



CAPE BRETON MEDICAL CAMPUS

Francesco Dellorusso

Class of 2029

Born and raised in Howie Centre, Francesco never imagined that volunteering with his local fire department would lead him toward a career in medicine. Surrounded by paramedics and nurses, he discovered his passion for helping others in moments of crisis—a passion that has guided him to the Cape Breton Medical Campus.

The Morning Everything Changed

After completing his Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Cape Breton University in 2021, Francesco began working at the Cape Breton Regional Hospital. It was there that he saw the full impact of the region's family doctor shortage—patients arriving at the hospital with preventable illnesses, simply because they had no access to primary care

"Many of my patients didn't have access to a family doctor—and it was costing them their health. I knew I had to do more. I witnessed how the absence of family doctors was affecting lives every day. That's when I knew I wanted to be part of the solution."



Francesco Dellorusso

A Future Rural Family Physician

Why Rural Medicine Matters

For Francesco, rural family medicine is about connection, trust, and long-term relationships. “In small communities like ours, a family doctor isn’t just a healthcare provider—they’re part of the fabric of daily life.” He’s passionate about providing consistent, compassionate care to the people of Cape Breton and building the kind of healthcare relationships that strengthen entire communities.

“I feel incredibly privileged to train and serve in the community that raised me.”

Studying Close to Home

Studying medicine in Cape Breton allows Francesco to remain close to his roots while giving back to the people who inspired his journey. “Training here means I get to learn from and serve the same community that shaped my values. It’s the best way I can honour where I come from.

Why Your Support Matters

“A scholarship gives me the freedom to focus on becoming the doctor Cape Breton needs—without the constant weight of financial stress.” Support from donors allows him to dedicate himself fully to his studies, continue volunteering, and prepare to serve where he’s needed most.

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