



THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



Geordy McCaffrey and James Oloo
Photo by: Desirae Barker

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

- ∞ Tribute to the Leadership of Geordy McCaffrey
- ∞ Newspapers and Magazines on your Desktop
- ∞ Why we Vote: Métis Nation-Saskatchewan 2021 Election
- ∞ GDI Press and Author Cort Dogniez SBA short-list nominees
- ∞ GDI COVID-19 Update

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TRIBUTE TO THE LEADERSHIP OF GEORDY MCCAFFREY

By Dr. James Oloo

Dr. James Oloo is a professor of educational administration, policy, and leadership at the University of Windsor, Ontario. He was the Research Coordinator at the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) from 2011 to 2020.

Geordy McCaffrey has been a part of GDI for most of his adult life, first as a student, then employee, and since 2003, as the CEO.

The past 40 years have been a remarkable time in the history of the Métis people. Many battles have been won, including hunting and fishing rights, and the fact that the federal government has a fiduciary responsibility to the Metis (Daniels v. Canada). Perhaps, one of the most remarkable achievements for the Saskatchewan Metis has been the creation of GDI, as a Métis-owned cultural and post-secondary institute.

As Lisa Bird-Wilson has stated in her excellent book, *An Institute of Our Own: The History of Gabriel Dumont Institute*, many individuals and communities did a lot of work for GDI to come into being, and to be where it is today.

One such individual who has had a great impact on GDI is the outgoing CEO, Mr. Geordy McCaffrey, who has been at the helm of the institute for close to half of its 40 year history, from 2003 to 2021.

As a SUNTEP graduate himself, Geordy's commitment to Indigenous teacher education has been inspirational. Under his leadership, the number of SUNTEP graduates has increased by over 110% from 624 in 2003 to 1,355 in 2020.

Story continues on page 4





UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 10, 2021



The Spring issue of *The New Nation: La noovel naasyoov* magazine will be a "Special Election Issue," and available online May 10, 2021.

This issue will be an early opportunity for candidates running in the 2021 Métis election to present to Métis citizens their ideas for the development of the Métis Nation. The intent is to provide—in a non-partisan manner—Métis citizens with as much information as possible and to provide all candidates with a forum to communicate their ideas and vision to the electorate.



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

GDI Training & Employment is offering a two-day virtual Métis Entrepreneur Workshop. The workshop is in partnership with Ballard Consulting group on May 11 and 12, 2021. Register for free at www.skentrepeneur.ca or call toll-free 1 (855) 295-7180 ext 3.

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

NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES ON YOUR DESKTOP

By GDI Library Staff

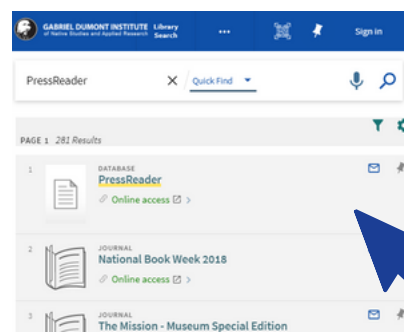


Did you know that even if it's inconvenient for you to use one of the three GDI Library locations in Prince Albert, Regina, or Saskatoon, you can still access library resources at your desk, in your classroom, or from your home office?

Through participation in the Saskatchewan Electronic Resources Partnership (through which post-secondary, public, and special libraries in Saskatchewan 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. This month, we'll introduce you to PressReader.

PressReader is an online platform that offers access to recent issues of more than 7,000 newspapers and magazines in 60 languages from 120 countries around the world. Publications can be browsed in full-colour, full-page format, almost as if you were holding the print copy in your hands. While the lack of retrospective coverage limits PressReader's usefulness as

a source for older news, it's a great tool if you just want to keep up with the very latest issues of your favourite newspapers and popular magazines.



To retrieve content from this database from the office or while connected to an Institute VPN from home, search on "PressReader" (all one word) in Quick Find (the library catalogue) and then simply click through to view the digitized content in the PressReader interface.

If you're trying to access this content from home without benefit of a VPN, you'll have to authenticate with your GDI library card – please contact staff to apply for a card if you haven't already got one, or if you have questions or difficulty accessing PressReader or any of the licensed digital content available through the GDI Libraries' catalogue. Happy browsing!





Métis Nation Saskatchewan 2021 Election

Saturday May 29, 2021

Exercise your right to vote!

WHY WE VOTE: MÉTIS NATION-SASKATCHEWAN ELECTION 2021

By Desirae Barker

On May 29, 2021, Métis citizens of Saskatchewan will head to the polls and select executive and regional leadership for the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN—S).

MN—S elections are important to express opinions on issues and decisions that impact your life as a Métis while preserving the continuity of democracy. Geordy McCaffrey, Executive Director of GDI, adds, “A hallmark of a strong democracy is the number of citizens who participate in the election system and help guide the Nation.”

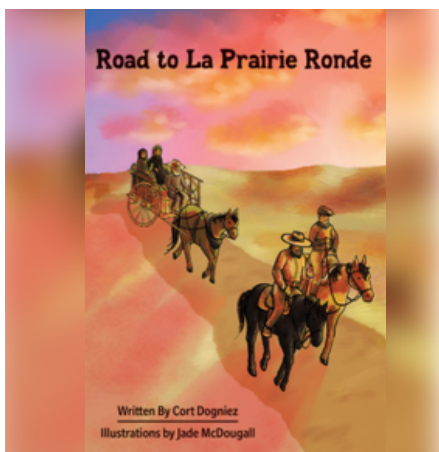
The MN—S is structured to represent the political, socioeconomic, cultural, and educational interests of over 58,000 Métis citizens (according to the last Canadian census in 2016) or up to 80,000 according to unofficial numbers, divided into 12 regions. It is important to acknowledge that the leadership within the MN—S makes critical decisions, worth millions of dollars, on Métis resources for Métis citizens flowing from the Canada-Métis Nation Accord. They also impact the future of the MN—S affiliates, including GDI. For example, in the last round of MN—S Constitutional Reform (2019-2020), it is noted that there is a desire to turn the affiliates into “departments” of the MN—S.

Such a move would fundamentally alter the administration and structure of GDI.

Before the election, we encourage all staff and students to ask the candidates about their plans for the affiliates, as their responses directly impact GDI. A list of all candidates running in the 2021 MN—S election can be found at www.mnselection.ca. Further to this, GDI has uploaded clips of the 2021 Candidate Forum held in Yorkton on May 1st to our YouTube page. The clips include Vice-President and President candidates detailing their platforms with a question period to follow.

On May 10th GDI will publish a “special election issue” of the *New Nation: la noovel naasyoon* magazine in which all candidates are invited to share information about themselves, their platforms, and where they stand. <https://gdins.org/metis-culture/the-new-nation/>. There are many opportunities to become informed.

Voters will be able to vote in their region at the advance poll on May 22nd or on Election Day, May 29th. Educate yourself on candidate platforms, be informed, and exercise your right to vote!



GDI PRESS AND AUTHOR CORT DOGNIEZ SBA SHORT-LIST NOMINEES

By Desirae Barker

The Saskatchewan Book Awards announced their final short-list nominees for 2021 on April 16. GDI Press and author Cort Dogniez received two shortlist nominations for “Road to La Prairie Ronde,” with illustrations by Jade McDougall.

Nominations include the *First Book Award* and the *Publishing in Education Award*. Congratulations! The online ceremony announcing the winners will take place on June 17, 2021 at 7PM broadcasted live at www.bookawards.sk.ca.





Lisa Bird-Wilson & James Oloo
Photo by: Desirae Barker

TRIBUTE TO THE LEADERSHIP OF MCCAFFREY

Continued from page 3

By 2003, GDI had awarded a total \$568,187 in scholarships to Metis students. Between 2004 and 2020, the Institute awarded over \$2.8 million in scholarships to Metis students across Saskatchewan. In 2003-2004 fiscal year, GDI had a total revenue of \$4,466,551. In 2019-2020, the Institute's total revenue was \$39,086,104.

I have witnessed Geordy standing up straight, his shoulders back, and head high, confidently and passionately representing the Institute in negotiations with stakeholders and partners.

Geordy's media interviews about the Institute give the image of someone who does not view his position as a job, but something deeper than that.

As Geordy passes the baton to Lisa officially on June 18, one chapter closes and another begins. But the theme of the book remains similar. Having worked closely with both Geordy and Lisa, I can say this with confidence: Lisa is not only a capable and enthusiastic employee of the Institute, but she has also been a caring, dependable, and loyal support for Geordy and the office of CEO.

Lisa wrote about the history of the Institute. She has been involved in many of the GDI's progress over the past two decades. She has a vision for the future of the Institute.

As I convey the warmest farewell to Mr. Geordy McCaffrey as a hard-working and brilliant mentor boss, it is exciting to know that the Institute will be in the very capable hands of Lisa. Geordy has set the bar high. Lisa is up to the challenge.

Best wishes to Geordy, Lisa, and the Gabriel Dumont Institute. Onwards and upwards to greater things.



Geordy may say, and rightly so, that he does not deserve all the credit for the progress made at the Institute. Indeed, there are hundreds of dedicated staff, past and present, who have worked tirelessly for the Institute. I cannot mention them all here for lack of space. Some, including Lisa Bird-Wilson, were with the Institute before Geordy became the CEO. Others, like, Brian Chaboyer, has served on the GDI Board the whole time Geordy has been the CEO, and the current SUNTEP Saskatoon Head, Sheila Pocha, was on the GDI Board when Geordy was named the CEO.

As well as the team work and continuity, it takes a visionary leader to assemble the right team, and ensure that they have tools to work with at a workplace that encourages innovation, and is grounded in positive environment that enables success.

Examples above, including milestones attained at SUNTEP, student financial assistance, and revenue growth, have one thing in common. They involve partnership with other stakeholders. Too often, in partnerships involving Indigenous organizations, Indigenous peoples are regarded as junior partners, and the partnerships as mere tokenism.



SUNTEP Regina Challenges YOU to share your moves!

The first-year SUNTEP students in Regina created this video as part of a class project for their movement education class.

For part of the class, the students were taught how to do the Red River Jig and were asked to create a short video that showcased their jigging.

Now, they want to issue a challenge to all others to do the same! Whether you are staff, faculty, students, or social media followers of GDI - show off your jigging moves and help us celebrate the end of the semester.
#SUNTEPJiggingChallenge

Watch the video on our youtube page at youtube.com/gabriel dumontins





GDI NEWS

GDI Culture and Heritage partners with the City of Saskatoon to Install Treaty 6 Territory & Homeland of the Métis Bike Racks on 21st Street, Saskatoon

Visit www.gdins.org/news for all the latest news about the Gabriel Dumont Institute!

COVID-19 UPDATE

The additional COVID-19 measures for Regina and Area are still in place. In response to these measures, DTI has moved to a mostly online delivery format for all programs being delivered in Regina. GDITE Regina is also implementing an increased teleworking schedule for the duration of these expanded orders.

As these measures have been implemented solely for Regina, they 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.

Mask use and mitigation measures (reduced traffic, physical distancing, hand sanitizer, screening for outside visitors) are still in effect for all facilities.

A reminder to all staff that non-essential travel, including interprovincial travel, is strongly discouraged. Travel is not recommended in or out of the Regina. Food or beverages are also not to be served or catered at any event in our facilities across the province.

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

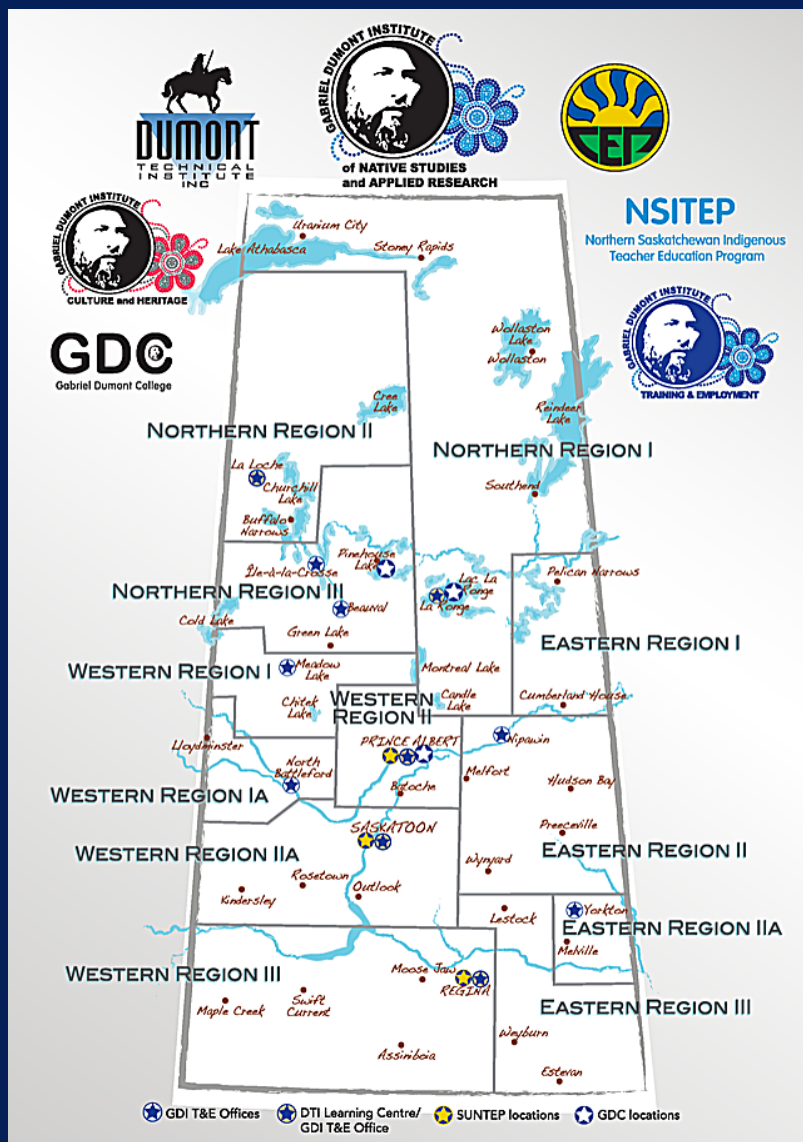
MAY 2021 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student May 7 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Cutoff @ 4:30 for TMS & Payroll Revisions for May 14 Payday Finance Cutoff @ 4:30 for May 21 Student Payroll			Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Staff Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student May 21 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Victoria Day Stat Holiday	Finance Cutoff @ Noon for June 4 Student Payroll Cutoff @ 4:30 for TMS & Payroll Revisions for May 31 Payday		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
30	31					
	Staff Payday					

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



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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

