



# THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE COMMUNICATOR



Saskatoon SUNTEP Class of 2026,  
photo by Juli Labrecque

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

- ∞ Congratulations to SUNTEP and NSITEP Graduates of 2026
- ∞ GDI Supports GTNT Premiere of Apples and Train Tracks by Arnolda Dufour Bowes
- ∞ Learning Through Culture: DTI Students Experience Métis Rug Hooking with Margaret Harrison
- ∞ GDITE Request for Proposal

## LEGEND

**DTI**—Dumont Technical Institute  
**GDC**—Gabriel Dumont College  
**GDI**—Gabriel Dumont Institute  
**GDITE**—Gabriel Dumont Institute Training and Employment  
**GDSF**—Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation  
**NSITEP**—Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program  
**SUNTEP**—Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program

## CONGRATULATIONS TO SUNTEP AND NSITEP GRADUATES OF 2026

By Bethani Groat, Communications Coordinator

The Gabriel Dumont Institute proudly celebrated the accomplishments of this year’s Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) and Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NSITEP) graduates at ceremonies held in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, and La Ronge this spring. Surrounded by family, friends, faculty, Elders, Old Ones, and community members, graduates were honoured for their years of dedication, perseverance, and commitment to Indigenous education.

reflected on the vital role SUNTEP and NSITEP graduates play in reshaping education systems and creating spaces where Indigenous students feel seen, valued, and empowered.

Graduates reflected on the strong relationships they built during their educational journey. Those bonds, rooted in mentorship and collaboration, are a defining part of the SUNTEP and NSITEP experience.

**Story continues on Page 5...**

The ceremonies celebrated more than academic achievement. They recognized a new generation of educators who will carry culture, language, and community into classrooms throughout Saskatchewan and beyond. Throughout the events, speakers





# UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR FALL 2026



Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NSITEP)

La Ronge

Ongoing



Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP)

Saskatoon, Regina, Prince Albert

Ongoing



Apply early to ensure your spot in these popular programs!

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

## GDI SUPPORTS GTNT PREMIERE OF APPLES AND TRAIN TRACKS BY ARNOLDA DUFOUR BOWES

By Bethani Groat, Communications Coordinator

A train whistle is heard in the distance as the prairie sky fills with dancing lights in the growing darkness, and a cozy family kitchen glows warmly in the foreground. Apples and Train Tracks by Arnolda Dufour Bowes opened to a full house at the Refinery Arts and Spirit Centre and was co-presented by Gordon Tootoosis Nîkānîwin Theatre (GTNT) and Burnt Thicket Theatre on Friday May 1, 2026. GTNT and GDI operate in the same neighbourhood in Saskatoon and share many similar goals and values, including celebrating Métis artists, like Arnolda Dufour Bowes, so supporting this production through the GDI Culture & Heritage Department was an obvious choice.

silences and warm laughter as they try to navigate what their pasts mean for their future together. When things become too tense, Charlie leaves for a run, and we are transported back to the 1940s and life on the Métis Road Allowance with his mother Bella (Jennifer Dawn Bishop). Bella puts on a brave face for Charlie as they are forcibly relocated to remote a Rehabilitation Farm in Northern Saskatchewan by Tommy Douglas (Sean Hoy) and his men (Cheyenna “Shy” Sapp). Along the way, little Charlie meets his best friend Gerald (Shawn Cuthand), and they form close bonds as the only two Métis boys at school. Charlie loses touch with Gerald until he is out for a run by the train tracks, where he bumps into a mysterious cart lady (Leze J. Pewapsonias) who reminds him that he can’t outrun his past.

GDI supported Arnolda in the development of this play based on her father’s life and GDI Press’s best seller, 20.12M: A Short Story Collection of a Life Lived as a Road Allowance Métis. The GDI Gallery also hosted the Apples and Train Tracks sensory art exhibit created by Arnolda’s sister Andrea Haughian in conjunction with the world premiere of the play by the same name. The DTI Adult Basic Education class also had the opportunity to attend one of the school matinees as part of their English class and were able to connect the story with what they’re learning about the Métis Road Allowance experience and their own family histories.

Opening night was filled with laughter, gasps, sighs, and tears as we followed Charlie through his journey into his past. The audience was a blend of people who are very familiar with this part of history, either through direct experience or familiar stories, and those who are hearing this part of history for the first time. The play closed with a resounding standing ovation for the cast and crew who poured their hearts out on stage sharing this story. Although the inaugural production is now closed, we hope this will not be the end of the line for this important play.

The play weaves together two different timelines following Charlie (Danny Knight) as he tries to outrun his past and redefine where home is for his family. First, we meet Charlie and his wife, Rose (Andrea Folster) who are trying to decide where to put down roots and start their new family. Their home is punctuated by tense

# MICHIF WORDS OF THE MONTH

**LI MOOND**

People

**KAYSHISHKOW**

Quickly

**LI PAYN'D RAAZAYN**

Raisin bread

**AEN NIPAYNG KROSH**

Safety pin

**LII TAX KA TIPAHUHK**

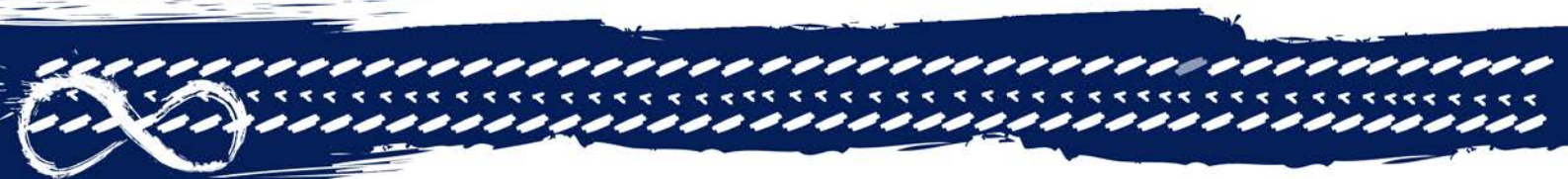
Taxpayer

**NISHTOOHTAMIHK**

Understand

**PIIKISHKWAYHK**

Verbal





# UPCOMING DTI PROGRAM DEADLINES



**Continuing Care Assistant**  
Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert

Ongoing




**Heavy Equipment, Truck, and Transport Technician**  
Prince Albert

Ongoing




**Office Administration**  
Regina or Saskatoon

Ongoing




**Adult Basic Education**  
Various

Ongoing




**Early Childhood Education Level 2**  
Online

June 30




**Mobile Crane Operator**  
Regina

Ongoing




**Heavy Equipment Operator**  
Various

Ongoing



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

## LEARNING THROUGH CULTURE: DTI STUDENTS EXPERIENCE MÉTIS RUG HOOKING WITH MARGARET HARRISON

by Shawna LaRocque Desjarlais, DTI Program Coordinator

Dumont Technical Institute Office Administration Regina students were provided the opportunity to learn from a renowned Métis artist Margaret Harrison. Margaret is a respected artist and educator who continues Métis traditions, such as rug hooking and embroidery. She took time away from community workshops at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, where she was hooking a rug entitled, “The Basin of Little Things,” which is a focus piece on the Qu’Appelle Valley, to pass on the skills she learned from her mother.

Margaret Harrison is dedicated to not only sharing her skill and carrying forward this knowledge, but she dedicates her work to preserving and sharing this traditional art form with younger generations. According to Margaret, it is about reviving and preserving Métis culture and the Métis way of life.

Student life, as we know it, is fast paced, focusing on classes, assignments and studies. Students were thrilled to take a pause and learn a dying skill rooted in generations of Métis knowledge and creativity from a talented matriarch from the Qu’Appelle Valley. Not only did Margaret share her skills, but she also shared stories from the valley about earlier days. Students were thrilled as many of them have roots in the valley.

DTI expresses their sincere gratitude to Margaret for taking the time spent with the Regina Office Administration students and for sharing not only her artistic expertise, but also her stories, experiences, and teachings. Part of the exercise was to develop

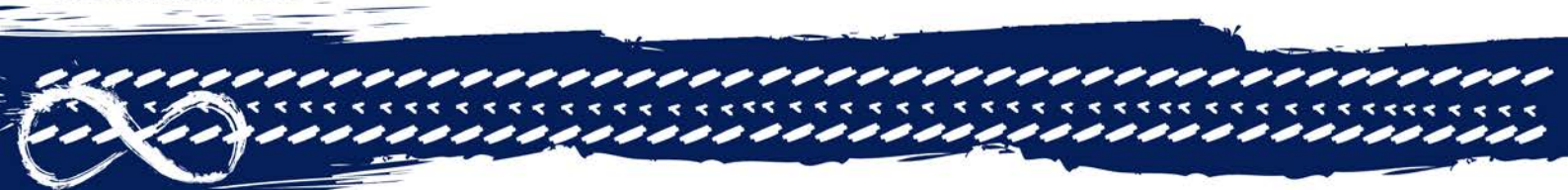
patience, creativity, and attention to detail. For students, it was their first introduction to the artform and a chance to embrace their Métis heritage.

Office Administration student, Desiree H. reflected positively on the experience, “I enjoyed it. It was fun and interesting learning something new. If I got a chance to do it again, I would. I was able to laugh at my mistakes since [my work] still looked good.”

The workshop created an environment in which students felt comfortable trying something new, learning through hands-on experience, and finding a rewarding process. This demonstrates the value and importance of cultural learning within education, particularly within an institution such as DTI. Métis education transcends beyond textbooks, lectures, and curriculum to holistic learning with a foundation in community, culture, and lived experience. Learning through doing, listening, and sharing supports students academically, culturally, and spiritually.

The activity created space to connect with their culture, ancestors, community, and one another. As students worked on their projects alongside Margaret, they spoke and shared stories and strengthened relationships. There was laughter, teasing and joking! It was a great way to spend time, slow down and reconnect. Reminiscent of the “old days.”

**The story continues on the next page....**





# REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Gabriel Dumont Institute Training and Employment (GDITE) is seeking qualified research partners to undertake comprehensive impact study of a Métis employment and training program delivered over the past 20 years. The program has supported thousands of Métis citizens across Saskatchewan through skills training, education pathways, employment services, and career development initiatives.

### Purpose of the Study

- Employment and economic outcomes
- Education and skills development
- Entrepreneurial and wealth creation
- Social, family, and community well-being
- Program effectiveness and evolution

### Why This Matters

The study will demonstrate the long-term impact to inform future Métis workforce development strategies, support policy and funding decisions, and contribute to nation-building and economic self-determination.

### Scope of Work

- Quantitative analysis (employment earnings, program data)
- Qualitative analysis (interviews, focus groups, case studies)
- Economic analysis (cost-benefit on social return on investment)
- Métis-informed and community engaged research approaches

### Deadline to Submit Proposals: July 10, 2026

Proposals must be submitted electronically. Late submissions may not be considered.

Please visit our website to read the complete RFP and apply online.

**GDINS.ORG/REQUEST-FOR-PROPOSAL-IMPACT-STUDY-20-YEARS-OF-METIS-EMPLOYMENT-TRAINING/**

## LEARNING THROUGH CULTURE: DTI STUDENTS EXPERIENCE MÉTIS RUG HOOKING WITH MARGARET HARRISON

*Story Continued from Page 3*

Reflecting on Margaret’s role throughout the experience, Desirae added, “She was very helpful and I liked when she shared about her life experiences.”

Education can take many forms. Through cultural workshops, like Métis rug hooking, students are given opportunities to learn in way that nurtures both knowledge and identity while honouring traditions that continue to be passed on from one generation to the next. 🌟



Photos submitted by Shawna LaRocque Desjarlais

**Have a student success story to feature in the GDI Communicator?**

**Email [communications@gdins.org](mailto:communications@gdins.org)**

We are always looking to hear what our students are up to across the province, and we encourage you to write in to celebrate your wins!





# CONGRATULATIONS TO SUNTEP AND NSITEP GRADUATES OF 2026

Story Continued from Page 1

For decades, SUNTEP has created pathways for Métis students to become teachers while staying connected to community, culture, and land-based ways of learning. Graduates leave the programs not only with a Bachelor of Education degree, but with the knowledge and confidence to be leaders, role models, and advocates for future generations. While newer, NSITEP is contributing to that legacy by training northern Métis and First Nations teachers to be role models in their communities and educate future generations with cultural knowledge and pride.

schools, and inspire others to continue the work of transforming education.

These graduates are now making their way into the workforce around the province, and they will carry forward the knowledge, skills, and leadership they have developed over these past four years into their communities and schools. Their success reflects the strength of their families, communities, cultures, and their own determination.

The Gabriel Dumont Institute extends its heartfelt congratulations to all SUNTEP and NSITEP graduates. Your communities are proud of you, and your future students will benefit from your leadership, compassion, and commitment to education.

Speakers also encouraged graduates to embrace the responsibility that comes with their new roles as educators. Graduates were reminded that they have the power to bring Indigenous knowledges into classrooms, strengthen relationships within



SUNTEP Regina class of 2026, Photo by Lisa Klyne



SUNTEP Prince Albert class of 2026, Photo by Lisa Klyne



Landon Solira & Brenna Pacholko, Photo by Lisa Klyne

## DTI Prince Albert OPEN HOUSE

DTI invites you to join our Prince Albert staff for an Open House! Everyone is welcome to stop by and learn more about our programs, including Practical Nursing, Continuing Care Assistant, Adult Basic Education, and more!

**DTI Open House**  
48 12th Street E, Prince Albert, SK  
Wednesday, June 3rd, 2026  
10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Snacks and refreshments will be served. We hope to see you there!

## LETS GET SOCIAL



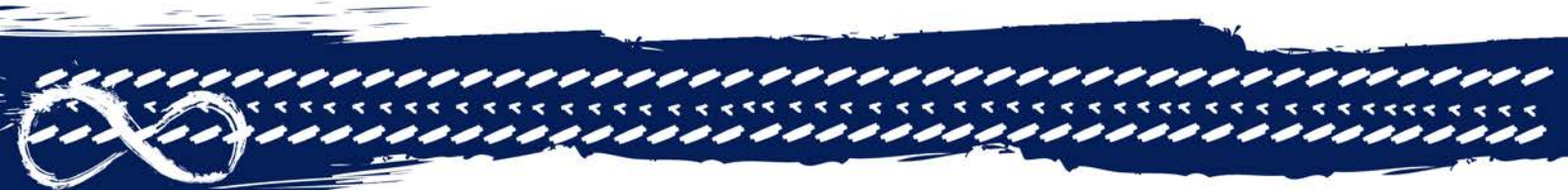
Stay in touch on our socials:  
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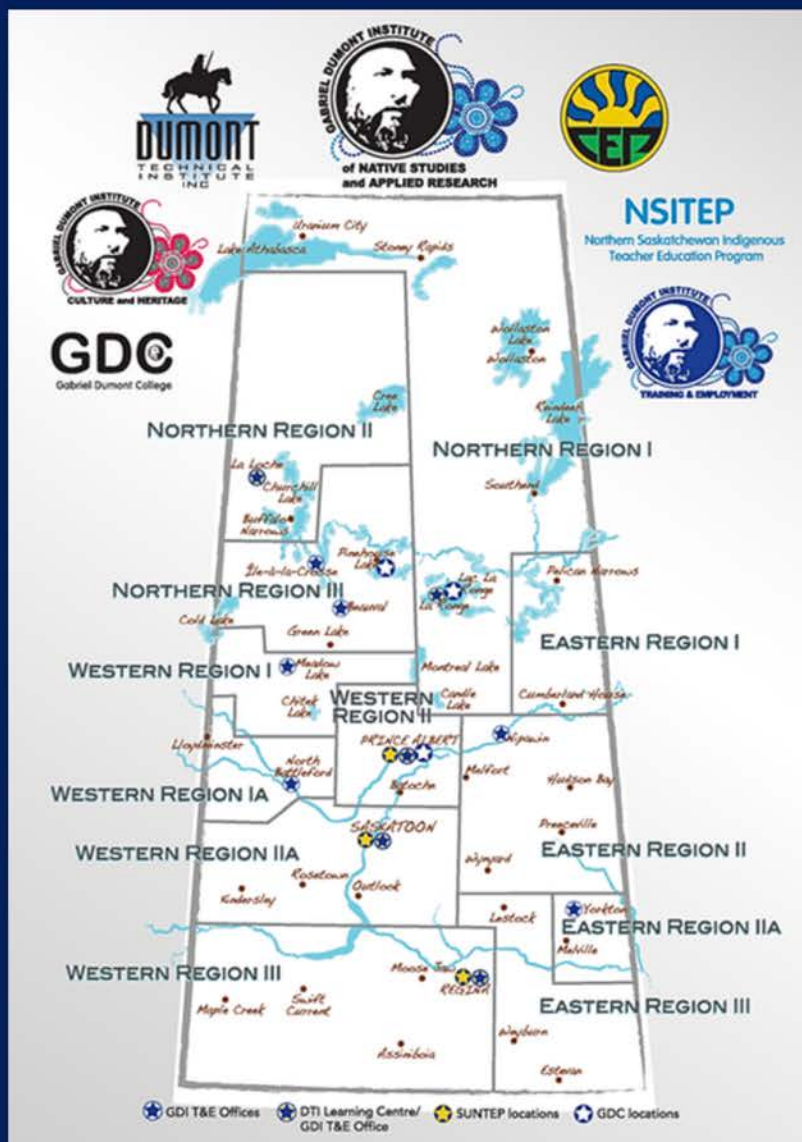
### JUNE 2026 FINANCE & PAYROLL CUTOFF CALENDAR

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

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)

If you would like to submit an article for the *Communicator* please contact Bethani Groat [communications@gdins.org](mailto:communications@gdins.org)

