



THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



2022 NIPD Batoche, photo by Peter Beszterda. ©GDI

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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NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY AT BATOCHÉ

By Karon Shmon, Director of Culture & Heritage

National Indigenous Peoples Day occurs each year on June 21st. It is a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

The day was first proclaimed in 1996 as National Aboriginal Day and was renamed in 2017. Indigenous peoples want to see the recognition and appreciation occur every day and to be formally celebrated each June 21st.

Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) hosted a celebration with our partners, Batoche National Historic Site and Friends of Batoche Historic Site Inc. There was so much to celebrate. Over 300 children were on site learning about the Métis.

Other special moments included Donny Parenteau performing and being the MC, opening the formal program with a prayer from Elder Margaret Harrison followed by the Métis and National anthems sung by Angela Rancourt and her students. The Smoking Sage Drummers from One Arrow First Nation provided honour songs for the day. Elders Harriet and Edwin St. Pierre were special guests honouring veterans and the Michif language.

Donny continued to entertain those on site and one segment included Kate Boyer sharing her jiggging skills. A very special moment was the unveiling of a plaque of Gregory Scofield's poem, *The Sewing Circle*, in Michif.

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RELLAND RETIRES AFTER 31 YEARS

By Desirae Barker



Michael Relland, 1990s, GDI Archives

As the academic year came to a close this June, Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) students, staff, and faculty said goodbye to long-serving employee Michael Relland. A celebration took place on June 10th in Prince Albert to honor Mike's long, remarkable career at the Institute.

Mike started at GDI in 1990 as a faculty member for Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) in Prince Albert. Within a couple of years, he became the Program Coordinator/Program Head.

Mike built his career and made his mark running the SUNTEP centre in Prince Albert for many years. His easy-going nature, humility, as well as care and concern for his students are a few of the qualities that have set Mike apart in his career. Over the years, he has nurtured successive groups of SUNTEP teachers who have gone on to do important work in schools across the province.

Mike was instrumental in the development of Gabriel Dumont College's (GDC) Community-Based Master of Education Program (CBMEP) in Prince Albert, which began in 2013. GDC is another entity within GDI that offers accredited undergraduate and graduate education to Métis students. In 2018, Mike moved to the Gabriel Dumont College (GDC) to continue his great work with the Masters program.

Mike's ability to build and grow partnerships within the community directly impacted the success of the Master's program. In 2020, a second CBMEP was launched in La Ronge. To date, GDI has graduated 124 Master's students and the

program continues to attract new students. It takes vision and determination to initiate these opportunities and pursue them to fruition; and GDI is glad to have Mike's experience and wisdom to guide the development of an new graduate programs currently in the works. These are tremendous accomplishments that would not have been possible without Mike's hard work.

Mike's accomplishments within his years of service at GDI are many. A few that are most notable is the partnership he worked on with the Saskatchewan Rivers School Division, which brings university credits into the high schools helping build the confidence of grade 12 students who might not otherwise pursue post-secondary education. He also worked on various research articles on Métis education.

One of his most recent articles in collaboration with Dr. James Oloo, titled, "I Think of my Classroom as Place for Healing': Experiences of Indigenous Students in a Community-Based Master of Education Program in Saskatchewan" was published in the *Canadian Journal of Educational Administration and Policy* last fall.

"Many names and faces come to mind wherever the story of GDI is told. However, very few are as closely tied to the Institute's teacher education program as Michael Relland's. Mike prioritizes the student over the curriculum and is intentional in building healthy relationships with his students.

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Michael Relland Retirement Celebration, photo submitted by Bonnie Novotny



Michael Relland Retirement Celebration, photo submitted by Bonnie Novotny



Michael Relland Retirement Celebration, photo submitted by Bonnie Novotny





SUNTEP Regina Learn Gather Grow Event, photo submitted by Brenna Pacholko



SUNTEP Regina Learn Gather Grow Event, photo submitted by Brenna Pacholko

LEARN GATHER GROW – SUNTEP REGINA EVENT

By Brenna Pacholko, SUNTEP Regina Faculty Member

Another Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Regina semester came to a close with an event to bring the community together; “Learn, Gather, Grow - Metis Cultural Highlights” was held on Friday, April 8th, 2022, at the Artesian in Regina.

This event is very special to SUNTEP Regina, as it is a student-led and collaborative gathering that showcases student talent and provides an opportunity for students to present their final projects for the semester.

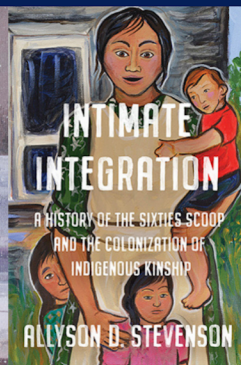
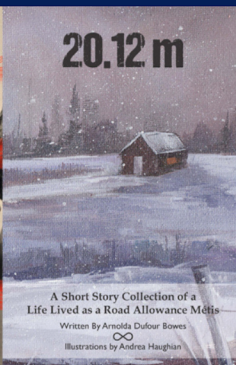
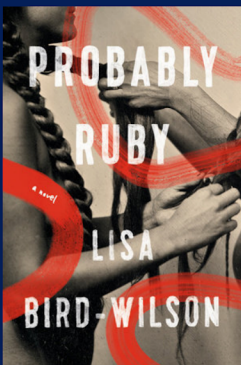
Year four students presented their SUNTEP Talks using a talk show format to “spill the tea” on contemporary issues with Métis identity. Year one students shared their Métis historical stories & traditional art. Some of the year one students decided to showcase their work and musical talents; we enjoyed a few songs accompanied by a couple guest fiddle players.

A special thank you to Tristen Durocher for making the trip down south and joining in on the fun! In true Michif fashion, we concluded the presentations with the Red River Jig.

To conclude the afternoon, students, staff, and faculty members enjoyed beignets and berries prepared by our dear friend, Alex Pelletier, who we lost to cancer only a few weeks later. Alex was a respected Old One, Knowledge Keeper, Michif speaker, and a fierce advocate for two-spirit identities. Alex loved to dance, and he loved his people. He was generous with his time and talents. Alex was often preparing food for those less fortunate and spreading joy in the community with his infectious laugh and smile. He will be sorely missed.

The event was a great success and we would like to wish all of the students well on their endeavors this summer. 🌍

SASKATCHEWAN BOOK AWARDS



Congratulations

to GDI Press and staff for a huge night at the Saskatchewan Book Awards on June 23, 2022!

GDI Press won the Saskatoon Public Library Indigenous Peoples’ Publishing Award for their work in publishing *20.12 m: A Short Story Collection of a Life Lived as a Road Allowance Métis* by Arnolda Dufour Bowes.

GDI Executive Director, Lisa Bird-Wilson, was the winner of the Regina Public Library Book of the Year Award and the City of Saskatoon/Saskatoon Public Library Saskatoon Award for her novel, *Probably Ruby*.

Dr. Allyson Stevenson, Gabriel Dumont Research Chair in Métis Studies, also won two awards this year! *Intimate Integration* won the Rasmussen & Co. Indigenous Peoples’ Writing Award and the UofR Faculty of Arts/UofS College of Arts and Science Jennifer Welsh Scholarly Writing Award!





9TH ANNUAL
GABRIEL DUMONT SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

∞ GOLF ∞
SEPTEMBER 23, 2022

TOURNAMENT

MOON LAKE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

\$250 PER PLAYER | \$800 PER TEAM
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

4-PERSON TEXAS
SCRAMBLE BEST BALL

9:30AM REGISTRATION
11:00AM SHOT GUN START

Gabriel Dumont
Scholarship Foundation

PLUS GAMES,
PRIZES, 50/50 &
POKER RALLY

\$10K
PAIRED-IN-ONE
CASH PRIZE

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.GDINS.ORG/GOLF

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY AT BATOCHÉ

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It was translated by Elder Sophie McDougall who was present to unveil the plaque with Gregory. This plaque stands beside the French and English versions that put “poetry in place” through the Project Bookmark Canada program. The poem imagines the experiences and conversations that went on among the women of Batoche in 1885, all around the non-threatening sewing circle.

Visitors also had the opportunity to tour the site and to view the rug exhibition created in partnership by Gabriel Dumont Local 11, Friends of Batoche, and the Gabriel Dumont Institute. It features many of the rugs made by Elder Margaret Harrison and contemporary rugs made by others following workshops through which she imparted her rug hooking skills.

Further from the visitor center, students enjoyed the mini voyageur games and a taste of bannock and

jam in addition to tours of the historic church, rectory, cemetery, and Caron Home; places of great importance in telling the story of the Métis.

National Indigenous Peoples Day is always one filled with reverence and with joy. We revere the strength and endurance of those became before us and we joyously celebrate the success of their struggles by the very fact that we are still here and thriving.

Of course this was easy to acknowledge over a bowl of bison stew, accompanied by bannock and Saskatoon berry tarts, while listening to fiddle music with old friends and as we made new ones.

A personal highlight for me was to see the GDI summer students and other GDI staff come to Batoche to celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day. 🌍

RELLAND RETIRES AFTER 31 YEARS

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“His pleasant and good-natured disposition and belief in the mission of the Institute has not only endeared him to his students and colleagues, but have also enabled him to play a key role in the expansion of education programming in the North. Congratulations on your retirement, Mike. I’m so happy we worked together and became friends,” said Dr. James Oloo, Assistant Professor at the University of Windsor.

Mike's career has greatly benefitted the aspirations and goals of many Métis people in Saskatchewan. He is an advocate for Métis education and an influential leader for SUNTEP and GDI. "Along with many talents, Mike

is well-respected as an educator, a mentor, a friend, Métis Knowledge Keeper, and an all around great guy,” said Bonnie Novotny, SUNTEP Head Prince Albert. His retirement marks a shift in his journey, but certainly not an end to his contributions to the Métis.

“Mike has been an outstanding colleague, a leader in the development of new programs and services, a caring role model for Métis teacher-candidates, and a champion of Métis education in our province,” said Lisa Bird-Wilson, GDI Executive Director. The staff, faculty, and students would like to wish Mike all the best in his retirement. 🌍

DUMONT
TECHNICAL
INSTITUTE
INC.

UPCOMING DEADLINES




Adult Basic Education
La Loche
Île X, Regina, PA,
Beauval, Saskatoon
Ongoing



Residential Housing Maintenance Worker
Regina
Ongoing

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



NATIONAL MÉTIS VETERANS' MONUMENT

∞

UPCOMING SECOND ENGRAVING


DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NAMES AUGUST 26, 2022

HELP CELEBRATE OUR MÉTIS HEROES

Gabriel Dumont Institute is issuing a call for the names of Métis veterans that will be included on a secondary engraving of the Métis Veterans Monument.

We know there are more Métis veterans and we ask your assistance to submit additional names for this recognition.

The Métis Veterans information submission form, donation options, and more information on the monument can be found on our website. You can also email veterans@gdins.org for additional information.

Please consider donating to the Métis Veterans Memorial Monument Project today! 

www.gdins.org/veterans-monument

COVID-19 UPDATE - JUNE 2022

As a result of the continually changing landscape regarding the pandemic, GDI has updated its COVID-19 Response Plan accordingly. As always, GDI's priority remains the health, safety, and well being of our students, faculty, and staff.

Masks

Beginning July 4, 2022, and continuing until August 31, 2022, GDI facilities will be pausing the mandatory mask protocol and will be moving to a mask friendly environment. While masks will no longer be required in any GDI locations, they will be encouraged and welcomed in all areas of our facilities and locations. Masks will continue to be provided for all staff, students, and visitors that choose to wear them.

Vaccination and Testing

Due to the program brokering arrangements of GDI, brokered programs will follow the guidelines as determined by the accrediting institution. GDI's response will be tailored to the accrediting institution and the best needs of each particular

program and community in question.

For all staff, continued voluntary testing at home will help prevent asymptomatic transmission and will reduce COVID-19 transmission in our community. In order to keep GDI facilities and campuses safe, GDI is strongly encouraging everyone to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19, including taking advantage of free rapid testing, regular handwashing, staying home when ill, and obtaining your full vaccination and booster dose.

Staff Gatherings

Essential work-related staff gatherings are permitted. However, shared meals and potluck are not recommended at this time.

Over the course of the summer, GDI's pandemic response team will closely monitor the case numbers along with the public health data and recommendations to determine the level of health and safety measures necessary to ensure the ongoing safety of our students, faculty, staff, and visitors. These measures will be re-evaluated prior to August 31, 2022. 🌐

JULY 2022 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

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



CONTACT US

The map displays 15 regions across Saskatchewan:

- NORTHERN REGION I**: Southern, Wollaston Lake, Wollaston, Rainier Lake
- NORTHERN REGION II**: Uranium City, Lake Athabasca, Stony Rapids, Cree Lake
- NORTHERN REGION III**: La Loche, Churchill Lake, Buffalo Narrows, Pinchoy Lake, La-à-la-Croix, Beauval, Cold Lake, Green Lake
- WESTERN REGION I**: Meadow Lake, Montreal Lake
- WESTERN REGION II**: Candle Lake, Cumberland House
- WESTERN REGION IA**: Lloydminster, North Battleford, Regina
- WESTERN REGION IIA**: Regina, Bechoche, Melfort, Hudson Bay, Weyburn
- WESTERN REGION IIB**: Preecerville
- WESTERN REGION III**: Kindersley, Rosetown, Outlook, Moose Jaw, Regina, Assiniboia, Swift Current, Maple Creek
- EASTERN REGION I**: Pelican Narrows, Lac La Ponge, La Ponge
- EASTERN REGION II**: Weyburn
- EASTERN REGION IIA**: Yorkton, Lastock, Mankiwille
- EASTERN REGION III**: Weyburn, Estevan

Logos and text on the map include:

- DUMONT TECHNICAL INSTITUTE** (horse logo)
- GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE of NATIVE STUDIES and APPLIED RESEARCH** (portrait logo)
- NSITEP** Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program
- GDC** Gabriel Dumont College
- GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE CULTURE and HERITAGE** (portrait logo)
- GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT** (portrait logo)

Legend:

- ★ GDI T&E Offices
- ★ DTI Learning Centre/ GDI T&E Office
- ★ SUNTEP locations
- ★ GDC locations

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1-877-488-6888

info@gdins.org

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

