy LaPlante

LISA BIRD-WILSON NAMED NEW CEO OF GDI

Continued from page 1

Geordy McCaffrey leaves the Institute after a 27-year career, with 18 of those years as the CEO. “GDI has provided me with a wonderful career, and I feel strongly that it makes sense for me to exit when it’s at such a high point in its history,” said Geordy.

Lisa will enter the new role effective April 19, 2021 with a short transition period to June 18, 2021, when she will take over the helm as the new CEO of GDI. Congratulations Lisa! 🌍

SASKATOON ABE CULTURAL LEARNING PROJECT

Continued from page 3

Tala taught students how to make a ribbon skirt from start to finish and included important teachings on meaning and symbolism. Students were able to view, ask questions, and learn the basic methods of ribbon skirt creation. The project was also extended to the male students to create ribbon shirts or vests.

before and after starting this venture which for many students was also a new learning opportunity. The material was purchased from Century Fabric and the ribbon from Twig & Squirrel. Both local stores provided a discount to DTI.



Saskatoon ABE Students, Staff & Faculty photo by: Desirae Barker

Sewing machines were brought over from the GDI Métis Culture and Heritage department for the students to begin creating their own ribbon skirts, shirts, and vests. Amy Briley provided students with a zoom tutorial on how to use the machines, and the staff assisted students with the basic functions of the machines. Big thank-you to Karon Shmon & her team for helping coordinate this project!

“My people will sleep for one hundred years, but when they awake, it will be the artists who give them their spirit back.” Louis Riel, July 4, 1885. Students embodied these words after finishing their ribbon creations. In a time where there is a lot of stress and worrying present, students left each day with a smile on their face and humble pride in what they had accomplished that day. There were many days that instructors and students alike stayed beyond 5 o’clock to keep working on their projects. The bond between teachers and students created a strong sense of community within the room each day.



Mary Jane, Saskatoon ABE Student photo by: Desirae Barker

The vast majority of students had never sewed in their life. Therefore, the creation of their items was meaningful and personal. Many chose their ribbon colours to honour their families, loved ones who have passed, or to signify their bond with nature. Some students commented that they would like to wear their creation at their graduation in June.

The week finished on a positive note and students commented that they will pass along the teachings they learned to their friends and family. DTI Saskatoon ABE staff and faculty are already planning more projects which will showcase Métis culture and celebration for the end of this semester in June. 🌍



Saskatoon ABE Staff & Faculty photo by: Desirae Barker





GDI NEWS
 WWW.GDINS.ORG/NEWS

Tate McDougall SUNTEP student featured in a USask article on Indigenous Student Achievement

Autumn LaRose-Smith SUNTEP student and USSU President signs MOU to challenge oppressive and systematic racism at USask campuses

Daulton Sinoski SUNTEP graduate & Order of Gabriel Dumont Bronze Medal 2020 recipient featured by SaskTel In The Community Blog

DTI STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

By Brett Vandale & Michelle McNally

The Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) is currently a partner with the Regional Colleges and the Government of Saskatchewan with regards to a student information system, the one-client-service model (OCSM) that the government has supported since the late 1990's.

The platform for the OCSM is being phased out, as such the system is undergoing a request for proposal for a new enterprise system.

DTI is planning on partnering with the Regional Colleges on this new system, with DTI's focus being strictly on the student information system component of an enterprise system.

If you have any comments or questions regarding this project which is underway, please contact Michelle McNally via email at michelle.mcnally@gdins.org or by contacting the DTI head office in Saskatoon. 📞

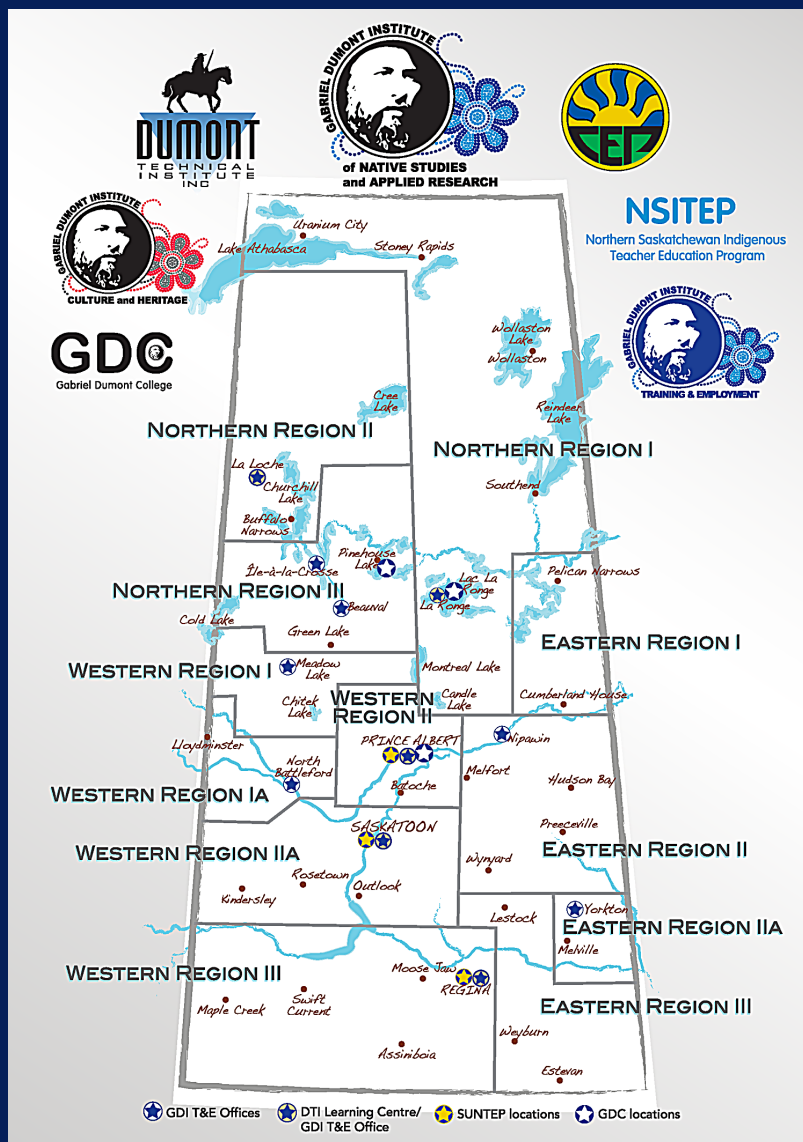
APRIL 2021 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

APRIL 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	Good Friday Stat Holiday	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Easter Monday Stat Holiday	Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Apr 9 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/P Invs - Timesheets & Payroll Revisions for Apr 15 Payday	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Finance Cutoff @ 4:30 for Apr 23 Student Payroll			Staff Payday Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Apr 23 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
25	26	27	28	29	30	
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for TMS & Payroll Revisions for Apr 30 Payday Finance Cutoff @ 4:30 for May 7 Student Payroll			Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Staff Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	

EMPLOYEE CONTRACTS DUE AT PAYROLL UPON JOB ACCEPTANCE
 PAYROLL MUST RECEIVE CONTRACTS PRIOR TO PAYROLL CUTOFF DATE
 IF RECEIVED AFTER THE CUTOFF DATE, THE EMPLOYEE WILL BE PAID ON THE FOLLOWING PAY PERIOD
 MRTS DUE BY THE 15TH OF EVERY MONTH



CONTACT US



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Back issues of the *Communicator* can be found online at www.metismuseum.ca

If you would like to submit an article for the *Communicator* please contact Desirae Barker at desirae.barker@gdins.org

