



Cape Breton University

Fall 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.

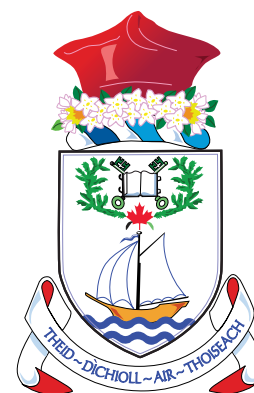
Car ton bras sait porter l'épée,
Il sait porter la croix.
Ton histoire est une épopée,
Des plus brillants exploits.

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

Fall 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	11
Order of Proceedings.....	13
Meet Our Valedictorian and Mace Bearer.....	14
2026 Awards List.....	15
<i>We Rise Again</i> composed by Dr. Leon Dubinsky and arranged by Lydia Adams	16



Message from

The President

On behalf of the Board of Governors, 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.

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 fall graduating class of 2026!

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "D.C. Dingwall". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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 fall 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 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 fall 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.

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.

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 Fall 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.



Becky Chisholm

**Associate Vice-President, Student
Experience & University Registrar**



Dr. Andy Parnaby

Vice-President, Academic and Provost



Laurianne Sylvester

Dean, Unama'ki College

Congratulations

to the Fall Graduating Class of 2026



Dr. Kristin O'Rourke
Dean, School of Education and Health



Mary Jane Morrison
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
Dean, School of Nursing

Honorary Degree Recipient

Sandra Lee Germain

Cape Breton University is delighted to honour and recognize a Mi'kmaq woman from the Listuguj First Nation, whose exceptional dedication to creating pathways for Indigenous students to access post-secondary education while remaining connected to their families, communities, cultures and ways of knowing, Sandra Germain.

A respected educator, program leader and advocate for Indigenous education, Sandra has been instrumental in bringing CBU and Unama'ki College's In-Community program directly to First Nation students in communities across Atlantic Canada and Quebec.

Through her leadership, in-community cohorts were established in Listuguj and Gesgapegiag in Quebec, the easternmost districts of Mi'kma'ki, as well as in Tobique First Nation in New Brunswick, creating opportunities for Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqey students to pursue their education close to home.

Sandra understands that access to education is about more than simply providing access to a program. It is about removing barriers that can prevent students from pursuing their goals. Her work recognized that leaving home, family and community to attend university can be a significant obstacle for Indigenous learners.

In addition to her work with CBU, Sandra was the first coordinator and recruiter for the Mi'kmaq Wolastoqey Bachelor of Social Work (MWBSW) program at St. Thomas University's off-campus program in Sackville, NB from 2004 to 2023. This program was developed to provide First Nation students with a culturally relevant approach to social work education, recognizing Indigenous systems of knowledge, practice and ways of learning. It was designed to be a part-time program that provided mature students an opportunity to remain in their communities for 3 weeks per month and attend classes one week per month over a three-year period. Sandra also helped to negotiate an agreement with McGill University to deliver an in-community part-time Bachelor of Education program for Listuguj students.

Through her dedication to this program, Sandra helped open the door for generations of Indigenous students to become social workers and bring their knowledge and skills back to Indigenous communities across Canada.

Sandra completed her undergraduate degree in Education as a mature student in 2000 before earning a Master's degree in Adult Education from the University of New Brunswick in 2003. Her academic and professional experience gave her a unique understanding of both the opportunities and barriers facing Indigenous adult learners.

Now retired, Sandra continues to contribute to Indigenous Social Work as the Executive Director for the Mi'kmaq Wolastoqiyik Association of Social Workers (MWASW). She has also served on the Cape Breton University Advisory Board for Unama'ki College, representing Indigenous students from New Brunswick and Quebec, two districts of Mi'kma'ki.

Throughout her career, Sandra has brought together a rare combination of social work experience, post-secondary education expertise, Indigenous and Mi'kmaw knowledge, community connection and leadership.

Today, Cape Breton University confers the degree Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, on a woman whose legacy is measured not only in the programs she helped build, but in the students who were able to pursue an education because she helped make that education possible, Sandra Germain.



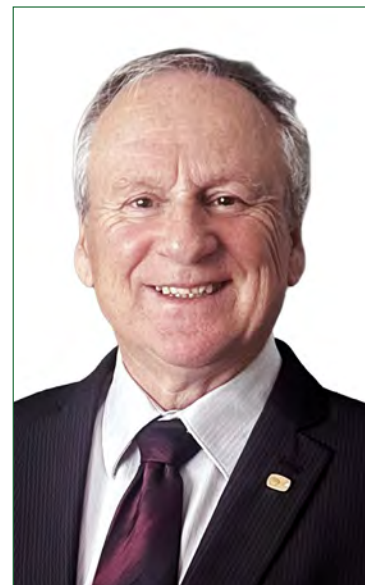
Honorary Degree Recipient

Roger Joseph Leadbeater

Cape Breton University is delighted to honour a man whose contributions to industry, education and community, with a steadfast commitment to Cape Breton, have led him to a remarkable career in the energy sector, Mr. Roger Leadbeater.

Raised in New Waterford in a Cape Breton coal-mining family, Roger has always relied on the values of hard work and determination and has maintained a strong connection to the Island throughout his life. He attended the University College of Cape Breton, studying geology before earning a Diploma in Safety Engineering Technology from Humber College.

Roger went on to build a distinguished 32-year career with Royal Dutch Shell, advancing through increasingly senior roles across North America before becoming Canada's Manager, Operational Health, Safety and Environment. A respected leader in Canada's energy sector, he played an important role in the development of Nova Scotia's offshore industry, working with government, industry and academic partners to support the growth and regulation of the sector.



His deep industry relationships and commitment to Cape Breton helped strengthen connections between industry and Cape Breton University. Roger was instrumental in establishing petroleum-related programming at UCCB and CBU as well as the Petroleum Process Lab within CBU's School of Science and Technology. This work helped facilitate significant support and investment from Shell Canada to advance applied training and research in petroleum-related fields.

Since 2017, Roger has provided dedicated volunteer leadership to LearnCorp International (LCI) at CBU, joining its Board of Directors and becoming Chair in 2019. Under his leadership, LCI has grown from a regional training organization into an international workforce development company, while significantly increasing its financial contributions to CBU and supporting the University's strategic priorities.

Now retired and residing in Calgary, Roger continues to serve as Chair of LCI and remains deeply connected to Cape Breton. Through a distinguished career in Canada's energy sector, exemplary volunteer leadership and steadfast commitment to Cape Breton University and the region he proudly calls home, Roger has made a lasting contribution to the economic, educational and social development of the region.

Roger has been involved in sports for most of his life, both as an athlete and coach. A proud member of the 1983 Men's CAPERS Soccer Team, he helped capture the Provincial College Championship, reflecting his longstanding commitment to teamwork, leadership and community engagement. Roger resides in Calgary with his wife, Candace. Together, they have two children, Keith and Amanda, and continue to maintain strong connections to their family and community.

Today, Cape Breton University confers the degree Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, on Mr. Leadbeater in recognition of his outstanding professional achievements, dedication to fostering collaboration between industry and higher education and enduring service to Cape Breton. Through his leadership, generosity and commitment to community, he has created opportunities for future generations and exemplified the profound impact of giving one's expertise, influence and passion in the service of 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.



Order of Proceedings

Chancellor: **Jack Graham**

President & Vice-Chancellor: **David C. Dingwall**

Vice-President, Academic and Provost: **Dr. Andy Parnaby**

Master of Ceremonies: Associate Vice-President, Student Experience & University Registrar, **Becky Chisholm**

Mace Bearer/Valedictorian: **Ivana Walcott**, Bachelor of Science, Nursing

Mi'kmaq Welcome: Recorded message presented by **Laurianne Sylvester**, Dean, Unama'ki College

O Canada: Performed by **Margaret MacPherson**

President's Address: **David C. Dingwall, President & Vice-Chancellor**

Presentation of Honorary Doctorate Degree

Doctor of Laws (*honoris causa*)

Honorary Doctorate Degree Recipient: **Sandra Lee Germain**

Citation Presenter: **Laurianne Sylvester**, Dean of Unama'ki College

Presentation of Honorary Doctorate Degree

Doctor of Laws (*honoris causa*)

Honorary Doctorate Degree Recipient: **Roger Joseph Leadbeater**

Citation Presenter: **Melissa Deane**, Senior Instructor, Engineering

Address by the Honorary Doctorate Degree Recipient: **Dr. Sandra Lee Germain**

Valedictory Address: **Ivana Walcott**

Conferral of Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates: **Jack Graham**, Chancellor

School of Arts and Social Sciences: **Dean Dr. Chris MacDonald**

Orator: **Michael MacDonald**

Shannon School of Business: **Dean Mary Jane Morrison**

Orator: **Dr. Tasquia Mizan**

School of Education and Health: **Dean Dr. Kristin O'Rourke**

Orator: **Dr. Kristin Reimer**

School of Nursing: **Dean Dr. Karen Kennedy**

Orator: **Dr. Audrey Walsh**

School of Science and Technology: **Dean Dr. Stephanie MacQuarrie**

Orator: **Melissa Deane**

Ceremony Closing

Rise Again: Performed by **Margaret MacPherson**

Meet Our Valedictorian and Mace Bearer

Ivana Walcott

Hometown: Calgary, Alberta • **Program:** BScN



Ivana Walcott is graduating with a Bachelor of Science, Nursing degree. Originally from Calgary, Alberta, Ivana was drawn to Cape Breton University by both academic ambition and family heritage, relocating to reconnect with her roots in Whitney Pier and Glace Bay. Bringing over 11 years of prior healthcare experience as a Licensed Practical Nurse, Ivana entered the LPN to RN Nursing Bridge Program determined to expand her clinical expertise while deepening her connection to her family and community.

During her time at CBU, Ivana has demonstrated clinical excellence, resilience and an unfaltering commitment to patient advocacy. Whether caring for patients at the Cape Breton Regional Hospital in PACU and Day Surgery or volunteering with CBU Nursing at the African Nova Scotian blood pressure screening in Whitney Pier, she consistently approached patient care with empathy. Ivana credit mentors, peers and faculty for fostering an environment where she could thrive and lead with compassion.

Her journey, however, does not stop here. As she steps into her new role as a Registered Nurse, Ivana is eager to continue building her clinical practice, with a particular interest in pediatric nursing and caring for children and families. Driven to inspire others and lead by example, Ivana looks forward to exploring new professional challenges, giving back to the communities she serves and continuing to champion compassionate, patient-centered care.

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
Sara J. Smith Nursing Scholarship	Aaron Sioco	Awarded to a graduating BScN student who demonstrates professionalism, perseverance, strong work ethic and a commitment to the nursing profession.
Catherine Grace MacLeod Memorial Nursing Award	Lenayah Ryan	Awarded to a graduating BScN student who has exemplified care and compassion for their patients while demonstrating professionalism, perseverance, strong work ethic and a commitment to the nursing profession.

Cape Breton University Silver Medals for Academic Achievement

Highest academic standing	Bethany Antle
----------------------------------	----------------------

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 Fall Graduates



**Cape
Breton
University**

CBU.ca