



THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



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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ABE CLASS HANGS QUILT TO COMMEMORATE NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

By Shawna Dubiel, Saskatoon ABE Instructor

This past fall, the Saskatoon Adult Basic Education (ABE) students and instructors united together for a day of fellowship, education, and awareness.

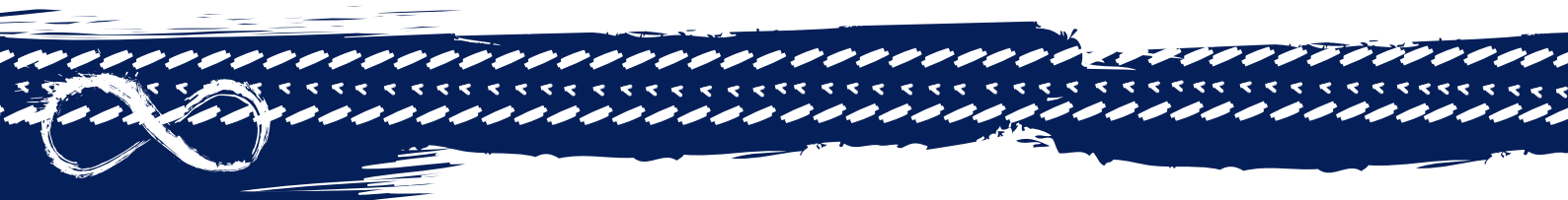
On September 30, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we started our day with a smudge, then moved back into the classroom where we heard from and read about residential school survivors. It's said that every Indigenous person alive today is affected by the atrocities of residential schooling, and on this day, several of our students shared their family's stories.

We remembered the children who never came home from school. We also remembered the children who survived and have since passed on to the Spirit World. We paused to consider all children and families affected by Indigenous child

apprehension programs. Our project to commemorate this important day was to create a wall hanging in the form of a quilt. Each participant chose a square of fabric. On each square, we were asked to include an image that represented what National Day for Truth and Reconciliation meant to us. Some students traced colouring pages onto their square, while others used beads and other resources.

When all the fabric squares were completed, they were sewn "quilt-style" with a black Métis floral fabric as a border. Ribbons representing the medicine wheel were added, along with the year. As a team, we decided to dedicate this day and each September 30th going forward, as a day of remembering.

This story continues on page 4





We need your talent and creativity to help with the design of a logo for the **Oyateki Partnership!**

Logo Design Contest Details

- Open to Indigenous youth in Saskatchewan – between the ages of 15 and 30.
- Representative of the concept of Oyateki
- Reflective of the three partner institutions – U of S, GDI, and SIIT
- Contain no more than four (4) colours 10 inches by 10 inches maximum in size.

For more information visit our website <https://gdins.org/oyateki-partnership-logo-contest/>

DTI'S BEGINNING WITH MICRO-CREDENTIALS

By Ashley Goy, DTI Program Coordinator

Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) plans to offer a micro-credential course as the emerging trend makes its mark in the Saskatchewan educational landscape.

Micro-credentials are beginning to pop up in the post-secondary sector, not only in Saskatchewan but across the world. The definition of a micro-credential by the Government of Saskatchewan is “a short program that focuses on specific knowledge, skills and/or competencies that address specific needs in Saskatchewan’s labour market” (Saskatchewan’s Guide to Micro-credentials).

Micro-credentials provide students with a certification that they can add to their resume. Micro-credential courses may be offered as a stand-alone course or within a set of courses also known as “stacking”.

The benefits of micro-credential courses include flexibility, encouraging lifelong learning, upskilling, reskilling, and they are usually less expensive than traditional programming. Another benefit is that they have an opportunity to be digitized and by doing so ensures it's as easy as a click of a mouse for employers to view job-seekers' micro-credential certifications.

As micro-credentials develop there is potential to see more courses offered in the post-secondary sector in Saskatchewan.

DTI will begin its trial in providing micro-credential courses to Métis communities by offering a Sage 50 Accounting Course in partnership with Primrose Lake Economic Development Corporation (PLEDCO) in February 2022.

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SUCCESS STORY SPOTLIGHT



Photo submitted by Hunter Lee

Hunter Lee is a fourth-year Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) student at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. Hunter is part of the Huskies Wrestling team and has grown to be one of the team's key athletes. This year, The Huskies team began the season at the top spot in Canadian University athletics. Now in his fifth year on the team, Hunter is a two-time National gold medalist, Canada West Gold Medalist, U Sports Silver Medalist, and Canada Cup Bronze Medalist.

This winter, Hunter represented team Canada during his fourth Junior World Wrestling Championship in Belgrade, Serbia. He came in seventh in the world. Hunter’s wrestling career has been nothing short of amazing. He brings true passion and inspiration to the sport. He hopes to bring his passion for sports into his future classroom. Hunter is an exceptional role model for Métis athletes in our communities and across the country.

“My advice to Métis athletes is if you're from a smaller town, with fewer resources, outwork everyone!”

HUNTER LEE





Photo Submitted by: Autumn LaRose-Smith



Photo Submitted by: Autumn LaRose-Smith

AUTUMN LAROSE-SMITH FIRST PMYC PRESIDENT

By Desirae Barker

On November 6, 2021, the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN—S) announced the first Provincial Métis Youth Council (PMYC) President. Autumn LaRose-Smith assumed the full-time position for a four-year term and was formally introduced at the Fall 2021 Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) on November 27 and 28.

Earlier this fall, the MN—S announced the first province-wide youth election for the position of President of the PMYC. The PMYC President is responsible for representing youth at the Provincial Métis Council (PMC) meetings and will work with youth from all 12 MN—S regions to build membership and encourage participation. The President will have input in all PMC decisions and lead the youth delegation at the MNLA.

The PMYC presidential candidate nomination period ran from October 16-October 21, 2021. To be eligible to run as a candidate in the election, individuals had to be between the ages of 16 and 29 and be a registered, card-carrying, citizen of the MN—S. Three candidates were nominated through this process: Cody Demerais, Autumn LaRose-Smith, and Jade Rooney.

Advance voting began on November 5th and continued into election day on November 6th. Voters had to meet the same eligibility criteria as those nominated. Approximately 5,200 Métis citizens between the ages of 16 to 29 were eligible to participate. All votes were submitted online. This was also the first time that the MN—S held province-wide polls online.

Autumn's swearing-in ceremony

at the November MNLA was a very special event. Her kohkum, Senator Nora Cummings administered the swearing in ceremony and Autumn made her oath in English and translated into Michif with the help of Norman Fleury.

Autumn is very well known within the Saskatchewan Métis community and among the province's youth. She is a Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) student at the University of Saskatchewan and has plenty of involvement in different levels of youth government.

During the 2020-2021 academic year, she became the first Métis woman elected President of the University of Saskatchewan Student's Union (USSU). Over the past few years, Autumn has also worked with a variety of student groups and off-campus organizations. She held terms on the SUNTEP Student Council and the Indigenous Students Council.

Autumn's platform for the election was centered around a guide she calls A.C.T. This acronym stands for: amplify and connect Métis youth, and transform the youth council. She states, "There is so much work to be done, and I promise I have never been more passionate and dedicated. As President, you can trust that I will work hard to ensure that Métis youth voices, successes, and concerns will be amplified."

Connecting through culture is very important to Autumn. As a SUNTEP student, she understands the significance of language revitalization and preservation.

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CALL FOR GDI BOARD MEMBERS

WESTERN REGION I

(Meadow Lake, Cochin, Leoville, Pierceland Glaslyn, Chitek Lake, Livelong, Rush Lake, Brightsand, Spiritwood, Midnight Lake, Dorintosh, Paradise Hill areas)

**Deadline for Applications
January 31, 2022**

WESTERN REGION III

(Regina, Moose Jaw, Assiniboia, Swift Current, Maple Creek areas)

**Deadline for Applications
January 20, 2022**

**For overview of position
and application
information visit
www.gdins.org/news**





ABE CLASS HANGS QUILT TO COMMEMORATE NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

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Before we went home that day, we made tobacco ties with pieces of red fabric, tobacco and tobacco seeds, and orange ribbon. During this process, we reflected on the sacredness of childhood, thinking with our hearts.

When we imagined the sadness, we decided to treasure our own happiness. In a thoughtful way, we began to create our tobacco bundles. We wrapped our love inside, making it meaningful. When our bundles were complete, we decided to offer it to those who were lost and to those still affected. As a group, we walked down to the

metal tipi located at Victoria Park in Saskatoon and tied our tobacco bundles in the surrounding trees, passing along our love and compassion. We ended our day with a moment of silence and the echoing music of the windchimes at the top of the tipi.

The beautiful and meaningful quilt was completed and hung outside the ABE level four classroom at the Dumont Technical Institute campus in Saskatoon this winter to honour Louis Riel Day as well as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. 🌍



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Métis Entrepreneurship Workshop

Atlas Hotel, Regina SK
Register for free at
Skentrepreneur.ca

Jan 25 & 26



UPCOMING DTI PROGRAM DEADLINES



Distance Learning GED Online

Jan 15



Multi-Sector Safety Ticket

Moose Jaw

Jan 20

For more program information & to apply online : www.gdins.org/programs

DTI'S BEGINNING WITH MICRO-CREDENTIALS

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This course will provide students with Sage 50 Accounting Software training, and the total course length will be 24 hours. This course provides students with a skill desired by employers and entrepreneurs/self-employed as well as adds qualifications to resumes for those looking to attain employment. The Sage 50 Accounting Course has the fundamentals required of a

micro-credential course and enables learners to gain new skills quickly to meet the labour market needs of the community, employers, and industry.

This is an exciting time for DTI, Métis communities, and the post-secondary education world, as micro-credentials develop and expand across the Province. 🌍

AUTUMN LAROSE-SMITH FIRST PMYC PRESIDENT

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She hopes to incorporate authentic Michif-language programming for Métis youth across Saskatchewan.

"I am doing my best to reclaim my language right now and through this, learning more about my history and culture. I know that this is a long and winding process for most and will do my very best to ensure that Métis youth have access to accessible and relevant opportunities moving forward." As a young, queer Métis

woman, Autumn has always been a strong activist and engaged volunteer. "I will work tirelessly to ensure that women, 2SLGBTQ+, and racialized Métis youth feel that the youth council is a safe place, where they can feel represented and empowered," explained Autumn. Her ultimate goal for her four-year term is for Métis in Saskatchewan to feel connected to each other, to their culture, and to valuable services. 🌍





Self-led therapy
now part of Consult+



When you're not feeling your best, your group benefits plan is here to help. Now, you can use the Consult+™ virtual health care service for self-led therapy.

What's self-led therapy?

Self-led therapy is support for people with mild to moderate symptoms of depression and anxiety. It can help manage mental health before it becomes debilitating.

How does it work?

After you fill out a questionnaire that determines your health score, you'll get a suggestion on which modules may help. You can do the modules at your own pace on the Consult+ app or website. There's no need to make an appointment and everything is 100% confidential.

The modules have been developed by internationally recognized mental health experts, with 20 years of experience helping patients from around the world. You can get support for:

- Depression
- General anxiety
- Social anxiety
- Divorce and separation
- Loss and bereavement

Where can I find it?

You'll find the self-care toolkits under Stress & Wellness, located on the Consult+ home page or main screen. If you don't have a Consult+ account yet, create it now so it's ready when you need it!

Sign in to mycanadalifeatwork.com, go to Coverage & balances, select Health and scroll down to Other coverage.

COVID-19 UPDATE

The presence of the highly transmissible Omicron variant means that continuing with in-class experiences this winter will require ongoing COVID protocols across GDI facilities:

- ∞ Masks required in all indoor common spaces
- ∞ Group tours/visits on hold
- ∞ Safety signage, masks, hand sanitizer at all entrances
- ∞ Rapid tests at each GDI facility

Masks

Three-layer masks are required by students, faculty, staff, and visitors including contractors and vendors. Recently, the province's chief medical health officer Dr. Saqib Shahab and Canada's chief public health officer Dr. Theresa Tam said cloth or surgical masks — especially with just one layer — are likely ineffective against the Omicron variant.

GDI is strongly recommending that all students, faculty, and staff use Level 3 procedural masks, N95 masks, KN95 masks, or double

masking with a cloth mask over level 3 procedural masks.

Vaccination Requirements

GDI is strongly encouraging all students, faculty, and staff to receive their COVID-19 vaccine and booster as soon as possible. Attestation of vaccination and booster status remains with each individual. Those who have not been fully-vaccinated are expected to self-monitor with regular rapid testing and complete a daily symptom checklist before participating in any in-person activities. Anyone who is feeling unwell should not attend a GDI facility.

Rapid Testing

Regular rapid testing is ongoing as for asymptomatic, unvaccinated staff and students. Unvaccinated staff and students are required to self-administer weekly rapid tests prior to attending their first day of work or in-person class each week. It is up to each of us to keep our community safe. 🌍

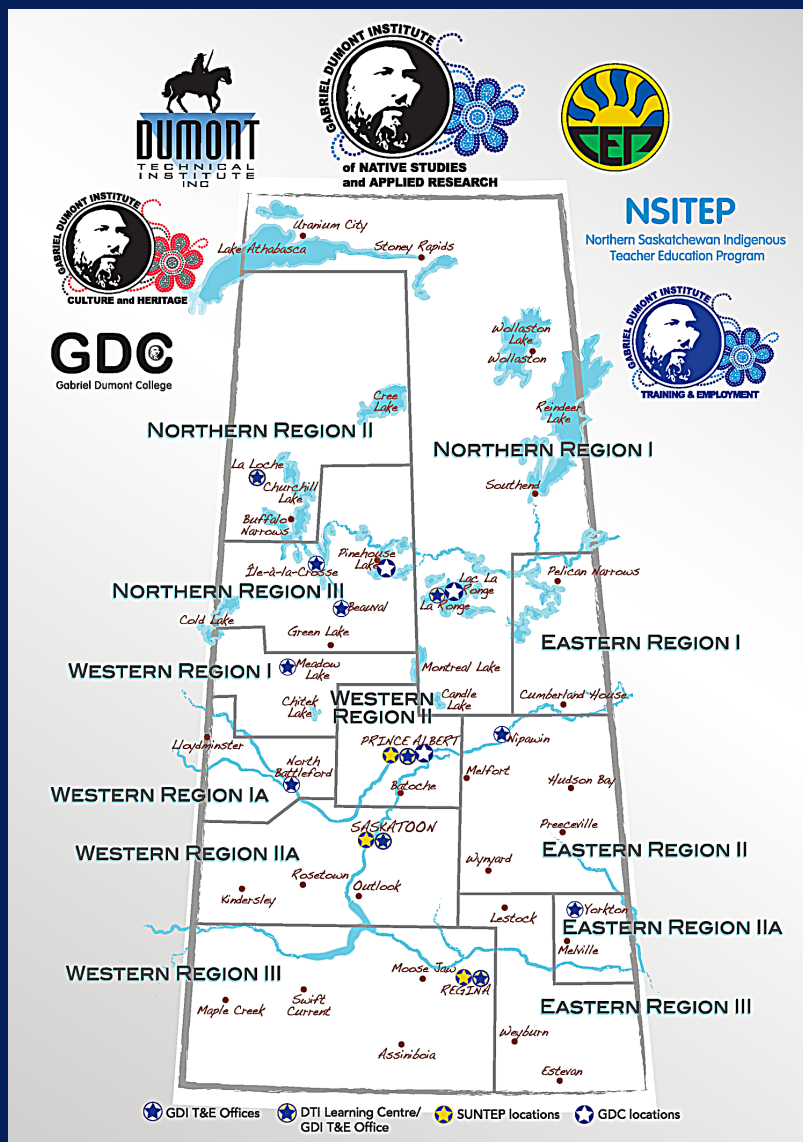
JANUARY 2022 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 New Year's Day →
2 →	3 Stat Holiday	4	5	6 Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	7 Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	8
9	10 Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheet & Payroll Revisions for Jan 15 Payday	11 Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Jan 14 Direct Deposits	12	13 Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	14 Staff Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices Student Payday	15
16	17	18	19	20 Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	21 Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	22
23	24	25 Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Pmts on Student Jan 2, Direct Deposit Cutoff @ 4:30 for TMS & Payroll Revisions for Jan 31 Payday	26	27 Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	28 Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	29
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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Previous issues of the *Communicator* can be found online at www.metismuseum.ca

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