



THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



SUNTEP Saskatoon Graduates, photo submitted by Sheila Pocha

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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BON SHAWNZ TO THE 2022 SUNTEP GRADUATES

By Sheila Pocha, SUNTEP Saskatoon Program Head; Bonnie Novotny, SUNTEP PA Program Head; Brenna Pacholko, SUNTEP Regina Faculty

May is always an exciting month for the students, faculty, and staff at the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) locations across the province. This month, 38 exceptional students graduated from SUNTEP with their Bachelor of Education degrees.

SUNTEP is offered by Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) in partnership with the University of Saskatchewan (USask), the University of Regina (U of R), and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Advanced Education.

Since inception in 1980, the program has graduated over 1,400 Indigenous educators collectively from the three SUNTEP campuses in the province (Prince Albert, Regina, and Saskatoon).

SUNTEP Saskatoon

SUNTEP Saskatoon Faculty and staff are extremely pleased to acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding graduating class of 2022! The graduation took place on May 7th at TCU Place in Saskatoon, celebrating the 19 graduates: Sierra Parenteau, Kelly Camponi, Derek Bedard, Hunter Anderson, Luke Yakubowski, Jaden Holle, Troy Doucette, Mckenna Olson, Brett Lachance, Connor Johnston, Jacob Fritz, Amber Thompson, Lexi Berscht, Trenton MacDonald, Katrina Bosch, Hunter Lee, Kara-Lynn Ranger, Logan Poitras, and Tania Burdey.

SUNTEP graduates are now proud SUNTEP alumni who are already taking part in various teaching and leadership roles throughout our province. These fine students..

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SUNTEP PA Graduates, photo submitted by Bonnie Novotny



"I have such a respect and admiration of SUNTEP and appreciate the support my classmates and I received from the staff, admin, and faculty. I love how going into SUNTEP made you feel like you were going into your home."

- David Poulin, 2022 SUNTEP Grad, currently teaching at Carlton Comprehensive Public School

supported each other through the pandemic with online tools, without the usual in-person learning, and they proved their successes in various ways.

Each of the nineteen graduates of 2022 have remarkable careers ahead of them. Many of the graduates have already attained teaching or coordinating positions within the province. As we bid farewell to the group, we are reminded of the joy, kindness, and respect they have for each other and the Métis community. These graduates are excellent role models and we can rest assured they will inspire and mentor many youth as they become the caring and responsible educators needed now and in the future.

SUNTEP Prince Albert

The Prince Albert SUNTEP students and staff held this year's graduation in person at the beautiful E.A. Rawlinson Center for the Arts in Prince Albert. On May 19th, thirteen graduates were honoured with a presentation of the Métis Sash to celebrate the completion of their degree.

This year's graduates are from northern Saskatchewan, with the majority from Prince Albert. The thirteen graduates are Morgan Ripplinger, Desiree McKenzie, Shayna Regnier, Jean-Elie Fortier, Shaylene Lussier, Cassie Denis,

Jordanna Albers, Shae Painchaud, Madison Vandale, Alisha Burn-Head, Taryn Gunville, and David Poulin.

The graduation was hosted and planned by senior students and staff. Program Head Bonnie Novotny explains, "Graduation is a lot of teamwork, by the students and staff, but it is also a lot of fun. Everyone is so proud and happy to see the students complete the program and become teachers. It is the grand finale of the year."

The third-year students added some comic entertainment to start the graduation by doing a choreographed dance wearing a giant bobblehead of the graduates to mock the skit the graduates did during their first year at SUNTEP. Novotny adds, "That is how it is here when we're planning events like graduation; It is like a family reminiscing on old times and having laughs."

Dignitaries from GDI, USask, Métis Nation—Saskatchewan, and the Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division attended and brought greetings congratulating the group for their accomplishments. Many of the graduates have already accepted teaching contracts, both in Prince Albert and the north.

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"I am so happy to be done and so sad to be leaving at the same time."

- Cassie Denis, 2022 SUNTEP Grad

Cassie had her daughter Blakely while attending SUNTEP and through the continued support of SUNTEP & her family, she was able to continue classes and graduate with her cohort. Cassie was able to return to SUNTEP with her newborn daughter immediately.





SUNTEP Regina Graduates, photo submitted by Brenna Pacholko

SUNTEP Regina

SUNTEP Regina Faculty and staff are very proud of this year's graduates. On May 6th, SUNTEP hosted Old Ones, Gabriel Dumont Institute staff, representatives from the U of R, SUNTEP Regina Alumni, community members, family, and current students at the Queensbury Convention Center for a graduation celebration and reception.

Many graduates were acknowledged with awards. Jordan Parisian received the Spirit of SUNTEP award, Dani LaValley received the David Amyotte Award, Chantelle Love received the SUNTEP Regina Alumni Award, and Heather Witherspoon was honoured with the Order of Gabriel Dumont Bronze award.

The students chose the Michif theme: Ni kanawaymashonawn, which translates to "we take care of each other." This theme suits this graduating group well; they are known for taking care of each other and those in our community. This group of students had undoubtedly a most interesting journey in obtaining their degree.

Due to unbelievable bad luck with the weather and the COVID-19 pandemic, trips were cancelled, and monthly/annual events were delayed indefinitely.

There were very few opportunities to engage in campus activities, land-based experiences, and other community-oriented events. Although these missing pieces were largely not a part of their undergraduate experience, this group remained positive.

Each of the graduates became fierce advocates for everything SUNTEP offers students, and they graduated with a reputation of being kind and caring. These graduates are confident, assertive, and passionate. They have demonstrated a love for Métis people, communities, language, and traditions. They will be leaders in their careers in education across the province and within our community.

The 2022 SUNTEP Regina graduates are Dani LaValley, Chantelle Love, Bryce Maffenbeier, Jordan Parisian, Zanna Smith, and Heather Witherspoon.

Congratulations to each of the 2022 SUNTEP graduates on your well-deserved success! GDI wishes you all the best of luck in your careers are educators and as you share the Métis ways of knowing with pride.

Maarsii and bon shawnz! 🌐



SUNTEP Regina Grad, photo submitted by Brenna Pacholko



SUNTEP Regina Grad, photo submitted by Brenna Pacholko





DUMONT
TECHNICAL
INSTITUTE

UPCOMING DEADLINES



GED Distance Learning Program
Online

June 15



Educational Assistant
Île-à-la-Crosse

June 30



Business Certificate
Buffalo Narrows

June 30



Office Administration
Regina

June 30

For a full listing of all current programs and to apply online visit WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS

OUR BATOCHÉ

By Karon Shmon

Perhaps the Métis are more familiar with the name of the most important historical place to us – Batoché. Yet it always surprises me when I meet someone who says, “What’s Batoché?” Then I find myself going into a short history lesson to explain why this part of the Métis Homeland means so much.

Batoché is more than the National Historic Site cared for by Parks Canada. Batoché is a larger community that extends in all directions on both sides of the river. This area was a territorial electoral district in the North-West Territories that existed from 1888 to 1905. Then it was one of the original 25 electoral districts formed when the Province of Saskatchewan was created in 1905. Currently, Batoché is a provincial electoral district. While the boundaries have changed somewhat with each incarnation, it has a long-standing history of representing those allowed to vote, a privilege not everyone has had, but that is another story for another time.

What has melded with the hearts of the Métis is the significance of Batoché as the most pivotal and prideful moment in our history. Here is where our ancestors advocated for their rights to the lands on which they had built homes and a community. Their pleas went unanswered. Much of today’s focus of this time is on the days of the battle that occurred after our people felt that they had exhausted all of the safe and legal means of protest. Then they turned to armed resistance in an attempt to stop the theft of their lands. It was here that the Canadian government first turned its guns on its own citizens; the first and only civil war in Canada

as (the rebellions in Upper and Lower Canada were also “civil wars”), the first time a Gatling gun was used in Canada, and the first time the Red Cross flew its flag in Canada. Sadly, it was not the first time the Métis were pushed off their lands to make way for settlers.

We revere those who stayed to fight. They knew they were outnumbered and would likely lose at great personal cost. They were committed to showing the federal government just how wrong it was to move Indigenous peoples away from the homes they had built and land they had farmed, to make room for newcomers. The focus on the battle escapes me as I truly believe the focus should be on the loss of homes, of farms and outbuildings, and of a thriving and close-knit community.

The aftermath of the Resistance was hard on Métis families. They had to start over, often with only what they could carry, and, in some cases, minus family members who lost their lives because of the Resistance or through disease and malnourishment. This trauma alone is severe enough to damage most people, but giving up your identity for cultural safety cuts just as deep. It is remarkable that our people maintained the languages and traditions that make us Métis, something that forms the basis of all of the cultural reclamation taking place since 1885. We honour their tenacity and we aspire to be like them.

To look on the bright side, we are fortunate to live close to Batoché as the Métis dispersed all over Canada and beyond.

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DO YOU WANT TO BUILD OR GROW A BUSINESS?

Métis Entrepreneurship Workshop

Buffalo Narrows, SK
June 8th and 9th
Free Breakfast and Lunch!

Register for free at SKentrepreneur.ca



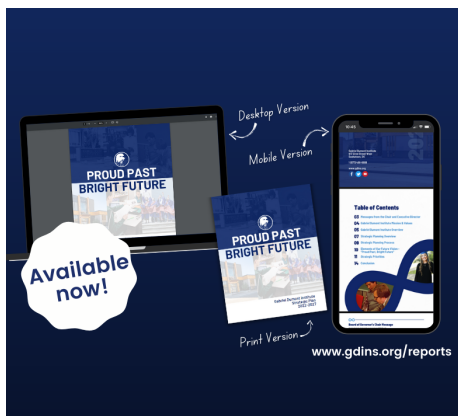
MÉTIS ENTREPRENEURSHIP WORKSHOP

**Buffalo Narrows, SK
June 8 & 9, 2022**



GDI LENDING LIBRARY NOW OPEN!

A GDI Lending Library is now located at the 917 building in Saskatoon (in the main floor lunch room). This will house all the resources that are currently for sale in the shop. There is a tracking sheet on a clipboard, please fill this out when you borrow, and return a book. Happy reading!



OUR BATOCHÉ

Continued from page 4

It has as much, if not more, spiritual significance for us as it has historically. For a landless people, we have a small niche we can call home. It is a place we can go to alone and a place where we can gather with others to remember with pride and to renew our hopes for a strong and healthy Métis Nation. All of the Métis feel this pull as it has affected the entire nation and will take a long time until reconciliation has fully addressed the injustices that have taken place.

I was going to say, "If you get the chance to go to Batoché" but it sounds hollow.

Please make the effort to go to Batoché, to celebrate our survival and to pay your respects to those who ensured we kept going. You will feel the connection and have a much better sense of the community, and of the battle, which is just a small part of a much larger story.

GDI is proud to have written the Métis volume of the Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada. This online content stems from the printed version.

<https://indigenouspeoplesatlasofcanada.ca/section/Métis>

2022-2027 GDI STRATEGIC PLAN

By Desirae Barker

The 2022-2027 GDI Strategic Plan –Strong Past, Bright Future, is now available online and in a limited print version.

The plan was created in collaboration with Institute staff, the GDI board, Elders, students, and the community. It will serve

as an excellent five-year roadmap to help GDI achieve educational and cultural goals for the Métis of Saskatchewan.

View the plan online at: www.gdins.org/reports. If you required any printed copies please email desirae.barker@gdins.org.

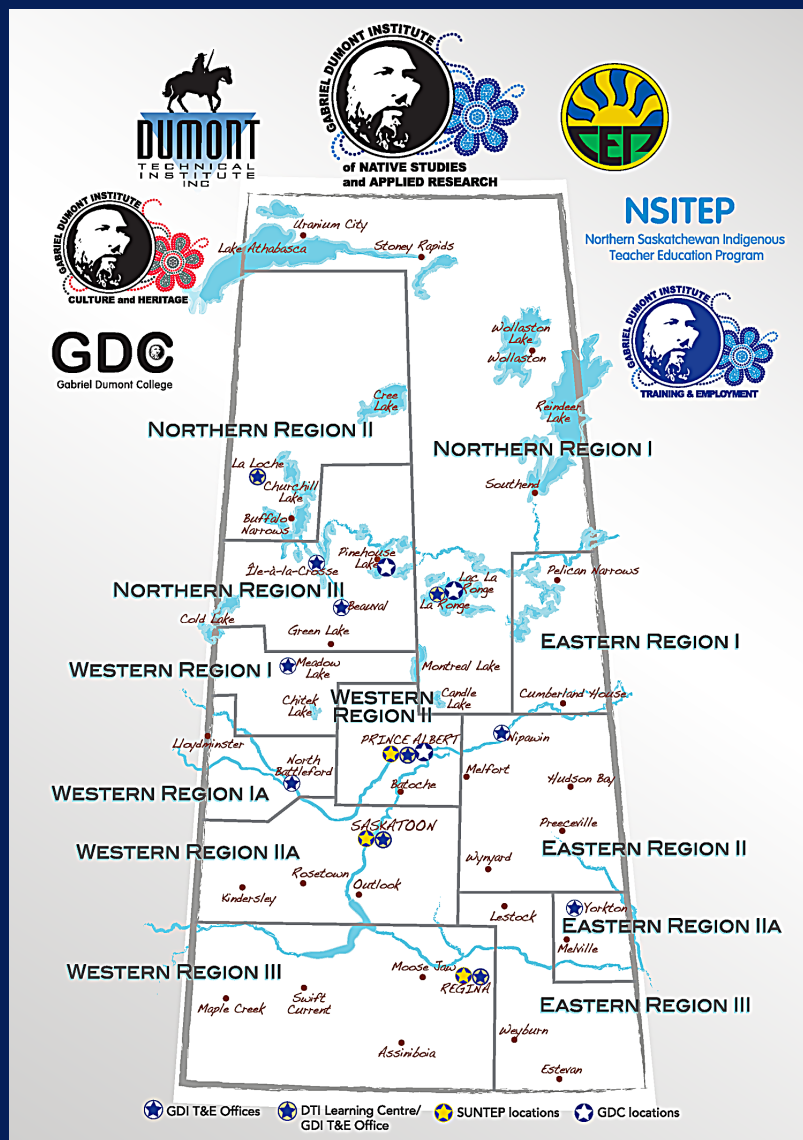
JUNE 2022 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

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

If you would like to submit an article for the *Communicator* please contact Desirae Barker at desirae.barker@gdins.org

