



# THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



NWC Wild Rice Company CEO, Nap Gardiner. Photo Submitted

*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

- ∞ DTI Collaborates on a 'Wild' New Partnership
- ∞ Road to Work Truck Driver Training Program
- ∞ The Art of the Cart
- ∞ Call for GDI Board Member Northern Region III

## LET'S GET SOCIAL



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE



@GDINS.ORG



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE

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

## DTI COLLABORATES ON A 'WILD' NEW PARTNERSHIP

By Daniel Downs, DTI Program Coordinator

While many of you have seen wild rice being served in some of the fancier farm-to-table, organic, and specialty restaurants in Saskatchewan, very few of you may realize what it takes to get wild rice from water to plate.

From an operational standpoint, the harvesting, processing, and distribution of wild rice is quite similar to what you would see in a standard farming enterprise. Most of the work is taken on by a single boat and operator, similar to a traditional combine harvester you see all over on Saskatchewan family farms.

While family farm combine harvesters are readily available at any agriculture dealer in Saskatchewan, the harvesting boats used for wild rice are custom-built by the individual rice harvesters with little change to

their general design over the last 40 years. The harvesting boats you see in Saskatchewan all have certain similarities but are built and customized for the unique conditions of each area. They are generally 12'-18' feet long and 5' wide, flat-bottomed aluminum hull boats, with a 10' collecting tray and an air-cooled 503 Rotax engine attached to an aircraft propeller (think of a Florida Everglades airboat built for slow and steady operation).

With many of the boats designed and built several decades ago, many of the engine parts and engines themselves are no longer available or discontinued. It has only been due to the ingenuity of the wild rice harvesters that the boats have remained in operation for as long as they have without a substantial retrofit or redesign.

**This story continues on page 4**





Photo by Northern Resource Trucking, Randy Mihilewicz (Left) and Bill Lehne (Right).

# ROAD TO WORK TRUCK DRIVER TRAINING PROGRAM

By Desirae Barker

Gabriel Dumont Institute Training & Employment (GDITE) has partnered with Northern Resource Trucking Training Division (NRT) to deliver a 2022 Road to Work Truck Driver Training program. For nearly a decade, GDITE and NRT have partnered on a number of successful trucking programs for Métis clients.

plenty of industry involvement, mentorship, generates accountability, and helps break unemployment-related cycles,” said Bill Lehne, GDITE Employment Services Manager.

The 2022 Road to Work Program provided 12 Métis students in Prince Albert with a six-week M.E.L.T Driver Training program.

The program is an SGI-accredited, full-time, Class 1A program that trains participants in developing essential employability skills to fill positions in the urban labour market overall. Three cohorts of the program began in January, with the final cohort having graduated on April 15, 2022.

Dating back to 2013, the trucking industry began reporting a gap in the supply and demand of professional transport operators. In Saskatchewan alone, the shortage was projected to be 1,600 by 2020. Now, the pandemic has only further exasperated the existing driver shortage issue. The Road to Work program partnership seeks to meet part of this demand for professional transport operators by attracting and training Métis to the industry.

“We have a very strong relationship with GDI. For years we’ve trained GDI clients on an individual basis, and now more recently we signed a Memorandum of Understanding to deliver this Road to Work program to more cohorts of students,” said Randy Mihilewicz, NRT Training Division Manager.

“Our partnership programs with NRT have a 100% employability rate. This is why we continue to grow this partnership, it is a win/win for both parties and allows us to showcase the success of our Métis students. This program gives participants

**This story continues on page 4**



**Métis Cultural Development Fund**

We are accepting applications for fall projects!

Receive up to \$10K for your Métis Cultural Project. The Métis Cultural Development Fund (MCDF) supports community-based activities and initiatives that preserve, strengthen, and transmit Métis culture and traditions. Projects must start after November 24, 2022.

**Application Deadline**  
September 29, 2022



[www.saskculture.ca/mcdf](http://www.saskculture.ca/mcdf)





Red River Cart, GDI Library Regina

## THE ART OF THE CART

By Karon Shmon, Director GDI Culture & Heritage

The most obvious similarity between the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) and a Red River Cart is that both are Métis inventions, albeit they are nearly a couple of centuries apart in origin.

The first Red River cart is reported to have been made in 1801 at Fort Pembina, a part of the Métis Homeland long before the International Boundary separated Canada from the USA. The carts were made entirely of wood which made them repairable anywhere there were trees.

The carts were engineering marvels in that they were built to carry a large amount of goods and people and they could easily become a make-shift shelter for sleeping or resting. The wheels were genius as well, spoked at an angle to sustain more weight and removable so the cart and wheels could float over a water impediment. The wheel rims were often wrapped with shaganappi, a type of rawhide, to give them more traction. All the trails at that time were dirt trails and they could be very muddy when wet.

Of course we cannot forget that the cart isn't much use without the strength needed to pull it along. Oxen were best suited to this purpose. Although horses were faster, they couldn't pull as much weight, so the Métis chose the ox for its strength despite the journey taking a little longer. Figuring out how to get the ox and cart to work together well demonstrated more Métis resourcefulness and adaptability.

Overall, the cart suited the needs of our people. It was made of readily available materials that could also be found if repairs were needed. It

was made to suit the terrain the Métis would encounter on their journeys to harvest what they needed, conduct trade and commerce, and to visit one another. The right combination of Métis ingenuity, suitable materials for the existing environment, and the teamwork required to reach a destination shows that each component has a role in supporting the other components. They were all essential right down to the smallest peg in the construction, the state of health of the ox pulling the cart, and the skill of the cart driver. These were interdependent parts of a whole.

GDI is on a journey, one mapped out for us by those calling for it at the 1976 Cultural Conference. They saw the destination as one that would provide education, employment, and culture. GDI has stayed true to this mission, adapting as we go, fixing what needs to be fixed, choosing routes that make sense, staying mindful of all that it takes to reach the destination, and succeeding in moving the people it serves to a "bright future with a proud past." This phrase exemplifies the roots and wings we feel securely grounds us in our culture and history while preparing us to work and live successfully and happily.

We may have those days when we think that our individual efforts on this journey aren't essential and don't make a difference. Yet, we know from the lessons taught to us by our ancestors that all the parts are important and work best when they are supporting one another as we head towards the destinations we had in mind.

**This story continues on page 4**

**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  
HOLE-IN-ONE  
CASH PRIZES

REGISTER ONLINE AT [WWW.GDINS.ORG/GOLF](http://WWW.GDINS.ORG/GOLF)

**LES FEMMES MICHIF OTIPEMISIWAK**  
**MÉTIS WOMEN'S**  
**LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

We are looking for young, adult Métis women from across the Motherland, 18 to 30 years old, who are interested in becoming our trained Métis leaders of tomorrow

Reach for the Sky is an 18-week 30 hours/week leadership training program that provides on-the-land cultural teachings, on-line academic instruction and job-shadow mentorship positions.

Program participants will receive a living allowance along with essential childcare, computer access and individual accessibility supports.

**REACH FOR THE SKY**

**APPLY NOW!**  
Visit [metiswomen.org/reach](http://metiswomen.org/reach)

For more info, email [reach@metiswomen.org](mailto:reach@metiswomen.org)

Funded by the Government of Canada under the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy

Canada





NWC Wild Rice Company, photo submitted



Wild Rice Harvester, photo submitted

## DTI COLLABORATES ON A 'WILD' NEW PARTNERSHIP

*Continued from page 1*

The need to retrofit, redesign, and repair existing equipment has been an ongoing reality of NWC Wild Rice Company and the many harvesters who provide wild rice for processing and retail distribution. Something as small as a half-day missed on the lake because of a mechanical issue can see a substantial drop in the quality and quantity of the harvest.

Knowing this reality all too well, Nap Gardiner, NWC Wild Rice CEO, along with a group of wild rice harvesters, began working on a solution. The group approached Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) and SaskPoly's Office of Applied Research and Innovation with the goal of creating a training program that could remedy the issue within the industry. The group hopes to work with partners to develop a repair and maintenance program for existing and future wild rice harvesting equipment, and to design and fabricate a new boat

system that will take into account modern engine technology and environmental factors.

On June 14th and 15th, 2022, representatives from DTI, SaskPoly, and the province's north western communities met with NWC Wild Rice Company and the area's wild rice harvesters in Beauval to put plans in place to support the communities through programming and design initiatives. Over the next couple of years, DTI and SaskPoly have committed to working with NWC Wild Rice Company and the harvesters on a new boat design, with repair, maintenance, and fabrication programming committed to the north western communities to support wild rice initiatives.

While this programming is still being developed, it is an extremely exciting initiative that will allow the wild rice industry in Saskatchewan to flourish for years to come. 🌐



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

## ROAD TO WORK TRUCK DRIVER TRAINING PROGRAM

*Continued from page 2*

He continued, "Each year our program grows stronger, making it better for each student. Once students graduate from our program, they are much better prepared for employment and typically have a job lined up before they've even graduated. The minimum mandatory training is 121

½ hours for truck drivers and our program goes above and beyond providing students with 225 hours of combined in-cab and classroom training." In the future, GDI and NRT hope to expand their partnership to include fleet services and potentially apprenticeship opportunities. 🌐

## THE ART OF THE CART

*Continued from page 3*

Whether we see ourselves as part of the cart, part of the ox, or part of the driver, we are each helping to make the journey as smooth as possible and the destination reachable. And, like our ancestors, we are willing to adapt as needed.

Additional information about Red River carts can be found here: <http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/transactions/3/redrivercart.shtml>

<https://www.Metismuseum.ca/resource.php/00728> 🌐





# CALL FOR NORTHERN REGION III BOARD MEMBER



## CALL FOR BOARD MEMBER

The Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research invites applications for the following:

**MEMBER, GDI BOARD OF GOVERNORS**  
**NORTHERN REGION III (Pine House Lake, Ile-à-La-Crosse, Beauval, Green lake areas).**

**Overview:** The GDI Board of Governors has representation from the (12) Regions of the Organization, who are ratified by the Provincial Métis Council (PMC) of the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN—S). The PMC Member who is assigned the Education portfolio sits as the Chairperson of the Board of Governors. All persons selected to the Board of Governors will be for a period of three years. A member who is an employee/staff person/manager of an affiliated organization of the MN—S shall not be permitted to sit on the Board of Governors of the Institute.

**Responsibilities:** The Board of Governors oversees the Gabriel Dumont Institute and is responsible for its governance in all matters, including: to adopt policies for the effective operation of GDI; to formulate a strategic plan and to oversee its implementation; to approve annual budgets, audits and programs; to function as ambassadors for GDI and to encourage students and potential students in their study and career plans; to represent GDI to all levels of government, persons of Métis ancestry and to the public generally; and to appoint a Chief Executive Officer to be directly responsible for implementation of policy and the day-to-day management and operations of GDI.

**Qualifications:** All appointments to the Board must be of Métis ancestry with knowledge of the cultural, historical and social circumstances of Saskatchewan Métis. Ideally the collective skills on the board will represent a number of different disciplines and perspectives. Some of the preferred skill and training areas include education or post-secondary education; finance and administration; business; human resources (personnel); law; and communications. Individuals with extensive Métis culture and language experience are encouraged to apply. This will ensure a wide range of skills and perspectives are available when decisions are considered. A criminal record vulnerable sector check must be completed and accompany the resume submitted.

**Process:** Candidates can apply directly to the MN—S region or the Institute who in turn will forward the application to the appropriate MN—S region for consideration. The Region then submits the name of their selected representative forwarded from a duly called and administered regional council meeting. The name of the new board member is then sent to the Provincial Métis Council for ratification. Finally, the name is forwarded to the Minister of Advanced Education.

**Starting Date:** 2022 (Once process is complete –3-year appointment with the possibility of renewal)

**Deadline for receipt of applications:** August 31, 2022

**Please submit resume to one of:**

Tex (Mervin) Bouvier, MN-S Regional Director, Northern Region III P.O. Box 399 Ile a La Crosse, SK S0M 1C0 Phone: (639) 832-7555 Email : tex.mns@sasktel.net	Lisa Bird-Wilson, Executive Director Gabriel Dumont Institute 917 - 22nd Street West Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9 Phone: (306) 242-6070 Fax: (306) 242-0002 Email: lisa.bird-wilson@gdins.org
---	---

The Gabriel Dumont Institute has permission from the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission to hire affirmatively.



## 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 second 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](mailto:veterans@gdins.org) for additional information.

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



[www.gdins.org/veterans-monument](http://www.gdins.org/veterans-monument)

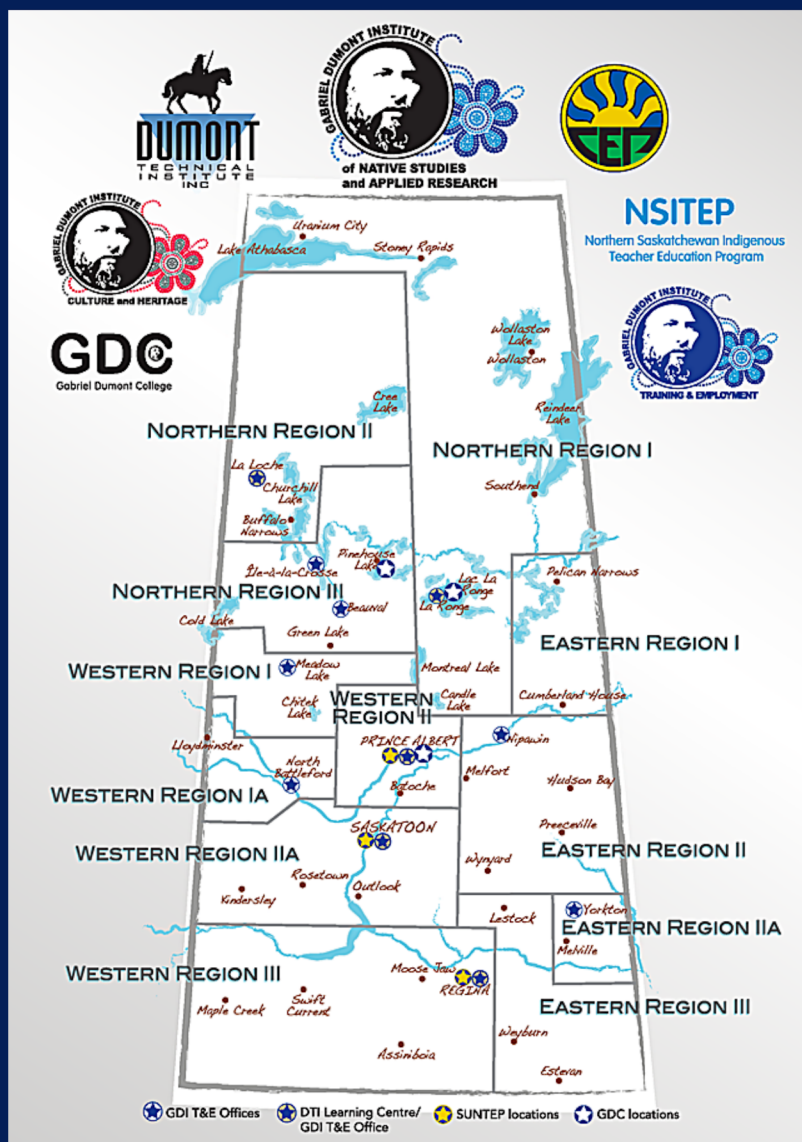
# AUGUST 2022 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

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



# CONTACT US



**WWW.GDINS.ORG**  
1-877-488-6888  
info@gdins.org

Previous issues of the *Communicator* can be found online at [www.metismuseum.ca](http://www.metismuseum.ca)

If you would like to submit an article for the *Communicator* please contact Desirae Barker at [desirae.barker@gdins.org](mailto:desirae.barker@gdins.org)

