



THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



Mental Health and Wellness Class of 2025 photo by Mattia Gregory

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

- ∞ DTI Mental Health & Wellness Beyond the Classroom
- ∞ WAVES 2025 Global Indigenous Languages Summit
- ∞ Celebrating Indigenous Leadership in Education: GDI's Master of Education Graduation Ceremony
- ∞ A Walk Through Time: GDI at the Saskatoon Exhibition Artist Showcase

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DTI MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

by Mattia Gregory, DTI Program Coordinator

In June, Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) celebrated the first graduating cohort of the Mental Health and Wellness program in Meadow Lake. Eleven students completed this intensive two-year journey marked by profound personal growth, healing, and academic achievement. These students engaged meaningfully with the community through volunteer initiatives and practicum placements, many of which led to direct employment opportunities upon graduation. All 11 graduates secured relevant roles in the field, with three positions created specifically with these students in mind.

Beyond the classroom, students participated in a wide range of professional development and certification opportunities.

These included Trauma-Informed Care in the Workplace, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST), Naloxone Training, and Mental Health First Aid. These essential certifications equipped graduates with the knowledge and tools to respond to crisis situations, support harm reduction strategies, and provide compassionate, informed care in high-stress environments.

The program emphasized cultural and land-based learning, offering students opportunities to connect deeply with Indigenous traditions and teachings.

Story continues on Page 2...



UPCOMING APPLICATION DEADLINES



Adult Basic Education

Various

Ongoing



Try-a-Trade

Saskatoon

Ongoing



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

MICHIF WORDS OF THE MONTH

METR D'IKOL

Teacher

PUTT VYAAND

Vegetarian

NISHTOOHTAMIHK

Understanding

AEN AAPIHKAYHK

Weaver

WAAWAASHKAMOON

Zig Zag

KIIYAWOW

Yourselves

DTI MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Story Continued from Page 1

Students took part in seasonal Sweat Lodge ceremonies, weekly sharing circles, teachings from local Elders and Knowledge Keepers, and monthly community-building potlucks. These experiences fostered healing, personal reconnection, and a profound sense of community and kinship.

Students demonstrated exceptional perseverance, leadership, and cultural pride, particularly within the Métis community. Their contributions were recognized with two prestigious Order of Gabriel Dumont Bronze Medals awarded in 2024 and again in 2025. At the graduation ceremony, we proudly celebrated each graduate, with special recognition given to four individuals: one who achieved the highest cumulative academic average, one who demonstrated exceptional academic growth, one who overcame significant personal

adversity with resilience and grace, and one whose leadership and dedication to the field stood out above the rest.

This program has not only led to employment, but it has also sparked a desire among many graduates to pursue further education in the mental health and human services fields demonstrating the program's lasting impact and its ability to inspire and build futures.

None of these successes would have been possible without the unwavering commitment of our instructors, Nicole Genereaux and Jennifer Jones. Their passion, guidance, and care extended far beyond the classroom. As mentors, cheerleaders, coaches, and advocates, they created an environment where students felt seen, supported, and empowered every step of the way. We look forward to welcoming our next cohort in September 2025! 🌟



GDITE at SIGA Pancake Breakfast to Support White Buffalo Youth Lodge

The Gabriel Dumont Institute Training & Employment (GDITE) staff attended the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Association (SIGA) pancake breakfast in support of the White Buffalo Youth Lodge in Saskatoon. The White Buffalo Youth Lodge is dedicated to improving the quality of life and health for children, youth, young adults, and their families in the inner city through integrated, holistic support services. The Lodge is located around the corner from GDITE head office, so it was a great opportunity to support our neighbours. Jacob, Bonnie, and Debbie said that attending the event was an incredible opportunity to network and make valuable connections with colleagues and clients.



DUMONT TECHNICAL INSTITUTE STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY: BATOCHE TRIP 2025



Dumont Technical Institute staff took a cultural connection day out to Batoche National Historic Site. DTI program coordinators, support staff, admin staff, Elders and Knowledge Keepers spent the day out on the land listening to stories about Métis people. DTI staff were grounded in his history and culture. An important reminder why we do what we do and start the new school year in a good way.



Photos by Bonnie Hryciuk

WAVES 2025 GLOBAL INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE SUMMIT

by Kristin Kalk, GDI Culture & Heritage Casual Admin Assistant

Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude to the Rideau Hall Foundation (RHF) and their organizers on the Indigenous Teacher Education team. With their sponsorship, I had the incredible opportunity to be one of 25 Indigenous student teachers from across Canada to attend WAVES 2025 Global Indigenous Languages Summit hosted by the Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages.

The four-day summit brought together language experts, knowledge keepers, and Indigenous educators from all nations across Turtle Island. It was all about promoting, celebrating, and supporting Indigenous languages in Canada and around the world. We even got to see performances from Indigenous artists like Aysanabee, Elisapie, Andrea Menard, Donny Parenteau, and The Halluci Nation.

At this summit I learned that since 2006, the amount of people that can speak an Indigenous language had dropped by 8%, leaving Canada with only 13% of Indigenous language speakers in 2021. Out of 70 Indigenous languages, three quarters are in danger, and none are considered fully safe from extinction. Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada shared:

“Although the international community acknowledges the vital role of Indigenous languages in building stronger societies — the fight is far from being over.”

“Supporting Indigenous teacher education means much more than training teachers—it’s about nurturing Indigenous knowledge, language, and cultural continuity” - Rachel Mishenene, RHF Director of the Indigenous Teacher Education Initiative.

As a student of SUNTEP, it was empowering to participate in sessions focused on language revitalization and to connect with others who share the same purpose. It allowed us to build a broader network of support as we are all on our teaching journeys and could never be short of resources, ideas or even encouragement. We all may speak different languages, but we all share the same heart for our language, culture, and people.

The conference was refreshing. Sometimes, it’s easy to get caught up in the work—wanting to be successful, wanting to share the language with others. But it’s also important to take a step back and absorb it for ourselves. You must ask yourself: Why am I doing this? For me, it’s about revitalizing identity, healing intergenerational trauma, and instilling pride in generations to come. 🌍



Photos by David Morin



MÉTIS 101 MICRO-CREDENTIAL TESTIMONIAL

The Gabriel Dumont Institute is celebrating one year since publishing the first Micro-Credential aimed at raising awareness about Métis history, culture, and heritage for everyone. Métis 101 is the first online, self-directed course offered from GDI Culture & Heritage. The Micro-Credential covers many topics such as Métis identity, Métis Worldview, misconceptions, celebrations, Métis today, and so much more.

In July, Michael McGill, Director of Corporate and Clinical Policy at Saskatchewan Health Authority, completed Métis 101. He shared this testimonial about his experience taking the course on LinkedIn:

"What makes this course so outstanding is the authentic voice that runs through it. [...] The tone is warm, direct and honest. It does not shy away from hard truths or uncomfortable histories, but it also centers pride, resilience, and the vibrancy of Métis culture in the present day. Whether you are a policymaker, health professional, educator, or someone committed to reconciliation and learning, I cannot recommend this course highly enough."

Michael speaks to the reason why the GDI Culture & Heritage Micro-Credentials are vital for supplementing more in-depth Métis studies courses. "We are very pleased that there has been such a positive response to the program" says David Morin, Director of GDI Culture & Heritage, "and I hope more people will be encouraged to continue learning when we introduce Métis 201 and 301." Métis 101 is available to the public now, for more information and to register please visit:

LEARN.GDINS.ORG



Métis 101

GDI COMMUNICATOR—PAGE 4

CELEBRATING INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION: GDI'S MASTER OF EDUCATION GRADUATION CEREMONY

By Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

On July 25, 2025, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) proudly celebrated the Indigenous Community-Based Master of Education Graduation Ceremony in Prince Albert. This momentous occasion marked the achievements of Métis and First Nations students who have dedicated years to advancing their knowledge, strengthening their communities, and preparing to lead in the field of education.

The celebration was attended by family, friends, faculty, and community members who came together to honour the graduates' perseverance and vision. Faculty member and MC, Beige Unger, captured the spirit of the day in her simple welcome, "Today we celebrate you, and tomorrow you will lead the way." Brett Vandale, GDI CEO, brought greetings and encouraged graduates to remember their responsibility to lead the necessary changes in the education system to create a better future for Indigenous students. Dr. James Nahachewsky, Dean of Education at the University of Regina, spoke warmly of the graduate's knowledge and strengths as a cohort, and he encouraged them to continue their educational journey in the Indigenous Education Doctorate Program.

Graduates shared toasts to the faculty and staff, friends and family, and their classmates. The stories they shared spoke of the tight bonds that they forged through trust, honesty, vulnerability, and strength. Beige also commented on the particularly close community of educators that this cohort has formed. She witnessed students tackling difficult subjects with

grace, sitting with their discomfort, and showing compassion through grief and loss. The strength of the community will continue beyond graduation and will provide a source of support as graduates return to the professional world.

The graduation ceremony was touching and personal with many generations of families on hand to show their pride in the graduates. The celebration honoured more than their academic achievement—it was also a celebration of Indigenous resilience, kinship, and community. The Indigenous Community-Based Master of Education program is designed to uplift and empower leaders and educators to carry Indigenous knowledge forward, ensuring Métis and First Nations worldviews are represented in leadership roles. These graduates are not only strengthening their own communities but also paving the way for future generations to thrive.

GDI extends heartfelt congratulations to all graduates and their families. Your courage, dedication, and vision are a gift to our people and to the future of education. 🌟



M.Ed. Class of 2025, Photo by Bethani Groat



A WALK THROUGH TIME: GDI AT THE SASKATOON EXHIBITION ARTIST SHOWCASE

by Bethani Groat, GDI Communications Coordinator

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Culture & Heritage Department was pleased to be invited to program three exhibitions at the Saskatoon Exhibition's Saskatchewan Artist Showcase at Prairieland Park. The eight-day festival welcomed thousands of attendees to the showcase. Culture & Heritage staff presented finger weaving demonstrations and excerpts from *Aen Kroshay aen tapee avec mi gineey: Métis Hooked Rugs from the Métis Women's Traditional Arts Series* by Kristin Kalk, produced by the department.

The first exhibit delved into the history of the Hudson's Bay Company. The display included a rare and compelling collection of historic pieces, including capotes, blankets, and copper pieces that reflect the deep roots of trade and tradition in the region. The second exhibit features pieces from the remarkable Todd Fontaine collection.

Todd Fontaine collected archaeological finds and natural history specimens for over five decades. The collector has assembled a body of work that offers insight into the interconnected histories of land, culture, and community. The final display, "From Fibre to Floor" showcased the artistry of traditional textile techniques with a colourful and intricate display of Métis braided and hooked rugs. This display included rugs from both GDI and Margaret Harrison's collection.

The Saskatoon Exhibition was celebrating its 140th anniversary, so it was fitting that the Institute showcased the many Métis artists and traditions which have contributed to the cultural fabric of this land over the decades. GDI hopes that we can continue to celebrate this rich shared history and culture for generations to come. 🌟

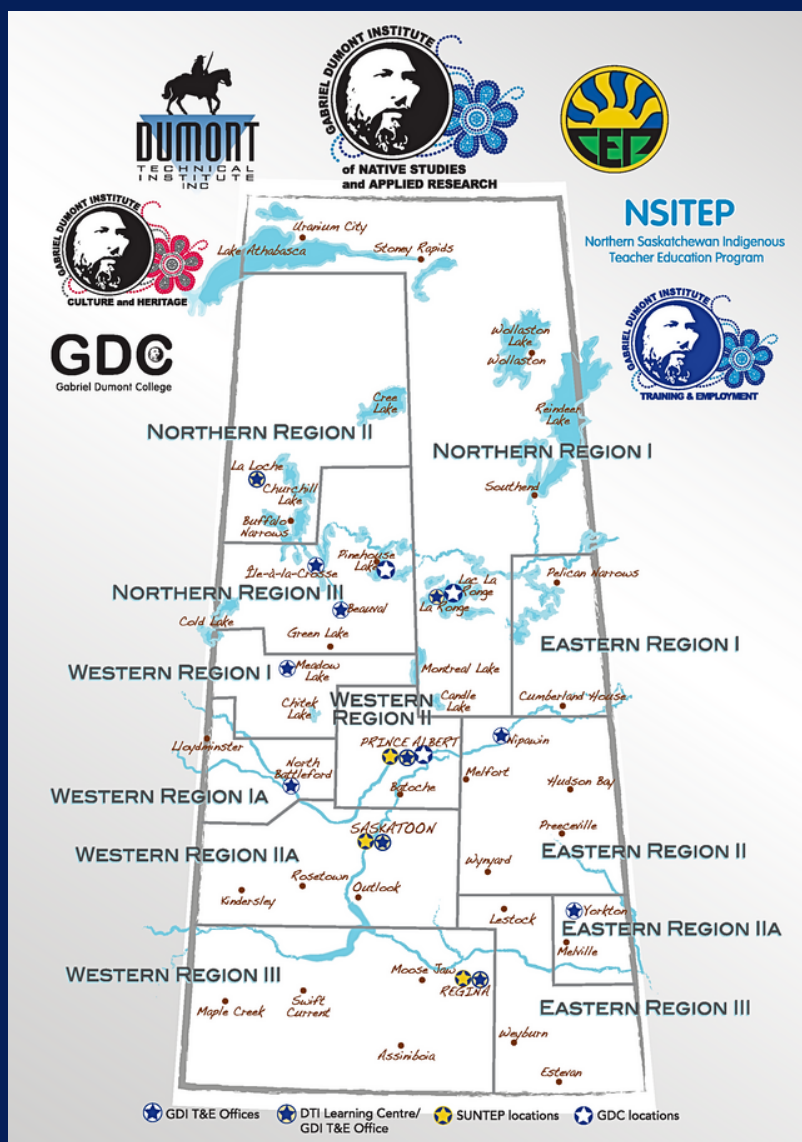
SEPTEMBER 2025 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

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

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.

Photos by Bethani Groat

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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

