



# THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



©Gabriel Dumont Institute. Photo by Jull Labrecque

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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## SUNTEP SASKATOON UNVEILS MÉTIS RED RIVER CART INSTALLATION ON CAMPUS

By Desirae Barker

September 16, 2022, marked a historic day for the Gabriel Dumont Institute, the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) in Saskatoon, and the University of Saskatchewan (USask). All institutions gathered with students, staff, faculty, alumni, community members, and special Métis guests to celebrate the unveiling of a Métis Red River Cart outside the SUNTEP and GDC Saskatoon centre located outside McLean Hall on the USask campus.

Before the event, SUNTEP students along with well-known cart builder George Fayant, gathered outside McLean Hall to assemble the large-scale-sized cart. SUNTEP students were also a large part of the organization, preparation, and execution of the unveiling.

The event opened with a blessing by Dr. Maria Campbell, which set the tone for this memorable occasion. She reminisced about the earlier days when her family used the Métis Red River Cart in their daily lives.

The Red River Cart is one of the intrinsic symbols of Métis identity. These carts were created by the ingenuity and resourcefulness of the Métis people and used throughout most of the 19th century to carry goods across the plains. Over the years, it has become a passionate and powerful symbol of Métis nationhood in Canada.

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## BOOK WEEK: AN EVENING OF MÉTIS WRITING

By Karon Shmon, Director GDI Culture & Heritage

The week of September 26th was Book Week in Saskatchewan, an initiative of SaskBooks to celebrate over 40 years of publishing in Saskatchewan. The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) partnered with SaskBooks and the Saskatchewan Ânskohk Writers Circle Inc. (SAWCI) to host a public event in the GDI Gallery that featured four Métis authors from Saskatchewan.

David Morin was GDI's lead and the emcee for the evening, which began and ended with Tristen Durocher's fiddle music. The readings began with Diana Hope Tegencamp, followed by Allyson Stevenson, Lisa Bird-Wilson, and Arnolda Dufour Bowes. Each author's work demonstrated the diversity and talent of local Métis authors.

GDI was particularly proud of our close connection with three of the authors. Allyson Stevenson is currently the Gabriel Dumont Institute Chair in Métis Studies at the University of Saskatchewan. Her book, *Intimate Integration: A History of the Sixties Scoop and the*

*Colonization of Indigenous Kinship* (University of Toronto Press) won two Saskatchewan Book Awards in 2022. Lisa Bird-Wilson's book, *Probably Ruby* (Doubleday Canada) also won two Saskatchewan Book Awards in 2022, most notably, Book of the Year.

GDI Press, garnered the Indigenous Peoples' Publishing Saskatchewan Book Award for *20.12 m: A Short Story Collection of a Life as a Road Allowance Métis* by Arnolda Dufour Bowes. The audience was encouraged to interact with the authors and to pose questions and comments following each author's reading.

The evening closed with tea and bannock in a more casual setting, which enabled those present to have more personal interactions with the authors, each of whom did an excellent job.

A copy of each of the featured books is now in the staff lending library in Saskatoon. 🌐

## SUNTEP PRINCE ALBERT HONOURS NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

By Beige Unger, SUNTEP PA Faculty Member

Truth and Reconciliation is an important topic on the minds of many people, both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous. To honour this important issue, students from the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) in Prince Albert planned a week of activities and reflection leading up to the National Day on September 30th.

This included an opportunity for students to make their own orange t-shirt and participate in a walk to honour survivors and

remember those children that didn't make it home.

This year's orange t-shirt design idea came from third year student Olivia Fetch. The SUNTEP Student Representative Council in Prince Albert strives to support and assist students in leadership within the centre, so naturally, they were ecstatic to help Olivia bring her vision to life.

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Photo submitted by Karon Shmon



Photo submitted by Karon Shmon



Photo submitted by Beige Unger





## GRATEFUL FOR THE REMINDER

By Karon Shmon, Director GDI Culture & Heritage

We are just days after having experienced the second, official, Truth and Reconciliation Day, a day to reflect on the miserable experiences of thousands of Indigenous children who were forced to attend residential schools, and a day to remember them and the many children who died in what some people choose to call prisons for children. Truth and Reconciliation Day, September 30th, dovetails with Orange Shirt Day, a day related to the personal and painful residential school experience of Phyllis Webstad.

We are also just days past Thanksgiving Day, a day that all children who went to residential schools missed spending with their families and their families missed spending with them. This year, I give thanks that most people were able to gather with their loved ones to remember so many things with gratitude. I am also giving thanks that residential schools no longer exist and that many Indigenous families are on a healing path due to their own strength and resolve. I admire the way they express thanks for what has been good in their lives.

“Thanks” giving is an Indigenous way of expressing gratitude and it pre-dates contact with non-Indigenous Peoples who are often credited with hosting the first Thanksgiving. But that’s another story.

Traditions of giving thanks long predate the arrival of European settlers in North America. First Nations across Turtle Island have traditions of thanksgiving for surviving winter and for receiving crops and game as a reward for their hard work. These traditions may include feasting, prayer, dance,

potlatch, and other ceremonies, depending on the peoples giving thanks.

<https://www.canadashistory.ca/explore/arts-culture-society/the-history-of-thanksgiving-in-canada>

I believe it is human nature to be appreciative and that this has been expressed across cultures. The last several years have amplified the many reasons we have to be thankful in addition to feeling sorrowful over the changes and losses we wish had never occurred. I cannot say “in spite of” here because we aren’t asked to choose one over the other.

It is a more natural response and one that reduces the stress of feeling foolish for being optimistic or depressed because we feel no hope. I have cut myself some slack in approaching this, allowing myself to feel whatever it is along the spectrum of what we are experiencing over the pandemic, the world’s precarious political and environmental states, and the recent natural and man-made disasters.

I balance this by thinking of the people in my life I enjoy being with and care about. I have gratitude for being employed to do work that matters and for working in a wonderful workplace with great people. I am grateful to live here because we enjoy freedom and peace and because we are willing to find the ways to make this true for all Canadians.

Fall is a time of year when things slow down or stop and rest. This shift may be the very reason we find the time to slow down enough to more consciously remind ourselves to remember and to be thankful. I’m grateful for the reminder. 🌍





## SUNTEP UNVEILS MÉTIS RED RIVER CART

*Continued from page 1*



Photo submitted by April Chiefcalf



Photo by Desirae Barker



Photo by Desirae Barker

Following this, greetings from various partners and stakeholders were shared. GDI Executive Director, Lisa Bird-Wilson stated, "It fills me with a lot of pride to be standing here next to the Métis Red River Cart. As I drove into campus, this installation literally took my breath away. It is a visual representative of Métis culture and will help make the Métis presence more visible and help students feel more comfortable on campus. I'm very proud of our affiliation with the University of Saskatchewan."

SUNTEP has operated in McLean Hall on the USask campus for over 40 years. The program was established to ensure Métis are adequately represented in the teaching profession. To date, SUNTEP has successfully graduated more than 1,400 Indigenous educators from the Regina, Prince Albert, and

Saskatoon centres. "We're a strong presence on this campus, so the Red River cart acknowledges that — it shows that we're here, we're alive, we're jubilant, we're paying homage to our homeland," said Sheila Pocha, SUNTEP Head, at the event.

In 2019, USask's Office of Indigenous Engagement provided a \$3,000 investment to SUNTEP to put towards the Red River Cart Installation. SUNTEP then commissioned George Fayant to build the cart. "To see this Red River Cart here today, with the blue Infinity flag and the sashes draped on it, that's your textbook definition of Métis symbolism," said George Fayant in his greeting at the event.

To wrap up the day, Dr. Maria Campbell and George Fayant cut the ribbon on the Métis Red River Cart. The ribbon cutting symbolizes new beginnings and promises an exciting future. 🌍

## SUNTEP PA HONOURS NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

*Continued from page 2*

This year's t-shirt designer had this to say about her work...

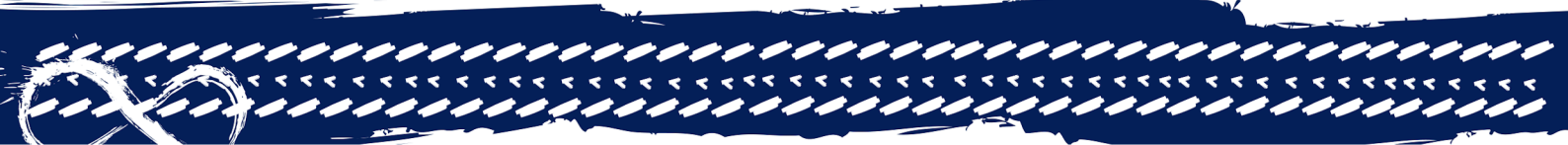
"The design is inspired by the quote by Sen. Murray Sinclair, 'Education is the new Buffalo'. The bison, like our Indigenous cultures, was almost taken from us through harmful colonial practices. As SUNTEP students, we have learned the value of both culture and education in working towards reconciliation. Through education, we can share culture with children who have lost theirs and create empathy and understanding in others. On the sunrays, inspired by the SUNTEP logo, there are 215 hearts. While the number of children found is so much greater,

and the number of people impacted over generations seems endless, 215 is the number that started a greater conversation and level of understanding." Olivia Fetch, Year 3 SUNTEP Student.

Proudly wearing their Orange T-shirts, ribbon skirts, and ribbon shirts, students and staff participated in a walk and smudge in honour of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The walk began at the SUNTEP Prince Albert Campus with participants gathering at the MMIWG monument on the Prince Albert riverbank. The walk was the culminating activity from a week filled with learning, listening, and sharing together as a SUNTEP family. 🌍



Logo by Olivia Fetch, third year SUNTEP student





## UPCOMING DEADLINES



**GED Distance Learning**  
Online

**Oct 31**



**Practical Nursing Program**

Saskatoon Campus **Jan 16**

Prince Albert Campus **Jan 16**

For a full listing of all current programs and to apply online visit

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

## ERP UPDATE

For those who are not aware, ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) is the new Finance, Human Resources, and Student Information System that is currently being developed in partnership between Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) and the other Regional Colleges in Saskatchewan. This system will be an all encompassing self-service model program that will affect all staff and all facets of GDI's operations. In addition to a new financial system, there will be a fully -integrated human resources system and student information system. All staff in the Institute will be users of the system and will be accessing this system on a regular – if not daily – basis.

### BI-Weekly Info Meetings

The Institute hosts bi-weekly teams meetings to ensure all staff have as much information as possible to assist in this system transition. If you have missed the invite for the bi-weekly meetings, please contact Gary Kichula at [gary.kichula@gdins.org](mailto:gary.kichula@gdins.org) to be added to meeting series.

### GDI ERP Info Sharing site

The GDI ERP Info Sharing site is accessible for everyone. Here you will find documentation and videos outlining the new ERP system. Documentation will continually be added as it becomes available.

The log in information for this site will be your standard Microsoft ID (GDI email and password). Once connected, staff will be required to request access. This request will send a notification directly to support who will promptly grant access to this site.

To access the site visit:  
<https://gabrieldumont.sharepoint.com/sites/ERPInfoSharing>

The Institute is looking forward to this transition. Thank you for your participation thus far! We encourage your attendance at the upcoming bi-weekly meetings and hope all staff will keep up-to-date on the information that is being shared on the SharePoint site. 🌐

## OCTOBER 2022 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Oct 7 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	<b>Student Payday</b> Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/P Invs - Timesheets & Payroll Revisions for Oct 14 Payday	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	<b>Thanksgiving Day</b> <b>Stat Holiday</b>			Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	<b>Staff Payday</b> Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Oct 21 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	<b>Student Payday</b> Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheet & Payroll Revisions for Oct 31 Payday		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
30	31					
	<b>Staff Payday</b>					

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 the province of Saskatchewan divided into several regions: Northern Region I, Northern Region II, Northern Region III, Eastern Region I, Eastern Region II, Eastern Region III, Western Region I, Western Region IA, Western Region IIA, Western Region IIB, Western Region III, and Prince Albert. Major cities and towns are marked, including Uranium City, Lake Athabasca, Stoney Rapids, Wollaston Lake, Wollaston, Cranberry Lake, La Loche, Chipewyan, Buffalo Narrows, Pinehouse Lake, La Ronge, Beauval, Cold Lake, Green Lake, Montreal Lake, Pelican Narrows, Lloydminster, North Battleford, Saskatoon, Regina, Moose Jaw, Swift Current, Assiniboia, Estevan, Yorkton, Melfort, Hudson Bay, and Weyburn. Logos for Dumont Technical Institute, GDC (Gabriel Dumont College), NSITEP (Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program), and various Dumont Institute programs (Culture and Heritage, Native Studies and Applied Research, Training & Employment) are included.

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

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

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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)

