



THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



Display Curation: Tracey Verishine and Keron Shmon
Display Installation: Tracey, Brenda Hryciuk, George Gringras, and Ryan Nordmarken

The GDI Communicator is an internal newsletter intended to increase communication between management and staff of the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research

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LET'S GET SOCIAL



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EVERY CHILD MATTERS DISPLAY

By Desirae Barker

In May 2021, a harrowing discovery of the remains of 215 Indigenous children was found buried at the former Kamloops Residential School. This tragedy sent shockwaves across the entire country and prompted many First Nations to begin radar ground searches for remains on former residential school grounds. Today, thousands of unmarked graves of children have been uncovered at the sites of various residential schools across Canada.

More than 150,000 First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children attended residential schools, dating back to 1870.¹ These institutions, created by Christian churches and the Canadian government, were designed to forcibly separate Indigenous children from their families and strip them of their cultural practices, languages, and ways of life.² These schools were

rampant with severe physical, emotional, and sexual abuse—with a mortality rate between 40-60%.³ Over 130 residential schools were located across Canada, the last being closed in 1996.⁴ The impact of residential schools still lives on today, with effects of abuse felt throughout generations.

In solidarity with the survivors and relatives of the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children who never made it home from residential schools, GDI employees worked together to make children's slippers. These slippers represent the loss of the children's natural path and acknowledge the stolen childhoods and lifelong trauma that is ongoing among survivors and their families and communities.

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MIYOONAKISHKATOOHK STUDENTS

By Marilyn Black, DTI Program Coordinator

Miyoonakishkatoohk (Michif for Welcome) to Saskatoon Adult Basic Education (ABE) and Workplace 101 Early Childhood Education Level 1 for the 2021-2022 academic year!

Students at the Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) are the most important stakeholder and the reason why we are here. The staff have been diligently planning and preparing for the upcoming programs in Saskatoon. We believe and follow the principles that learners come first and can be successful through respectful

relationships, caring support, and genuine encouragement. We all have the same goal – to help folks create academic and employment opportunities. We deliver high-quality education through interactive, relevant learning activities.

What makes DTI truly exceptional is that Métis culture is integrated throughout the content and environment. The priority to learn about Métis culture drives everything that we do. The staff and students learn about Métis-style

ribbon skirts, Michif language, ceremonies, beading, fiddling, and much more while meeting the curricular outcomes.

Programming this year will continue to be delivered in a hybrid blend of online and in-person classes. We are flexible to accommodate any changes as needed due to the pandemic. Students and staff and safety are paramount.

The Staff and I extend welcoming messages to the incoming 2021-2022 students:



Marilyn Black, Program Coordinator

My role is to provide support in any way possible. We use a collaborative approach so that you have a team to ‘wrap around’ as you walk the path towards a bright future. We believe in you, value your story and want you to know that you belong, that you will always have a ‘place at the table’. Maarsii!



Renee Zhao, ECE Instructor

I just joined the GDI family as an ECE instructor. I’m passionate about education and I enjoy interacting with people of diverse backgrounds. I am a family person and in my free time I like to spend time with them. I look forward to meeting everyone this upcoming academic year!



Randi Ross, ABE Instructor

I am new to DTI, but I have been on staff with GDI for over 3 years. I am excited to be here and join your educational journey. As an educator, I strive to create a safe and fun learning environment for every learner. We will have a great year, I know it, and to make it the best it can be let’s all start with one main thing: show up, with a good attitude and open mind. Maarsii poor soopii!



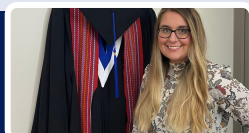
Janelle Duplessis, ABE Instructor

I would like to welcome new students and staff to ABE Saskatoon! Even after 15 years of teaching at DTI, I am still excited to begin a new school year. DTI embraces our Métis cultural heritage and proudly offers many opportunities to participate in cultural learning. My goal is to encourage learners to develop the skills they need to be successful.



Shawna Dubiel, ABE Instructor

Welcome to the wonderful world of Adult Basic Education! Whether you are a returning student or brand new to our institute, you are a valued member of our learning community. My advice to you for guaranteed success this year is simple: come to school every day; complete your schoolwork, as assigned; and, communicate with your instructors. La bonn luck!



Trena Vanghel, Program Support Facilitator

Welcome to all new DTI students as you begin (or continue!) your learning journey within our institution. All of our staff here are extremely excited to begin the year and get working! Our united goal is to create an atmosphere of learning where everyone can succeed and feels like they belong. I look forward to meeting you all, and my door is always open. Payhtuk!



Amanda Fisher-Lafambe, Administration Assistant Registration Department

Tansi Pihtokwi! Hello and Welcome to DTI. I can’t wait to meet you all!! Being accepted in the Adult Basic Education Program is truly a gift. I am so grateful to witness you all on your journey of building a brighter future. It will be so great to see you all wearing your cap and gowns with the beautiful Métis Sash at Graduation!!



Lauren Dhaliwal, Administrative Coordinator PTA

Taanishi, dishinikaashoon! I run the ABE Student Registration department and PTA for DTI. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or issues with PTA. I would like to welcome you to DTI and my hope for you is that you have a memorable year as you achieve your academic goals. We look forward to supporting you towards your success!






“We’re Bringing the Children Home”



**Kahkiyaw Ili zaañfaañ
i sooñ sheer**

Every Child Matters

The Gabriel Dumont Institute invites you to view our tribute to the children, families, survivors, and communities that have suffered as a result of residential schools.

Visit the GDI Facebook Page or YouTube Page to view the tribute:
<https://youtu.be/Ww-R20bceT0>

BABY STEPS TO RECONCILIATION IS AT LEAST A START

By Karon Shmon

Since 1870, over 150,000 Indigenous children attended residential schools. The resulting intergenerational trauma continues as many living adults went to residential schools, as did their parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents. Entire communities were seriously damaged by the forced removal of school-aged children to residential schools. This made fall, and September, a sad time that can still trigger fear for those who experienced residential school.

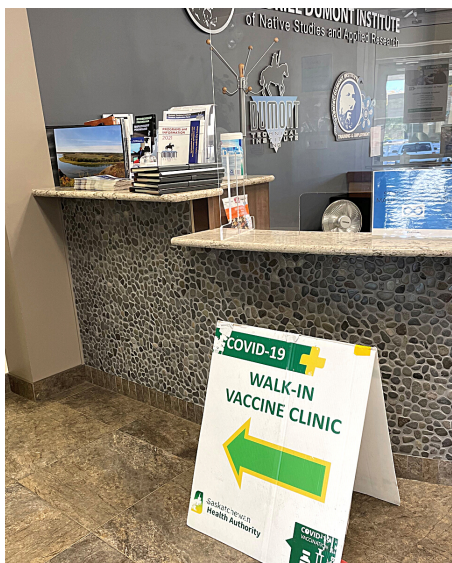
The testimonies of survivors and their families were collected over time by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and resulted in a final report that includes 94 Calls to Action aimed at moving everyone closer to reconciliation. The sheer number of “calls,” and the expectation that they result in “action,” is daunting, even for those of us who are Indigenous and who work for an Indigenous organization.

Indigenous peoples, the Inuit, the Métis, and the First Nations, are not the only ones who are being called to act. Reconciliation is the work of all Canadians. Sadly, this part of Canada’s history has been omitted and ignored in K-12 curricula. As a result, many non-Indigenous citizens are stunned as these truths come to light.

Reconciliation may be a journey of a thousand miles or more, but we can head in the right direction going one step at a time. Simply reading the 94 Calls to Action only takes five minutes.

One small step taken by the employees of the Gabriel Dumont Institute was the creation of a commemorative display to honour those who perished, the survivors, and their families.

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GDI DROP-IN VACCINE CLINIC SUCCESS

By Desirae Barker

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) hosted three Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) Drop-In COVID-19 Vaccine clinics this September. Each clinic proved to be a great success!

total of 156 individuals received a vaccine from our clinics: 88 in Saskatoon, 20 in Regina, and 48 in La Loche. A majority of the immunizations given were first doses.

The GDI campus clinics were held in Saskatoon (Sept 24th), Regina (Sept 24th), and La Loche (Sept 29th).

Each clinic was open to the public, students, clients, and staff and provided immunization to anyone who meets the current vaccine eligibility. Clinics provided first, second, or booster doses of the Moderna or Pfizer immunization. GDI is happy to report that a combined

“It’s always a success when people get vaccinated. We know that vaccines are saving lives. Every person vaccinated is less likely to be hospitalized, and we are all one step closer to getting back to normal,” stated April Bourgeois, Employment Services Manager and GDI Regina vaccine clinic lead.

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NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH & RECONCILIATION



SUNTEP Prince Albert



GDI Saskatoon



SUNTEP/GDC Saskatoon Students



GDI Culture & Heritage

DTI Saskatoon



NSITEP



GDI Saskatoon



SUNTEP Saskatoon Staff

EVERY CHILD MATTERS DISPLAY

Continued from page 1

The children's slippers were then curated into a special display by Karon Shmon and Tracey Verishine and installed by Tracey Verishine, Brenda Hrycuik, George Gingras, and Ryan Nordmarken.

This display is located on the main floor of the GDI central office in Saskatoon, and was installed in commemoration for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th, which has recently become a federally recognized statutory holiday. September 30th originally began as Orange Shirt Day to acknowledge the painful experience of Phyllis Webstad, who was stripped of her orange shirt on the day she arrived at the residential school.

After the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the slippers were donated to the neonatal unit of the children's hospital and some were sold to those who want them. All the profits will go to the local Residential School Survivors' Group under the administration of the United Way.

Kahkiyaw lii zaañfaañ i sooñ sheer
—Every Child Matters

References for the research in this article:

- 1 Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.
- 2 Jeyan Jeganathan and Carla Lucchetta, "Felt Throughout Generations: A timeline of Residential Schools in Canada." TVO.org Indigenous stories, <https://www.tvo.org/article/felt-throughout-generations-a-timeline-of-residential-schools-in-canada>.
- 3 Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.
- 4 IBID. 🌐

BABY STEPS TO RECONCILIATION IS AT LEAST A START

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We made children's moccasins to symbolize the unfinished lives of those who died at residential schools.

A second step was to commission a tune from John Arcand. This became a song once lyrics were added by John's wife Vicki. Sheila Pelletier sang the lyrics while John and Freddie Pelletier accompanied her on fiddle and guitar. GDI staff were invited to view the online video tribute on September 30th and to reflect on what is being commemorated. The video is

still viewable on the GDI Facebook pages and YouTube: <https://youtu.be/Ww-R20bceTO>

This day started out as Orange Shirt Day and has now become a federally recognized day called the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. It was heartwarming to see so many GDI employees wearing orange on this special day of remembrance and reflection. Each of these steps is moving us along on the journey we must all take. 🌐

GDI DROP-IN VACCINE CLINIC SUCCESS

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A second round of GDI drop-in vaccine clinics are currently being planned and will be announced at a later date. If you were unable to attend a GDI drop-in vaccine clinic

you can find a clinic near you at www.saskatchewan.ca/COVID-19-vaccine. We encourage everyone to stay safe and become fully-vaccinated! 🌐





RAPID TEST QUICK FACTS

- ✓ For asymptomatic unvaccinated staff and students
- ✓ Test one time per week before first day of in-person class or work
- ✓ All rapid tests will be self-administered
- ✓ Tests only valid at GDI facilities
- ✓ Instructions included with each individually wrapped test
- ✓ Regular Rapid Testing is to begin **October 18, 2021**

COVID-19 UPDATE: RAPID TESTING

The Institute's vaccination requirements were sent out in early September to all staff and students.

Vaccination Requirements

In order to keep GDI facilities and campuses safe, GDI is strongly encouraging all students, faculty, and staff to receive their COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible.

Attestation of vaccination status remains with each individual and is on the honour system. In the interest of safety within our communities, those who have not been fully-vaccinated will be expected to self-monitor with regular rapid testing once per week and complete a daily symptom checklist before participating in any in-person activities. Anyone who is feeling unwell should not attend a GDI facility. Anyone exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or who

receive a positive rapid test should follow SHA guidelines, call the Healthline at 811, and make arrangements to be tested. Exemptions/accommodations may be made. See your supervisor for more information.

Rapid Testing

Rapid tests, instructions, and PPE will be provided at each GDI facility. Unvaccinated staff and students will be required to self-administer weekly rapid tests. The rapid test must be self-administered prior to attending your first day of work or in-person class each week. It is up to each of us to keep our community safe.

For more information including detailed rapid testing instructions, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), Institute COVID-19 updates, visit our website at www.gdins.org/covid-19.

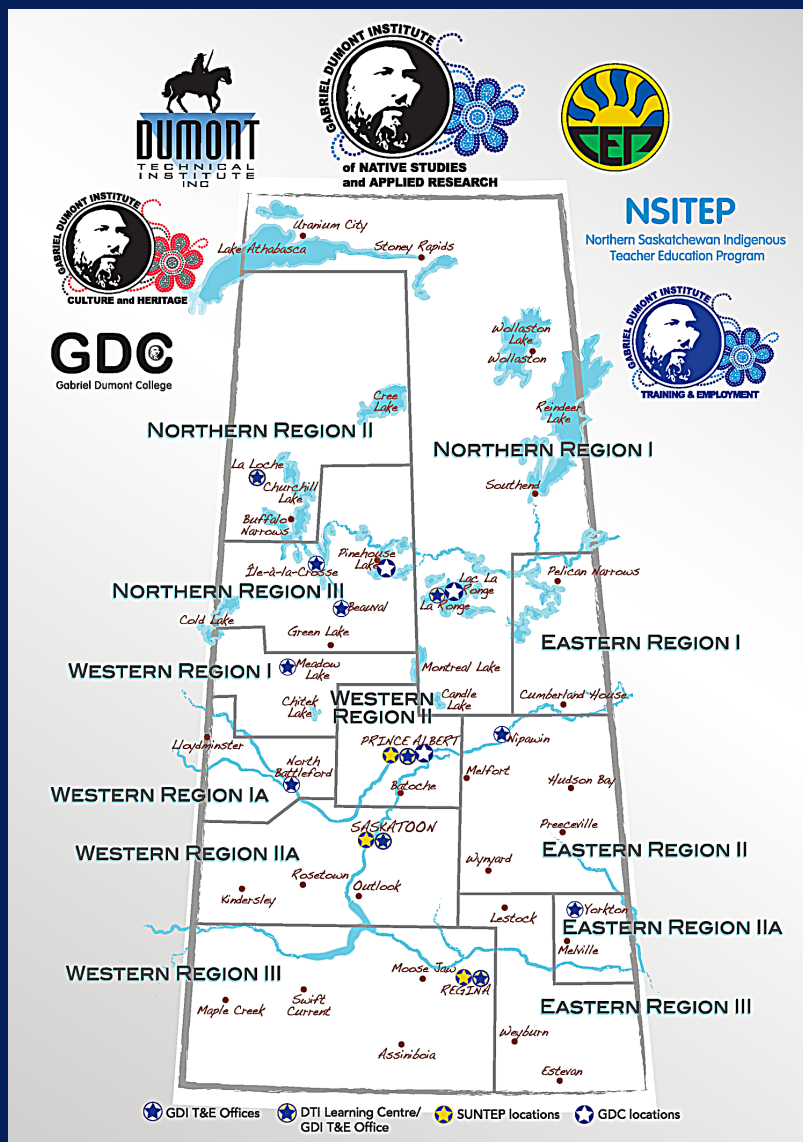
OCTOBER 2021 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

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

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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