



**Cape Breton University**

Fall Convocation 2024

50

YEARS

1974 - 2024

# Music for Convocation

## **Bagpiper**

*Bill Boxall*

## **Drumming Ensemble**

*Heritage Drummers*

## **Indigenous Drummer and Honour Song**

*Graham Marshall*

## **O Canada and Rise Again**

*Performed by Lucy and Stewart MacNeil*

## **O Canada**

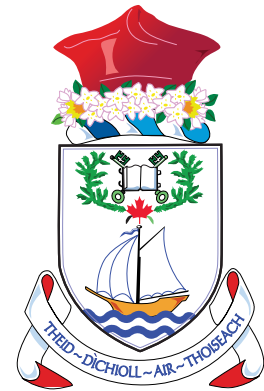
O Canada! Our home and native land!  
True patriot love in all of us command.

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

## Fall Convocation 2024

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### 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 today 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 encourage and inspire others to create positive change.

This year, Cape Breton University is celebrating its 50th Anniversary, making you the final graduating class in this milestone year. The story of Cape Breton University is a celebration of the history of our home and the trust the people of Unama'ki-Cape Breton have placed in us. From humble beginnings to global recognition, you have played a significant role in this chapter. As you progress through life, you should always look back fondly on your university experience and know that your graduation will be forever cemented as part of CBU's 50th Anniversary.

As you celebrate convocation, take the time to enjoy these special moments with your fellow graduates. The time you spent together will be a lasting memory of all you have enjoyed, learned and 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 2024!

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David C. Dingwall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'D' at the beginning.

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 2024,

Congratulations on this exceptional achievement in your educational journey. Earning a university credential is no easy feat, but you have adapted, persevered and employed innovative strategies to overcome any challenges you faced along the way. These are qualities that will serve you well wherever life takes you, and these are qualities that embody the very essence 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 we collectively celebrate Cape Breton University's 50th anniversary, know that your success is a true testament to thought leadership and innovation.

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

Congratulations! You earned it.



Denise Allen  
Chair, Cape Breton University Board of Governors





## Message from

# The Chancellor

My heartfelt and admirable congratulations to each of you – the Cape Breton University fall graduating class of 2024.

This year marks CBU's 50th Anniversary as an independent post-secondary institution, making you the final graduating class of this landmark celebration. Just like you, CBU's roots grew from humble beginnings, a story of dedication and perseverance. As the 50th festivities come to an end, I hope you will look back on this moment fondly, knowing that your graduating class will always be remembered as a part of this unforgettable year for the CBU community.

I want you to know that I am extremely proud of each and every one of you for completing this great achievement. Convocation Day represents your success and acknowledges years of dedication and hard work. This is a day to celebrate what you have worked toward and looked forward to for many years. Today marks the end of one chapter and the beginning of another.

Many of you may be new to Canada and Cape Breton. I am a first-generation Canadian and believe that your future is bright. To my fellow Cape Bretoners and to all graduates, no matter where you hail from, know that your options are endless when you aspire to continuously seek out new opportunities, use creativity and strive for innovation in all that you do.

When you leave CBU, some of you will begin your work life, and others will continue your studies. I invite you all to boldly follow your dreams into new horizons. Wherever your paths may take you, I hope you reflect proudly on your time at CBU and are always aware of the ever-changing world around you. Use your resources and tenacity to face challenges and seize opportunities.

Today is not a goodbye but a time to say "until we meet again." Today is a day to be proud, be strong and to show the world what you are made of.

*Theid Dichioll Air Thoiseach – Perseverance Will Triumph.*

Sincerely,

Annette Verschuren  
Chancellor

Message from

## The Alumni Association President

Dear Graduates of 2024,

Congratulations on reaching this incredible milestone! It is my honour to welcome you as the newest member of our vibrant alumni family.

This year marks a special moment in Cape Breton University's history—our 50th anniversary. As we celebrate five decades of learning, growth and community, your graduation is a reminder of how far we've come and how bright our future continues to be. You are now part of a legacy that spans generations, a family of more than 40,000 alumni spread across more than 80 countries. Wherever life takes you next, you will always have the support of this incredible global network.

Throughout your time at CBU, you've faced challenges with resilience, embraced new opportunities for learning and contributed to the community that makes this university so unique. Your hard work has earned you a degree, certificate or diploma but also helped shape the next chapter of CBU's story.

As we commemorate this 50th year, we look ahead with excitement for the future, and we know that your journey—whatever path you take—will be a big part of that future. We encourage you to stay connected with your CBU family, whether through our Alumni network, events or simply by sharing your successes. You are not only CBU alumni—you are ambassadors of our shared history and future.

Today marks the beginning of your next chapter. Congratulations once again, Class of 2024! Welcome to the CBU Alumni family. We are so proud of you and look forward to watching your legacy unfold.

Warm regards,

Sarah Hines  
President, CBU Alumni Association

## 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 2024

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)**



Catherine Arseneau  
**Dean, Library and Cultural Resources**



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

# Congratulations

to the Fall Graduating Class of 2024



Dr. Ellyn Lyle  
Dean, School of Education and Health



Dr. John Nadeau  
Dean, Shannon School of Business



Dr. Kimberley Lamarche  
Dean, School of Nursing



Dr. Andrew Parnaby  
Dean, School of Arts and Social Sciences



Dr. Stephanie MacQuarrie  
Dean, School of Science and Technology

## Honorary Degree Recipient

# Barbara E. Stetter

Cape Breton University is delighted to honour and recognize a woman whose dedication to the Nova Scotia educational system as an exceptional band director and whose expertise has impacted thousands of students throughout her career, Ms. Barbara E. Stetter.

Ms. Stetter, originally from New Jersey, came to Glace Bay in 1973 to start a band program shortly after she graduated from university with a music major. She planned to stay in Cape Breton for five years to establish a music program in the town of Glace Bay school system. After a short time, Ms. Stetter became totally immersed in the creative arts community and stayed in Cape Breton for the rest of her career.

Now, in 2024, Barb, as she is affectionately known, continues to inspire, mentor and train Cape Breton musicians and performing artists, young and old.

From the early 1970's, Barb built a music program in the Glace Bay school system that was the envy of her peers across Nova Scotia and the country. Her dedication to students and her desire for them to be the best they could be sometimes appeared strict and demanding. However, as students progressed through her program, they soon realized she was setting a standard to benefit them throughout life.

Her most esteemed accomplishments involve many of the Glace Bay High School Band's acclaimed performances, including the 1987 Jeux Canada Winter Games opening ceremonies. Her students also performed for the Prime Minister and Queen Elizabeth II.

Other accolades include an article published in the National Winds Magazine in 2009, acting as the manager of the National Youth Band of Canada, president of the Nova Scotia Band Association and a guest performer with the Sackville Community Band.

Performing in Carnegie Hall in 1997 will always be the proudest moment of her school career. At the time, the Glace Bay High School Band was the only Canadian band to perform in the New York City venue.

For many seasons, she served as musical director for the Festival on the Bay and musical director for Cape Breton University musicals. She is still active as an oboist and clinician. In recent years, Barb has also been musical director for shows at the Savoy Theatre and Highland Arts Theatre.

Today, Cape Breton University confers the degree Doctor of Letters *honoris causa* on a woman whose perseverance has built a music legacy that has impacted the lives of thousands of students, musicians and artists. Her ability to instill the values of hard work and the love of music has contributed to Cape Breton's creative arts community and will impact generations to come, Ms. Barbara Stetter.



# 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 Valedictorian and Mace Bearer

## Valedictorian

### Benjamin Baron Smith

Benjamin Smith is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts Community Studies degree. Benjamin grew up on the Caribbean Island of Curaçao but lived in Nova Scotia until he was seven. Has extended family in Cape Breton. This offered Benjamin the unique experience of being both an international student and someone with deep local roots.

Throughout his time at Cape Breton University, Benjamin's contributions to the campus community reflected the values of collaboration, leadership, academics and the Caper spirit known across the globe. In addition to being on the Dean's List with Distinction and having extensive involvement on campus, Benjamin helped organize 'Play It Forward' - a fundraiser to support Indigenous youth in music. A special highlight for Benjamin during CBU's 50th Anniversary was being the Mace Bearer at the 2024 Special Convocation honouring the Cape Breton Fiddlers Association.

Benjamin's CBU journey does not end here. As a dual -degree student, he will be back in 2025 to complete his second degree, a Bachelor of Business Administration, while also completing a music certificate. He plans to stay in Cape Breton after graduation and believes CBU is not just a place of learning, but a home for people from all around the world, coming together to support one another.



## **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)

# 2024 Fall Graduates



Scan to see full list.