



THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



Photo of partners by Jacob Dumont

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

IN THIS ISSUE

- ∞ Kiskiyhta Summer Student Program Launches
- ∞ Celebrating Regina Practical Nursing Grads!
- ∞ The Unicorns of the Office Administration Program
- ∞ SUNTEP and NSITEP Graduates Ready to Shape the Future of Education

LET'S GET SOCIAL



Stay in touch on our socials:
Gabriel Dumont Institute
@GDINS_ORG

WWW.GDINS.ORG

KISKIYHTA SUMMER STUDENT PROGRAM LAUNCHES

By Lisa Klyne, GDI Senior Program Coordinator, Research & Communications

On May 8, 2025, Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) CEO, Brett Vandale and Gabriel Dumont Institute Training and Employment staff attended the launch of the Saskatchewan Research Council's (SRC) Indigenous Summer Student Program, Kiskiyhta—a Cree word meaning “to learn or to know.” The program offers valuable work experience and one-on-one mentorship for Indigenous students in science and technology sectors.

As part of SRC's broader Indigenous Action Plan, this initiative supports GDITE's mission to create strong education-to-employment pathways for Métis people. Partnerships like this help ensure Métis students have the skills, connections, and opportunities needed to succeed in Saskatchewan's changing workforce.

The event featured remarks from the Honourable Warren Kaeding,

Saskatchewan's Minister Responsible for Trade and Export Development and Minister Responsible for Innovation, who highlighted the program's alignment with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. SRC CEO Mike Crabtree spoke about their Indigenous Action Plan and the importance removing barriers for Indigenous students with institutions like GDI, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology, and the Saskatoon Tribal Council.

To recognize the partnership, a framed print by Indigenous artist Arnold Isbister was presented to GDI CEO, Brett Vandale and to the other partners. The prints are part of a series of artwork representing the four pillars of SRC's Indigenous Workforce Plan and symbolize a shared commitment to Indigenous advancement.

The first cohort of four summer students is currently underway! 🌱



DEADLINE EXTENDED!



Northern
Saskatchewan
Indigenous Teacher
Education Program
(NSITEP)

La Ronge

Ongoing



Saskatchewan
Urban Native
Teacher Education
Program (SUNTEP)

Regina

Ongoing

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

WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS

MICHIF WORDS OF THE MONTH

AEN KISHKAYIHTUHK
Learner

NIHTA PIIKISHKWEW
Talkative

MASHKAWOW
Heavy Duty

HABITAAN
Farmer

CELEBRATING REGINA PRACTICAL NURSING GRADS!

by Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

On February 21st, 2025, Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) celebrated the graduation of Practical Nursing students in Regina at the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan Western Region III Office. The 12 graduates join a legacy of over 380 Licensed Practical Nurses who have been trained at DTI in both healthcare and Métis heritage and culture. Graduates are uniquely equipped with better cultural competency to meet the needs of Indigenous patient in healthcare.

Elder Gail Witherspoon started the ceremony off with a blessing. Devon Stelwagen and Heidi McCarney welcomed the graduates to excited applause from family and friends. Derrick Morin, Director of DTI, congratulated the students on their success on behalf of the Institute. MN—S Minister Wendy Gervais brought greetings on behalf of the Gabriel Dumont Institute and shared a personally touching story about the profound impact nursing can have on people's lives. Chantelle Julé, the DTI Practical Nursing Program Coordinator, shared some of the good work the students have been up to with their families and congratulated them all personally on their achievements. Finally, Benjamin Thomas gave the student address, and Cydnee Bruce kept the whole event moving as emcee.

The class of 2025 faced challenges as they completed their studies during the Practical Nursing Lab renovations at the Regina campus. Instead of having one lab as home base they were moved around to different classrooms as the project progressed. These students showed resilience, patience, and good humor in the face of these challenges that will serve them well in the future. Every graduate in this class is a strong role model and leader.

Since graduation, 11 of the 12 graduates have gone on to find work in healthcare, and the remaining student has decided to take some time off before beginning the job search. Looking ahead, the impact these graduates will make for Métis representation in healthcare is incalculable. Too often Indigenous patients are overlooked in healthcare settings, or they may not seek out service at all for fear of discrimination. Therefore, proud Métis graduates are necessary to improve health outcomes for all in Saskatchewan. 🌟





UPCOMING APPLICATION DEADLINES



Office Administration

Regina

June 30



Outdoor Equipment Repair

Île-à-la-Crosse

June 27



Mental Health and Wellness

Meadow Lake

June 30



Heavy Equipment, Truck, and Transport Technician

Prince Albert

Ongoing



Early Childhood Education Level 2

Online

Ongoing



Early Childhood Education Level 3

Online

Ongoing



Adult Basic Education

Various

Ongoing



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

WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS

THE UNICORNS OF THE DTI OFFICE ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

by Heather Witherspoon, DTI Faculty

The term "unicorn" is often used to describe rare and highly valued individuals. At Dumont Technical Institute's Regina Office Administration (OA) Program, we believe the term accurately describes our students. Like unicorns, they stand out from the crowd, embracing unique qualities that make them exceptional.

We take immense pride in what sets our students apart. Foremost among these are their Indigenous roots, the depth of instruction they receive, and a comprehensive curriculum—including Medical Terminology—that equips them to easily transition into the health care workforce.

Just this month, Regina OA students engaged with representatives from Crown Corporations such as SaskTel, SGI, the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), and the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency. These meetings included recruitment discussions and facility tours, offering firsthand insight into potential career paths. Our students are in high demand—so much so that the agencies often encourage them to apply for positions before they've even completed our program.

Currently, students are participating in mock interviews with our partners at Training & Employment (T&E) and SGI staff. These sessions help them refine their communication skills and showcase the skills and abilities that they've cultivated over the past 10 months. In the coming weeks our current students are preparing to take their remaining steps of the learning outcomes where they will be completing their in-class assignments, writing final exams and then begin prepping for their work

placements in Crown Corporations and Community Partnerships, where they will work hand in hand with trainers to finalize their transition from student to employees.

The work placements allow the students to really shine in their ability to adapt and learn from professionals that want to help the students in their transition to a working office. They work full time, in an office administrative role, in a variety of locations and job responsibilities which allows them the opportunity to see just what they have worked so hard to train for. By having the work placement, it has the potential to help the student find employment in a role that they enjoy, with a full career path ahead of them.

We congratulate our students on their dedication, growth, and resilience throughout this intensive program. When they first started in September, they were not quite sure on what they were in for, nor the depth of the learning that they would be completing. They are the proof that hard work, combined with culturally grounded education and practical training, leads to real opportunities where they can shine with the brilliance that highlights their uniqueness.

To those considering joining the Regina Office Administration Program: if you're ready to build a future filled with purpose, community, and career potential, there's a place for you here and we look forward to meeting you in the near future. Remember current and prospective students, be bold, be proud, and become the next unicorn in a field where you can truly shine. 🦄



MADDY'S SASH FEATURED IN 2025 SPRING/SUMMER ISSUE OF PRAIRIE BOOKS NOW



Maddy's Sash follows the plucky and curious Madeleine on her first solo visit to her grandparents' farm in Northern Saskatchewan. Author Marion Gonneville (originally from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and currently living in Vancouver) was inspired by her own childhood and her Métis grandmother.

The feature story interviews Marion Gonneville about writing the book and Kate Boyer about her illustrations for the book. The complete article "Delightful and magical visit to Métis family farm fills new children's book" is available to read online at

PRAIRIEBOOKSNOW.CA

SUNTEP AND NSITEP GRADUATES READY TO SHAPE THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION

by Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

This May, the Gabriel Dumont Institute celebrated the accomplishments of the 2025 graduating classes from the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Programs (SUNTEP) and Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NSITEP). In total, 69 graduates walked across the stage to receive their Bachelor of Education degree. SUNTEP Regina celebrated nine graduates, SUNTEP Saskatoon celebrated 20 graduates, and SUNTEP P.A. celebrated 20 graduates. NSITEP in La Ronge also celebrated 20 graduates. These graduates join over 1,500 graduates since the teacher education programs began in 1980.

GDI is proud to partner with the University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Advanced Education, and Lac La Ronge Indian Band on training educators with a strong foundation in Indigenous knowledges and worldviews. Each center offers a rigorous academic environment alongside land-based learning opportunities and anti-racist/oppressive teaching practices. Each SUNTEP or NSITEP program are tailored to the region of the province

that they represent through local language revitalization efforts and community connections with Elders and Old Ones.

Indigenous students across the province deserve to see themselves reflected in their teachers, curriculum, and classrooms. SUNTEP and NSITEP graduates can be role models and help foster meaningful connections to identity that enrich students' lives. It is also vital that non-Indigenous students see strong Métis and First Nations role models to help challenge negative stereotypes and encourage respect for other cultures.

Many of the 2025 graduates have already accepted teaching contracts with some choosing to teach in their home communities and one as far away as the United Kingdom. Wherever they end up, the graduates will remain part of the GDI community. 🌟



SUNTEP Regina



SUNTEP Saskatoon



SUNTEP Prince Albert



NSITEP La Ronge



12TH ANNUAL GDSF GOLF TOURNAMENT



Geordy McCaffery, Bonnie Hartman, Brett Vandale, Glen LaFleur



Team SIIT



Birdies and Bannock aka Oyateki Team



Team Low Expectations



Team Dollars and Sense



Team Camponi Housing Corp. / SaskNative Rental Inc.



Team 3 Docs and a Lady



Team SGEU



Team Price is Wrong Bob

Métis Nation University Applications Are Now Open

The 2025 application portal is now open. Métis university students studying full-time are eligible to apply for funding for the fall. The deadline to apply is July 1, 2025

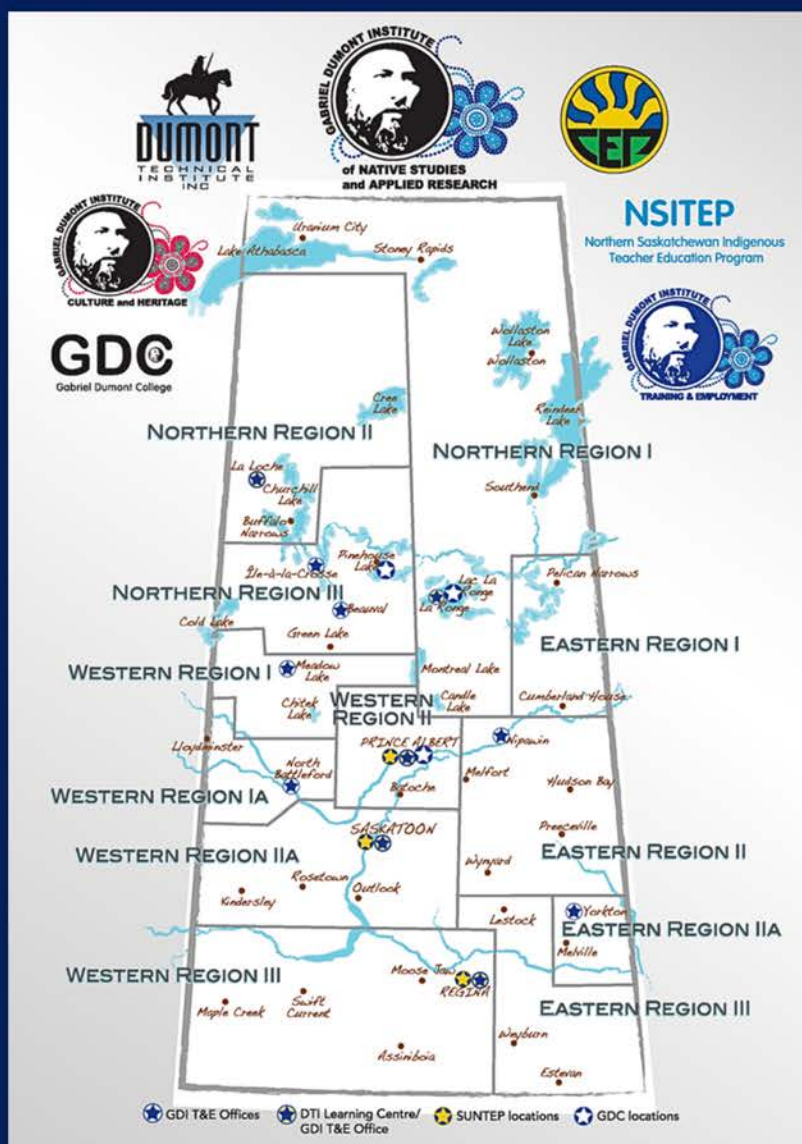


JUNE 2025 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

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

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 MTRS 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

If you would like to submit an article for the *Communicator* please contact Bethani Groat communications@gdins.org

