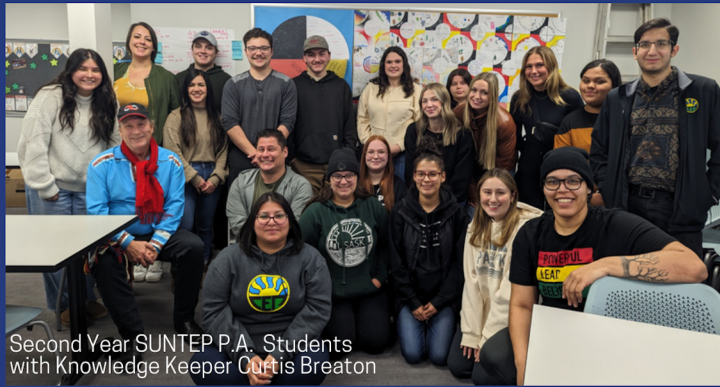




# THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



## NATIONAL INDIGENOUS STORYTELLING MONTH



Second Year SUNTEP P.A. Students with Knowledge Keeper Curtis Breaton



A few members from the SUNTEP P.A. Culture Committee

*The GDI Communicator is an internal newsletter intended to document the achievements of management and staff of the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research*

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### LETS GET SOCIAL



Stay in touch on our socials:  
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@GDINS\_ORG

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

## SUNTEP PRINCE ALBERT CELEBRATES INDIGENOUS STORYTELLING MONTH

By Ashley Parenteau, SUNTEP P.A. Faculty

The winter months are a time for storytelling in many Indigenous communities. After the long summer and fall months spent preparing for the cold winters, it was a time to sit and listen to the Old Ones, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers, who would share the oral tradition with members of their community. This tradition has been special to Indigenous peoples since time immemorial. The stories often contain life lessons unbeknownst to the listeners, hold sacred teachings and connect family and friends.

The SUNTEP Prince Albert's Culture Committee had the opportunity to welcome Elders and Knowledge Keepers to honour this time of year and recognize Indigenous Storytelling Month with the entire SUNTEP community.

We started the morning with our guests, students, and staff participating in a smudge led by Culture Committee member Erika Warkentine. Following the smudge, SUNTEP students separated into three groups and were able to listen to Leah Dorion, Curtis Breaton, and Shelley Belhumeur as they shared a wide variety of stories and teachings that connected students to their culture, the land and each other.

Leah Dorion shared many wonderful memories and stories from her father. She talked about the importance of teaching Métis values to children both in and out of the classroom, and she encouraged students to use these teachings as a guide in our modern era.

**Story continues on page 5...**





# APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR GDI UNIVERSITY BASED PROGRAMS



## Northern Saskatchewan Teacher Education Program

Earlybird March 15

- Four-year Bachelor of Education Degree
- La Ronge
- September 2024 - May 2028



## Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program

Early bird March 15

- Four-year Bachelor of Education Degree
- Regina, Saskatoon, or P.A.
- Sept 2024 - May 2028

For a full listing of all current programs and to apply online visit [WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS](http://WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS)

Got a scoop? Share the exciting stories and photos from your department, and you could be featured in the Communicator too!

email: [communications@gdins.org](mailto:communications@gdins.org)

# MICHIF WORDS OF THE MONTH

**SHAAKIYISHOO**  
Self-love

**LII KAANDII**  
Candies

**AEN KOONTEUR**  
Storyteller

**CHIISHIHIWAYHK**  
Trickery

## WHAT WE LOVE ABOUT WORKING FOR GDI

By Dumont Technical Institute Administrative Team

This month, in the spirit of Valentine's Day, many of us take some time to recognize the importance of those nearest and dearest to us. We send messages of kindness and appreciation to one another to show our love and thanks to those that we care about. With this in mind, Dumont Technical Institute's (DTI) administrative support staff have taken the opportunity to reflect upon the feelings of gratitude and inspiration that make us love being a part of Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI).



DTI Admin Team, Photo submitted by Samantha Baker

*"This valentine's day, I'm feeling all the warm fuzzy feelings. I'd like to express gratitude to GDI, as working in this company has given me the opportunity to get back in touch with my culture & heritage. Being at GDI this last year, I have grown as a person and I'm grateful I get to learn and explore what being Métis means here at GDI. Something that I really enjoyed was working as a team to complete a fun project for Christmas. We were able to incorporate our own fun ideas & listen to music and paint in our downtime, and the results paid off! I enjoy working in a close environment that we can have fun and work together!"*

-Samantha Baker, Admin Assistant

DTI Christmas Display, Photo submitted by Samantha Baker

Story continues on page 3 ...

**"I love the feeling of coming to work daily & knowing I have the support and leadership of a team that works hard to ensure our students are successful in their selected Programming.**

**I could be having a bad day, and someone comes to my desk with a smile on their face, compliments me on my outfit, tells a quick joke, or just does something to make me smile or giggle and for those things I am grateful for my Work Family each day.**

**No workday is ever the same and that's one of the many things of being employed with a career at DTI that allows me to grow as a Team Member. I believe growth is key to be successful in one's role regardless of past and present experiences in this changing society.**

**Without our students— we would not have a career! It gives me great pride when I can call a student to let them know they have been accepted into our ABE programming and will be able to pursue their future goals to better themselves for their families.**

**I look forward to spending many more years within GDI/DTI and want to say thank you for being my 'Work Family' and making me feel so loved each day."**

-Eldon Genest, Admin Assistant





## UPCOMING DTI PROGRAM DEADLINES



**Continuing Care Assistant**  
Regina, Saskatoon, or Prince Albert  
**Mar 15th**




**Early Childhood Education Level 2**  
Saskatoon  
**Mar 22nd**




**Outdoor Equipment Repair Program**  
Meadow Lake  
**Mar 31st**




**Office Administration**  
Regina  
**April 1st**



For a full listing of all current programs and to apply online visit [WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS](http://WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS)



Author Margaret Atwood and Senator Yvonne Boyer in Ottawa promoting *My Little Métis Sleepy Horse* by Leah Marie Dorion published by GDI Press. Photo from @therealmargaretatwood on Instagram.

## WHAT WE LOVE ABOUT WORKING FOR GDI

*Story Continued from Page 2.*

"I am so grateful to be employed at GDI. The student interaction is so rewarding and brings me such joy. Witnessing their educational, personal, and professional growth causes ripple effects for them and their families. Dumont Technical Institute truly builds brighter futures for Métis people in Saskatchewan. I am so honoured to be a part of that.

GDI is also a place where I have the freedom, encouragement, and opportunity to participate in Métis Cultural activities such as the Baby Moccasin Project, Métis Style Capote Making Workshop, Métis Ribbon Skirt Workshop, and We Wear Them with Pride Exhibition, a partnership with the Saskatchewan Craft Council. The cultural learning opportunities are so precious to me as an Indigenous Artist.

A special memory was when I was asked to spend the afternoon teaching the Practical Nursing students in Saskatoon how to make Baby Moccasins for the GDI Baby Moccasin Project in 2021. The GDI Culture & Heritage Department had a commemorative display to honour those who perished, the survivors, and their families of residential schools. The moccasins were donated to the Children's Hospital in Saskatoon."

*-Amanda Fisher-LaFramboise, Admin Assistant*



Baby Moccasin Project, Photo submitted by Amanda Fisher-LaFramboise

*I've been with DTI for over 10 years now and have been in my current role for just over five. I like what I do, what DTI does for our students, and what GDI does as a whole. I love that we are helping people continue their education and changing theirs and their families' lives. I'm proud of the support that we offer our students and make furthering their education feasible. We truly are changing lives and that is an amazing thing to be a part of!*

*-Erin Miers,  
Program Support Manager*

"The first thing I noticed when I started here was how long employees have been here. That spoke volumes to me. I love that I can't wait to get to work in the morning. I receive 'Good Morning's' from everyone who enters the building - and there is NO better way to start your day! This job allows me to help potential students become students and then I get to watch them grow throughout their educational journey. I even get to go out and help at community events promoting GDI and all the wonderful things we do here. I feel very thankful for the opportunities I have here and thankful to work for an organization such as GDI."

*-Tracey Grand'Maison,  
Admin Assistant*



Story continues on page 4 ...





## GDI CULTURE & HERITAGE HOSTS WORKSHOP SERIES

GDI Culture & Heritage hosted a series of one-day workshops teaching folks to make their own Métis style Capote. Facilitator Suzann Lagrove Couillard has helped hundreds of capotes “come to life” over 30+ years of teaching.



Farooq Ahmad in his Capote

*“I enjoyed and learnt how to make a capote with my own hands and promote Métis culture in my community & friends.”*

*This workshop would help connect me to my roots.”*

*-Farooq Ahmad,  
GDI Finance Admin*

**WATCH FOR FUTURE WORKSHOPS AT  
GDINS.ORG/EVENTS**

## DTI STUDENT SUCCESS STORY: MALAINA PEIGAN

By Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator



Introducing Malaina Peigan, a Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) student currently completing her Continuing Care Assistant (CCA) Diploma in Regina, Saskatchewan. When Malaina started her studies, she was working full-time to support her two children while experiencing homelessness and a lot of financial and emotional pressure. She knew that she wanted to do something more for her family, and she dreamed about a career in healthcare where she could make a difference in people’s lives.

Malaina said she chose the CCA program because she loves helping people, particularly the elderly. She said, “it’s within my culture to respect my elders, and I helped my Kokum look after my Moshum when he was alive. He was very sick,” she added, “I knew I wanted to help people in a healthcare setting. It gives me a sense of accomplishment.” The small class sizes at DTI also appealed to Malaina because she has difficulty speaking up in a group setting.

Malaina put all her effort into

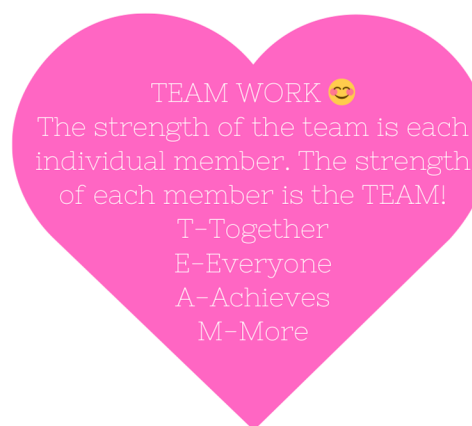
searching for a home and applying for school. She found out that she was accepted to DTI on the same day she secured stable housing for her family—she was ready to start her new chapter. Starting school gave Malaina the boost of confidence that she needed; she said, “I loved the clinicals, I loved school, I loved the instructors and everything else that has to do with DTI.” Her teachers noticed her hard work and encouraged her to continue her studies to become a nurse, her dream career.

Malaina is looking forward to graduation in May, so “my babies get to see their mom graduate”, and she has already applied for the DTI Practical Nursing program in September. Her advice to anyone thinking of going back to school is not to be afraid to ask for help and to always believe in yourself because you might be surprised by what you can accomplish.

We wish Malaina a bright future in healthcare! 🌍

## WHAT WE LOVE ABOUT WORKING FOR GDI

*Story Continued from Page 3.*



### TEAM WORK 🤗

The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the TEAM!

- T-Together
- E-Everyone
- A-Achieves
- M-More

CHRISTINA DESJARLAIS,  
ADMIN ASSISTANT

Working at GDI has provided us with an opportunity to be a part of something much bigger than ourselves. We find a sense of community in our workplace through GDI’s vision. We work hard to support one another to create a student experience that is second to none. Our students frequently comment on feeling like they are a part of a family here and appreciate the Métis cultural content provided in our programming. Knowing that we are helping others to achieve their goals is motivation to keep doing all of the great work that we do. 🌍





# SUNTEP REGINA COLOURING BOOK LAUNCHED!



Photos submitted by Brenna Pacholko, SUNTEP Faculty



# SUNTEP PRINCE ALBERT CELEBRATES INDIGENOUS STORYTELLING MONTH

Story Continued from Page 1.

Curtis Breaton shared many wise teachings. A few powerful quotes that stuck out to both students and staff were the lesson of nurturing who you are, "You're so special -there will never be another you in this whole existence, take care of yourself," and "The events that you've had the most trouble with are often you're greatest teachers," reminding us that although there may be difficult times, these lessons often hold value for the rest of your life.

Lastly, Shelley Belhumeur made her audience laugh throughout the sessions, sharing a variety of stories about her upbringing and the importance of sticking together as a family, she ended the session with the story of How the Mosquito came to be.

SUNTEP student reflected on the sessions and shared:

"I enjoyed listening to the storytellers. It made me wish that I would've had the chance to speak with both of my great-grandparents. I wish I could sit and listen to them share their knowledge and stories."  
- Duane Carriere (Second Year Student)

"I really enjoyed the storytelling. I love how education was incorporated, traditional teachings and oral stories. I went home and told an oral story to my family because it was so good. I absolutely love hearing things about my own culture and being able to share with it others."  
- Charlyn Head (Third Year Student)



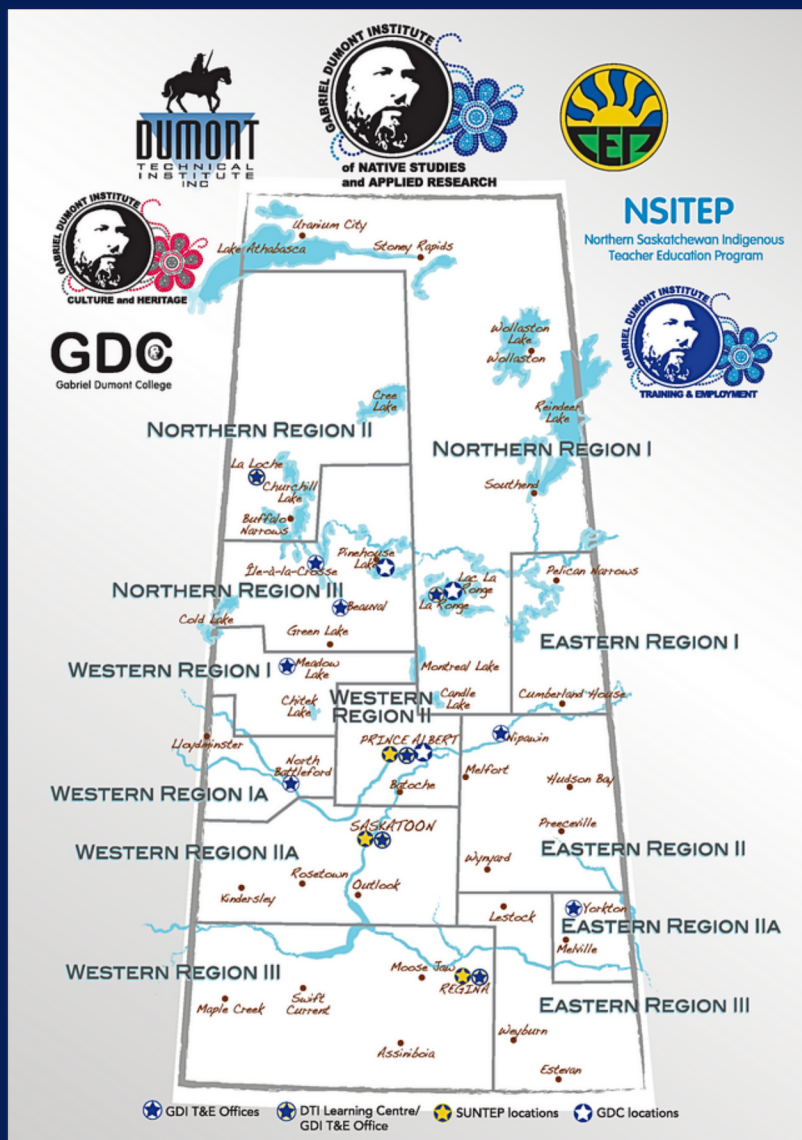
## MARCH 2024 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

MARCH 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Mar 8 Direct Deposits		Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for A/P Invs + Timesheets & Payroll Revisions for Mar 15 Payday	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
				Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Staff Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		Cutoff @ 3 pm for Stop Payments on Student Mar 22 Direct Deposits		A/P Cheque/EFT Run Cutoff @ 4:30 for Timesheets & Payroll Revisions for Mar 28 Payday	Student Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
			Accounts Payable Cheque/EFT Run	Staff Payday Cutoff @ 4:30 for Accounts Payable Invoices	Good Friday Stat Holiday	
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



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

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