

Unama'ki espi-kina'matno'kuom etek Mi'kma'ki, wla na  
no'kamanaq aq maqamikewminu mena'q iknmuetuk.

Cape Breton University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral  
and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaw People.

# Unama'ki College Cape Breton University

## Atlantic Canada's Leader in Indigenous Education

The Dean of Unama'ki College, Laurianne Sylvester, is a Mi'kmaw woman, born and raised in Membertou First Nation. She has worked in education for more than 20 years. Her educational and leadership journey began in her home community as an elementary school teacher and she later served as Vice Principal of Membertou Elementary School. Laurianne worked as the Director of First Nation School Success Program (Academic Services) at Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey for 14 years before joining CBU. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (UCCB), a Bachelor of Education (STFX), a Master's in Education in Diverse Learners and Curriculum (Mount St. Vincent), and a Master's in Leadership (Acadia). Laurianne promotes Mi'kmaw language, culture, programs, student opportunities and success. Laurianne was recently selected as one of Atlantic Canada's 25 Most Powerful Women in Business for 2023.

As the vibrant heartbeat of Indigenous education at CBU for almost 50 years, Unama'ki College offers an environment that embraces the knowledge, wisdom and traditions of the Mi'kmaq. From faculty and staff who speak Mi'kmaw, to academic courses and programs delivered in Mi'kmaw communities, Unama'ki College has much to offer Indigenous learners.



**Laurianne Sylvester**  
Dean of Unama'ki College





As an Indigenous student attending CBU, you're going to love Unama'ki College and will make memories to last a lifetime. Along the way, you will also receive a world-class education with insightful courses, access to Kisiku'k on campus and Knowledge Keepers, dedicated spaces for Indigenous studies and research, all while surrounded by a wealth of Mi'kmaw culture, language, knowledge and traditions.

At Unama'ki College, we walk alongside you throughout your learning journey. We are here to provide the support and guidance you need to succeed. Be yourself, set goals, commit your time, and bring it to life!

# SUPPORT SPACES for YOU!



## **Murdena Marshall Student Lounge**

One of the key and most visible spaces within Unama'ki College is the Murdena Marshall Student Lounge. The Lounge is a welcoming, positive space for everyone at CBU. It is a multi-use space with study pods, computers, printers, communal tables, sofa, comfortable chairs, and a fully equipped kitchenette stocked with food and snacks provided through sponsorship by Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey. The Lounge provides a safe cultural space, which is properly ventilated for smudging ceremonies and used for traditional knowledge sharing workshops. There is always a friendly face in the space with the Unama'ki College staff close by. Whether you need a space to study, write a paper or relax, the Murdena Marshall Student Lounge is the place for you!

## **Kji-keptin Alexander Denny L'nui'sultimkeweyo'kuom**

Kji-keptin Alexander Denny L'nui'sultimkeweyo'kuom (KADL), the Mi'kmaw Language Lab located at Unama'ki College is the centre of Mi'kmaw language education at CBU. It is named after Kji-keptin Alexander Denny from Eskasoni First Nation, a man with great vision and determination who believed that the Mi'kmaw language was key to his nation's prosperity. Mi'kmaw language courses offered in the KADL can be found in the academic calendar.

## **Mawio'mi Room**

The Mawio'mi Room provides a safe space for students to freely express their emotions and thoughts without judgement. This welcoming environment at Unama'ki College allows students to form personal relationships with peers, staff, faculty and the Knowledge Keeper and Kisiku on Campus. Emotional, physical, mental, and spiritual balance is key to student wellness and success. The Mawio'mi Room is a place for students to maintain and achieve balance especially when presented with personal and academic responsibilities, challenges and opportunities.



## Mi'kmaq Resource Centre

The Mi'kmaq Resource Centre (MRC), which is located within the Beaton Institute, is a beautiful, comforting space that houses a diverse collection of papers, books and other materials related to Mi'kmaw history. The Grand Chief Room in the MRC may be used to give presentations or present videos related to Mi'kmaw culture. It is also a lovely, quiet place for contemplation, sharing circles, reading and study. The MRC welcomes students, educators, researchers, and anyone with an interest in Mi'kma'ki and Mi'kmaw culture.

## Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Legacy Room

Located in the CBU Library, the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Legacy Room was created to increase awareness, education and promote healing about Indian Residential Schools in Canada and their impact on Indigenous families. Students are encouraged to use the space for self-reflection, meditation and for quiet time. The Legacy Room can be booked through the CBU Library circulation desk.

## Donald Marshall Junior Institute

The Donald Marshall Junior Institute at CBU will focus on public policy issues of importance to Mi'kmaw communities in Unama'ki (Cape Breton Island) and the rest of Mi'kma'ki. These issues include climate change, the fisheries, resource management, youth leadership and health. An institute for applied research, the results of its work will be disseminated in the form of advocacy and social action to achieve meaningful changes in Canadian public policy. Stephen Augustine, Hereditary Chief on the Mi'kmaq Grand Council, has been appointed Executive Director of the Donald Marshall Junior Institute.



# SPECIALIZED Student Services

Unama'ki College is home to a **Mi'kmaw Knowledge Keeper and Kisiku** on Campus. They bring with them years of traditional knowledge and cultural teachings. They are happy to offer advice, share stories, provide emotional support, and foster a sense of pride among the students and staff at Unama'ki College. In addition to their work within Unama'ki College, they share their knowledge and wisdom in classes and events throughout the university.

Unama'ki College is also home to a full-time **Indigenous Student Enrolment Specialist** who serves as a key point of contact for students. The Enrolment Specialist provides support in a variety of areas, including applying to CBU, academic advising, course selection and registration. They are also available to connect students to the many additional services CBU has to offer, including tutoring, success coaching and mental health services. The Enrolment Specialist can meet with students in person at CBU, our Eskasoni office or in your community and they are available online.

The **CBU L'nu Health Chair** is a Mi'kmaw Registered Nurse with a passion for Indigenous health research and improving health outcomes for Indigenous youth and communities. The Chair strives to bridge gaps in knowledge, services and programs for community members through applied research. The L'nu Health Chair shares knowledge with students and includes them in the research to help improve health outcomes in L'nu communities.

Unama'ki College has employed a Mi'kmaw speaker from Eskasoni First Nation as a **Community Liaison Officer** for more than 25 years. The Liaison Officer collaborates with Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey, community education directors, parents and First Nations community members to support Indigenous students in their educational journeys. They focus on building community connections between Indigenous students, faculty and staff.

The **Mi'kmaw Resource Centre (MRC) Coordinator** and Research Associate is on hand daily at the MRC to assist and support students, staff, faculty and the public with access to the materials available in the Centre.

The **Unama'ki College Secretary** is the welcoming face to students, the public, faculty and staff of CBU. They provide students and visitors with information about the staff and the services offered by Unama'ki College. They also assist students with their administrative needs, such as mailing, copying, scanning and faxing.

Weekly sessions are available at the **Murdena Marshall Student Lounge** with staff from the CBU Writing Centre, Math & Science Centre and the CBU Library. These staff members provide academic assistance to students completing research and/or assignments.

There is a **daily bus service** from Eskasoni and Membertou which transports students to and from CBU. This service removes transportation barriers so students are able to physically be on campus. Please visit [cbu.ca/servicehub/](http://cbu.ca/servicehub/) to learn more about CBU's student supports.





## In-Community Program

The In-Community program was created in collaboration with local Mi'kmaw communities to address numerous barriers to post-secondary education for Mi'kmaw students. Original iterations of the programs focused on bridging cohorts of mature Mi'kmaw students into CBU degree programs and supporting students who were first language Mi'kmaw speakers with their post-secondary studies. Present day programs attract newly graduated high school students and mature students who want to complete a degree.

Several programs have emerged through collaboration with Mi'kmaw communities. Active programs are still running and include: Elmitek, a year-one university pathway program delivered in Eskasoni, and the modularized BA, BACS, BSc, BEd and BBA degree programs, which are delivered in Indigenous communities across Mi'kma'ki. To date, In-Community programs have been offered in the First Nations communities of Eskasoni, Membertou, Wagmatcook, We'koqma'q, Potlotek, Pictou Landing, Paq'tnkek, Millbrook, Sipekne'katik, Tobique, Listuguj and Gesgapegiag. Addressing a nation-wide need, the In-Community BSc cohorts prepare students to enroll in designated Indigenous student seats in the CBU School of Nursing.

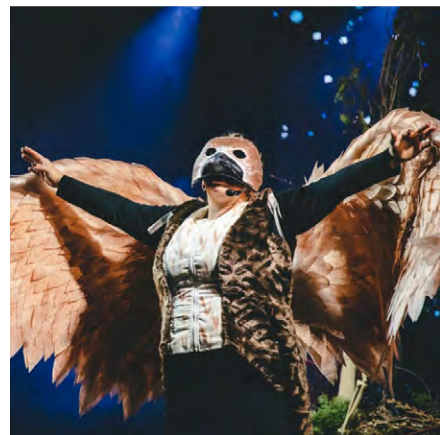
Through modular delivery, Indigenous students are offered the opportunity to complete an entire degree exclusively in their communities. The modular format allows students to take one course at a time in a condensed format for the duration of the degree.

Some of the benefits of the In-Community Program are small class sizes, specialized student support, degree programs and/or courses held locally in students' communities, access to community Elders and knowledge keepers, and inclusion of Indigenous perspectives within courses.

## Elmitek Program

"Elmitek" is a Mi'kmaw expression for showing someone a path to follow. The Elmitek Program offered through Unama'ki College maps a path that students may travel toward the successful completion of a university education.

The Elmitek Program is a one-year, for credit, post-secondary program designed for Mi'kmaw students who wish to further their education by attending university. Elmitek is designed to make the future transition into full-time study on campus at CBU a successful experience for Mi'kmaw students.



# EXPLORE

## CBU's Academic Programs

Choosing Cape Breton University for your education is the first step toward an exciting future. At CBU, you'll be able to pursue your passions in the way that's right for you with our many course options, including undergraduate and graduate programs and pre-professional courses.

### **ARTS, SOCIAL SCIENCES & CULTURE**

Bachelor of Arts  
Undergraduate Degree

Bachelor of Arts  
Community Studies  
Undergraduate Degree

Bachelor of Arts and Science  
in Environment  
Undergraduate Degree

Bachelor of Social Work  
Post-Baccalaureate Diploma

Diploma in Public  
Administration and  
Management  
Diploma

### **BUSINESS**

Bachelor of Business  
Administration  
Undergraduate Degree

Bachelor of Hospitality  
and Tourism Management  
Undergraduate Degree

Post-Baccalaureate Diploma  
in Business Analytics  
Post-Baccalaureate Diploma

Post-Baccalaureate Diploma  
in Business Management  
Post-Baccalaureate Diploma

Post-Baccalaureate Diploma  
in Health Care Management  
Post-Baccalaureate Diploma

Post-Baccalaureate  
Diploma in Supply Chain  
Management  
Post-Baccalaureate Diploma

### **COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Master of Business  
Administration in  
Community Economic  
Development  
Graduate Degree  
First Nations Option

### **Mi'kmaq Studies**

The rich culture and long history of the Mi'kmaq thrive today on Unama'ki. From the ancient Mi'kmaw language to modern Mi'kmaw current events, you'll become immersed in teachings that focuses on teaching the true ways of Canada's First Nations people. The program was developed by Eleanor Johnson, Joe B. Marshall, Sister Dorothy Moore and Murdena Marshall, all of whom were Mi'kmaw faculty at CBU. Courses were developed in collaboration with local Mi'kmaw scholars, Marie Battiste and Sakej Henderson.

#### **At CBU, the Mi'kmaq Studies courses focus on two major themes of study:**

Mi'kmaw/ L'nu language and culture; and Mi'kmaw politics, history and governance. Courses are designed to provide a solid foundation for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students alike. Students are able to complete a major, minor or a concentration in Mi'kmaq Studies at CBU.






## **EDUCATION**

Bachelor of Education  
Undergraduate Degree  
(L'nu Education Concentration)

Master of Education  
(Educational Technology)  
Graduate Degree

Master of Education in  
Sustainability, Creativity  
and Innovation  
Graduate Degree

 Diploma in Education  
(Curriculum)  
Diploma

Diploma in Educational  
Technology  
Diploma

## **ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY**

Bachelor of Engineering  
(2yr Transfer)  
Undergraduate Degree or Diploma

Bachelor of Engineering  
Technology  
Undergraduate Degree or Diploma

## **HEALTH & WELL-BEING**

Bachelor of Health Sciences  
(Public Health)  
Undergraduate Degree

Bachelor of Science, Nursing  
Undergraduate Degree

Bachelor of Science, Nutrition  
(2yr Transfer)  
Undergraduate Degree

Post-Baccalaureate Diploma  
in Health Care Management  
Post-Baccalaureate Diploma

Post-Baccalaureate Diploma  
in Health & Safety Management  
Post-Baccalaureate Diploma

## **NURSING**

Bachelor of Science, Nursing  
Undergraduate Degree

## **SCIENCES**

Bachelor of Science  
Undergraduate Degree

Bachelor of Science,  
Nursing  
Undergraduate Degree

Bachelor of Science,  
Nutrition (2yr Transfer)  
Undergraduate Degree

Bachelor of Health  
Sciences (Public Health)  
Undergraduate Degree

Bachelor of Technology  
(Nautical Science)  
Undergraduate Degree

 online only



# TESTIMONIALS

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I am a Mi'kmaw woman, mother, and educator from the community of Membertou. I am honoured to be an alumni of CBU. As a mature student with learning diversities, CBU supported my learning. The Unama'ki College helped smooth my transition and provided great support throughout my journey at CBU as a 35-year-old returning student, single mom, and working full-time. Today, I am the Wellness Consultant for Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey. One of my career goals is to help develop and foster trauma informed schools within our Mi'kmaw communities. I am now educated with two degrees from CBU, Bachelor of Arts in Community Studies, Bachelor of Education with a concentration in Aboriginal Studies, and from St. Francis Xavier, Master of Education in Educational Administration and Policy with a focus on Leadership of Inclusive Education. Education has been a pillar in my personal and professional life; learning is a lifelong journey.

Rebecca Scirocco  
Bachelor of Arts Community Studies, 2014/Bachelor of Education, 2016

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I think having the Unama'ki College space brings a lot of people together, especially for first-year students who are trying to make the transition from high school to university. I found out about Unama'ki College in the second semester of my first year, and since then, it's been a great experience. It allows you to make lots of friends, and the access to resources and people only helps further your success in school and life.

Bernard Prosper  
Bachelor of Arts, 2017

“

Unama'ki College became a second family to me. No matter where you're from, whether it's the other end of the island, the mainland or across the country, they welcome every Indigenous student with open arms. They've been a big help throughout my time at CBU, and I feel I can turn to them for anything.

Kyle Simon  
Bachelor of Business Administration, 2018

“

Attending CBU was one of the best decisions I have made. Going to Unama'ki College was great because I was able to hear my language, see my culture, and even practice my cultural teachings. It always seemed to me that everyone was there to help, from proofreading to helping you with writing assignments. To speak of the classrooms, it was a humble experience to attend class where traditional culture was an important factor. Some of my courses started with a Smudging Ceremony or even a Talking Circle, where we go around and check in on everyone. Being able to attend a class where the Mi'kmaw Language is being spoken in the lesson, it is truly a blessing! I don't know if I would have been able to graduate if it weren't for the staff at Cape Breton University and Unama'ki College. This is why this university will always be "Home" for me!

Robert Casey III  
Bachelor of Arts, 2022

“

I enjoyed having a Mi'kmaw professor because not only did we have a connection and share the same culture, but they openly shared their stories with the class as well. So classmates who weren't of Mi'kmaw culture got to hear about those experiences and share in that learning with me.

Francine Paul  
Bachelor of Education, 2015

“

Unama'ki College has been my safe place at CBU. They help me connect to outside resources while providing me with the support I need to feel like I have a place in a university setting as an Indigenous student.

Jamey Toney Gagne  
Current Student, Bachelor of Science





# FAST FACTS

**Unama'ki College** hosts a number of Indigenous Cultural Events at CBU throughout the year, including an annual Mawiomi (gathering) and a full schedule of events throughout October, which is Mi'kmaw History Month. Truth and Reconciliation Day and National Indigenous Peoples Day are also honoured.

## MI'KMAW SACRED CEREMONIES

are performed on campus on a regular basis. These ceremonies include smudging, blessings, prayers and various forms of welcome.

There are more than a dozen **SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES** dedicated to Indigenous scholars, valued at more than \$60,000 annually.

CBU graduates have the option to receive their degree parchment in the **MI'KMAW LANGUAGE**, which has been designated as Nova Scotia's First Language.



## FRIENDS UNITED GIFTED PRINTS OF PAINTINGS BY FOUR INDIGENOUS ARTISTS:

David Brooks, Amanda Julian, Darren Julian, and Loretta Gould. The prints have been distributed throughout campus, brightening and enlivening the spaces.

In recognition of the constant and enduring presence of the Mi'kmaq at CBU, **THE MI'KMAW FLAG** flies in a prominent position in the Great Hall. Outside, the Mi'kmaw flag flies alongside Canada's Maple Leaf and the Nova Scotia flags.



**STEPHEN AUGUSTINE**, Hereditary Chief on the Sante' Mawio'mi (Mi'kmaq Grand Council), is a fluent Mi'kmaw speaker and knowledge keeper. He is currently the Executive Director of the Donald Marshall Junior Institute at CBU.



# Indigenous Graduation Celebration

CBU is the leader in Indigenous post-secondary education, graduating 1000+ Indigenous graduates. CBU was the first university in Canada to hold its graduation ceremony in a First Nation community, which it did in Wagmatcook First Nation in 2003. Since then, graduation ceremonies have been held in Membertou and Sipekne'katik First Nations, Nova Scotia, and in Listuguj First Nation, Quebec.

Since 1992, Unama'ki College has hosted a yearly graduation banquet to celebrate all of CBU's Indigenous graduates. Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey has been a steadfast supporter of the celebration, providing sponsorship for the event. Family and community members are invited to the event to share in the celebration of the graduates' accomplishments.

In 2024, we will be celebrating Indigenous Alumni as part of the CBU's 50th Anniversary Celebration.



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