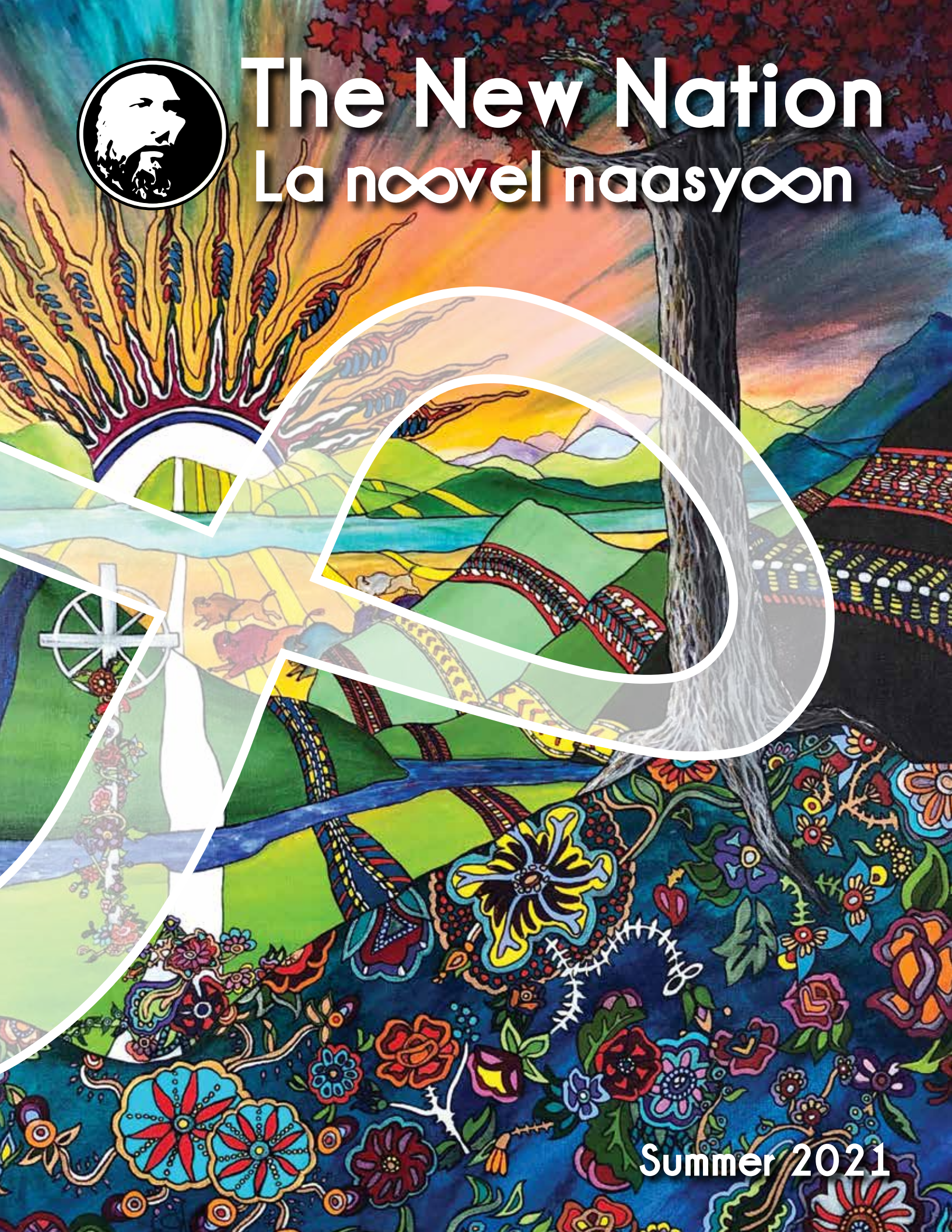




The New Nation

La noovel naasyoon



Summer 2021

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The New Nation La noovel naasyoon

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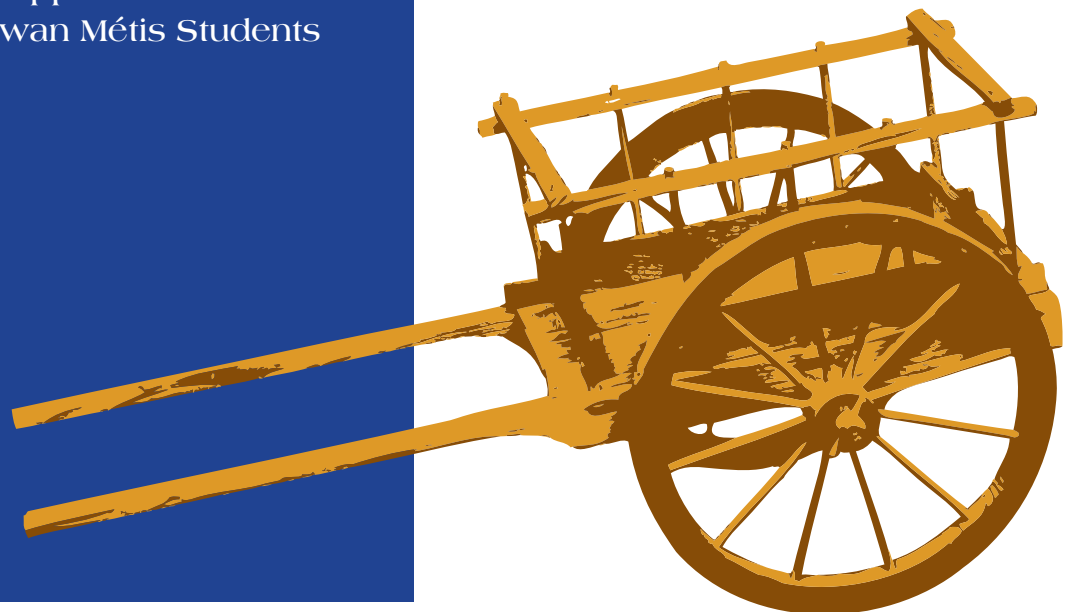
Back issues of *The New Nation* can also be downloaded from:
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Cover art:

**MY MOTHER'S NATION
- HEATHER HILL**

"My journey to find my way to my roots began with secrets my Grandmother told me about my Grandfather, Alexander Xavier St.Denis' family.

My story is like so very many, who are finding their way, to find truthful identity. Because something in our very DNA calls for an answer. Mother's Great Grandparents and Grandfather, fled Canada when Riel was hanged believing they too would be hanged.

After my Grandfather's families return from a reservation in Montana, they quit speaking Cree and Michif publicly. My Great Grandmother learned to speak and write English. They began to say they were French. Photos of my one Great Grandmother in her beaded leather outfit and braided hair, disappeared. Métis beaded hide clothing was stolen . . . but, like a distant memory of something forgotten, my Grandfather's fiddle playing is etched, still in our hearts.

After much research, I reconciled my identity as Métis, colour poured out, and my art has begun to speak from the Spirit of God, from where I learn to create. I found my Mother's people and its distinct culture are where my heart is home. I'm elated with my discovery and can't wait to become woven into the fabric of my Mother's Métis Nation."

Message from the Gabriel Dumont Institute Executive Director

Tânisi,

Welcome to the summer 2021 edition of *The New Nation: La noovel naasyoon* magazine. Published by Gabriel Dumont Institute, this quarterly New Nation magazine highlights students brought into the spotlight for their success from all areas of GDI programs; showcases good-news stories of Métis across the province; and shares best wishes to long-serving Executive Director, Geordy McCaffrey, who retired in June 2021. As always, GDI is pleased to offer free access to the magazine on the Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture, www.metismuseum.ca, as well as a limited print run.

This issue is full of news and stories about remarkable Saskatchewan Métis. Maria Campbell was recently recognized by SK Arts with a Lifetime Achievement Award and by the University of Saskatchewan with an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree. Graduates from programs offered by Dumont Technical Institute and SUNTEP, and eight *Order of Gabriel Dumont* Bronze Medal Award recipients from 2021, are highlighted for their successes. The Master of the Métis Fiddle, John Arcand, has been honoured recently with a music room dedication. There is so much to celebrate!

The summer edition also features new books published by GDI Press, a story and photos of a recent donation, and an announcement regarding the appointment of the inaugural Gabriel Dumont Research Chair in Métis/Michif Education, in partnership with the U of R and GDI.

As always, thank you for your support for the Gabriel Dumont Institute. I hope you enjoy the summer issue of *The New Nation: La noovel naasyoon*.

maarsii,
Lisa Bird-Wilson
Executive Director
Gabriel Dumont Institute



*As always, thank you
for your support for the
Gabriel Dumont Institute!*

Maria Campbell Honours Continue

by Karon Shmon

The Gabriel Dumont Institute extends its heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Maria Campbell whose outstanding achievements were recently recognized by SK Arts and the University of Saskatchewan.

The University of Saskatchewan honoured Maria with an honorary Doctor of Letters for the wide-ranging and significant impact she has made as an artist, activist and advocate. These accomplishments were echoed for the SK Arts Lieutenant Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award that extols Maria with the statement: "For more than 50 years Maria has been a courageous and tireless artist and advocate, and there are few areas of Canadian or Métis culture that have not been made better by her influence. Her contributions as an interdisciplinary artist continue to break ground for new and emerging artists, and she remains a formal and informal mentor and guide to a wide range of creators at every stage of their career. She champions youth and women's issues in all of her work."

As an interdisciplinary artist contributing to literature, theatre, musical theatre, scholarly publications, and school and post-secondary curricula, Maria has had both a long and profound impact on the arts, both as a creator and as a mentor and guide. Countless numbers of Indigenous people have been inspired by her work and by her encouragement and guidance.

Maria selflessly shares the path she has been so instrumental in clearing. She has influenced non-Indigenous people and many are more appreciative of the histories and lived experiences of Indigenous Peoples, stories that were mostly untold and ignored before her tenacious work and strong-willed desire to see our people celebrated. We are able to celebrate the good, kind, humorous, and loving stories along with those that are sad, poignant, and heartbreaking because her focus tells us that we are important and that we matter.

Many were surprised that Maria had not received either of these awards earlier in her career. Perhaps because she was born and raised in Saskatchewan and still lives here, assumptions have been made that she had already received the awards. At least people were not confused about how deserving she is for both awards.



photo by Donna Heimbecker

Maria is humble about what she has accomplished and often says she could never have achieved any of it without the help and support of others. We accept this as a reflection of her humility and generosity while acknowledging that Maria is the true gift, and catalyst, for these remarkable achievements.

HONORARY DEGREES

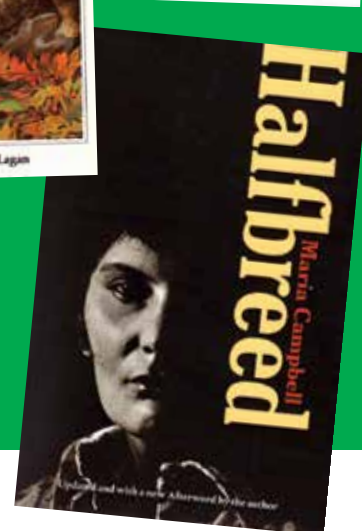
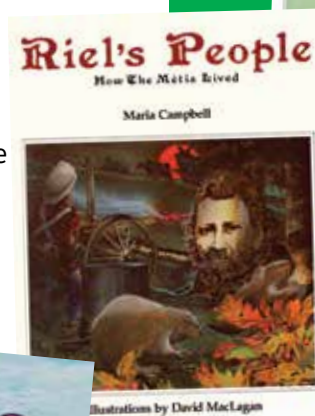
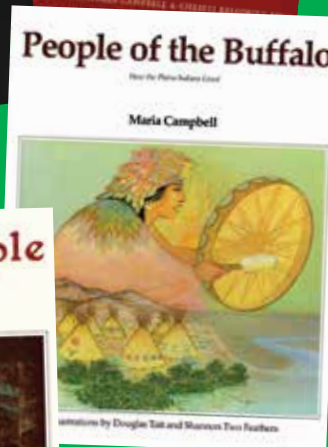
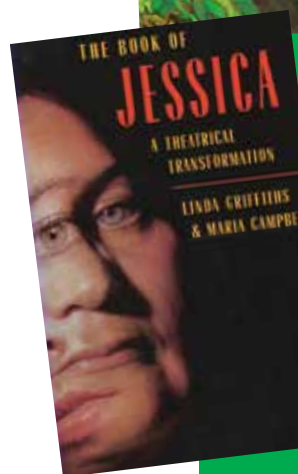
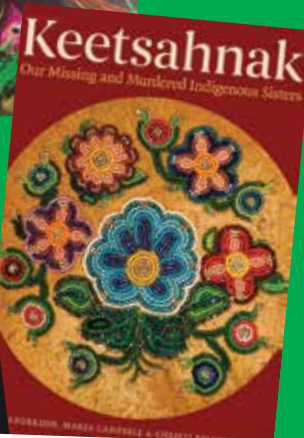
- 2021 Honorary Doctorate in Letters, University of Saskatchewan
- 2018 Honorary Doctorate in Letters, University of Winnipeg
- 2018 Honorary Doctorate in Laws, Ryerson University
- 2012 Honorary Doctorate in Letters, University of Ottawa
- 2000 Honorary Doctorate in Letters, Athabasca University
- 1992 Honorary Doctorate in Letters, York University
- 1985 Honorary Doctorate in Laws, University of Regina

AWARDS Art Honours and Awards (selected)

- 2021 Saskatchewan Arts Lieutenant Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award
- 2012-2015 Trudeau Fellowship, Trudeau Foundation
- 2010-2011 Trudeau Mentor, Trudeau Foundation
- 2004 Molson Award, Canada Council for the Arts
- 2000 Inducted into the Saskatchewan Theatre Hall of Fame
- 1995 National Aboriginal Achievement Award, Canadian Aboriginal Arts Foundation
- 1986 Chalmers Award, National Award for Best New Play (*Jessica*)
- 1986 Dora Mavor Award, National Award for Playwriting

OTHER AWARDS

- 2003 Women at the Top, City of Saskatoon
- 1996 Chief Crowfoot Award, Department of Native Studies, University of Calgary
- 1995 Aboriginal Scholar, University of Saskatchewan
- 1994 Golden Wheel Award, Rotary Club Saskatchewan
- 1994 Saskatchewan Achievement Award, Government of Saskatchewan
- 1992 Gabriel Dumont Medal of Merit, Gabriel Dumont Institute
- 1985 Order of the Sash, Métis Nation of Saskatchewan
- 1979 National Hero, Native Council of Canada
- 1979 Vanier Award, Vanier Institute
- 1978 Honorary Chief, Black Lake First Nations



The Order of Gabriel Dumont by Michelle McNally

The *Order of Gabriel Dumont* is awarded by the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) to a small number of persons who have served the Métis of Canada with distinction. The award itself, however, is made to persons without regard to ethnicity. The *Order of Gabriel Dumont* medals have been awarded since the 1980s. Investment into the Order is one of the Métis Nation's highest civilian honours. Nominations are accepted annually and an online form is available when the call for nominations is announced. Recipients are appointed by GDI based on nominations received from the public. To date, 87 individuals have received an award, 41 received a Gold or Silver medal, and 46 have received the Bronze medal.

The *Order of Gabriel Dumont* Gold medal recognizes individuals who have distinguished themselves with outstanding service to the Métis. The Gold medal is awarded based on a lifetime of achievements and services. Past winners have provided the Métis with a lifetime of outstanding service in areas such as education, politics, health care, community development, and culture. Many made lasting contributions affecting future generations of Métis, including decisions instrumental in securing our legal rights while others made a difference on the community front. The 2021 recipients of the *Order of Gabriel Dumont* Gold medal award are: Dennis and Jean Fisher, Wayne McKenzie, and Nora Cummings.

The *Order of Gabriel Dumont* Silver medal honours those who have made a significant contribution to the Métis. The Silver medal has been presented to community leaders, activists, artists, business persons, and contributors active in the Métis community. Their contributions have spanned a number of years and may have been in a number of areas; or focused more in a single area such as economic development or artistic activities. Recipients of the Silver medal recipients are individuals who are still active in their endeavors and who continue to contribute to the Métis. In 2021 Gregory Scofield and William Goodon were awarded the Silver Medal.

The Bronze medal is awarded to GDI's students and alumni who have distinguished themselves through leadership, community involvement, and overall performance. The Bronze medal was introduced in 2010 to recognize and honour outstanding GDI students and alumni. Students who were nominated and received the Bronze award in 2021 are Tiffany Newby, Kayla Pelletier, Erin Dyck, Julia Jendruck, Alyssa Prudat, Jolene Couillonneur, Raymond Regnier, and Devynn Boyer.

For more information about the *Order of Gabriel Dumont*, please visit our website: <https://gdins.org/metis-culture/the-order-of-gabriel-dumont-call-for-nominations/>



Order of Gabriel Dumont 2021 Bronze Award Recipients



Tiffany Newby (DTI)

Tiffany graduated from the Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) Practical Nursing Regina program in December 2020. She was also a Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Training & Employment client. Tiffany has inspired everyone around her through her perseverance and story of resilience, which included the loss of her mother and close family members at an early age. Tiffany overcame the cycle of addiction and incarceration and is dedicated to being a role model, mentor, and teacher to support those recovering from addictions in her personal and professional life. Tiffany is a leader in many facets of her life. She volunteered as a speaker for addictions education in many Indigenous communities and high schools. She was the founder and organizer for the First Annual Crystal Meth Awareness Walk in 2019 and has been very involved with the Crystal Clear support group. Caring for family and others is important to Tiffany. She was the primary caregiver for her grandfather while attending school. Tiffany has been learning and teaching others about cultural knowledge and traditions, including smudging ceremonies, harvesting Indigenous herbs for medicines, and connecting these to the Medicine Wheel. She encompasses holistic approaches to her cultural identity, creating a sense of belonging to those around her.

Tiffany volunteered as a speaker for addictions education in many Indigenous communities and high schools.

Order of Gabriel Dumont 2021 Bronze Award Recipients

Kayla Pelletier (DTI)

Kayla graduated from the Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) Adult Basic Education Level Four Regina program in 2018 and is a current student in the Office Administration program. Kayla has demonstrated perseverance through perfect attendance and achieving top standing in her class, all while raising four beautiful children on her own. Kayla is a quick learner with strong organizational skills, which she used to adapt to the technology needed for successful online learning. Kayla exemplifies the matriarchal values reflected throughout her Métis culture. Kayla missed out on learning about her Métis heritage while growing up and credits DTI in her journey to discover and learn more about her cultural roots. She continues to learn about Indigenous traditions by participating in many events and ceremonies, including Louis Riel Day, pow wows, round dances, and sweat lodges. Kayla identifies as a strong Métis woman who is empowering her children to be proud of who they are. Kayla has overcome many obstacles in her life to achieve academic success. She knows that everyone needs to “never give up and always strive for what they want in life. There will always be something to stop you from achieving your dreams, but, still, fight for it.”



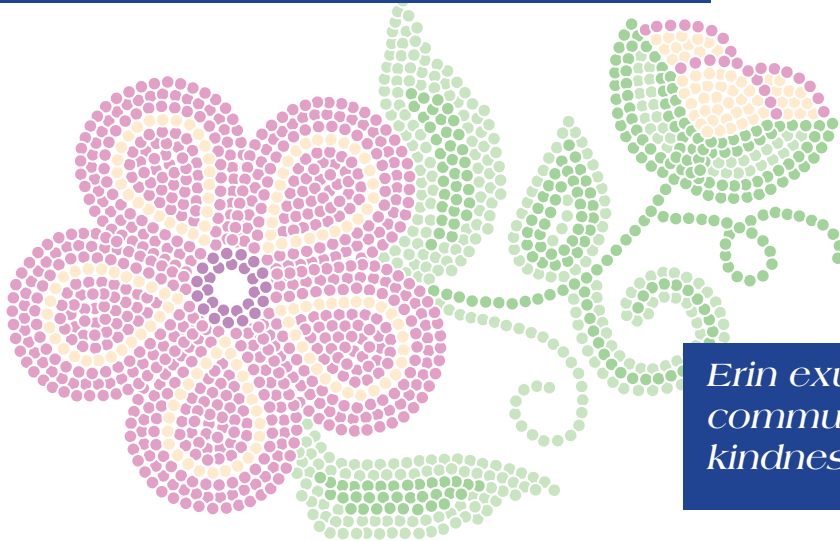
Kayla identifies as a strong Métis woman who is empowering her children to be proud of who they are.

Order of Gabriel Dumont 2021 Bronze Award Recipients

Erin Dyck (SUNTEP PA)



Erin Dyck is currently a second-year student in the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) in Prince Albert. Erin is a strong Métis woman whose exuberant personality brings joy to everyone around her. Erin joined the program later in life after raising a family and working full-time for many years as a Daycare Director. Erin has embraced SUNTEP and immersed herself in the school community. She has participated in every school activity and spirit day and encourages fellow students to get involved. Life is not always easy for Erin as a full-time student, wife, and mother to two beautiful daughters. She has persevered through her daughter's health issues and worked hard to create a balance between home life and school life, all while continuing to make time to support her fellow students. Erin organizes and participates in study groups and peer editing exchanges not only for her academic success, but also for the success of her classmates. She exudes a contagious community spirit and leads with kindness and humility.

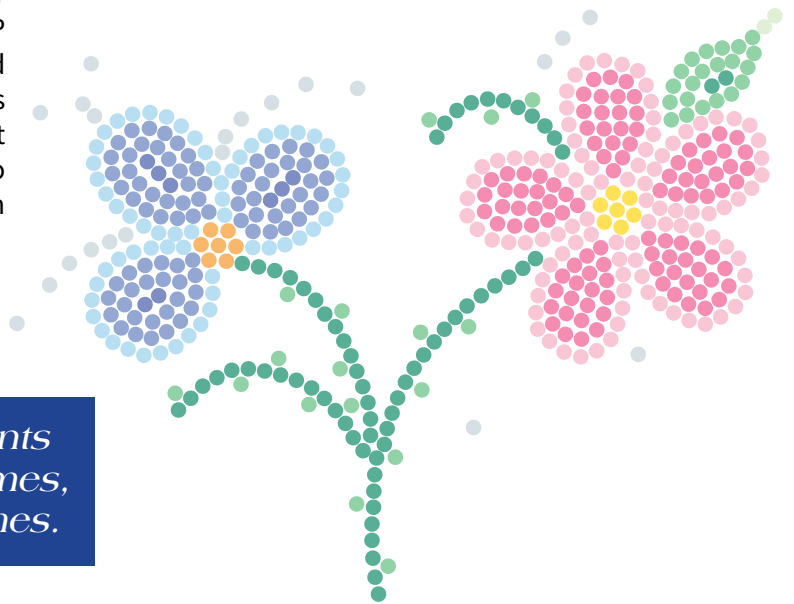


Erin exudes a contagious community spirit and leads with kindness and humility.

Order of Gabriel Dumont 2021 Bronze Award Recipients

Julia Jendruck (SUNTEP Saskatoon)

Julia Jendruck is a fourth-year Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Saskatoon student. She is a passionate and committed educator destined to do great things on behalf of the Métis community and within the education system. She is dedicated, hardworking, and consistently demonstrates respect and professionalism. Julia is passionate about social justice, anti-racist/oppressive, and Métis education, and is involved in student clubs that lead this work. She is a critical thinker and offers great suggestions and support to others within our professional learning community. Julia perseveres through some of the tough barriers a single mother withstands while trying hard to pursue higher educational goals. She is a devoted and loving mother to her son, Michael, with whom she spends all her time. Julia's strong academic skills ensured that she completed her internship with great distinction. She made certain that her students learned about Indigenous outcomes, particularly Métis cultural outcomes. She creates avenues of learning that are inclusive of anti-racist and anti-oppressive understandings. Julia participates with great enthusiasm in a number of activities within the centre and the greater community. She volunteers with the SUNTEP Anti-Racism Education Forum and organized professional development for her peers. Julia is a strong role model who understands the great importance of transformative approaches to learning, especially regarding decolonization in education and social justice work.



Julia made certain that her students learned about Indigenous outcomes, particularly Métis cultural outcomes.

Order of Gabriel Dumont 2021 Bronze Award Recipients

Alyssa Prudat (SUNTEP Regina)



Alyssa Prudat is a Métis fourth-year Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Regina Student. Alyssa prefers they/them pronouns and hopes to pursue a Masters of Education to teach queer Indigenous studies. With humble confidence, Alyssa remains in the top of the class by communicating thoroughly, requesting feedback, and articulating complex ideas through their writing. Despite learning obstacles, Alyssa often sets the bar for others in the class to follow their example. They offer many class discussions centered on education and experiences with marginalization as a member of the LGBTQ2S+ community. Alyssa has also been involved in a range of volunteer opportunities during their time at SUNTEP Regina. Most notably, Alyssa contributed to *The Carillon*, the University of Regina newspaper, for op-ed pieces regarding Indigenous issues, such as cultural appropriation. Recently, Alyssa has become a leading member of “Pride & Buffalo Hide,” a student-led initiative in the University of Regina to address the specific experience of students who are both Indigenous and gender or sexually diverse. Community involvement has posed some challenges for everyone since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic but, Alyssa has maintained a connection with the Indigenous community by taking part in Regina Public Library online learning events, including those led by Kohkom Brenda Dubois.



Alyssa remains in the top of the class by communicating thoroughly, requesting feedback, and articulating complex ideas through their writing.

Order of Gabriel Dumont 2021 Bronze Award Recipients

Jolene Couillonneur (Gabriel Dumont College)

Jolene Couillonneur is a second-year student in the Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teachers Education Program (NSITEP) in La Ronge. Jolene is very proud of her Métis roots. Her focus and determination help her to excel in her studies. She never hesitates to ask for help when the course material isn't clear and she stays after school for additional assistance. Jolene gets along well with everyone. She is caring, respectful, and patient. She often sits with other students who need extra help and explains the concepts that they don't understand. She shows great interest in the program and her passion for the field of education is evident. Jolene's attention to detail in her studies highlights her ability to think in-depth about the quality of education she will commit herself to once she earns her teaching degree. It is her hope and dream to teach at the Lac La Ronge Indian Band schools upon completion of her degree.



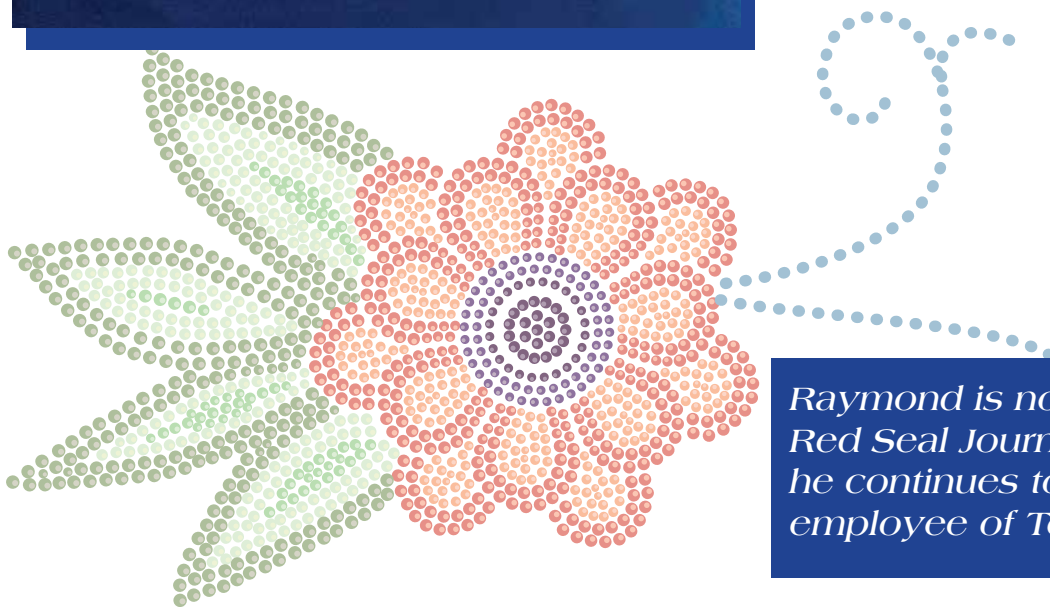
Jolene often sits with other students who need extra help and explains the concepts that they don't understand.

Order of Gabriel Dumont 2021 Bronze Award Recipients



Raymond Regnier (GDIT&E)

Raymond Regnier has been a successful participant of the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Indigenous Apprenticeship Project since 2017. Through GDI's partnership with Tolko Industries, Raymond was able to secure valuable employment and experience as a Construction Electrician. He continued to successfully transition through his apprenticeship levels, despite the interruption in technical training due to the pandemic. Raymond is now an accredited Red Seal Journeyman, and he continues to be a valued employee of Tolko Industries. Raymond's dedication to his career is inspirational and can be shared with others throughout their apprenticeship journeys.



Raymond is now an accredited Red Seal Journeyman, and he continues to be a valued employee of Tolko Industries.

Order of Gabriel Dumont 2021 Bronze Award Recipients

Devynn Boyer (GDIT&E)

Devynn Boyer is a proud Métis man currently attending the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) at the University of Saskatchewan. Devynn is also a Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Training & Employment client and received support through the Métis Nation University Sponsorship Program for 2019 and 2020. He stands out in the Métis community for his dedication to incorporating his culture into his work and studies. He has strong beliefs and he hopes to bring awareness to Indigenous culture and issues in any way he can. Most recently, Devynn developed his own clothing brand called Ahkikiw Clothing. Ahkikiw Clothing provides access to authentic handmade clothing and accessories that are created by himself and local Métis artisans. Ahkikiw comes from the Métis language, Michif, and means “grow” and was chosen by Devynn to bring awareness to the Michif language and represent Métis beliefs. Along with running his own business, he also attends University full-time while raising a family. Devynn has made it a priority to incorporate his culture and knowledge into his teaching pedagogy. He strives to provide relatable and relevant content to his future students and peers.



Along with running his own business, Devynn also attends University full-time while raising a family.

Gabriel Dumont Institute Student Success Stories

by Michelle McNally

At the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), we have always prided ourselves on the success of each student. Our students are at the core of every Métis-specific educational program and service we offer and it is their success that brightens the future of Métis across the province. Each year, several of the Institute's students are featured for their dedication, perseverance, and accomplishments while accessing GDI programs and/or services.

This past year was one-of-a-kind and required so many students to get out of their comfort zones. The impact that the pandemic has had on students is immense. From pivoting to online learning to isolating from other students, peers, and family, it has been a difficult time. Many students have reported hardships with balancing home life, supporting family, sustaining mental health, adjusting to provincial regulations, and completing online or hybrid education.

The fact that our students have not only overcome these obstacles but have thrived is amazing and worth celebrating.

For these reasons, GDI has chosen to highlight student success stories in this edition of the *New Nation: la noovel naasyoon*. Highlighting successful students

gives the instructors, program coordinators, and program heads the chance to reflect on the past year. It also allows us to see just how successful the students were, how they persevered through the academic year, and how they came out on the other side with the credentials that they wanted to achieve. The success stories conclude the year on a positive note and prepare the Institute for the upcoming year. Now, we have the opportunity to share these stories with the Métis communities in Saskatchewan and showcase our incredible students across the province.

Although every student's story deserves the spotlight, for the 2020-2021 academic year, GDI selected students who stood out to Instructors and overcame personal obstacles, helped fellow classmates, thrived throughout the changes to learning methods, and set an example for future students. The upcoming pages highlight student success from the Essential Skills for the Workplace—Early Childhood Educator program in Buffalo Narrows, Adult Basic Education Level Four in Saskatoon, SUNTEP in Saskatoon, Continuing Care Assistant in Regina, and Office Administration in Regina.



Each year, several of the Institute's students are featured for their dedication, perseverance, and accomplishments while accessing GDI programs and/or services.

Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP)—Saskatoon by Michelle McNally and Desirae Barker



Tate McDougall is part of this year's 2021 Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) graduating class in Saskatoon. He always knew he wanted to pursue a Bachelor of Education Degree in order to become a teacher. When considering pursuing an Education degree, Tate had looked at Education programs from all over Canada, but ultimately knew that a Métis cultural education provided by SUNTEP, along with his ability to speak French, would further his connection to his Métis heritage and provide job opportunities in the future. Incorporating Métis heritage and culture into his teaching pedagogy was always one of his values, Tate explains, "This knowledge will allow me to pass along our culture and ways of knowing to my students, hopefully empowering Métis students."

Tate believes going to University can be a trying, busy time, yet it also seems to go by way too fast. He credits his success in the program to his attitude towards growth, both academically and personally. His advice to future students is to, "Make the most of your opportunities, seek growth academically, and exercise academic humility. Do the work and learn everything you can from the professors. The hard work is worth it in the long run."

Tate says, "I would like to thank the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) greatly, as I strongly believe I would have been in a much worse off situation than I was for the past four years." With the help of GDI, Tate was able to secure student employment within the Institute that offered the flexibility he needed to work while attending school. He also accessed the Métis Nation University Sponsorship Program which provided him with the financial security he needed to focus on school and to take an unpaid internship.

After graduation in May, Tate accepted a full-time teaching contract in the Prince Albert Catholic School Division and is excited to get started. His future goals include gaining valuable teaching experience, applying to the Community-Based Master's Program through Gabriel Dumont College, and eventually working in education administration.

Dumont Technical Institute—Continuing Care Assistant (CCA) Regina

by Mattia Gregory

Justyna Juraville has faced many personal obstacles as she worked through her schooling. Being a single mother of two daughters, she learned how to prioritize her school and home life. Justyna has been described by her classmates and instructors as kind, happy, gentle, and always smiling. No matter the obstacles Justyna was facing in her personal life, she did not let them affect her within the classroom. She is an extremely dedicated and hardworking student and is always offering to help other students in the class. No matter the task at hand, Justyna gave it her all and did not let obstacles keep her from completing her work. Justyna has completed the course work and practicums required and graduated from the CCA program in June 2021.

Justyna describes her experience at Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) as good, feeling that the teachers did an awesome job working through these difficult times of the COVID-19 pandemic. She applauds the teachers for being available to text or call if any questions came up throughout her learning. They always lent her a helping hand. Justyna says, “DTI has made me feel like they want me to achieve my goals, and they are super supportive.” She expressed how DTI is set apart from other schools, particularly regarding its staff and its smaller class sizes as well as the financial help that the Gabriel Dumont Institute offers to its students—which allowed her to pay for her school supplies and other life expenses.

Justyna’s incredible work ethic, natural leadership qualities, and experiences through the Continuing Care Assistant program will help her further her future goal of becoming a licensed practical nurse (LPN). Justyna says, “Taking the Continuing Care Assistant Program has opened the door for me to one day become an LPN. The best is yet to come!!!”

Justyna gave it her all and did not let obstacles keep her from completing her work.



Dumont Technical Institute— Office Administration Student Regina by Desirae Barker

Enya Revoy started the Office Administration program at the Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) in Regina in 2020. After securing funding through the Gabriel Dumont Institute Training and Employment for the duration of the program, she was able to completely focus on her schoolwork, which she stated was extremely helpful. She is now on her way to graduate from the program at the end of June 2021.



Despite the pandemic, Enya has been highly engaged in both online and in-person classroom environments. She asks insightful questions, receives high grades, and eagerly assists other students. Her instructors describe her as a “strong ambassador for the Office Administration program and the Institute.”

Enya brought her personal knowledge of Métis culture and Michif to the classroom from the very beginning of the program. She inspired others to share and deepen their cultural understandings. As a child, she learned Michif from her grandmother and has always wanted to learn more. “I felt like it was important to try and help my grandmother keep the language alive,” stated Enya. At the age of 12, she said a Michif prayer for the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) in Regina. From the Elder’s emotional reaction to her prayer, she realized she needed to continue on this path.

Enya is an active community member and credits her mother for helping her become connected to her community and her culture. This past summer, she worked on a project for Canadian Geographic that involved interviewing Métis community members and having them teach a traditional Métis skill. Most recently, Enya and a partner applied for a research grant. The grant will fund a research project about grief and how it affects us and our communities as Métis people.

Currently, Enya is completing her work placement at the City of Regina Mâdawêyatitân Centre. In the future, she intends on furthering her education and applying herself in Regina’s lower-income areas in the hope of one day becoming a resource for Indigenous communities across the province.

Enya’s advice to anyone thinking about furthering their education is, “It is absolutely worth it. The investment DTI gives you, and you give them, creates a very even dynamic; both focused on your success. The instructors did an amazing job, were flexible, and offered one-on-one when it was needed. It is a great choice, and I am very happy I was able to attend.”

Dumont Technical Institute—Adult Basic Education Level Four Saskatoon

by Mattia Gregory

Anne Bear began her journey in education at the Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) in Saskatoon several years ago. She began taking courses to complete the Adult Basic Education (ABE) Level Three program and is now completing ABE Level Four. Anne graduated from ABE Level Four with her grade 12 education in June 2021. After graduation, Anne plans to further her education and has applied to DTI's Continuing Care Assistant (CCA) program. She was accepted into the program this month and will begin her CCA studies this fall.

Anne has been described as curious, determined, and focused by instructors. She is a goal-oriented person who has overcome many barriers to graduate and further her education. Anne is an active advocate for Métis culture and strives to be a positive role model for those around her. Earlier this year, the DTI Saskatoon ABE students took part in a culture week, where they had the opportunity to learn about and sew their own Ribbon Skirts. Anne was particularly excited about this workshop as it relates to her cultural and family values. Upon finishing her Ribbon Skirt, she stated, "My Ribbon Skirt is inspired by my grandchildren. I used a kokhum print because I am a kokhum of 16 grandchildren. For DTI to offer this workshop is so beautiful, a chance to become one with culture." Anne is always willing to participate in class and workshops—her positive attitude truly shines. When she isn't working hard at school, she spends her time beading, sewing, making rugs, and with family.

When Anne first came to DTI, she was unaware of what she wanted to do and what she could achieve. With the help of the DTI instructors, Anne was able to see her potential and to see how she was worthy of obtaining the education she was pursuing. Anne says, "DTI and the staff helped me realize that I can do anything I set my mind to. At DTI you are family, you are respected, and there is always someone there for you."

My ribbon skirt is inspired by my 16 grandchildren.



Dumont Technical Institute—Early Childhood Educator Level One Buffalo Narrows by Mattia Gregory



Megan Morin enrolled in the Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Level One program in order to become an ECE in her home community of Buffalo Narrows. She completed the program in June and now has her Early Childhood Educator Level One. Megan prioritized her schooling while being the best mom possible to her daughter. Megan had to overcome the obstacle of making sure her daughter had a safe place to be while she attended school. She continues to be a positive role model for her daughter, showcasing the importance of education.

In the classroom, Megan has been described as a quiet, caring, and dedicated student. She is always willing to help her fellow classmates and is a positive influence, particularly regarding study habits. When it's time to do group projects, Megan plays a major role in supporting her fellow group members throughout the project's entirety. Megan shared with the class how to bead with different sets of techniques. She embodies professionalism and demonstrates a growth-based mindset.

When Megan isn't hard at work with her education, she spends time with her daughter. Megan is highly regarded in her home community: they recognize her kind-spirited heart. Megan wants to continue her journey at DTI with hopes to get into the ECE Level Two program.

Megan has been described as a quiet, caring, and dedicated student. She is always willing to help her fellow classmates and is a positive influence, particularly regarding study habits.

Financial Support Available to Saskatchewan Métis Students

by Desirae Barker

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) works closely with partners across Saskatchewan to secure Métis-specific programs and services for students. The financial support that GDI can provide students through sponsorship, scholarships, and bursaries are excellent opportunities and have been extremely helpful to Métis students across the province. “GDI helped me finish my education with little to no stress that comes with the financial costs of tuition, books, and various school fees. The sponsorship helped me feel secure and motivated to finish my education,” commented Emma Dewald, GDI Training & Employment Individual Sponsorship Program Client and Saskatchewan Polytechnic Human Resources Diploma Graduate.



Emma Dewald

MÉTIS NATION—SASKATCHEWAN UNIVERSITY SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

The Métis Nation—Saskatchewan University (MNU) Sponsorship Program is a 10-year, \$89 million post-secondary fund specifically for Métis students. Eligible students must be Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN—S) citizens and registered full-time in an accredited university-level education program. The sponsorship is distributed to students as direct financial support in the form of tuition, books, and living allowance. MNU accepts applications online from students twice per year; for fall and winter term intake. For more information, visit our webpage: www.gdins.org/university.

MÉTIS NATION POST-SECONDARY COVID-19 RELIEF BENEFIT

The Métis Nation Post-Secondary COVID-19 Relief Benefit provides financial assistance to Métis post-secondary students who have demonstrated need because of economic disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible students must be MN—S citizens and must be attending an accredited post-secondary institution. The program accepts online applications on an ongoing basis, and applicants are notified within ten business days if their request has been approved. For more information, visit our webpage: www.gdins.org/covid-19/metis-nation-post-secondary-covid-relief-benefit.

INDIVIDUAL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

The Individual Sponsorship Program helps Métis clients prepare for the workforce and obtain and maintain long-term, quality employment. GDI Training & Employment directly sponsors individuals attending student loan-eligible or industry-recognized training programs. Sponsorship includes direct financial support in the form of tuition, books, supplies, and more. Eligible students must be Métis, a minimum of 18 years of age, have barriers to employment, be unemployed, and actively seeking employment. For more information, visit our webpage: www.gdins.org/career-and-employment/sponsorship/individual-sponsorship-program.

GABRIEL DUMONT SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

The Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation (GDSF) has been administering scholarships for Saskatchewan Métis for over four decades. Scholarships and bursaries are awarded to Métis students who are Saskatchewan residents and registered full-time at an accredited post-secondary institution. The scholarships and bursaries are intended to recognize leadership, academic ability, financial need, and community involvement. GDSF has two application deadlines; October 1 and May 1 annually. For more information visit our webpage: www.gdins.org/scholarships.

If you would like to learn more about the financial support opportunities available to you, please contact GDI at 1.306.242.6070, toll free at 1.877.488.6888, or via email at info@gdins.org.

Gabriel Dumont Institute Press New Releases

by David Morin



Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Press strives to meet the part of the Institute's mission statement to promote the renewal and development of Métis culture through research, materials development, collection and distribution of those materials. To accomplish this, GDI Press publishes a variety of titles to fill gaps in the available literature on Métis history and culture.

GDI Press had a busy spring, publishing four new titles! Released in May, *20.12m: A Short Story Collection of a Life Lived as a Road Allowance Métis* was the first of the new releases. Written by Arnolda Dufour Bowes with illustrations by Andrea Haughian, this short story collection celebrates and acknowledges the humble living conditions of Métis Road Allowance families and it exemplifies their grit and tenacity to survive and indeed succeed in the face of so many hardships. "20.12m" refers to the narrow width of many of the road allowances throughout the prairies. This unoccupied crown land became one of the meagre options for many impoverished Métis families as so few owned land. Arnolda honours the true-life experiences of her father, Arnold Charles Dufour, a resident of the Punnichy, Saskatchewan Road Allowance community by weaving true elements with those drawn from her own creativity.

The beginning of June brought *The Métis Alphabet Colouring Book*, an adaptation of Joseph Jean Fauchon's popular children's book of the same name. With enhanced cultural content, this colouring book highlights historical figures, significant events, places of interest and other aspects of Métis identity to take

youthful readers beyond the alphabet to explore the richness of Métis history and culture. Images by George Gingras provide an engaging complement to the text. *The Métis Alphabet Colouring Book* strengthens Métis pride and identity while providing young readers with an informative reference book about the essence of being Métis.

Two new titles continuing our series of how-to books on Métis material culture. Released on June 21st, National Indigenous Peoples Day, *asowacikanisa: A Guide to Small Métis Bags*, by Gregory Scofield and Amy Briley, is a step-by-step process on how to create two different bags, a tobacco pouch, and a sash bag. Both were traditional utilitarian items used by the Métis. These bags are used today to carry traditional medicines and other treasured items. Complete with historical information, easy-to-follow instructions, detailed photos, and accompanying instructional DVD, this resource provides everything the reader needs to make their own traditional bags.

sînapân kîskasâkâs: A Guide to Making Contemporary-Style Métis Ribbon Skirts assists the reader in the creation of their own Métis-style ribbon skirt. Authors, Bonny Johnson and Leah Marie Dorion guide the reader through the process with detailed instructions which are accompanied by photographs of each step. This resource also comes with a companion step-by-step DVD, and introductions from both authors on the historical and contemporary uses of these traditional Métis style ribbon skirts.

All of these new titles and more can be found at www.shopmetis.ca !

Dr. Melanie Brice Appointed University of Regina Gabriel Dumont Research Chair

by Desirae Barker

The Faculty of Education at the University of Regina announced on June 9, 2021, that Dr. Melanie Brice has been appointed to the inaugural Gabriel Dumont Chair in Métis/Michif Education for a five-year term.

This new Research Chair position is part of a successful partnership between the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) and the University of Regina Faculty of Education. “For over four decades, GDI and the University of Regina Faculty of Education have partnered on many outstanding Métis-specific undergraduate and graduate programs,” said Viola Bell, GDI Board of Governors Vice-Chair. “It is from these unique teaching partnerships that the success for the Gabriel Dumont Chair in Métis/Michif Education will be grounded.”

Dr. Jerome Cranston, Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Regina states, “The faculty continues to demonstrate a concerted and sustained commitment to teaching and research that is engaging faculty, students, and other education stakeholders in gaining a deeper understanding of our shared histories and a reconciliatory approach to a more just future.”

Dr. Brice is Michif/Métis born in Meadow Lake and has a strong understanding of Indigenous histories, cultures, languages and literacies, perspectives, educational experiences, and cross-cultural education issues.

Since 2018, Dr. Brice has been working with the University of Regina Faculty of Education as an Assistant Professor in Indigenous Education, Language & Literacy Education, and Educational Core Studies.

Dr. Brice will focus on research, learning, knowledge-keeping, language and cultural revitalization, reconciliation, and inclusion with and by the Métis through formal education systems.

According to the Statistics Canada 2016 census, with a rising population of 51.2%, the Métis were the fastest growing population in Canada between 2006 and 2016. However, less than two percent of Métis

people speak the Michif language, making the Michif language one of the most vulnerable Indigenous languages in Canada.

The Chair position will increase the teaching capacity in Métis/Michif education at the University of Regina and enhance academic engagement with GDI’s Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP).

“We are pleased with the appointment of Dr. Melanie Brice. This Chair position is fundamental not only for Métis scholars and students but for the entire community as we work towards preserving the Michif language and Métis culture through education,” said Lisa Bird-Wilson, GDI Executive Director.

Dr. Brice will begin her term as Research Chair of Métis/Michif Education at the University of Regina this month.



John Arcand Music Room Dedication

by Karon Shmon

John Arcand has received the Order of Canada, the *Order of Gabriel Dumont*, and played his fiddle nationally and internationally, including playing once for Queen Elizabeth II who deemed his music “jolly good.” In spite of these accolades, a more recent honour more aptly demonstrates John’s impact on individuals, on a community, and on his beloved Métis culture.

Arcand was recently honoured in Île-à-la-Crosse with the dedication of the music room at Rossignol High School where the arts and culture room has been named the John Arcand Arts and Culture Room. The honour marks the enormous contribution John has made over the last ten and a half years as the community fiddle teacher.

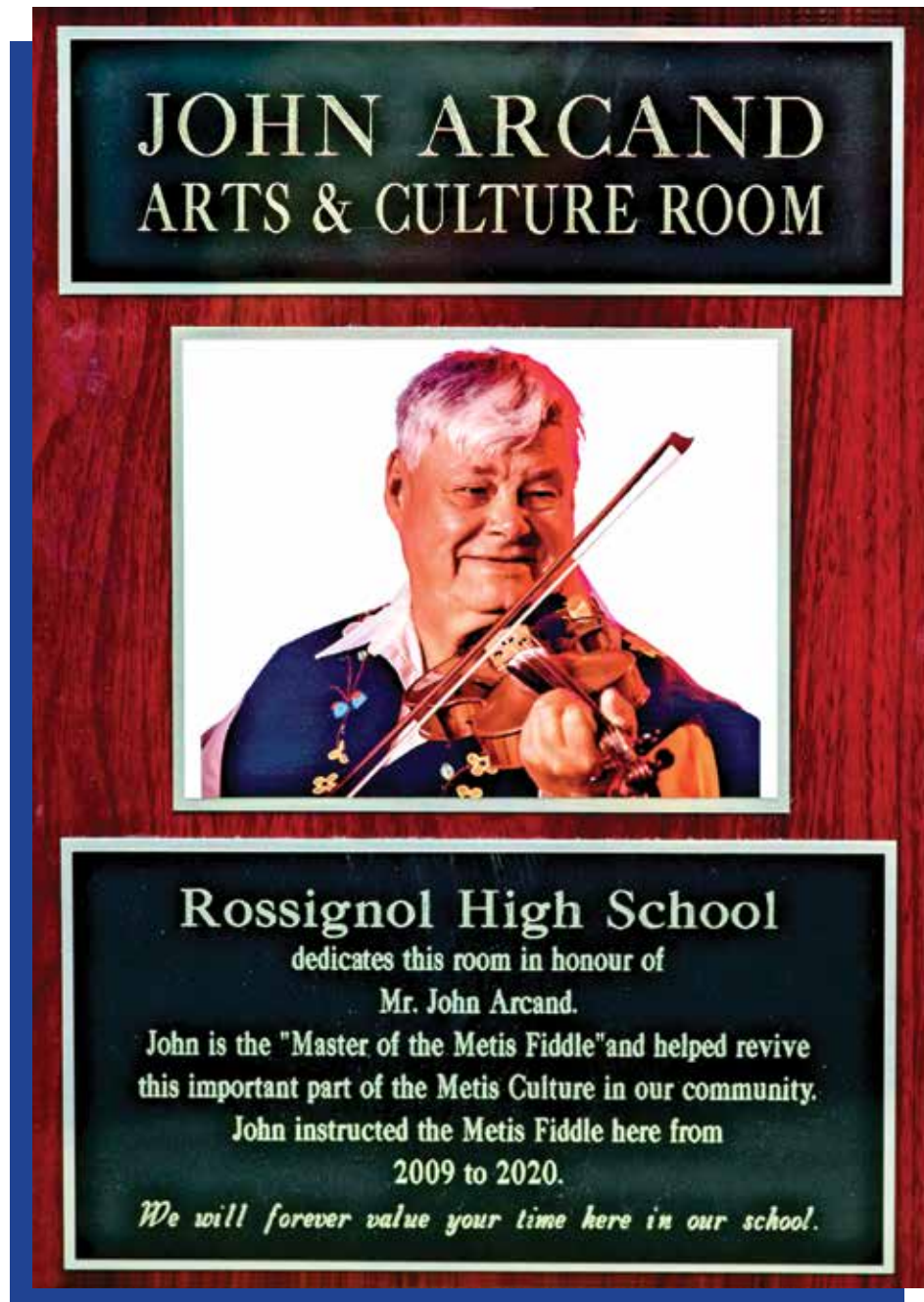


photo by Ted Flett used with permission.

The June 9th dedication ceremony was held virtually due to COVID regulations and cautions. The ceremony opened with a prayer from Barb Morin. Rossignol High School Principal Vince Ahenakew was the emcee for the ceremony.

The plaque, presented by Ted Flett on behalf of the school, students, and community, has a wonderful photo of John playing his fiddle and a heartfelt dedication.

The praise for John's contributions were many and heartfelt. The students shared their gratitude and praise for what they have learned from John.

Jeremy Corrigan: On behalf of myself, a big thank you for everything you taught me, for keeping the culture within me alive. You helped me connect better spiritually to myself. You gave me a gift that I can carry on for generations to come. You saw me grow up and you were there every step of the way. Thank you for everything you did for me, for Joe, and for this community. Thank you.

Kassidy Bouvier-Lemaigre: Just want to say thank you for everything. You taught me and so many others and you showed us all that we have a gift. I know that I'll never be able to thank you enough for that. So, from all of us, thank you!

William McGonigle: It was great to learn from you for even just a few years. You taught me a lot. I just want to say thanks. Part of the reason that I am still playing is just because I admire you and your songs and I want to keep progressing. So, thanks!

These tributes were followed by more praise from Barb Morin, Brenda Green, and Rossignol Elementary School administrators, Sharon Hoffman and Krissy Bouvier-Lemaigre.

Krissy Bouvier-Lemaigre: Thank you for everything. You taught me, and so many others, and you showed us all that we have a gift. You are a gift to us. You are a gift to our schools. What you did is more than teach fiddle, you helped us to reclaim something that was nearly lost. You brought the fiddle, the music, the pride, back into our schools and into our homes, John. Now, fiddles often accompany our community and family celebrations. This is what you have done for us and for our community. We are forever grateful.

Duane Favel, who is the mayor of Île-à-la-Crosse and the School Division Chairperson, echoed the sentiments of the earlier speakers.

Duane Favel: John, it is with tremendous honour that the school division here has allowed me to speak, and I am certainly speaking on behalf of everybody in this community, the historical Métis community of Île-à-la-Crosse. We praise you and we thank you for all the work, the unwavering commitment you made over ten years with this fiddling program. We all realize the benefits of what you've accomplished cannot be measured. Your work reverberates throughout the community in many different positive ways. We can see it in the students you taught to play and we can also see it in the families of these students because it allowed the pride of the community to flourish in many different ways. When we think of ourselves as a historical Métis community, the fiddle is a big element, and we thank you for your work, because this was slowly disappearing as some of the speakers have said. It's unbelievable the way that your work, your music, your instruction, has touched so many lives in this community, and of course, your work does not go unrecognized. Maarsii, thank you very much John for everything you have done for us.

In typical John Arcand fashion, he expressed his appreciation with a brief and sincere social media post, "I am so honored. My time in both the Elementary and High School is a chapter of my life that holds many precious memories. Maarsii."



Tributes Pour in for Outgoing Executive Director, Geordy McCaffrey

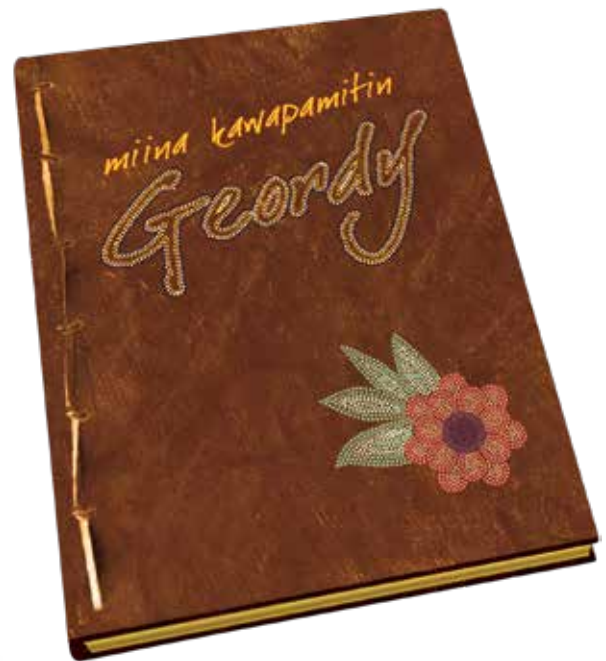
by Karon Shmon

A small number of Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) staff bid farewell to Geordy McCaffrey on his retirement at the end of June 2021. The small number of staff, less than 30 people, aligned with the COVID restrictions in place at the time. A farewell that will accommodate a larger group is planned for the fall or later after the restrictions are lifted.

Geordy received a memory book containing dozens of tributes sent to wish him well on his retirement. The keepsake also contained photos taken during his many years at GDI.

We are sharing two of the tributes because they reflect how appreciative those within GDI, and those external to GDI, are for Geordy's work, leadership, mentorship, and friendship.

Although this preliminary farewell was small in numbers, the warmth and sincerity in the room was enormous.



"I'm proud to have been a part of the Gabriel Dumont Institute's growth and evolution, and looking forward to seeing what comes next, both for the school and for myself," said Geordy. "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."



I am very pleased and honoured to provide these comments and farewell to my very good friend, Geordy McCaffrey, in his retirement from the Executive Director position of the Gabriel Dumont Institute.

I attended SUNTEP with Geordy and I am very happy that he's retiring from the very first job that he cared about. This shows his true commitment to Métis education and Métis culture. The entire Gabriel Dumont Institute conglomerate will continue to prosper into the future because of all the years of dedication, hard work, and expertise that he has devoted into it.

I would like to send him best wishes for an incredibly happy retirement. I want to thank him for everything he has done for the Métis people of Saskatchewan through education, policy development and his influence. It is much appreciated. His guidance, and encouragement have helped so many Métis people and we have been so fortunate to have his expertise to rely on.

He made the GDI Mission Statement come alive:

“To promote the renewal and development of Métis culture through research, materials development, collection and distribution of those materials and the design, development and delivery of Métis-specific educational programs and services”.

Duane Favel, Mayor of Île-à-la-Crosse

It is with a heavy heart that I attempt to convey with words and language this fond farewell expressing the work of our fearless leader Geordy McCaffrey. It has been an absolute honour and privilege to work and collaborate with Geordy for many years. Geordy is a champion leader who has and continues to inspire, mentor, and coach countless people and most importantly, represent the Métis people in this province. With his heart on his sleeve, Geordy's personal and professional resiliency, beliefs, and experiences have guided his unwavering leadership with a commitment to Métis engagement in post-secondary institutions, students, staff, faculty, community members, stakeholders, and partners.

His momentous leadership practices have revealed the epitome of building and sustaining respectful relationships, leading governance, and a steadfast vision for the Gabriel Dumont Institute driven by inclusivity and ally-ship. Geordy's advocacy work is impeccable, facing politics, institutional shifts, and community needs, his commitment to social justice and equity has and continues to be led with courage and a plan. His pledge and vision in GDI has shaped and re-shaped pathways that are built on excellence, decolonization, a sense of belonging, and Métis pride. He remains committed to his principles, is a humble lifelong learner who is selfless, putting others first. Geordy is a catalyst for 'change' expanding Métis Ways of Knowing and Being with authenticity, sincerity, strong kinship, and extended relations over and above the call of duty in this province. It is unquestionable the legacy of Geordy's work will be met with fond memories in friendships, in collegiality, and with community support. All the best as you move forward. Thank you for the work you have done. Your legacy will live on and you will be missed Geordy!

Respectfully,

Janice R. Thompson



André Ruest Donates Métis Beaded Vest to the Gabriel Dumont Institute

by Darren Préfontaine

In January 2021, André Ruest of Rimouski, Québec generously donated a Métis beaded vest that is more than a hundred years old to the Gabriel Dumont Institute. Marc Masson, of the Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise, brought M. Ruest's request to find a proper home for this striking artifact to the attention of the Gabriel Dumont Institute Culture and Heritage Department. From there, the Institute worked with M. Ruest to repatriate this wonderful example of Métis artisanal skill to the Métis Nation. The Institute heartily thanks both M. Ruest for his generous donation and Marc Masson for assisting in this process. Merci pi Maarsii!



Photograph credit: George Gingras

Below is M. Ruest's donation letter translated and adapted from the original French.

I will pass along information about the vest and its origins in my family. I am very happy with the outcome of this story. I am honoured that the Gabriel Dumont Institute will let us repatriate this magnificent artifact to the Métis Nation. It is a beautiful way to pay homage to the Métis Nation and its rich culture. It warms my heart to know that the Ruest family can contribute to the reconciliation and the recognition of the Métis Nation.

Around 1895, Charles and Émile Ruest worked in construction during the winter. During that time, they learned to speak a little English from a cook that worked with them. In the spring, they decided to leave for Saskatchewan to raise cattle. On the spot, they changed their last name to King. Ruest was pronounced "Roy" in English. They simplified that to King. Upon their arrival to Saskatchewan, they established in the Harris region. Their land was 50 miles outside of Harris. They were both bachelors. On occasion, they went into town to shop, visit their friends, and probably some girls as well. Émile bought a vest made by Indigenous people. It was probably the only occasion he wore it.

After Émile's death, his brother Désiré Ruest inherited it. He kept it for many years. After all these years, he gave it to his son, André Ruest. I've had it in my possession for many years now. As I have no next of kin and grow older, I did some research to see where I could best entrust this beautiful Indigenous artifact. Happily, I am communicating with the best people to expose and highlight this magnificent beaded vest.

André Ruest



Photograph credit: Désiré Ruest

COVID-19 Update & Support Available for Students

by Desirae Barker

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) COVID-19 response to the pandemic has been focused on the continuity of education for students. Amid the impact of the pandemic, GDI was able to secure many resources to ultimately provide a safe and healthy learning environment for all students, staff, and faculty.

After integrating new education models across all GDI campuses and facilities, programs adapted to online or partially online learning environments. To minimize the effects of this disruption, GDI's IT Department set up remote connections and provided laptops to students. Students are still able to contact the head of their programs should they require a laptop or other technology to complete their studies.

GDI applied to several sources to secure emergency funding for Métis students. Significant partnerships include those with the MasterCard Foundation, United Way of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunity Scholarships, and the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan. Through these partnerships, GDI was able to provide over \$600,000 in immediate support to students. All emergency funding received was used to provide immediate access to technological solutions for distance learning, laptops, mental health and wellness resources, and direct supports to help meet basic needs like rent, childcare, and medications.

Currently, Métis students struggling with the effects of COVID-19 can still apply for support through the Métis Nation COVID-19 Post-Secondary Relief Benefit Program. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis, and successful applicants will be notified within ten business days of their application submission. To apply online visit: www.gdins.org/covid-19.

GDI also launched a mental health services program with Morneau Shepell for all students. This program provides access to free counseling and mental health support via the keep.meSAFE program for all GDI students. To access these free services, students can call toll-free at 1.844.451.9700 or download the My SSP app. For more information, students can use their intranet login and visit: www.gdins.org/intranet/keep-me-safe.

On June 16, 2021, GDI released an updated pandemic plan which outlines the fall delivery of programs and site-specific protocols. In accordance with phase three of the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan, GDI will slowly begin transitioning back into the classroom. For more information and the latest GDI COVID-19 updates visit: www.gdins.org/covid.

As we continue the battle with the COVID-19 pandemic, GDI's top concern remains the health and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff. We must continue to follow all mandatory public health orders and occupational health and safety guidelines. We strongly encourage all GDI staff and students to get their COVID-19 vaccinations as soon as they are eligible.



The correction notice below is self-explanatory. The Gabriel Dumont institute appreciates the swift action taken by John Lagimodiere, publisher of *Eagle Feather News* (EFN), to inform readers of the correction and to allow the Gabriel Dumont Institute to reprint it here. The correction can also be read in the July edition of EFN and at: <https://www.eaglefeathernews.com/news/correction-on-recent-article-on-mn-s-election>

News

Correction on recent article on MN-S election

| June 16, 2021

We would like to apologize to the Gabriel Dumont Institute and Vice President Michelle LeClair for the several inaccuracies that appeared in the article "New MN-S VP LeClair, re-elected Pres McCallum differ on issues". The article recently appeared in our June issue and on our website.

The article inaccurately states that "It was also alleged that GDI played a political role in the election by only inviting certain candidates to a political debate." For the record, GDI did not host a political debate of any kind. GDI invited each candidate to submit information on their platforms for a special election issue of *New Nation* magazine. 17 out of 18 responded. The one person who did not respond was sent several subsequent invitations, via several methods and refused to respond or submit information.

Eagle Feather News also wants to correct this statement. "Allegations of the MN-S overstepping its boundaries in GDI operations by having an appointed Minister take an active role in the governance of the organization." The actual governance of GDI is of a 12-person board of governors selected from the 12 MN-S regions plus a Chair. That Chairperson is the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan Minister of Education.

There was also a mistake in this quote from Vice President Michelle LeClair. She is quoted as saying "GDI has positioned itself with its affiliates in ways that other governments would find inappropriate." The Institute does not have affiliates and is not a government. It should have read "MN-S has positioned itself..." and not GDI.

We sincerely apologize to Vice President Michelle LeClair the Gabriel Dumont Institute board, management, staff and students for the confusion and harm done by these inaccuracies. We deeply regret the errors and will aim to do better in the future.

John Lagimodiere
Publisher Eagle Feather News



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JOIN US FOR A FIDDLE CONCERT WEEKEND!

AUGUST 13th & 14th!

Each show starts at 7:00 pm

Tickets \$20 per person, per show

available at the gate only

Please bring your own lawn chair.

Located at the John Arcand Fiddle Fest Site

Find us on Google Maps with

“John Arcand Fiddle Fest Grounds”



John Arcand Fiddle Fest
John Arcand
Gabriel Dumont Institute

FRIDAY

Take a step back
in time and
enjoy a

MÉTIS KITCHEN PARTY!

Artists: John Arcand,
Lucas Welch, Tristen Durocher,
Cathy Sproule, Jordan Daniels,
Joseph Desjarlais, JJ Guy, and
Jeremy Corrigan

SATURDAY

FIDDLE FEST FAVOURITES:

Founder John Arcand is joined
by his daughter Michelle and
his grandson Lee.

Then enjoy Freddie and Sheila
Pelletier, James Steele and
Lionel Gilbertson.

Old time dance follows, with
live music by Rural Routes.

FROM WOODSMOKE ... TO BANDWIDTH

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