

**Gabriel Dumont Institute
Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP)
And Gabriel Dumont College (GDC)
Operational Highlights
2020-2021**

SUNTEP/GDC Regina

Location: University of Regina, College West

Student Complement:

Staff Complement:

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Janice R. Thompson | Program Head |
| Erma Taylor | Admin Assistant |
| Russell Fayant | Faculty |
| Erin Kramer | Faculty |
| Natalie McNabb | Faculty |
| Brenna Pacholko | Faculty |

| | Total |
|--------------|-----------|
| Year 1 | 11 |
| Year 2 | 10 |
| Year 3 | 09 |
| Year 4 | 11 |
| GDC | 06 |
| Total | 47 |

Program Highlights:

The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic resulted in shifting our program delivery. Student priority remained essential during the unprecedented time to achieve success and positive outcomes in newly learned on-line instructional platforms, professional development and personal support. Students supports included laptops for class use, the promotion of MySSP mental health resources, and additional materials to meet their daily needs. The student experience embraced Bell Let's Talk Day, prioritizing the importance of maintaining mental health each day and collaborating with students for daily check-ins, one-on-one meetings, and mailing out at different times 'Mental Health' packages throughout the academic year. These incentives provided each student with care and attention in meeting program requirements to continue moving forward in the program.

The 2020-2021 academic year also embraced innovative and creative learning experiences between students, Faculty members, Sessional Lecturers, community members, stakeholders, and Métis Old Ones. Each of these student experiences engaged new ways of learning in on-line portals supported by Zoom and Microsoft Teams software. The resource materials explored Kahoot, Prezi, Flip Grid, and Google Classroom platforms that resulted in prosperous e-learning experiences. Our gratitude to the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) and IT Coordinator, Gareth Griffith for the invaluable support during the academic year.

The Michif language expansion remains imperative throughout the program and in the community. Faculty member, Russell Fayant and Program Assistant, Erma Taylor participated in the *Government of Canada Ministry of Canadian Heritage* – Consultation meeting regarding the implementation of the Indigenous Languages Act on Zoom. This initiative remains fundamental in preserving and protecting the Michif language.

A lecture invitation at the University of Victoria for the Critical Discourses in Leadership course was delivered on Zoom by Program Head, Janice R. Thompson. The lecture '*Transformative Leadership – An Indigenous Woman's Experience*' showcased leadership theory and practice experience and examples with a group of graduate students.

The University of Regina in collaboration with the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Dr. Emily Graffton coordinated and delivered the first *Louis Riel Day Panel* with University of Regina Professor Dr. Sherry Farrell Racette, Faculty member Russell Fayant, Program Assistant Erma Taylor, and SUNTEP student Jessica Ross Brown on Zoom. The event drew participation from University of Regina staff and Faculty, community members, and stakeholders and preserved on the University of Regina IT portal.

Faculty members Erin Kramer and Natalie McNabb collaborated tirelessly during the academic year to enhance student professional development opportunities. The student experience was delivered on Zoom and Microsoft Teams that facilitated instructional theory, curriculum development, health and wellness, and Metis ways of knowing with invited guests and community members. Erin and Natalie's dedication promoting the student experience throughout their SUNTEP courses is noteworthy and commendable.

Program Head, Janice R. Thompson participated in the *Luminary Initiative* research project led by the University of Regina and Carlton University. The purpose of this research engaged participants from western Canada focusing on Indigenous careers and Indigenous research. Program Assistant Erma Taylor led the event with a Michif prayer and spoke about her education and career experience with the participants.

Faculty member Russell Fayant co-authored a research article with University of Regina Faculty member Dr. Andrea Sterzuk and University of Regina PhD student Dr. Rubina Khanam. *What can southern multilingualism bring to the question of how to prepare teachers for linguistic diversity in Canadian schools?* The article is published in K. Heugh, C. Stroud, K. Taylor-Keech and P. De Costa (Eds.) *A Sociolinguistics of the South*. K. Heugh, C. Stroud, K. Taylor-Keech and P. De Costa (Eds.) published by Routledge.

Faculty members Russell Fayant and Brenna Pacholko, and Program Assistant Erma Taylor continue to collaborate with the Regina Catholic School Division, Indigenous Education Coordinator and SUNTEP Regina alumna, Ms. Jeannine Whitehouse. The consultative partnership focuses on the Metis Education mandate in the emerging Michif speakers program. Ms. Whitehouse and Michif classroom teacher, Victoria Parisien, another SUNTEP Regina alumna have established the first Michif classroom program in Regina Catholic Schools with innovation and adaptation for successful student learning. Metis Old Ones and language resource development remain pivotal in the program. The partnership will expand resource sharing with an invitation for Ms. Whitehouse and Ms. Parisien to attend the SUNTEP Michif Language Camp in 2022 for program sustainability.

Program Head, Janice R. Thompson completed a peer review paper invitation for the University of Regina, Faculty of Education '*In Education*' Journal. The graduate research paper '*Content Integration and the Missing Students: Learning from Metis Teachers*' was a research project supporting the importance of Metis education in Saskatchewan.

Faculty member, Russell Fayant continues to participate in the University of Regina research study led by Faculty of Education Professor, Dr. Melanie Brice. The purpose of this study is on the efficacy of MAP-inspired language learning. This collaboration involves meeting with a Michif speaker every day to learn, practice and converse in Michif for one year.

Faculty member Brenna Pacholko explored and initiated creative learning opportunities for program students. The student experience included SUNTEPtalks, beading workshops, social justice events, and community guest speakers. The events supported positive student outcomes providing new ways of learning in various platforms.

Faculty member, Russell Fayant, is currently a Secondary Investigator collaborating with Primary Investigator, Dr. Sherry Farrell Racette in a three-year research project working with Metis Old Ones

and their families from the Katepwa Road Allowance. This research aims to document, explore and curate road allowance stories through the examination of photographs.

Program Head, Janice R. Thompson is collaborating with the University of Regina in the capacity of GDI-Uof R Affiliation Coordinator role. The aim of this role will explore and expand the GDI-UofR Affiliation Agreement specifically for GDI collaborating to sustaining program delivery and program offering on and off campus with the University of Regina Vice President Academic, Dr. Onder.

Centre Activities and Program Development:

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in creating imaginative ways to deliver and facilitate the diverse and inclusive student activities in 2020-2021. The goal of these activities continue to support culturally responsive pedagogy and land-based education collaboratively and co-constructively in the program, in classrooms, and in communities;

- | | |
|---|--|
| ∞ Babies in Moss Bags | ∞ Outdoor Yoga |
| ∞ GDI Library, APA/Citations/Plagiarism Writing Modules | ∞ Positive Space Training LGBTQ2S+ |
| ∞ Hudson Bay Archives, Digital Archives Orientation | ∞ Role of Metis Women Exhibit, History through Art |
| ∞ Louis Riel Walking Tour | ∞ Saskatchewan Teachers Federation Module |
| ∞ Metis Storytelling with Knowledge Keepers | ∞ Storyteller Joseph Naytowhow |
| ∞ Office of the Treaty Commissioner Treaty Education Training | ∞ Traditional Metis Cooking |
| | ∞ U of R Student Success Centre Modules |
| | ∞ Métis Student Jigging Challenge |

Awards and Scholarships presented at the 2021 graduation:

The 33rd annual *David Amyotte Memorial Scholarship* was presented to graduate, **Deanna Aubichon**. This award was established by the Amyotte family to recognize those students who promote Aboriginal culture in the classroom, demonstrate teaching potential and leadership in the SUNTEP program, and promote the goals of cross-cultural education, much as David did during his time as a SUNTEP student and teacher.

The *Spirit of SUNTEP* was awarded to graduate, **Nicolas Bage**. This award recognizes community leadership and involvement by SUNTEP students and is given to a member of the graduating class who has demonstrated the spirit of SUNTEP as visualized by the Métis people of Saskatchewan established 35 years ago.

The *SUNTEP Alumni Award* was awarded to **Paige LaRose**. Established in 2020, this award was created by the SUNTEP Regina Alumna group and is an annual bursary awarded to University of Regina SUNTEP students who have a passion for learning and professionalism that SUNTEP students are well known for within many communities.

The *Order of Gabriel Dumont Bronze Medal* was awarded to **Alyssa Prudat**. The annual award honors GDI Métis students who have distinguished themselves through perseverance in the SUNTEP Regina program and community involvement. We showcase the recipient's dedication and commitment to leadership, cultural pride, and overall student performance.

Student Awards and Accomplishments:

The 2021 spring SUNTEP Regina Alumni awards committee met via Zoom at the end of April to review this year's winners. Please see the list below. The committee is beginning to plan fundraising opportunities for the award to be continued next year. Award winners: Year 1 - Roxanne Sims, Year 2 - Jenna Wright, and Year 3 - Chantel Love.

Year Four SUNTEP student, Tristan Frei was nominated in spring 2021 for the University Of Regina President's Medal Award. The prestigious award recognizes undergraduate student leadership dedication and community experience at the University of Regina. It is an honour to be nominated for this unique award. We are proud of Tristan's humility and achievements.

SUNTEP Regina 2021 Graduation:

The 38th annual SUNTEP Regina Graduation ceremony was excitedly held on Zoom Friday, May 8, 2021. The graduation celebration showcased student achievements with family cooperating teachers, Sessional Lecturers, Metis Old Ones, SUNTEP Faculty and GDI staff. The Metis sashes, leather portfolios, student certificates and awards were picked up by the graduates prior to the event following health and safety requirements.

The graduation theme chosen by the graduating class was "**Kakushkihtaynawn**" translated, "**we will get there no matter what.**" Thank you to the numerous people who contributed to the 2021 graduating class journey and celebrating this milestone.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Aubichon, Deanna, Distinction | 6. Klyne, Zachary |
| 2. Bage, Nicholas | 7. Langan, Micheal, with Distinction |
| 3. Cardinal, Brandon, Distinction | 8. LaRose, Paige |
| | 9. Menhart, Kyra |
| 4. Desjarlais, Kaleb | 10. Prudat, Alyssa |
| 5. Frei, Tristan, Great Distinction | 11. Terry, Tana, Distinction |

SUNTEP Regina 2021 Graduates' Employment (as of June 14, 2021):

| Employed as a teacher | | | | | | Employed but not as a teacher | | Unemployed | | | | Further studies | | Unknown | | Total |
|-----------------------|---|---------------|---|-----------------|---|-------------------------------|---|------------------|---|----------------------|---|-----------------|---|---------|---|-------|
| FN school | | Public school | | Separate school | | | | Looking for work | | Not looking for work | | | | | | |
| M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | |
| | 0 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 11 |

SUNTEP/GDC Prince Albert

Location: 48 12th Street East, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

Staff Complement:

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Bonnie Novotny | Program Head |
| Donna Biggins | Admin Assistant |
| Ashley Grimard | Faculty |
| Beige Unger | Faculty |

| Student Update | Métis | First Nations | Total |
|----------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| Year One | 15 | 7 | 22 |
| Year Two | 19 | 4 | 23 |
| Year Three | 12 | 2 | 14 |
| Year Four | 10 | 5 | 15 |
| GDC | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Total | 58 | 18 | 76 |

Program Highlights

The 2020-2021 academic year has been one of excitement, pride, accomplishment, and unprecedented challenges. SUNTEP students and staff have demonstrated perseverance, independence, creativity, and collaboration. SUNTEP's top priority was to ensure that students felt safe and supported with all the requirements needed to be successful. I believe we have went above and beyond for our students and will continue this practice for the future.

It is a highlight when students go into the schools during field experience but this year it was a challenge due to the pandemic restrictions. Thankfully, SUNTEP was viewed as an important partner to both the Public and Separate School Divisions in Prince Albert therefore we were able to proceed with school placements. We worked closely with the University of Saskatchewan and the School Divisions to ensure SUNTEP students felt prepared and safe as they entered schools. A virtual Extended Practicum in the FLEX-ED on-line School was created for one immune compromised student teacher. Students were very thankful to have the opportunity to enter the schools and learn in the field.

The Teacher Candidates were placed into cohorts. The cohorts met monthly in-person and followed all Provincial regulations. During these unprecedented times, Teacher Candidates were learning along side their partner teachers while teaching in-person in the schools. During each in-service we could see their confidence grow and relationships blossom. The Teacher Candidates / Student Teachers were supervised by Sandy Sherwin-Shields, Janis Sawa, Darcy Selander, Alan Nunn, Ashley Grimard, and Beige Unger. All Teacher Candidates were successful in the Extended Practicum.

- ∞ **First Year:** 2 weeks (Public Schools with high First Nations and Metis Population in Prince Albert)
- ∞ **Second Year:** 2 weeks (Rural/ Metis and Urban Public School Division)
- ∞ **Third Year:** 3 weeks (Public and Catholic Schools)
- ∞ **Fourth Year:** 16 weeks (Public, Catholic Schools, and FLEX ED Schools)

Building a community has been an essential part of the SUNTEP program through in-person and virtual events. SUNTEP Prince Albert classes and activities were delivered all year using a hybrid of online and in-person methods. With virtual delivery came challenges for both instructors and students. The continued collaborative support of staff and students has been nothing short of impressive. Through out the year we provided technological support and equipment to students and staff. In the winter of 2021 we hired a fourth year SUNTEP student, Tristyn Sachkowski, as a tech assistant/tutor to help out with on-line delivery. Her skills, creativity, and technological abilities were very well received by staff and students.

Cultural Events have always been a priority at SUNTEP. In the spring, lead by Leah Dorion, students spent 3 days in land based learning around the community. As well, SUNTEP put on a hybrid spring cultural camp, including a variety of cultural experiences for the students to participate in. With the excitement over the success of the hybrid cultural events, staff are looking forward to the September Fall Camp, where the hope is for a completely in person event!

Interviews for the fall 2021 intake were held virtually and in person on May 26, 27, and 28th. We are excited to have accepted 24 Metis, 11 First Nations students into the SUNTEP program and 5 Metis students into Gabriel Dumont College. In small cohorts SUNTEP offered in-person orientations for SUNTEP and GDC students to support the students in their application process to the University of Saskatchewan. It was exciting to see and hear the passion and commitment from each of the students. We look forward to welcoming them all into the SUNTEP community this fall.

SUNTEP Prince Albert Graduation

SUNTEP Graduation ceremonies were held online on May 13, 2021. The event acknowledged the hard work and accomplishments of our graduates in a safe way using humour and technology. The 2021 SUNTEP Graduation was emceed by third year students, Madison Vandale and Paige Gaudet. The presentation included a combination of virtually recorded and live events. Elder, Liz Settee, started us off in a good way with a prayer and smudge. The entire event was broadcasted live through WebEx by SUNTEP. Almost 100 people attended virtually from all over the province. The Graduation was recorded and uploaded on USB and YouTube to allow Graduates the opportunity to share with family and friends. All the Graduates have had the opportunity to be substitute teachers and many have been offered contracts for the fall.

SUNTEP 2021 Graduates:

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Sharlene Archie | Nola Halabiski |
| Meirah Bender | Beth Harper |
| Leigha Berg | Austin Odnokon |
| Kyle Boettcher | Tristyn Sachkowski |
| Valdene Chaboyer | Mikayla Soderberg |
| Lynelle Daniels | Keanan Tibbs |
| Tyler Gerstner | Courtney Ward |
| Justin Gryba | Taylia York |

Supporting and celebrating the accomplishments of students, staff, and community partners has been an important principle of SUNTEP. Although the 20-21 year has been one with many challenges the SUNTEP principle still applied. It has been a year where we have learned a lot of valuable lessons and were able to prioritize what was most important to the success of our students and our program. We are very excited to welcome all of our students back on campus and will continue to support students and staff as we all adjust to the new normal. We are also excited to welcome a new faculty member. Christine Christian joins the SUNTEP Prince Albert team. Christine is a Metis SUNTEP Prince Albert alumni with twenty years of teaching experience within the Prince Albert public school division. She will advise the third year SUNTEP cohort and teach many of the third year education classes.

SUNTEP/GDC Saskatoon

Location: 106 Wiggins Road, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Staff Complement:

Sheila Pocha Program Head
Tasha Neveu Admin Assistant
Ashley Shaw SS Coord & Faculty
Carmen Gillies Faculty 111
April Chiefcalf Faculty 111
Emma Winrow Student Librarian

| Student Update | Total |
|----------------|-------|
| Year One | 20 |
| Year Two | 14 |
| Year Three | 29 |
| Year Four | 16 |
| GDC Year One | 4 |
| GDC Year Two | 5 |
| Total | 88 |

Administrative Activities

Sheila Pocha, Ashley Shaw, April Chiefcalf and Carmen Gillies attend University of Saskatchewan related business meetings that include, but is not limited to attending:

- ∞ University of Saskatchewan Council
- ∞ College of Education Faculty Meetings
- ∞ College of Education Governance Meetings
- ∞ Faculty Policy and Planning Committee
- ∞ Nominations Committee
- ∞ Governance Committee
- ∞ Undergraduate Program Committee Meetings
- ∞ Student Affairs and Academic Standards Committee
- ∞ Aboriginal Advisors Meetings
- ∞ College of Medicine Indigenous Curriculum Committee

Dr. Carmen Gillies continued to teach three sections of required Education Foundations courses. The courses were well received and very successful, particularly in the area of Anti-Racist, Anti-Oppressive education.

Carmen provides constant support to her students when necessary and ensured she arranged student appointments through the online ZOOM platform as the world COVID 19 pandemic changed course delivery significantly during this academic year.

Carmen supported our student leaders with organizing and maintaining committees such as, the SUNTEP Anti-Racism Education Forum.

Carmen organized our GSA group and supported April Chiefcalf as she took over the group to engage in the work much more. Carmen also led Year Two Learning Community professional development alongside new faculty member, April Chiefcalf. Special presenters and presentations included, **Sheelah McLean - Colonialism and Identity Construction, Chelsea Davis - Anti-Racism Pedagogy: Solidarity & Commitment in Practice, Verna St. Denis - Coming Home: How Métis Resistance Scholarship Changed My Life, Jordan Raymond - Anti-Racism, Arts-Based Pedagogy, and Inquiry Learning (pathways to authentic teacher/student relationships), Gideon Wiseman -**

Growing Anti-Racist/Oppressive Practice in Diverse Classes and Mel Sysing & Curtis Vinish - Anti-Racist Practice: Between Two Worlds

April Chiefcalf taught two Curriculum courses that personified Indigenous understandings, particularly Métis pedagogy and social justice. The classes are ECUR 382.3, Social Studies Methods and ECUR 310, Elementary Literacy Methods. She also taught our Métis History, INDG 280.6 course that runs over both terms. While Kevin Pilon continues to teach the INDG 280.6 evening class. Both instructors worked together with the Winnipeg archivists.

April taught the INDG 280 course online and due to the pandemic, our students were not able to attend to the annual research trip in Winnipeg. April managed to connect with the archivist in Winnipeg to help our students engage in research online as they worked hard to research their genealogical history.

April also taught to the 2nd year students, two Learning Community professional development courses with Carmen Gillies. There were excellent guest speakers throughout both terms and our students were greatly engaged online.

April met often with her students supporting them along the way through private conversations to group discussions, after her course was taught.

April also worked with Ashley Shaw on the Eco-Justice committee, sharing some information on feeding and counting birds, and attended many of the sessions of the Anti-Racist Education committee organized by Carmen Gillies.

April took over responsibility for organizing the Gender and Sexual Diversity Alliance Club. She hosted three sessions with guest speakers, including one on teaching about sexual health and a session with **Rene Clarke and the USSU Pride Centre on campus.**

Staff members, Tasha Neveu, our Administrative Assistant and Ashley Shaw, our Student Support Coordinator have offered great expertise in the smooth operations of our office and student programming.

Tasha has been very productive in organizing and disseminating scheduled tables, acquisitions, invoices, banking procedures, and other various procedures necessary in running student support office. We are pleased with her management, friendliness, time spent on organized procedures, as well as her on-going support of staff and students.

Tasha has been working from her home and has been successful in scanning all of our archival documents important to the center. She emptied old filing cabinets and digitized all of our student information portfolios.

Tasha has learned a new 'Share Point' system alongside Sheila Pocha so Admissions processes are more streamlined and quicker than the past. This process allows successful SUNTEP and GDC students to access scholarships in greater advance of due dates.

Ashley has been instrumental with her role supporting students with programming, planning professional development activities, supporting the Michif Methods class with structure and activity, while engaging with instructor, Michif Elder, Harriet St. Pierre.

Ashley helped create new SUNTEP/GDC promotional materials and promoting SUNTEP/GDC. We planned Indigenous Spend a Day events for Grade 12 Indigenous students. She also helped plan our Open House and met with potential students through individual ZOOM online meetings to discuss the application process and criteria for entering into our SUNTEP and GDC programs.

Ashley also took part in offering Virtual Office Hours; there was a desire to provide virtual office hours for students to join in on ZOOM meetings. She also provided Grad Studies Information Sessions and offered insight into the Graduate studies program and expectations for interested students.

Ashley oversees the inventory and daily use of library/resource materials and supports our new student librarian, Emma Winrow, with her role in accessing borrowed materials. This past year has been quite intense as we have had to loan materials and do curb side pick ups for students as they haven't been allowed back on campus, due to the pandemic.

Ashley prepared well for her two classes this past year and took some professional development training. She attended a literacy symposium, Constructing Meaning Symposium, to support our elementary literacy methods course, ECUR 309, to which she taught for the first time this year, to our second-year group. She took professional development leading to her Physical Education Certificate. She enrolled in an online course facilitated by Physical and Health Education Canada to learn the Models-based Practice for teaching Physical Activity. The course will enable her to teach the Physical Education course, ECUR 352, to our third-year group.

Ashley successfully completed her Masters of Education Administration at the university's graduate studies program with a focus on Leadership in Post-Secondary Education and is very grateful for the support received within our GDI organization.

Ashley and Sheila organized a Michif Virtual Celebration for the ECUR 235 students to showcase their learning with special guests, Harriet St. Pierre and Tristen Durocher.

Ashley also helped coordinate with Sheila Pocha our learning communities, EDLC 100 and EDLC 101, taught to the first-year group on Friday mornings. The students met some very interesting guests and learned a lot pertaining to our culture.

In cooperation with Sheila Pocha and Karon Shmon from the Culture and Heritage Department, Ashley



is helping our program retain our Michif Language by travelling to Yorkton to record Harriet St. Pierre and acquire Michif language lessons and learning. **Virtual Michif Celebration with Harriet St. Pierre**

Sheila Pocha sits as a GDI representative on the Provincial Learning Team; her roles are to be involved in two initiatives, the Following Their Voices and SK Reads committees. Positive outcomes are the result of her work and leadership on these initiatives, such as offering strategies to decrease the gap for our Indigenous students, as they strive to achieve their grade 12.

Sheila ensures our culture and anti-racist, anti-oppressive understandings are at the core of provincial discussions. Too often, in the past, and still most recently, organizations in education and in government will often neglect our Métis contributions, needs and assessments.

Offered 100% online delivery to all of our students in SUNTEP and GDC. Our IT department at GDI ensured Sheila and staff had access to the top online delivery platform, called ZOOM. This international delivery program was very successful for our staff, sessional lecturers and our students. Although, some students struggled with online learning, overall our students succeeded well in all their classes.

Initiated and supported our first ever SUNTEP orientation at the Indian and Métis Friendship Center, as the pandemic stopped all students and staff from being on campus. We felt it necessary to have our first-year group meet each other in person. We followed all the safety precautions such as masking and socially distancing. Special guest speakers at the orientation included CEO, Geordy McCaffrey and Dean Michelle Prytula.

Coordinated and supported the Open House for high school students and our ABE students. Although, we had a small group interested in SUNTEP and GDC, we were successful in meeting with them individually. Ashley Shaw took on a leadership role here!

Coordinated meetings with all TEP Program Heads, met monthly to discuss, plan and learn from each other as to how our programs are running and developing to ensure student success.

Coordinated Anti-Racist Certificate meetings with Dr. Verna St. Denis, Lisa Bird Wilson, Geordy McCaffrey, Karon Shmon, Becky Kufner, Manuela Valle-Castro and Carmen Gillies at the GDI head office with hopes of one day offering a series of anti-racist, anti-oppressive workshops to average folk in the community. This idea is still out there, but on hold due to the pandemic and finding access to grant support.

Although the pandemic left us away from campus grounds, we continue to enhance our Métis presence on campus by working closely with VP of Indigenous Engagement, Dr. Jackie Ottmann. We received 3,000 dollars from the President's office to install a large-scale size Red River Métis Cart. We commissioned George Fayant to build the cart and plan to unveil it near our centre at McLean Hall in the fall of 2020. Those were the plans, but with the COVID 19 Pandemic, we will postpone the installation. We have asked for a statue of Louis Riel to be erected in front of Place Riel; this work is always in progress.

We continued in our second year, to implement learning communities for our 1st and 2nd year students. Students were able to build their knowledge and skill set in a wider variety of learning than set out in their usual course syllabuses. They extended their leadership skills and supported each other in the learning. Our staff, Carmen Gillies, April Chiefcalf and Ashley Shaw supported our students in various ways.

Sheila and Ashley work together to ensure all students are supported academically, financially, emotionally and progressively so they can be successful in their student teacher learning towards their four-year education degree program and with the GDC group, towards their pursuits in various disciplines on campus.

Student Academic Advising – meeting with all students to ensure their program plans are complete and prepared for the Fall Term, add/drop classes, academic misconduct, crisis intervention, Access and Equity Services, Student Health and Wellness, etc.

Student Teaching – Met with student teachers to conference about their placements, the meetings online were successful and our student teachers and interns met with us at least twice for feedback and/or any concerns.

Worked closely with Coordinator of Field Placement, Greg McJannet to place all of our 15 interns for the Fall Term and 40 Student Teachers for the Spring term of 2021. Our students were all successful in completion of these important field placements. In fact, we have heard very positive feedback from the cooperating teachers in respective school divisions of how fantastic our student teachers are in the profession. Many are asked to come back to the school and many are asked to work for the divisions.

Supported and helped plan a Graduate Studies ZOOM session with all faculty, led our experienced panel for interested SUNTEP students wanting to learn more of graduate work.

Coordinated school division representatives to offer presentations of their respective divisions and their hiring practices to our fourth year students, assisting their application processes.

Program Highlights

Our SUNTEP Student Council planned a ZOOM Halloween Party with ghosts and goblins for online storytelling. The students and staff children received a nicely packaged candy bag at their front doors from the Student Council representatives.

In early November SUNTEP Saskatoon students and staff attended a special ZOOM meeting with Kookum Ernestine, (Maureen Belanger). The presentation was a great success as our students and staff laughed and let go of a lot of online learning stress, and stress of the looming pandemic that has taken many lives in the world.

In mid-November, commemorating the anniversary of Louis Riel's execution, we were honored to share words from Maria Campbell to our student body using the ZOOM platform. Maria Campbell and Marilyn Poitras discussed who Louis Riel was as not only a leader of our people, but as a man, a father, a writer and a friend. The recording was incredible. We learned a great more of our famous mentor, Louis Riel.

We interviewed 30 SUNTEP and GDC applicants and approved of 23 students to SUNTEP and 3 students to GDC. 3 of the 23 first year SUNTEP students are First Nation.

With our newly incepted Share Point program with Admissions, our first-year students have been able to access the online registration a lot quicker this year, giving them ample opportunity to apply for special incentive scholarships due before the end of June.

The virtual SUNTEP Graduation of 2021 was a great success considering our graduates could not celebrate in a big way with each other. It was our second Virtual Graduation with 15 graduates and the ZOOM platform.

The online invitation was a success as we had over 80 invited guests, including our graduates attend graduation on the 1st of May.

Robert Lindsay gave the keynote address and two graduates were selected by their class to give the valedictorian address, both Tate McDougall and Kennedy Halcro presented a sincere and special toast to their graduating class. Kori Taylor gave a special toast to family and Angela Silva gave a special toast to staff.

All graduates found employment as soon as they completed their internship in April of 2021. Two were hired in Prince Albert secondary schools, two have been hired in rural and northern school divisions, three received contracts within Saskatoon Public Schools, four gained substitute teaching contracts in both SPS and the Greater Saskatoon School Division. One was hired within SIIT for a Coordinating position. The remaining three are employed outside of a school community.

SUNTEP Saskatoon 2021 Graduates



Dora Corrigan McCallum
Andria Honoroski
Julia Jendruck
Dean Legare
Craig McCallum
Tate McDougall

Angela Silva
Jen Pritchard

Ashtyn Newell-Olson
Brigid Olver
Bree Tyndall
Kori Taylor
Brighton Stefanyshyn

ORDER OF GABRIEL DUMONT AWARD RECIPIENTS - 2021

At our graduation ceremony, we announced the Order of Gabriel Dumont Award recipients at the annual graduation ceremony.

Devynn Boyer was acknowledged from our Training and Employment Department for his successful entrepreneur goals in clothing and design. Our SUNTEP recipient was **Julia Jendruck**, for her steadfast consistent cultural advocacy and promotion of anti-racist and anti-oppressive understandings about the center, in the wider community and in the schools.

