



# THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR

*An institute of our own...*

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**March 26, 2022**

**SASKATOON**

*Please plan to attend to show your support!*

**HELP US PRESERVE THE LEGACY OF GDI FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS**

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

## IN THIS ISSUE

- ∞ 2022 GDI Annual General Meeting
- ∞ New Higher Education SIS-ERP system
- ∞ Success Story Spotlight: Holly Aubichon
- ∞ Métis Storytelling a Valued Tradition
- ∞ COVID-19 Update

## LET'S GET SOCIAL

GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE

@GDINS.ORG

GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE

**WWW.GDINS.ORG**

## 2022 GDI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

By Lisa Bird-Wilson

Over 45 years ago, in the spring of 1976, the Métis held a provincial conference in Saskatoon to determine the most beneficial and effective way for Métis people to have a say in the preservation, respect, promotion, and enhancement of Métis culture. On September 20, 1980, the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research (GDI) was incorporated as an arms-length affiliate of the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN-S).

Today the arms-length operation of GDI remains a crucial safeguard and supports good governance.

In the spring of 2022, Métis people of Saskatchewan will meet once again to determine how to best continue to protect and preserve GDI as a distinct entity, ensuring future generations of Métis continue to receive world-class education and services.

At our upcoming Annual General Meeting, GDI will present a series of bylaw amendments for delegates to vote upon—amendments designed to protect and strengthen the foundations of our Institute, while maintaining strong connections to grassroots Métis.

GDI's members are the Métis people of Saskatchewan and each Métis Local in the province will designate voting delegates based on a formula contained in our existing bylaws.

Students and staff are GDI's largest group of stakeholders, therefore we are asking for your support by way of your attendance at this year's AGM in Saskatoon, whether as a delegate or as a spectator.

**This story continues on page 4**





Financial Literacy Workshops

Are you interested in learning about personal finance? Want to better understand what's involved in buying a home, or financial literacy in general?

Join us for a series of free online workshops related to financial literacy, including understanding mortgages, mortgage pre-approvals, credit reports and home buying programs!

Workshop	Date
Financial Literacy 101 (30 mins)	January 11, 1:00 – 1:30 PM ET
Credit and Credit Worthiness (30 mins)	January 18, 1:00 – 1:30 PM ET
Pre-Approvals and Required Documentation (30 mins)	January 25, 1:00 – 1:30 PM ET
Understanding Mortgages (30 mins)	February 1, 1:00 – 1:30 PM ET
What to Plan for When Buying a Home (30 mins)	February 8, 1:00 – 1:30 PM ET
First Time Home Buyer Incentive (FTHBI) (30 mins)	February 15, 1:00 – 1:30 PM ET
Let's Talk Credit (30 mins)	February 22, 1:00 – 1:30 PM ET



Visit [www.cmhc.ca/finlitworkshops](http://www.cmhc.ca/finlitworkshops) to register today!

**Now available online!**  
[www.gdins.org/dti-2022-program-guide](http://www.gdins.org/dti-2022-program-guide)

## NEW HIGHER EDUCATION SIS-ERP SYSTEM

By Michelle McNally

A new Higher Education SIS-ERP System is now in the works. This new higher education student information system and enterprise resource planning (SIS-ERP) project is something that has been in discussion for many years.

This specific project started when the regional college system and Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) began collaboration to secure a new system that would work for all the Regional Colleges and DTI. This project began with a proposal process that was posted by the College System and DTI, supported by Advanced Education.

Each College and DTI assigned representatives to sit on a committee that reviewed and scored the proposals based on many different factors, such as ease of use, capturing information, and functionality of the student information system, the human

resource system, and finance system.

The initial commitment for DTI was to join in with the college system on only the new student information system. The current system used is very out of date and will soon no longer function. After discussion internally, GDI decided to look into the other portion of the project which houses human resources and finance operations. GDI and DTI have chosen to update both systems and are now a part of the entire project.

The committee came to an agreement on a new system in Summer 2021. The new system will be implemented in stages throughout the eight partners that are involved.

**This story continues on page 4**

## SUCCESS STORY SPOTLIGHT



Photo submitted by: Holly Aubichon

Holly Aubichon is a recent Bachelor of Arts graduate from the University of Regina, with a minor in Indigenous Art History. The Gabriel Dumont Institute is proud to have helped Holly reach her education goals through the Métis Nation University Sponsorship Program from 2019-2021. Holly is an emerging Métis artist and curator. This fall, she became the 2021 regional winner of the BMO 1st Art! Competition for her entry titled "Modern Medicine". Art students from more than 100 post-secondary institutions across Canada are eligible to participate.

Since graduation, Holly has been working as the administrative director of the Sâkêwêwak First Nations Artists' Collective. Holly is passionate about making space for BIPOC artists in Saskatchewan and is interested in prairie collaborations. Her future plans are to further her education through a master of Fine Arts or Museum Studies.

*"In my art practice, I make for my own healing and my family's healing. I think that many, if not all, Indigenous artists are healing during the creating process."*

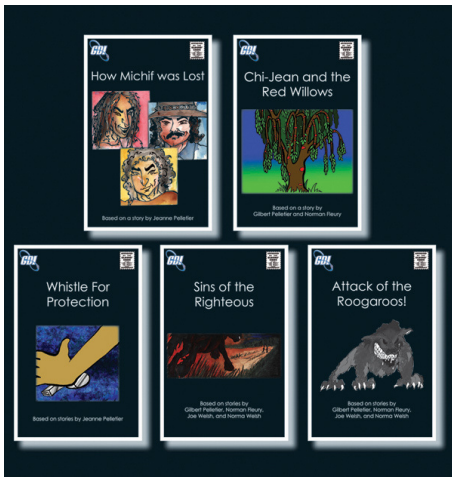
**HOLLY AUBICHON**





# MÉTIS STORYTELLING A VALUED TRADITION

By Karon Shmon



Storytelling is a time-honoured concept and an integral part of our early history. Staying in at night kept us safe and warm in the days when heat loss was more challenging to bear and home fires required a lot of work. Daylight hours were spent harvesting food and wood to lessen the hunger and cold.

felt by all present during storytelling in the home. You belonged to this group – as a listener, a storyteller, or as a guest. The acceptable level of engagement was very flexible and people could do what they wanted as long as it wasn't rudely interfering with the story. Listeners could be doing things like handwork and come and go as they pleased without insulting the storyteller. This is very much a traditional teaching style which touts that the learner will learn when the learner is ready.

The night's entertainment had to be self-generated, affordable, and convenient. Storytelling was a natural fit, an ongoing process, with lots of leeway for different styles of storytelling and for the many purposes storytelling could achieve. Storytelling was for the whole household. The same story could be told each year but what made it different was how the listener's understanding would have grown. People matured and both their experience and focus may have changed. Young children could take a story at face value, seeing only the basic entertainment value. Many stories are "there for your own good," advising children to stay safe and close to home. The same story could have other teachings that transmit our cultural values such as being kind to one another, sharing, not gossiping, not being greedy, and seeing ourselves as part of the world and not apart from it.

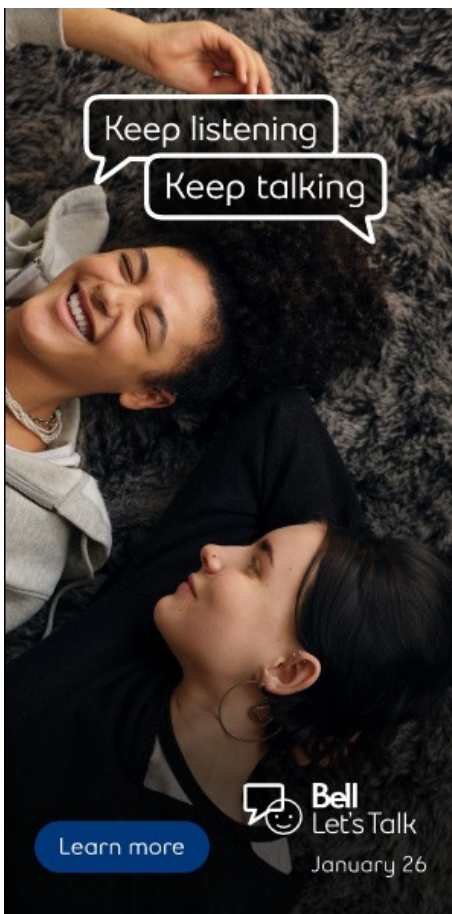
Some of the important protocols include knowing when to tell certain stories. None of them can be told without the expressed permission of the original storyteller and this must be accompanied by acknowledgement each and every time the story is re-told. In today's lingo, to do otherwise is intellectual property theft. Some stories can be told at any time of year while other stories require snow on the ground.

For the most part, stories were told to entertain. With humour being such a part of most Indigenous cultures, storytellers would weave explanations about nature with teachings that could serve as good examples, bad examples, warnings, and admonishments. Some of the main characters like Ti' Jean, the Trickster, and Wesakechak, often got their comeuppance in spite of having powers and privileges bestowed upon them by the Creator. Bragging and being self-centred and devious were definitely negative characteristics that were sure to have negative consequences.

Older youth and adults would process a story differently than they did as children and take away deeper meaning than what was evident to them before. Some stories were short, some stories took days.

In modern times, the tradition of storytelling is shared through venues such as schools and libraries. What cannot be duplicated in these settings is the homey atmosphere and sense of belonging

**This story continues on page 4**



Learn more

January 26

### January 26th was #BellLetsTalk Day.

According to the Mental Health Commission of Canada, of the more than 2 million people enrolled in Canadian post-secondary institutions, almost 70% are 24 or under, a demographic particularly susceptible to developing mental health issues.

#### Resources for GDI Students

GDI's mental health services program with Morneau Shepell is for all GDI students. This program provides access to free counseling and mental health support via the keep.meSAFE program. To access these free services, call toll-free at 1.844.451.9700 or download the SSP app. For more information about the keep.meSAFE program visit [www.gdins.org/intranet/keep-me-safe](http://www.gdins.org/intranet/keep-me-safe)

#### Other free resources include:

- [www.hcsc.ca](http://www.hcsc.ca)
- [www.hopeforwellness.ca](http://www.hopeforwellness.ca)
- [www.saskatchewan.ca/mental-health-awareness](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/mental-health-awareness)

\*Photo sourced from <https://letstalk.bell.ca/en/toolkit>





**DUMONT**  
TECHNICAL  
INSTITUTE  
INC

## PROGRAM APPLICATION DEADLINES



**Class 5 Driver Training**  
Beauval

**Feb 7**



**Sage 50 Accounting Software Training**  
Online

**Feb 11**



**Intro to Welding**  
Regina

**March 15**



**Practical Nursing**  
Regina

**March 21**



**Heavy Equipment & Truck & Transport Technician**  
Prince Albert

**March 31**

[WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS](http://WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS)

## 2022 GDI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*Continued from page 1*

As the event will be in-person, the utmost attention is being paid to ensuring strict public health measures are in place for the meeting, so you can feel safe and confident in your personal attendance.

Our Annual General Meeting will be a one-day event held at TCU Place in Saskatoon on Saturday, March 26,

2022 from 9:00AM until 12:00PM. Please plan to help us demonstrate commitment to our Institute with your presence.

For more information and updates regarding the 2022 GDI Annual General Meeting, visit our website at [www.gdins.org/AGM](http://www.gdins.org/AGM). 🌐

## NEW HIGHER EDUCATION SIS-ERP SYSTEM

*Continued from page 2*

GDI and DTI are part of the second stage of implementation and the project as a whole is set to go live early in 2023.

The goal of this project is to provide services to students and our Institution in a more convenient, simple, and flexible way. We want Saskatchewan's post-secondary students to be able to access our important educational services anywhere, anytime, on any device.

The new SIS-ERP system will manage and integrate the Institution's financial, human resource and student information

systems to better serve post-secondary students across Saskatchewan.

As this project moves forward, GDI anticipates providing regular updates of what to expect when the new system is implemented. This is going to be a big change for the Institute and will help reduce communication barriers between departments, staff, and students.

For more information on the project, please feel free to contact: Brett Vandale at [brett.vandale@gdins.org](mailto:brett.vandale@gdins.org) or Michelle McNally at [michelle.mcnally@gdins.org](mailto:michelle.mcnally@gdins.org) 🌐

## MÉTIS STORY TELLING A VALUED TRADITION

*Continued from page 3*

Some of the messages I have had the privilege of receiving through stories are:

- ∞ Don't be a show-off or think you are better or more important than others (animate, inanimate).
- ∞ Be grateful and share.
- ∞ We do better when we work together as we each have special gifts to contribute.
- ∞ Take responsibility and don't let others down. If you do, own it, and the consequences.

The Gabriel Dumont Institute has had the privilege of working with a number of Elders and storytellers.

Some of these stories are now available as free download from the Institute's Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture at <https://www.metismuseum.ca/browse/index.php/13100>.

Hard copies can be purchased from the GDI Press store, <https://gdins.org/shop-gdi/>. 🌐



# SAVE THE DATE!

June 16, 17, 18  
Saskatoon



Keynote Speakers:  
Maria Campbell  
Gregory Scofield  
Deanna Reder



## 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. 🌍

## FEBRUARY 2022 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

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



