Cape Breton University

# IMPACT REPORT

## October 2026 Edition



Cape Breton University

As we begin another academic year and welcome our students back to campus, there is much to celebrate and much to look forward to at Cape Breton University. Since the Board of Governors last met in June, the University has remained active both on campus and beyond, advancing our priorities, strengthening important relationships and continuing to position CBU for the opportunities ahead.

While the post-secondary sector continues to navigate significant challenges, particularly those associated with changes to Canada's immigration system, there have been encouraging developments. In July, the Atlantic Association of Universities, in partnership with the Atlantic Chamber of Commerce, launched the Atlantic Prosperity Initiative, focused on strengthening the talent pipeline for Atlantic Canada. And just a few weeks ago, the Bolder Ambitions report was launched in Moncton. This report states clearly that Atlantic Canada needs more immigration if we are to take advantage of the economic opportunities ahead of us. These initiatives, together with recent commentary from the Prime Minister, are encouraging signs. However, there remains considerable work ahead to ensure immigration policy recognizes the important role universities and international students play in the economic, social and demographic future of Atlantic Canada.

International relationships continue to remain an important priority. Following CBU's successful mission to India in May, I have continued to engage with Indian representatives in Canada to build upon the relationships established during that visit. Looking ahead, I will travel to China from November 6 – 16, 2026 to further strengthen CBU's longstanding partnerships and explore new opportunities for collaboration.

Last month, Dr. Tanya Brann-Barrett represented CBU at the Canadian International College convocation in Cairo, Egypt. Nearly 200 graduates were welcomed into the CBU alumni family, another reminder of the University's reach and the strength of our international partnerships. Our relationships with municipal, provincial and federal governments also remain central to advancing the University's priorities. We recently welcomed the Honourable Brian Wong, Minister of Advanced Education, and Executive Deputy Minister Karen Gatien to campus. CBU was also recognized in the Nova Scotia Legislature for our new Master of Healthcare Leadership program and the role it will play in preparing future health-care leaders for Nova Scotia. I will travel to Ottawa next week for a series of discussions to continue to strengthen CBU's relationships and positioning at the federal level.

CBU also continues to explore how our academic expertise, research capacity and partnerships can contribute to emerging priorities in defence, and energy. In September, I participated in the Atlantic Canada Offshore Wind Readiness Forum, and we continue to have discussions on how CBU can contribute to Canada's emerging defence economy.

Earlier this month, we welcomed Dr. Robert Strang for the inaugural Cape Breton Medical Campus Rural Medicine Lecture Series. The following day included a tour of the Medical Campus. As Dr. Strang prepares for retirement, it was a privilege to welcome him to CBU and provide an opportunity for our students, faculty, staff and community to hear from one of Nova Scotia's most recognized public health leaders.

We have also had much to celebrate within our CBU community. Earlier this month, we honoured one of our most accomplished student-athletes, Ally Rowe, with the retirement of her jersey. It was a fitting recognition of an outstanding Cape Breton Capers career and a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the lasting impact of CBU Athletics.

As we look ahead, we will also recognize the remarkable career of Stephen "Ness" Timmons, longtime coach of the CBU Women's Soccer program as he prepares to retire. For more than three decades, Ness has made an extraordinary contribution to CBU Athletics and university sport in Canada. A celebration of his career and contributions is planned for November.

CBU was also proud to celebrate Mr. Jim Kehoe's induction into the Nova Scotia Business Hall of Fame on October 14. Mr. Kehoe has been a strong friend and supporter of Cape Breton University, and we were pleased to congratulate him on this well-deserved honour.

These activities represent only a portion of the tremendous work underway across Cape Breton University. In the following pages, you will find a broader overview of the many initiatives, achievements and activities that have taken place since our last meeting. Together, they demonstrate the leadership, ambition and perseverance of the CBU community and the momentum that continues to move our university forward.



Respectfully submitted,

David C. Dingwall

# Development

Work continues on Cape Breton University's $50-million Forever CBU Campaign, advancing initiatives that create lasting opportunities for students, strengthen communities and shape the future of the University. Every contribution makes a difference. To learn more about the campaign and how you can help make a lasting impact on CBU's future, visit **CBU.ca/donate**.

## A New Chapter for Discovery and Innovation

On August 13, 2026, Cape Breton University announced that its newest building will be named the **MacLeod Centre for Discovery and Innovation**, recognizing the extraordinary generosity of alumni donors Keith and Gail MacLeod.

Keith and Gail attended the College of Cape Breton and both graduated with Bachelor of Engineering Technology degrees, Keith in 1978 and Gail in 1980. Their connection to CBU has continued through their philanthropy, beginning with the establishment of the MacLeod Matheson Bursary in 2019.

Their continued investment reflects a deep commitment to education, innovation and the future of Cape Breton University. Through their generosity, the MacLeods are helping create new opportunities for students, advance research and ensure future generations of learners have access to exceptional spaces in which to learn, discover and innovate.

The naming of the MacLeod Centre for Discovery and Innovation marks a lasting tribute to their remarkable leadership, generosity and dedication to their alma mater.




**Pictured from left to right, Laurianne Sylvester, Dean of Unama'ki College; Sara Salter Burke, Vice President of Revenue and Development; Stephanie MacQuarrie, Dean of the School of Science and Technology; Keith MacLeod; Gail MacLeod; David Dingwall, President and Vice-Chancellor.**

## BMO Million Gift to Cape Breton Medical Campus

As the Cape Breton Medical Campus welcomed its second cohort of medical students in August 2026, Cape Breton University announced a significant $1 million commitment from BMO in support of healthcare education and rural physician training. The contribution reflects BMO's investment in strengthening healthcare access across Nova Scotia and will help advance the campus' mission of educating future physicians who are prepared to serve rural, Indigenous and African Nova Scotian communities.

Since the launch of the Forever CBU Campaign, more than $14 million has been raised in support of the Medical Campus and related health initiatives, demonstrating strong community confidence in the project and its long-term impact on healthcare outcomes in the province. BMO's leadership support further strengthens the sustainability and growth of this transformative initiative, helping to ensure that future generations of physicians are trained and retained in the communities where they are needed most.

## RBC - Gift to Cape Breton Medical Campus

On October 28, RBC will visit the Cape Breton Medical Campus for a tour and to present their $300,000 gift. This gift will support the Cape Breton Medical Campus' Simulation Program. This program provides medical students with advanced, hands-on training in a safe learning environment, helping them build the clinical, communication and decision-making skills needed for rural practice. Through community-focused and culturally responsive education, the program supports physician recruitment and retention while strengthening healthcare access for rural, Indigenous and African Nova Scotian communities across Nova Scotia.

# CBMC Rural Medicine Lecture Series

The Cape Breton Medical Campus (CBMC) welcomed **Dr. Robert Strang**, Nova Scotia's Chief Medical Officer of Health, as the inaugural speaker in the new CBMC Rural Medicine Lecture Series. Drawing on more than 30 years of experience in public health, Dr. Strang delivered a lecture titled Supporting Healthier Communities: Reflections on 30 Years as a Public Health Physician, bringing together students from medicine, nursing, public health and social work to explore the vital connection between healthcare, public health and community well-being.

This Lecture Series is funded through a gift from Dr. Allen MacDonald. Mr. MacDonald established a lecture series a number of years ago at Dalhousie Medical School, and he wanted Cape Breton students to have access to the same expertise and special guests without having to go to Halifax.








# Lobster Boil

In late June the **Department of Engineering**, in partnership with engineering firms from across Cape Breton, hosted its Annual Lobster Boil and Pub Night, continuing a tradition that has been a cornerstone of the engineering community for more than 50 years. The event brought together alumni, industry partners, students, faculty and community members for an evening of networking and celebration.

Proceeds from the event support the Cape Breton Memorial Scholarship, which assists engineering students as they transition to Dalhousie University to complete their studies. Over the past five decades, the scholarship and the event have helped support countless engineering students, reflecting the long-standing commitment of Cape Breton's engineering community to student success and professional development.

## Jimmy Kehoe - Nova Scotia Business Hall of Fame

On October 14, **Mr. Jimmy Kehoe** was inducted into the Nova Scotia Business Hall of Fame for his contributions to Cape Breton Island and to the broader Nova Scotia. Mr. Kehoe is a long-time supporter and donor, and CBU proudly named the Kehoe Forum in honour of he and his late wife, Roma. Cape Breton University was pleased to be in attendance to celebrate this remarkable accomplishment.



**Jimmy Kehoe and his family during the official renaming of the Canada Games Complex to the Kehoe Forum.**

# International Recruitment

After receiving MPHEC approval on CBU's three newest Masters programs, the International Recruitment Team was able to promote, advise and drive applications in just two months, **exceeding SEM targets in two out of the three offerings**.

CBU welcomed **223** new international students from more than 60 countries this fall, with an average overall expenditure (education plus cost of living) of $12,777,900. This does not account for the overall economic impact in the community, nor the impact on the K-12 school system as many students have brought along their dependents.

### Global Partnerships

Transnational Education China: This September, CBU launched two of our BBA programs at Hebei University of Technology, joining an elite group of Canadian universities delivering programs in China approved by the Chinese Ministry of Education. By year four, Hebei will enrol more than **900** students in these programs, netting more than **$2.5 million** annually.

**Illume** and **Worldwide EduConnect**: CBU made a shift in international partnerships by severing a long-standing contract with MSM, and onboarding two new partners, Illume and Worldwide EduConnect. These partners bring a more ethical approach to recruitment, focusing on high-quality students set up for success.

# Research



The Office of Research and Graduate Studies (ORGS) continued to support research capacity, faculty development and the visibility of CBU's research expertise throughout 2026. Faculty support included an NSERC Discovery Grant information session for prospective applicants, delivered by Research Administration Officer Calla Carbone, and the launch of new online resources to help researchers identify funding opportunities and prepare competitive grant applications. The Fall 2026 Sabbatical Talk series also began in September, featuring Dr. Enayat Rajabi, Associate Professor of Business Analytics, presenting on advancements in knowledge graphs and artificial intelligence. These initiatives support knowledge-sharing, collaboration and research funding efforts.

Student research remained a key focus, with the 2026 Student Summer Lecture Series featuring presentations from 26 student researchers between June and August. Supported by faculty leadership and ORGS, the series provided students with opportunities to share their findings, strengthen presentation skills and connect with peers and colleagues, celebrating student-led scholarship across disciplines.

CBU also advanced its commitment to inclusive and responsible research practices. ORGS submitted the Canada Research Chair Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan, a program requirement intended to improve equity, diversity and inclusion within and across eligible institutions. CBU also became a signatory of the Declaration of Research Assessment, affirming its commitment to evaluating research based on quality, rigour, openness and impact, while recognizing diverse forms of knowledge creation and scholarly contribution.

To enhance research visibility and support collaboration, ORGS launched Worktribe Profiles, the first phase of a new research administration software system. The publicly accessible platform will showcase CBU's research, teaching and expertise as faculty and staff populate their profiles. ORGS also presented CBU's research partnership opportunities to New Dawn managers, and welcomed Lahey Clinic President, Dr. Susan Moffatt-Bruce, to campus for a visit and exchange of ideas. In September, the Canadian Council on Animal Care visited campus, meeting with members of CBU's Animal Care Committee and touring Dr. Vicky Salazar's lab to learn about her research involving weakly electric fish.



# Funding Awards

- **Dr. Bishakha Mazumdar:** $21,535 SSHRC Partnership Engage Grant – Responsible AI in Human Resources: Governance, Ethics, and Inclusive Adoption in Nova Scotia SMEs.
- **Dr. Leslie Wardley and Dr. Amar Anwar:** $46,685 SSHRC Partnership Engage Grant - Addressing Electric Vehicle Adoption Barriers in Newfoundland and Labrador: Decision Ready Evidence for Sustainable and Resilient Transportation.
- **Dr. Simon Barrick:** $25,000 SSHRC Connection Grant – Building Capacity for System Change in Canadian Curling.
- **Dr. Tammy Bernasky:** $40,730 SSHRC Connection Grant - From Evidence to Action: Mobilizing Not Without Us to Strengthen Responses to Gender-Based Violence Against Women with Disabilities in Nova Scotia.

CBU has a **38%** success rate in the NSERC Discovery Grant competition, awarding a total of $115,00 per year for the next 5 years.

- **Dr. Ted Matheson and Dr. Carrie Karsgaard:** $47,820 SSHRC Insight Development Grant – Can Play Save the Commons?
- **Dr. Luke Phelps and Dr. MaryBeth Doucette:** $64,987 SSHRC Insight Development Grant – Indigenous Governance: The Case of Clearwater Foods.
- **Dr. Marcia Ostashewski:** $499,993 SSHRC Insight Grant - Our Research Futures: Indigenous Pathways for Research in Higher Education.
- **Dr. Jan Hancock:** $35,000 awarded to conduct a housing affordability project on behalf of the CBRM.
- **Dr. Stephanie MacQuarrie:** $40,000 awarded for a Mitacs project with POINTVALUES Lab Developers Inc.
- **Dr. Maya Giorbelidze:** $15,000 awarded for a Mitacs project with the YMCA of Greater Halifax.
- **Dr. Kelsey Harvey:** $285,000 awarded for a Mitacs project with Homeward Bound.
- **Dr. Sheryl Borgaize:** $25,000 Invest NS Productivity and Innovation Voucher to conduct an applied research project with Kinetic Physiotherapy.
- **Dr. Adango Miadonye:** $25,000 Invest NS Productivity and Innovation Voucher to conduct an applied research project with SGS Innova Solutions.
- **Dr. Stephanie MacQuarrie:** $15,000 Invest NS Productivity and Innovation Voucher to conduct an applied research project with Brass Door Inc.

# Enrolment Management and Student Experience

Recruitment is more important than ever as Cape Breton University works to strengthen enrolment and build its reputation at home and around the world. Through continued efforts in both domestic and international markets, CBU remains focused on connecting more students with the opportunities a CBU education provides.

## Enrolment

Enrolment numbers released by the Association of Atlantic Canadian Universities shows an expected decrease in enrolment over last year, with decline being driven fully by the loss of the international market.

Total enrolment sits at **3,680** for Fall/Winter with expected new student enrolment for January.

Positive enrolment indicators aligned with Strategic Enrolment Management planning shows targets met for the new SSOB Masters programs and stable enrolment in the domestic market.

Admissions for the Fall 2027 cycle began on October 1, with CBU's Open House scheduled for October 24.

## Retention Initiatives

Cape Breton University launched **Start Smart** – a self-paced, free, non-credit Moodle course for all CBU students. Start Smart provides key information in one central location, including information on and links to more than 20 CBU services. As of September, **85% of the student body has completed the training**.

More than **900** students were welcomed at this year's Week of Welcome.

A dedicated **Career Centre** was created in Campus Centre, which has signed an MOU with the newly established **Dr. Judith A. Rolls Communication Centre** to better prepare students for employment opportunities post-graduation.

## Convocation Ceremonies

- **Canadian International College in Cairo** September 13 - 176 graduates.
- **CBU Nursing Students, Acadia University** October 16 - 41 graduates.
- **CBU Fall Convocation** October 29 - 302 expected graduates.

# Cape Breton Medical Campus

This May, the official opening of the Cape Breton Medical Campus was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, tours and a reception in the Kehoe Forum. The CBMC welcomed Dr. Jake MacPherson to the role of Director of Rural Family Medicine, a role unique to the CBMC, committed to supporting the CBMC's mandate as a rural pathway through medicine.

A new cohort of 30 future family doctors began their studies in August, bringing CBMC's current enrolment to 60 students. The CBMC has also coordinated the establishment of eight new Teaching Sites across the province, providing students with opportunities to gain rural family medicine experience in communities across the province.



(left to right): Dr. Kim Brooks, President and Vice-Chancellor, Dalhousie University; Dr. David Anderson, past Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University; David C. Dingwall, President and Vice-Chancellor, Cape Breton University; The Honourable Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia; Dr. Stephanie Langley, Senior Associate Dean, Cape Breton Medical Campus.

# Centre for Teaching and Learning

In a continued effort to explore evidence-informed teaching practices, share ideas, learn from colleagues and reflect on creating meaningful learning experiences for our students, the following workshops were held by the Centre for Teaching and Learning this semester:

- **Making Learning Visible in the Age of Generative AI**
- **University Teaching Program**
- **Moodle Gradebook Prep**
- **Crafting Your Teaching Philosophy**

# Library

Over the past semester, the team at the CBU Library has prioritized governance structures, establishing a Library Council representative of librarians and library staff to facilitate engagement and collaboration. The Council has drafted by-laws and created standing committees to lead work in distinct functional areas.

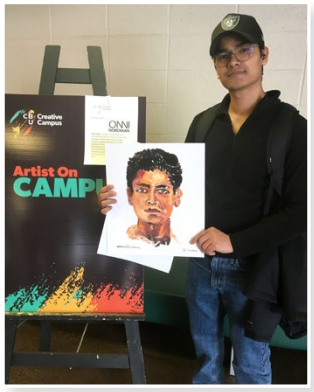
The Library has purchased two accessible workstations for the first floor, continuing to invest in the institutional priorities of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility. The Math & Science Centre, previously located on the second floor has been relocated downstairs to provide a more accessible space.



## September Library Stats

- Visits to the Library: **17,554**
- Physical Items Checked Out: **1,100**
- In-Class Library Instruction Sessions Held: **31**
- Questions Asked: More than **4,400**
- Number of Library Events: **16**

# Creative Campus




The CBU Creative Campus program kicked off the Fall semester with auditions for the Boardmore Theatre's 55th season of plays, with 85 auditioners showing off their acting skills. Five mainstage productions will take place from November-May.

Professional Artist, **Onni Nordman**, was on campus September 23-24 presenting his Monotype Portrait Painting in the cafeteria, engaging students, faculty and staff. The Artist on Campus program continues to be a popular initiative at CBU, giving the campus community the opportunity to engage in the arts more frequently.

Cape Breton University is proud to once again partner with the Cape Breton Partnership to present the **Cape Breton Creative Arts Awards**, celebrating the individuals and organizations whose passion, creativity and dedication enrich the arts community across Unama'ki – Cape Breton. The annual event recognizes the important role the creative arts play in our island's cultural identity, while creating opportunities for learning, networking and collaboration. Through this celebration, CBU is pleased to help shine a spotlight on the people and initiatives that strengthen our creative community, inspire future generations and ensure the arts continue to thrive across Cape Breton.

The 2026 awards gala will take place October 24 at the Boardmore Playhouse.

# School of Education

Recent faculty research in Education addresses issues affecting Cape Breton residents, schools and community organizations, including youth homelessness, disability inclusion, environmental sustainability and access to educational and health supports.

- **Dr. Nancy Spina** completed a RISE-funded project on 2SLGBTQ+ youth homelessness, embodiment and school disengagement in Cape Breton.
- **Dr. Carrie Karsgaard's Co-Creating Healthier Futures project** supports youth in investigating freshwater ecosystems and participating in local environment decision-making.
- **Dr. Lynn LeVatte's research** includes Collaborative School Health Partnerships in Membertou, which examines school well-being through community partnerships.
- **Dr. Melissa Bishop's early childhood research** examines literacy, play-based teaching, rural educator well-being and policy conditions affecting the early childhood workforce.

## Enrolment Numbers

- Bachelor of Education: **118** students
- MEd in Holistic School Health and Well-Being 2026 Cohort: **87** students
- MEd in Curriculum, Teaching and Learning 2026 Cohort: **26** students

## Engagements

- Dean of Education is the chair of the Nova Scotia Interuniversity Committee on Teacher Education.
- A partnership has been developed with CISE-Atlantic through Rurally Inclusive Science Fairs, focused on strengthening science literacy among pre-service elementary teachers.
- The Open Staffroom was launched in September and welcomes teachers, school leaders, support staff, pre-service and retired teachers, early childhood educators and faculty to come together to share experiences and identify common concerns.

## School of Arts and Social Sciences

- SASS celebrated the launch of the new **Dr. Judith Rolls Communication Centre**, a space where students can hone their presentation, public speaking and communication skills, to better prepare themselves for the future.
- The Bachelor of Social Work program received its **first accreditation from the Canadian Association of Social Work Educators** after a campus visit from CASWE representatives.
- CBU's Master of Arts in Community, Sport & Health is expected to be approved by MPHEC in the coming weeks, and aims to welcome its **first cohort in Fall 2027**.
- The BACS Degree's Quality Assurance Review is nearing completion, and SASS looks forward to using the feedback to strengthen a degree that remains one of CBU's most unique offerings.

## School of Nursing

- The School of Nursing continues to make a significant contribution to nursing education and health workforce development in Nova Scotia, while demonstrating continued improvement in graduate licensure outcomes, with the NCLEX-RN pass rate increasing to **85.1%**.
- This October, CBU will confer degrees on **93** nursing students, with the vast majority expected to remain in Nova Scotia.
- In the area of research, Dr. Virginia Gunn, whose internationally recognized program of research focuses on artificial intelligence and algorithmic management in healthcare, precarious employment and health equity, led six funded research projects and contributed to seven large collaborative grants, representing a combined value of **$8.71 million**.
- Rebecca MacDougall was awarded **$23,000** for her work in the area of breastfeeding mothers attending Canadian post-secondary education, while Dr. April Steele was awarded $2,500 for her project on building resilience through reflective practice.

# Shannon School of Business

- The Shannon School of Business welcomed the inaugural cohorts of the **Master of Artificial Intelligence and Business Analytics**, **Master of Digital Marketing** and **Master of Healthcare Leadership and Innovation** programs this September, with students representing diverse regions from around the world.
- **Cynthia Vokey**, Director of Graduate Programs, joined President Dingwall and two students from the Master of Healthcare Leadership and Innovation program at the Nova Scotia Legislature to provide government officials with an update on the program and its alignment with provincial healthcare priorities.
- A group of representatives from the SSOB attended the Atlantic Schools of Business Conference, receiving an award for most prolific research institution, with the highest number of papers presented. In addition, **Trang Mai-McManus**, Assistant Professor of Management and Marketing, was recognized with the conference's Best Reviewer Award, while a four-member team of SSOB students earned second place in the ASB Business Student Case Competition.




**Pictured:**
**Ila Hammond, Sammy MacDougall, Josh Vickers and Dawson Cassell**

- Through a partnership with the Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia, a scholarship was established for mid-career individuals to return to CBU to complete the BHTM degree. Four students have enrolled for the Fall semester.
- On September 28, SSOB welcomed **Nick Beynon**, CEO of Chartered Professionals in Human Resources (CPHR) to campus to provide a lecture to two classes regarding HR in the age of AI.
- This Fall, SSOB has partnered with Ignite Atlantic to develop an **Entrepreneurship Series**. This free series consists of three sessions in the fall and three in the winter with a pitch event in the spring. The first session was attended by approximately 20 students looking to explore their entrepreneurial potential.

# School of Science and Technology

The School of Science and Technology proudly launched the Health Foundations Certificate and welcomed the first cohort of the Bachelor of Engineering Technology Mechanical Engineering Technology program with co-op this fall, and improvements continue to be made within existing programs.

> More than **50** students were employed in research positions during Summer 2026.

- Students in the ENVS1101 course continue to participate in field-based learning at the former Victoria Junction Coal Processing Plant across from CBU, in collaboration with Public Services and Procurement Canada and its remediation work on former DEVCO coal sites across the CBRM.

## Research, Scholarship and Partnerships

- Approximately 50 SST faculty-related publications in 2026.
- Katherine Jones developed and published Explore the Habitats and Wildlife of Nova Scotia, an educational activity book for youth and families.
- The Cape Breton Sedimentology Research Group has been building upon existing relationships involving Nutrien in Saskatchewan and work in New Brunswick through the Geological Survey of Canada. The group is expanding its research capabilities and services to attract additional funding that can support CBU student research assistants and student projects.
- Health Sciences is pursuing new and renewed articulation agreements with partner institutions, including one that would support the education of bilingual, certified public health inspectors who could work in local, provincial and federal government and in private industry.

## Faculty Recognition

- Jason Loxton was named a finalist for the Science Champion Discovery Award.
- E.J. Matheson was selected to serve on NSERC's Canada Postdoctoral Research Awards and Canada Graduate Research Scholarship – Doctoral Geosciences Selection Committee 168.
- Ahmet Aktas received his Engineer-in-Training (EIT) certificate from Engineers Nova Scotia.
- Rod Beresford will be an invited presenter and panelist at the regional workshop Developing Disease Resistant Oyster Broodstock for Nova Scotia on November 9-10, 2026.

# Unama'ki College

Unama'ki College is proud to report that it has **260** students enrolled in programs from all of CBU's Schools, including the Cape Breton Medical Campus, along with In-Community programs in Sipekne'katik, Millbrook, Potlotek and Eskasoni.

This month, students will be receiving the "half-way completion bursaries" through the Mastercard Foundation, an incentive aimed at encouraging Indigenous students to continue and complete their studies at CBU.




Student coordinators are working with the Dean of Unama'ki College and the Dean of the School of Science and Technology to develop an L'nu Health Science advantage program, which will provide opportunities for Indigenous students to explore health/science careers. In addition, a new L'nu Health Lead will be hired next month, and will focus on improving health outcomes in Indigenous communities.

The Johnson Foundation will be renewing their generous contribution to support the Second Chance for Success Program for Indigenous Students. This gift supports many Indigenous students who would like to continue and complete their studies at CBU but who faced barriers for funding.

Unama'ki College attended a career fair in Gesgapegiag, Quebec, one of the seven districts of Mi'kma'ki. Discussions focused on the many opportunities at CBU and the supports provided by Unama'ki College.

October is **Mi'kmaq History Month**. October 1 is Mi'kmaq Treaty Day, an annual celebration to honour the historic treaties of Peace and Friendship signed by the Mi'kmaq and the British Crown. This year marks 300 years since the 1725 treaty was signed. CBU professors Mary Beth Doucette, Tara Johnson, Annie Battiste, Tyra Paul and Heather Schmidt worked collaboratively to provide information sessions on treaties through a presentation on Mi'kmaw Treaties along with displays in the cafeteria.



# Athletics and Recreation

This Fall, CBU retired the jersey of **Ally Rowe**, the University's most decorated student-athlete.










The CAPERS Men's and Women's basketball teams were named the **Wendy's AUS Teams of the Month** for their work in the community.

The annual **Membertou Open** was held in Baddeck September 10-11 with a sold-out attendance of 40 teams, raising **$60,000, the highest total to date**.




On **Truth and Reconciliation Day**, all CBU varsity athletes attended an event in Membertou, participating in spiritual connections, cultural learnings and a community walk.

# Health and Wellness

This semester, the Nancy Dingwall Health and Counselling Centre launched a campus-wide health asset mapping initiative to identify and better understand the strengths, resources, partnerships and supports that contribute to well-being at CBU. Through this engagement, the project is increasing awareness of existing resources, fostering collaboration and identifying opportunities to enhance coordination across services.

A final report will be completed by the end of the term, providing a comprehensive assessment of current health and wellness assets, key gaps and opportunities for future growth. The findings will help inform strategic planning and support ongoing efforts to advance student success and campus well-being.

# IT Services

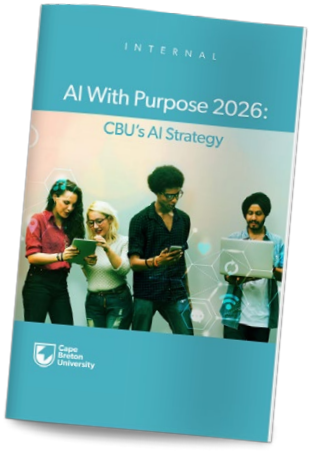
IT Services continues to play a critical role in advancing the University's digital future by ensuring reliable technology services that support the CBU community. The IT Services Desk manages an average of 1,000 requests per month.

## Cybersecurity Risk Management

- CBU annually completes the **CANARIE National Cybersecurity Assessment**, establishing a benchmark of the University's cybersecurity maturity against other Canadian institutions.
- CBU's security tools block approximately **50%** of incoming email traffic, protecting the university community from spam, phishing attempts and malware before it reaches user inboxes.
- As part of Cyber Security Month, IT Services has delivered **cybersecurity training** to faculty, staff and students.

## AI Strategy - AI With Purpose 2026

Published earlier this year, **CBU's AI With Purpose 2026** was jointly developed by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies and IT Services, with support from a small working group. This strategy establishes CBU's approach to artificial intelligence through a set of foundational assumptions and guiding principles that support the responsible, ethical and effective use of AI across teaching, learning, research and administrative operations.




- An **AI Accountability Committee** has been established to provide oversight of the University's AI strategic objectives, guide the development of AI governance practices and identify emerging opportunities, risks and priorities.
- **Microsoft Co-Pilot** has been endorsed as CBU's primary enterprise AI assistant.


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