



THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



GDI Head Office
Photo by Bethani Groat

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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NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

By David Morin, GDI Director of Culture & Heritage

September 30th is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This day honours the children who never returned home from residential schools, as well as the survivors, and their families and communities. The residential school system is one of the black marks in Canada's history that still affects people today. It's important for everyone to reflect on the impact that residential schools and day schools has had on Indigenous Peoples and recognize the deep trauma those experiences caused.

Now a federal statutory holiday, we feel that people should not just see this day as another day off. Spend some time learning about the residential school system. Read through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. See if there is a Call to Action that you can incorporate into your life. Visit the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation website.

It has a wealth of resources to help in your personal learning journey. It also has a section for health supports, if you need them. Watch or read Richard Wagamese's *Indian Horse*. It's such a powerful story that should be required viewing/reading for all Canadians. The Métis Nation—Saskatchewan's metisgathering.ca website has a Truth and Reconciliation lesson plan for Grade 9 that has information on the Métis experiences, including powerful quotes from the Île-à-la-Crosse residential boarding school survivors. There are many resources available and it's important to seek them out and educate yourself, not only on September 30th, but throughout the year.

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UPCOMING APPLICATION DEADLINES



Outdoor Equipment Repair

Pinehouse Lake

Oct 10



Adult Basic Education

Various

Ongoing



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

WWW.GDINS.ORG/PROGRAMS

GDI RECEIVES FUNDING TO STRENGTHEN MÉTIS EDUCATION AND STUDENT SUCCESS

by Lisa Klyne, Senior Communications Coordinator

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) is honoured to receive \$10 million dollars in new funding from the Mastercard Foundation as part of their national commitment to advance education for Indigenous youth across Canada.

This support comes a decade after the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada released its Final Report and Calls to Action, which identified education as a critical path toward reconciliation. For GDI, this funding recognizes our long-standing role in advancing Métis education and strengthens our ability to provide programs and services that make a real difference in the lives of our students.

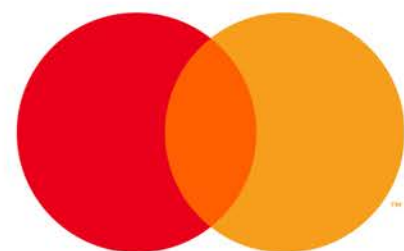
"This generous gift from the Mastercard Foundation, given in the spirit of reconciliation, will help the Gabriel Dumont Institute better meet the needs of our students," says Brett Vandale, CEO of the Gabriel Dumont Institute. "It strengthens our institution and allows us to enhance programs and services to benefit the Métis community as a whole. Kischi maarsii."

The Mastercard Foundation highlighted GDI's role as a trusted partner in creating opportunities for Métis learners and its dedication to supporting student success: "Gabriel Dumont Institute is a valued partner through our EleV Program and, with this investment, we are proud to support their Métis-led vision for an exceptional post-secondary experience that reflects Indigenous values, supports self-determination, and creates meaningful pathways for youth to thrive. We made a commitment to

young Indigenous people that we would walk alongside them to transform post-secondary education in ways that support them to live a good life. This exemplary organization is contributing to that change and to a stronger country for us all," Jennifer Brennan, Senior Director, Canada Programs at the Mastercard Foundation.

The Mastercard Foundation's new grants provide \$235 million in funding to 30 post-secondary organizations across Canada. This support will help GDI grow programs, strengthen sustainability, and create more opportunities for Métis learners. It will help us build upon on our ongoing work, ensuring our programs and services continue to reflect Métis culture, values, and community priorities.

GDI is grateful for the Mastercard Foundation's ongoing support and commitment to reconciliation. This funding will help ensure Métis learners have the resources they need to achieve their educational goals and transition into meaningful careers. It further strengthens our ability to serve the Métis community now and into the future. 🌱



mastercard
foundation

MICHIF WORDS OF THE MONTH

MAMAWAPOWUK

Gathering

AENPORTAAN

Important

TRIKOTTIYENN

Knitting

LII MAASHINIIRY

Machinery

AEN KISHKAYIHTUHK

Learning

LA ZHUSCHIS

Justice

DIMII YEUR

Half-hour



Artifacts photographed
by George Gingras

GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE RECEIVES A REMARKABLE DONATION FROM THE TOUROND FAMILY

by Darren Préfontaine, Curriculum Developer

Last spring, Margaret Tourond-Townson and her husband David graciously donated several artifacts relating to the Tourond family to the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI). These precious family artifacts and ephemera belonged to her father, Arthur Tourond (1883–1948) and relate to the courage and resilience of a Métis family who were deeply involved in the 1885 Resistance and faced a great deal of hardship and loss during and after this cataclysmic event.

Many Batoche-area Métis families lost a great deal during the 1885 Resistance—both from dying in the fighting and following the conflict. For instance, dozens of Métis, mainly women and children, died from disease due to the privations they suffered during the 1885 Resistance. Many lost property and were never compensated for their losses.

Perhaps no Métis family lost more than that of Madame Josephte Tourond (c.1831–1928). In 1882, Madame Tourond and her family, including her husband Joseph and their nine children, left Saint-François Xavier, Manitoba for the Métis settlement of Batoche. They settled at nearby Coulee Poisson (Fish Creek), which became known as “Tourond’s Coulee” by all the local Métis families. Soon tragedy struck: Joseph, the patriarch of the family suddenly died. In 1884, as the Batoche-area Métis met to decide upon a strategy to address their grievances, Louis Riel visited Madame Tourond’s home and asked if he could count on her family’s support during the

negotiations and possible confrontation with the federal government. The Touronds were Riel loyalists who supported the Métis Provisional Government during the Red River Resistance in 1869–70. Madame Tourond treated Louis Riel to a fine meal and assured him of her family’s support.

On April 24, 1885, the Battle of Tourond’s Coulee broke out on her land. As a result, her family—including an elderly mother, a son (Charles) sick with tuberculosis, young daughters, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren—had to flee the battle. Both Madame Tourond’s daughter Élise and Louis Riel carried her two-year-old grandson, Arthur, safely to an encampment near Bellevue. However, they were all tired and hungry. Madame Tourond watched helplessly as the troops burned her home, slaughtered her livestock, and pillaged her family’s possessions, including her horses and wagon. Madame Tourond knew that she needed the horse and wagon to transport her invalid son and elderly mother. Angered, she bravely entered the soldiers’ encampment and demanded the return of her horse and wagon. Impressed by her bravery, the soldiers immediately hitched up her horses and wagon and gave them to her. Unfortunately, tragedy soon followed as two sons, Calixte and Elzéar, were killed in the final hours of the Battle of Batoche (May 12, 1885), while another was severely disabled. Soon afterwards, she lost five more children, several more grandchildren, and members of her extended family to disease. When she died in 1928, at the age of 97, only two of her children were still living.

Story continues on the next page...



SUNTEP REGINA LEBRET TRIP

By Russ Fayant, SUNTEP Faculty

The hills are alive with the sound of Michifs! The Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education (SUNTEP) Regina prides itself in providing authentic Métis learning experiences for our students. That means building community, learning from the wisdom of our Old Ones, and making history and culture tangible and relevant for our students. The little town of Lebret gives us the opportunity to explore and build on each of these values.

Every year, the entire SUNTEP staff and student body make the one-hour trip to the heart of the Qu'Appelle Valley. We break students up into three groups and rotate through a variety of "stations." At station one, students learn the history of the Sacred Heart Parish and Church, which was largely constructed with Métis labour. In station two, students climb the Stations of the Cross Hill to learn the history of the Qu'Appelle Indian Residential School and to take in the best view in the valley. In the third station, students accompany some of our Old Ones to explore the Katepwa road allowance and hear the stories of the Old Ones who grew up there.

We use the remaining time in Lebret to share a meal and build our community through Michif games, a sharing circle, and mentorship visits. These activities allow our senior students to meet our first years and induct them into our SUNTEP family. As our students prepare for a new academic year and curriculum, they are first given a cultural curriculum—one that reminds them that their collective success depends on strengthening community, embracing culture, and learning to climb hills to get the best view.



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GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE RECEIVES A REMARKABLE DONATION FROM THE TOUROND FAMILY

Story Continued from Page 3

The tragic sacrifices of Madame Tourond and her family eventually led to a change in how Parks Canada commemorates the 1885 Resistance battle which took place on her land. This battle, in which 150 Métis and First Nations defeated 500-800 Canadian troops, became known in the dominant society as the "Battle of Fish Creek." The Métis, by contrast, have always known it as the "Battle of Tourond's Coulee."

In 2005, Métis community members and representatives from Parks Canada, Batoche National Historic Site (BNHS), GDI, and Friends of Batoche formed a partnership to restore the Métis name to this battle, which would also honour the sacrifices of the Tourond family. Eventually, these lobbying efforts were successful. In 2008, Parks Canada officially unveiled new commemorative plaques, in Michif, English, and French, which commemorate the battle site as the "Battle of Tourond's Coulee/Fish Creek National Historic Site of Canada." With this inclusive name change, a key piece of Métis corporate and family history was restored in the historical commemoration of the 1885 Resistance.

On April 24, 2008, as a postscript to this successful lobbying effort, BNHS and GDI brought together many interested people on Madame Tourond's land to share women's and children's stories relating to the 1885 Resistance. Participants included several of Madame Tourond's descendants, including her great-grandson, Henri Paulus, who shared the family history outlined above and her great-granddaughter,

Margaret Tourond-Townson, who brought her great-grandmother's clock to the event.

Margaret Tourond-Townson and her husband David graciously donated this clock to the Institute, which was inherited by her father, Arthur. This clock, which was kept hidden from pillaging soldiers, is a poignant reminder of one's family's courage. It carries the scars and trauma that this family faced, but it also witnessed their determination to raise their families and live their lives as best they could during these difficult times. It speaks to Métis resilience.

Also included in this donation were many of Arthur Tourond's personal effects, including cap badges and medals from his service in the Canadian Army during the First World War as well as family photographs. These precious heirlooms were with the Tourond family for generations and speak to the courage, sacrifice, and resilience of this proud Métis family. GDI is honoured to house this collection in our museum and gallery. The artifacts and related ephemera have all been photographed and will be uploaded to the Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture sometime in the near future.

Groo Maarsii to Margaret and David Townson for this gracious donation! 🙏



SOAR INDIGENOUS PITCH EVENT KICK OFF



GDI Training & Employment is proud to sponsor the SOAR Indigenous Entrepreneurship Competition. The kick off event was held beginning of September. Over the next several weeks, these dedicated entrepreneurs will refine their ideas, strengthen their skills, and prepare to share their vision at the final pitch session.

The finalists will be awarded \$30k in cash prizes to grow their business—and we know every participant will leave this experience stronger, more connected, and ready to lead in their communities.

Best of luck to all the competitors—
bonn shaans!



Photos by Nicole Denbow

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

ORDER OF GABRIEL DUMONT

GOLD & SILVER MEDAL

OCT 31, 2025

FOR MORE INFO: GDINS.ORG

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH & RECONCILIATION

Story Continued from Page 1

September 30th is also Orange Shirt Day, which recognizes the painful school experience of Phyllis Webstad. This day is meant for “commemorating the residential school experience, witnessing and honouring the healing journey of the Survivors and their families.” (From the Orange Shirt Society). The Gabriel Dumont Institute wore orange shirts in solidarity on September 29th and 30th.

To learn more about Phyllis’ story, we encourage you to seek out her story in her own words, Orange Shirt Day: September 30th: Revised Edition from Medicine Wheel Publishing.

The Gabriel Dumont Institute is also proud of the SUNTEP Prince Albert Student Council for co-organizing a walk to honour Truth & Reconciliation. P.A.NOW covered the event on Friday September 26, 2025. You can read the story on their website here: <https://panow.com/2025/09/26/suntep-and-fnuc-students-hear-education-is-road-to-reconciliation/>



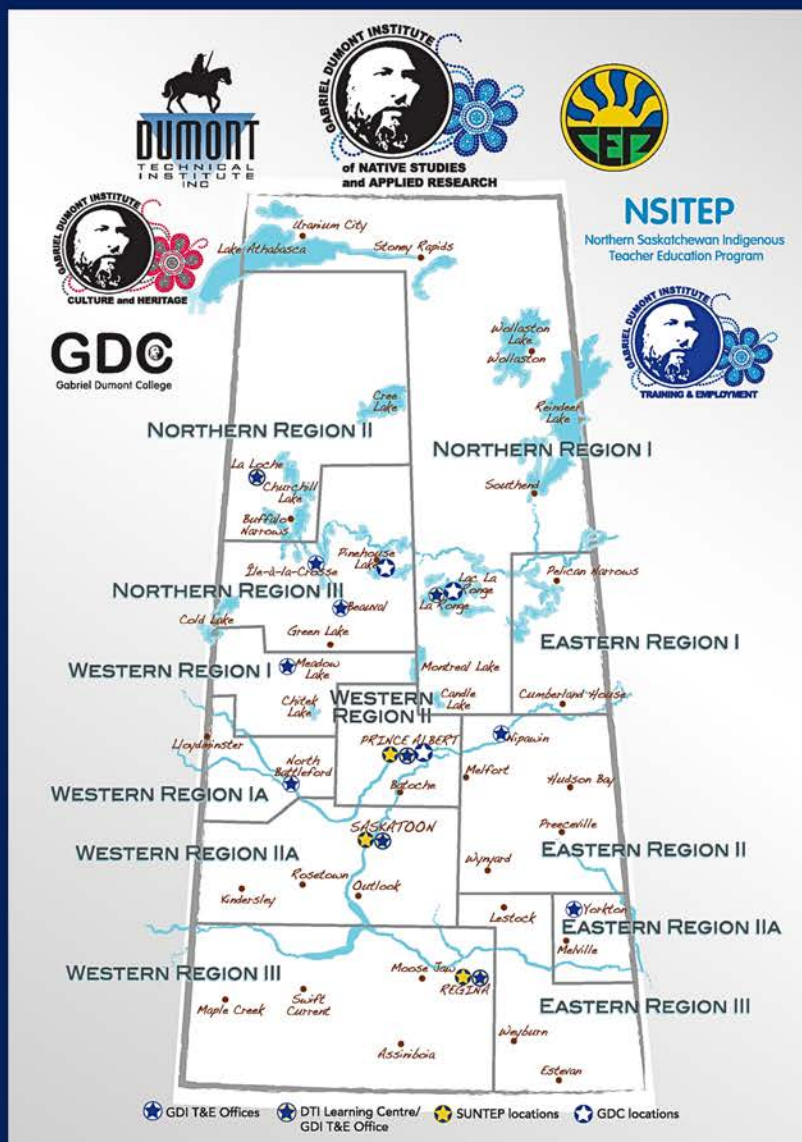
Photo by P.A. Now

OCTOBER 2025 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

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



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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

