



Cape Breton University

Spring Convocation 2026

Music for Convocation

Bagpiper

Bill Boxall

Drumming Ensemble

Heritage African Drummers

O Canada

O Canada! Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all of us command.

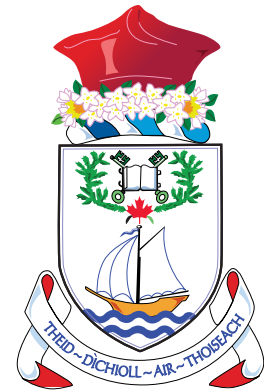
Car ton bras sait porter l'épée,
Il sait porter la croix.
Ton histoire est une épopée,
Des plus brillants exploits.

God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

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

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

**Cape Breton University acknowledges the history
and contributions of the African Nova Scotian people and
communities who have been here for over 400 years.**



Cape Breton University

Spring Convocation 2026

Message from The President.....	2
Message from The Board of Governors	3
Message from The Chancellor	4
Welcome to the CBU Alumni Family	5
Descriptions of Degree, Diploma, Certificate and Regalia	6
Congratulations Message	7
Honorary Degree Recipient	9
Convocation Ceremonial Elements	10
Meet Our Valedictorian and Mace Bearers	12
2026 Awards List.....	13
<i>We Rise Again</i> composed by Dr. Leon Dubinsky and arranged by Lydia Adams	16



Message from

The President

On behalf of the Senate, the faculty and staff of Cape Breton University, I share with you our warmest congratulations on your graduation from Cape Breton University. We are honoured to celebrate with you as we mark this monumental occasion in your lives.

Graduation is a significant day. It is the culmination of your hard work, commitment and determination to achieve a goal you set for yourself. These are skills you will carry with you and use in all that you do going forward. Be proud of what you have accomplished. I trust you will use what you have learned to make a difference in your communities, work toward growth and inspire others to create positive change.

As you celebrate convocation, take a moment to enjoy this special time with your fellow graduates. As you embark on the rest of your journey, the time you spent together will be a lasting memory of all you have overcome.

This year's convocation is especially meaningful as we welcome our new Chancellor, Mr. Jack Graham, K.C., to the Cape Breton University community. We look forward to his leadership and contributions as he joins us in celebrating your achievements and supporting the continued success of our institution.

As you commence the next chapter of your life, wherever it may take you, I wish you the very best of luck. Congratulations to the spring graduating class of 2026!

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D.C. Dingwall". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

David C. Dingwall, P.C., K.C., ICD.D
President & Vice-Chancellor
Cape Breton University

Message from

The Board of Governors

To the Cape Breton University spring graduating class of 2026,

Congratulations on this exceptional achievement in your educational journey. You have adapted, persevered, stayed strong and employed innovative strategies to overcome challenges. These are qualities that will serve you well wherever life takes you and that embody the spirit of Cape Breton University.

With this credential, you have proved that you are not only ready to enter today's highly competitive and ever-changing world, but you are ready to thrive in it. As you embark on this new chapter of your life, do so with courage and the excitement of possibility and opportunity.

On behalf of the Cape Breton University Board of Governors, we wish you good health, happiness and success as you begin your next stage of life as a graduate of CBU. We know you will continue to make the CBU community proud and that you will leave a positive mark on this world.

We are pleased to be able to call you one of our own. Congratulations! You earned it.



Denise Allen
Chair, Cape Breton University Board of Governors





Message from

The Chancellor

My heartfelt congratulations to each of you, the Cape Breton University spring graduating class of 2026. Today marks a significant milestone in your life. Convocation represents your success and reflects the dedication, perseverance and hard work that has brought you to this moment. It is a time to celebrate all that you have accomplished and to look ahead with confidence to the opportunities before you.

It is a profound honour for me to be installed as Chancellor of Cape Breton University during this special occasion. CBU is where my own educational journey began, and to begin my tenure by celebrating your achievements makes this day all the more meaningful. I am proud to rejoin this remarkable community and look forward to supporting the University and its students in the years ahead.

Cape Breton University is a place where determination meets opportunity. Whether you have come from Cape Breton, across Canada or around the world, you are now part of a global network of graduates whose potential is limitless. Your time here has prepared you not only with knowledge, but with the perspective and courage needed to contribute meaningfully to your communities and professions.

As you leave CBU, some of you will begin your careers, while others will continue your studies. Wherever your journey leads, I encourage you to pursue it with purpose, integrity and a willingness to embrace new challenges. Be bold in your ambitions, thoughtful in your actions and committed to making a positive difference in the world around you.

As your new Chancellor, I look forward to supporting this remarkable institution and celebrating the achievements of students like you for years to come.

Theid Dichioll Air Thoiseach – Perseverance Will Triumph.

Sincerely,

Jack Graham, K.C.
Chancellor
Cape Breton University

Welcome to the CBU Alumni Family

Graduates of 2026,

Congratulations on reaching this incredible milestone!

On behalf of Cape Breton University, I am proud to welcome you to our Alumni family. This is a special moment; not only a celebration of all you have accomplished, but the beginning of your lifelong connection to CBU.

During your time here, you have shown dedication, resilience and a willingness to grow. Those qualities will carry you forward wherever your path leads. Today, you join a global community of more than 45,000 alumni across more than 80 countries, each with their own story, and now you are part of that story too.

We are proud of you and excited to stay connected as your next chapter begins. Please keep in touch, share your successes and know that CBU will always be a place you can return to and a community that celebrates your story.

Welcome to the Alumni family, Class of 2026. We look forward to all that lies ahead for you.

And remember, Always Orange.

Warm regards,

Sara Salter Burke
Vice-President, Development
Cape Breton University

Descriptions of Degree, Diploma and Certificate Regalia

The colours approved for University regalia are orange, green and white. The inside lining of all undergraduate hoods, therefore, utilizes these colours with the white centering the green and orange, providing a unique arrangement of colour and design for Cape Breton University. The edging of the hood for all bachelor's degrees is two inches wide. The academic program is distinguished by the colours of this velvet edging. The diploma and certificate programs are distinguished by the outside colour of the stoles.

Degrees

Bachelor of Arts	White
Bachelor of Arts Community Studies	Light Green
Bachelor of Arts and Science in Environment	White and Gold with Black Piping
Bachelor of Business Administration	Russet
Bachelor of Education	Light Blue
Bachelor of Hospitality and Tourism Management	Russet with Royal Blue Trim and Gold Piping
Bachelor of Technology Information	Russet/Green
Bachelor of Science	Gold
Bachelor of Science Community Studies	Gold
Bachelor of Science Nursing	Apricot
Bachelor of Health Sciences	Sage
Bachelor of Emergency Management	Green
Bachelor of Engineering Technology	Green
Master of Business Administration	Russet with Maroon and White Lining
Master of Education in Sustainability, Creativity and Innovation	Light Blue with Royal Blue Trim and Gold Piping

Diplomas and Certificates

Post Baccalaureate	Outside Russet; Inside Orange
Education	Outside Blue; Inside Orange
Emergency Management	Outside White; Inside Green
Public Administration & Management	Outside Orange; Inside Green
Government Management	Outside Orange; Inside Green
Engineering Technology	Outside Green; Inside Orange
Engineering	Outside White; Inside Green
Certificates	Outside White; Inside Orange

Graduand A candidate for a degree, diploma or certificate for whom the Senate has approved one or more credentials.

Graduate An individual who has successfully completed an academic program of study and upon whom the Senate has conferred at least one degree, diploma or certificate.

Graduation That point in the convocation ceremony marked by the receipt of a parchment indicating conferral of a degree, diploma or certificate. A graduate need not have attended Convocation for conferral of their credential(s).

Convocation The ceremonial gathering of an assembly for the conferral of degrees, diplomas and certificates.

Chancellor The titular head of the University and the presiding officer of convocation. As the ceremonial head of the University, the Chancellor confers all degrees, diplomas and certificates on behalf of the University.

Congratulations

to the Spring Graduating Class of 2026

Cape Breton University is proud to acknowledge our high-calibre faculty members and university leaders for their role in inspiring this year's graduates. We would also like to thank our dedicated staff members who provide services and support all year long to enhance each student's experience.



Bilynda Whiting
University Registrar



Dr. Rod Nicholls
Interim Academic Vice-President (Provost)



Laurianne Sylvester
Dean, Unama'ki College

Congratulations

to the Spring Graduating Class of 2026



Dr. Ellyn Lyle

Dean, School of Education and Health



Dr. John Nadeau

Dean, Shannon School of Business



Dr. Chris McDonald

Dean, School of Arts and Social Sciences



Dr. Stephanie MacQuarrie

Dean, School of Science and Technology



Dr. Karen Kennedy

Interim Dean, School of Nursing

Honorary Degree Recipient

Father Norman MacPhee

Cape Breton University is proud to honour a man whose life has been defined by faith, compassion and an unwavering commitment to the people of Cape Breton Island, Father Norman MacPhee.

A long-serving Catholic priest from French Road on the Gabarus Highway and the sixth of 14 children to Archie and Catherine MacPhee, Fr. Norman has devoted decades of ministry to caring for his community, offering guidance, comfort and steadfast leadership to generations of parishioners. Recognizing the importance of a university education, Father Norman spent two summers working at the Stirling Mine to earn the money needed to attend university. His hard work and determination led him to become a member of the first graduating class of CBU's predecessor institution, Xavier Junior College.

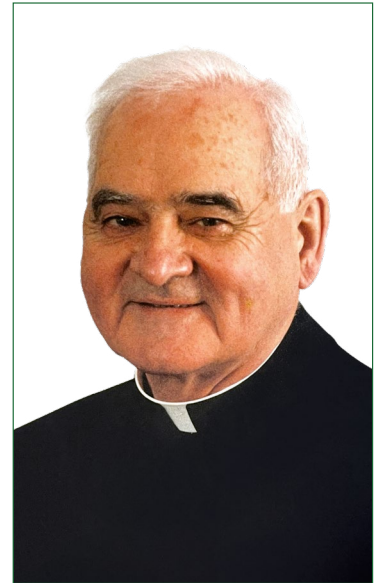
Fr. Norman was ordained in 1958 and continues to actively serve and manage parishes, reflecting both his deep-rooted faith and his enduring sense of responsibility to others. Known for his humility and kindness, Fr. Norman's presence has been a constant source of strength and reassurance in the lives of so many across Cape Breton in both times of need and celebration.

The country of Honduras has always held a special place in Fr. Norman's heart. During a visit to the capital city of Tegucigalpa while serving as pastor of Our Lady of Fatima, he was deeply concerned by the lack of educational opportunities and safe housing for young women. With the support of parishioners, funding was secured to establish Fatima House, a residence that continues to provide safety, education and support for young women in the community. Fr. Norman has returned regularly to witness the impact of Fatima House, often alongside Wanda Fedora, a dedicated member of its support group.

Beyond his pastoral work, Fr. Norman has demonstrated a profound commitment to education. In 2004, he established the Archie and Catherine MacPhee Memorial Bursary Fund at CBU in honour of his parents, creating a lasting legacy grounded in generosity and opportunity. What began as a modest gift has grown into a significant endowment that now provides 14 bursaries annually and has supported more than 200 Cape Breton students in their pursuit of higher education.

Since its inception, the bursary has assisted hundreds of students, easing financial barriers and opening doors to opportunity. Fr. Norman's belief in the transformative power of education is evident in every student who has benefited from his vision and care.

Today, Cape Breton University confers this honour in recognition of a life devoted to service, community, and quiet generosity. Through his ministry and philanthropy, Father Norman MacPhee has made a lasting and meaningful impact, embodying the values of compassion, dignity and a deep commitment to lifting others.



Convocation Ceremonial Elements



Cape Breton University Coat of Arms

The Cape Breton University Coat of Arms, imprinted on all of our parchments, is a multi-cultural design based on our Mi'kmaw and Celtic heritage. The fox, the eagle and the rich greenery are native to Cape Breton Island and are a reference to the University's beautiful surroundings. The fox is known for its intelligence and indicates the intellectual pursuits involved in acquiring a degree. It is a reference to the University's founder, Dr. Donald F. Campbell, known as the "silver fox." The eagle represents intelligence and idealism. It also honours the unique connections between Cape Breton University and the Mi'kmaw community.

The Canterbury Cap is symbolic of higher learning. The mayflowers are the floral emblem of Nova Scotia.

THEID DÌCHIOILL AIR THOISEACH: This is a Gaelic phrase meaning "Perseverance will Triumph."

The Cape Breton sloop is taken from the Great Seal of the Colony of Cape Breton (1784-1820) and honours the University's location. The wavy bands of blue and white suggest the ocean and the Bras d'Or Lake. The spruce boughs honour the First Nations who were the first inhabitants of the Island, and the maple leaf refers to Canada. The keys and the open book allude to the idea of unlocking knowledge.



Valedictorian

CBU has a longstanding tradition of electing a high-achieving student who embodies CBU's Graduate Attributes and has made significant contributions to the CBU community during their studies as the valedictorian. This distinguished individual will deliver the valedictory address at the CBU Convocation ceremony. In this address, they will reflect on their educational journey, instill hope for the future and express gratitude to all those who supported them along the way. Derived from the Latin phrase meaning "to bid farewell," the term valedictorian encapsulates a unique opportunity to represent, inspire and bid farewell to one's graduating class.

The valedictorian also holds the important responsibility of carrying the CBU Mace during the Convocation Ceremony procession. As both Valedictorian and Mace Bearer, this student will join the procession alongside the members of the stage party at the CBU Convocation and sit on the stage during the Convocation ceremony.

Cape Breton University Mace, Chain of Office and Chairs

The Mace, given by Mr. and Mrs. Irving Schwartz in memory of Mrs. Rose Schwartz, was designed and created by Cape Breton's own jeweller and craftsman, Darryl MacLeod. The shaft of the Mace is formed by a portion of an oak window from Moxham's Castle. The top of the ornate crown is adorned with four diamonds donated by Dr. Robert Morgan in memory of his wife, Barbara, who died in 1993.

The President's Chain of Office, also designed and created by Mr. MacLeod, speaks boldly of Cape Breton University and Cape Breton. The Chain was commissioned in honour of Cape Breton University's twentieth anniversary and was donated by the partners and staff of Deloitte & Touche in honour of Mr. James W. Miller, former managing partner.

Silver thistles and gold fiddles join the Chain. The Chain also has a silver fleur de lis, a replica of a coin from the "Chameau" treasure, and a silver medallion of the Cross and Crescent of the Mi'kmaw flag. CBU's Coat of Arms shares the focal point with the Great Seal of Cape Breton. The Chain is designed to represent our ties with the French and Mi'kmaw cultures, as well as our strong Celtic ties with the Scottish, Irish and Breton settlers.

Cape Breton's best known furniture maker, Leo MacNeil, crafted two chairs for our Institution. The larger of the two chairs is used by the Chancellor during convocation ceremonies. The back of the chair has the Cape Breton University Coat of Arms hand engraved and painted. The second chair is used by the President. Both chairs have been constructed from Cape Breton oak, with green velvet seats to complement the University's colours and the green of Cape Breton.



Meet Our Valedictorians and Mace Bearers

Valedictorian - *Ceremony 1*

Madison Power

Hometown: Sydney, Nova Scotia • **Program:** Bachelor of Science

Valedictorian - *Ceremony 2*

Millicent Amak Mmekwe

Hometown: Edo, Nigeria • **Program:** Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Health Care Management

Valedictorian - *Ceremony 3*

Sarah M. Doody

Hometown: Halifax, Nova Scotia • **Program:** Bachelor of Business Administration

Valedictorian - *Ceremony 4*

Lida James

Hometown: Kerala, India • **Program:** Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Business Management

2026 Awards List

Both inside and outside of the classroom, students grow and develop throughout their university experience. Our award winners exemplify Cape Breton University's Graduate Attributes and have taken full advantage of the opportunities presented to them. They are active and responsible citizens who demonstrate creativity and curiosity. They communicate and collaborate effectively and maintain a strong sense of professional integrity. We are proud to congratulate each of this year's award recipients.

Graduation Awards	Recipients	Description
Judge Allan E. Sullivan Memorial Award	Rebecca Seymour	Awarded to a graduating student who demonstrates outstanding achievement in the study of Political Science.
Judge Allan E. Sullivan Memorial Award	Grace MacMullin	Awarded to a graduating student who demonstrates outstanding achievement in the study of Political Science.
William "Bill" Bugg Award	Fathimath Chirathodi	Awarded to the Engineering Technology student with the highest average.
Majorie S. Jost Scholarship	Katie Clemens	Awarded to a student with a concentration or major in Communication who has clearly demonstrated excellence in the discipline.
John J. MacCarthy Memorial Award	Petronella MacHattie	Awarded to the student with the highest average in the final year of the BACS degree.
(EPIC) Society Volunteerism Award	Jennifer Hubbert	Awarded to a graduating student-athlete demonstrating community involvement and academic excellence.
George Leith Community Studies Award	Meghan MacKinnon	Awarded to a BACS student who demonstrates co-operative pedagogies in their studies, leadership and interest in community issues, and places the interests of the group on an equal basis with their own personal interests.
Angus A. "Gus" Morrison Memorial Award	Jessica Maclsaac	Awarded to a graduating student demonstrating proficiency in history.
Dr. Donald J. MacKenzie Award	Cameron MacNeil	Awarded to a graduating student demonstrating special aptitude in Celtic Studies.
Joy Gift and Jewellery Award	Sarah Doody	Awarded to a business student who exhibits outstanding leadership and enthusiasm in the field of business entrepreneurship.
Canadian Psychological Association - Academic Excellence	Laura Molokwu	Awarded to a graduating BA or BSc Honors Psychology student for recognition of excellence in their program.
Canadian Psychological Association - Academic Excellence	Anna Penny	Awarded to a graduating BA or BSc Honors Psychology student for recognition of excellence in their program.

Canadian Psychological Association - Academic Excellence	Justus Peuser	Awarded to a graduating BA or BSc Honors Psychology student for recognition of excellence in their program.
Chaplains Award	Aayushi Thakkar	Awarded to a student who has expressed a desire to strengthen our community and has lived the values of service, hospitality and compassion for others.
Murdena Marshall Science Award	Krista Hastie	Awarded to a Mi'kmaq student graduating from a natural science or natural science related program.
Wendy MacKenzie Biology Award	Mark Bellefontaine	Awarded to a fourth-year BSc (Biology) student with the highest average in Biology courses.
CBU Alumni Association Graduation Award	Tara Denny	Awarded to a graduating student who exemplifies the values of Cape Breton University as they pursue continued academic excellence.
CBU Alumni Association Graduation Award	Esther Enwere	Awarded to a graduating student who exemplifies the values of Cape Breton University as they pursue continued academic excellence.
CBU Alumni Association Graduation Award	Caitlyn Doughart	Awarded to a graduating student who exemplifies the values of Cape Breton University as they pursue continued academic excellence.
CBU Alumni Association Graduation Award	Breagh Kelly	Awarded to a graduating student who exemplifies the values of Cape Breton University as they pursue continued academic excellence.
CBU Alumni Association Graduation Award	Lia Eagles	Awarded to a graduating student who exemplifies the values of Cape Breton University as they pursue continued academic excellence.
Canadian Society for Chemistry Medal	Marissa Cox	In recognition of the highest academic standing in Chemistry in 2026 at Cape Breton University.
Dr. Judith A. Rolls Scholarship	Clover Mulo Farenkia	Awarded to a Communication student who exemplifies excellence in speech, scholarship and dedication to the discipline.
Norm Smith Graduation Trophy & Award	Samantha Williams-Pendergast	Awarded to a graduating student advancing to professional or graduate studies, dedicated to building a meaningful career of service and distinction.
C.W. MacDonald Memorial Trophy & Award	Quinn Rowe	Awarded to a student studying part-time and who exhibits leadership and scholarship.
Allister McIntyre Memorial Trophy & Award	Gianna Sheppard	Awarded to a student with an outstanding record in leadership, scholarship and character.
Glenda Faye Smith Memorial Trophy & Award	Holly Wells	Awarded to a student who has an outstanding record in leadership, scholarship and character.
Glen Patrick Moore Memorial Trophy & Award	Thomas Jacobs	Awarded to a student who displays outstanding leadership, concern for others and contributes to the quality of life at CBU, and who exemplifies the university motto, "Perseverance will triumph."
Connor Timmons Memorial Trophy & Award	Madalyn Hatfield	Awarded to a graduating student-athlete demonstrating community involvement and academic excellence.

CBU Award of Excellence	Lida James	Awarded to a graduating student with the highest average in Post-Baccalaureate program Diploma in Business Management.
CBU Award of Excellence	Maria Regina Figueroa	Awarded to a graduating student with the highest average in Post-Baccalaureate program Diploma in Supply Chain Management.
CBU Award of Excellence	Zil Sanjay Bhatt	Awarded to a graduating student with the highest average in Post-Baccalaureate program Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety Management.
CBU Award of Excellence	David Becerra Ballen	Awarded to a graduating student with the highest average in Post-Baccalaureate program Diploma in Health Care Management.
CBU Award of Excellence	Abdelrhman Elsherbeny	Awarded to a graduating student with the highest average in Post-Baccalaureate program Diploma in Business Analytics.

Cape Breton University Silver Medals for Academic Achievement

Highest academic standing	Elizabeth Verdelli
Highest academic standing	Steven Tutty
Highest academic standing	Meghan MacKinnon
Highest academic standing	Jason Lahey
Highest academic standing	Elizabeth Morneau
Highest academic standing	Rikki Rene Greene
Highest academic standing	Brett MacKenzie
Highest academic standing	Harpreet Banwait
Highest academic standing	Thu Pham
Highest academic standing	Winta Gebreyohannes
Highest academic standing	Mark Bellefontaine
Highest academic standing	Madison Power
Highest academic standing	Chase Merlin
Highest academic standing	Jaylyn Morris

Governor General's Medals for Academic Achievement

The Governor General's Collegiate Bronze Medal	Owen Heukshorst
The Governor General's Silver Medal	Marissa Cox
The Governor General's Gold Medal	Michelle Hoffman

We Rise Again

Dr. Leon Dubinsky

When the waves roll on over the waters,
And the ocean cries,
We look to our sons and daughters
To explain our lives—
As if a child could tell us why
That as sure as the sunrise,
As sure as the sea,
As sure as the wind in the trees...

Chorus:

We rise again in the faces of our children;
We rise again in the voices of our song;
We rise again in the waves out on the ocean—
And then we rise again.

When the light goes dark with the forces of creation
Across a stormy sky,
We look to reincarnation
To explain our lives —
As if a child could tell us why
That as sure as the sunrise,
As sure as the sea,
As sure as the wind in the trees...

Chorus (twice)

Congratulations

2026 Spring Graduates



CBU.ca