

Institute of Technology Convocation  
June 9, 2026  
10:00 am

# Land Acknowledgement

NSCC is located in Mi'kma'ki, the unceded territory and traditional homeland of the Mi'kmaq Nation. Our relationship is based on a series of peace and friendship treaties between the Mi'kmaq Nation and the Crown, dating back to 1725.

As Treaty beneficiaries, we recognize that we are all Treaty People.

# African Nova Scotian recognition

NSCC recognizes the African Nova Scotians as a distinct group who arrived here 400 years ago. From that time on, they have contributed to the infrastructure and economic wealth of the towns and cities they helped to build.

Let us learn more about how respective communities were shaped by the historical contributions of African Nova Scotians to Mi'kma'ki.

# Order of proceedings

## **Processional**

### **Mi'kmaq Honour Song**

Elder, Gary Joseph

### **Lift Every Voice and Sing**

LaToya Saunders

### **O Canada**

Jolene Pattison

### **Principal's welcome**

Jason Sharpe

### **President's remarks**

Anna Burke

## **Presentation of credentials**

## **Presentation of major awards**

### **Valedictory address**

Paul Mahar

## **Recessional**

Please rise as you are able when the academic procession enters and remain standing until the conclusion of *O Canada*.

Please remain at your seats until the platform party and graduates have exited.

Music during the presentation of credentials is arranged and produced by NSCC Music Arts faculty Tom Easley and Bill Stevenson.

Please join us after the ceremony for a reception in honour of our graduates, presented by NSCC Alumni Relations.

## **About the Mi'kmaq Honour Song**

The *Mi'kmaq Honour Song* performed at NSCC Convocation ceremonies is an act of Reconciliation, community, cultural revitalization and inclusivity. The song shared by singers is an invitation for the audience to participate in a powerful ceremony, which is a unifying symbol of the connection to land and enduring spirit of Mi'kmaq people.

Composed by Elder George Paul of Metepenagiag, the *Mi'kmaq Honour Song* calls on L'nu people to honour who they are. Performed through song, chanting and hand drumming during ceremonies and gatherings, it calls on ancestors for spiritual guidance and holds a strong message to help and respect one another. It encourages community and connection in Mi'kmaq culture and traditions - so they are preserved, shared and celebrated for generations to come.

View lyrics to the Mi'kmaq Honour Song at [nsc.ca/ceremony](https://nsc.ca/ceremony)

## **About Lift Every Voice and Sing**

Often referred to as the Black National Anthem, *Lift Every Voice and Sing* is a powerful hymn of hope, resilience and liberation. By incorporating *Lift Every Voice and Sing* into our Convocation ceremonies, we affirm our commitment to the Scarborough Charter's guiding principle of Black Flourishing and the Black Community Council's (BCC) mandate of ensuring an inclusive, anti-racist and equitable learning environment - acknowledging the past and the harms done to African Nova Scotians are honoured and never forgotten.

Originally written as a poem by James Weldon Johnson in 1900 and later set to music by his brother John Rosamond Johnson, the anthem has become a cornerstone of Black cultural identity and collective memory across North America.

At NSCC, including *Lift Every Voice and Sing* during Convocation holds deep cultural and historical significance. It reflects our presence on Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. It honours the legacy of the historic African Nova Scotian communities whose contributions continue to shape the fabric of this province.

Sung across generations, the anthem speaks to the enduring strength, dignity and perseverance of African descendants in the face of enslavement, racism and systemic injustice.

View lyrics to *Lift Every Voice and Sing* at [nsc.ca/ceremony](https://nsc.ca/ceremony)



## Anna Burke

### Message from the Acting NSCC President

Graduates,

Today, we come together to recognize and celebrate your perseverance, your dedication to your studies, and the commitments you've maintained throughout your journey. Every challenge you faced and connection you made along the way has shaped this significant milestone - and so much more.

Your journey as an NSCC student began the moment you chose to make a change in your life: to learn more, to grow, and to pursue something new. That powerful decision led you here - to become a student who worked hard, stayed focused, and kept showing up. It wasn't always easy, but you've proven that you can do it.

While today marks the culmination of your efforts and achievements, it also marks the beginning of a new and exciting chapter - as NSCC graduates. I encourage you to trust the same determination that carried you through your studies, and to take your new skills, knowledge, and experiences forward with confidence. Whatever positive steps you take next, know that we are so proud of you.

On behalf of all of us at NSCC, **congratulations class of 2026!**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anna Burke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Anna Burke**

# Class of 2026

*This program is printed in advance of Convocation ceremonies. As a result, the names of graduates recorded in the program are those who were approved to graduate at the time of printing. It is possible a graduate's name may not be recorded if a late approval (after the print deadline) has been made.*

## School of Access, Business, Creative Industries and Education

### Certificate in Medical Office Administration

Akter, Monira	Dhaka, Bangladesh
Baker, Maya	Damascus, Syria
Boutilier, Jessica ( <i>Honours</i> )	Middle Sackville, NS
Chen, Jiaqi	Changzhou, China
Coolen, Melina ( <i>Honours</i> )	
Cormier, Rayshelle	Halifax, NS
Covin-Horne, Hailey	Dartmouth, NS
Griffin, Shelby	Cole Harbour, NS
Jackson, Ja'Tez ( <i>Honours</i> )	Upper Hammonds Plains, NS
Khanam, Faria	Halifax, NS
Lamu, Obsa	Halifax, NS
MacNeil, Emily	Halifax, NS
McDowell, Reanne ( <i>Honours</i> )	Cole Harbour, NS
Portillo Lopez, Cesia	Halifax, NS
Rafuse, Taylar	Halifax, NS
Robar, Hilary	Halifax, NS
Saini, Shashwat	Halifax, NS
Saloni, Saloni ( <i>Honours</i> )	Dartmouth, NS
Serbu, Maya	Halifax, NS
Slivocka, Natasha	Truro, NS
Summerfield, Christopher	Essex, ON
Tufts, Elizabeth ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Vu, Thi Thuy Nga ( <i>Honours</i> )	Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

## School of Health and Human Services

### Certificate in Dental Assisting - Level II

Beck, Emma ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Bilodeau, Jessica	Halifax, NS
Boucher, Abby ( <i>Honours</i> )	Dartmouth, NS
Boutilier, Hannah	Brookfield, NS
Brioso, Rhyen	San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan Philippines

Dixon, Maya	Halifax, NS
Evans, Harley	Musquodoboit, NS
Fader, Maya ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Hunt, Helen	Sussex Corner, NB
Kaur, Gurleen	Shubenacadie, NS
Kelland, Riley	Halifax, NS
Lee, Shyanne ( <i>Honours</i> )	Stephenville, NL
Mcmullin, Emma ( <i>Honours</i> )	Elmsdale, NS
Payman, Pakiza	Halifax, NS
Ronbeck-Macneil, Christina ( <i>Honours</i> )	Eastern Passage, NS
Scarff, Rebecca ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Schwartz, Alyssa ( <i>Honours</i> )	Bridgewater, NS
Shrabi, Israa ( <i>Honours</i> )	Hama, Syria
Thorne, Sarah ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Upton, Lena	Halifax, NS
Watson, Emma-Leigh ( <i>Honours</i> )	Temiskaming Shores, ON
Weagle, Myles	Halifax, NS
White, Lucy	Hilden, NS
Wilson, Alison ( <i>Honours</i> )	New Glasgow, NS
Wotton, Layla ( <i>Honours</i> )	Sackville, NS

### **Diploma in Health and Information Management**

Aloysius, Odinaka	Rivers State, Nigeria
Botterill, Andrew	Halifax, NS
Cullen, Holly	Halifax, NS
Falayi, Promise	Osun state, Nigeria
Jean, Abigail ( <i>Honours</i> )	Porters Lake, NS
MacDermid, Mallory ( <i>Honours</i> )	Westville, NS
Peltola, Kenda	Enfield, NS
Rushton, Julia ( <i>Honours</i> )	Belnan, NS
Savell, Hannah ( <i>Honours</i> )	Dartmouth, NS
Sidney, Lauren ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Wang, Ling ( <i>Honours</i> )	China

## **School of Applied Technology and Innovation**

### **Diploma in Cyber Security**

Al-Jokhadar, Mohammed	Halifax, NS
Doody, Daniel	Shad Bay, NS
Fischer, Quinn	Dartmouth, NS
Gupta, Vidushi	India
Hendren, Alex	Cole Harbour, NS
Hoshmand, Mansoor ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS

Hoyles, Lucas (*Honours*)  
Mackenzie, Kyle  
Mclsaac, Tristen  
Milligan, Ben  
Miniou, Adam  
Nolter, Liam  
Yakovenko, Anton

Gander, NL  
Eastern Passage, NS  
Dartmouth, NS  
Coldbrook, NS  
Dartmouth, NS  
Enfield, NS  
Chernivtsi, Ukraine

## **Diploma in IT Programming**

Adam, Omodasilemenma  
Akunyili, Chukwuemeka (*Honours*)  
Barr, Alexander (*Honours*)  
Barron, Mitchell  
Beaver, Andrew (*Honours*)  
Brousseau, Luc  
Byrnes, Valentine (*Honours*)  
Cheney, Jenille (*Honours*)  
Critch, Tyler (*Honours*)  
Hartline, Max (*Honours*)  
Howell, Anthony  
Mahar, Paul (*Honours*)  
Mooney, Nathan  
Norwood, Bryn  
Petrash, Joseph  
Robinson, Timothy  
Rudolf, Zachary (*Honours*)  
Santos Holanda, Linda Emily  
Scott, Jane (*Honours*)  
Sehatzadeh, Daryoush  
Shaw, Daniel (*Honours*)  
Smith, Chauntel  
Somers, Braylon  
Stedile Portella, Luis Gabriel (*Honours*)  
Taotao, Righteous  
Watton, Jamie  
Wisman, El (*Honours*)  
Zhou, Yuanyuan

Abuja, Nigeria  
Dartmouth, NS  
Dartmouth, NS  
Halifax, NS  
Halifax, NS  
Bedford, NS  
Halifax, NS  
Dartmouth, NS  
Halifax, NS  
Halifax, NS  
Halifax, NS  
Halifax, NS  
Sydney, NS  
Hammonds Plains, NS  
Dartmouth, NS  
Halifax, NS  
Hubley, NS  
Upper LaHave, NS  
Halifax, NS  
Halifax, NS  
Cole Harbour,, NS  
Lake Echo, NS  
Shad Bay, NS  
Lower Sackville, NS  
Curitiba, Brazil  
Dartmouth, NS  
Halifax, NS  
Bedford, NS  
Ningbo, China

## **Diploma in IT Data Analytics**

Boudreau, Rose  
Bray, Dylan  
Day, Nathan  
Dickens, Michael (*Honours*)

Yarmouth, NS  
Halifax, NS  
Halifax, NS  
Dartmouth, NS

Gajjar, Jigar ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Gesner, Matthew	Fredericton, NB
Lingley, Maggie ( <i>Honours</i> )	Liverpool, NS
Mbachu, Emmanuel	IMO State, Nigeria
McLeod, Liam	Hammonds Plains, NS
Millar, Graham	Digby, NS
Monteith, Justin	Bedford, NS

## **Diploma in IT Database Administration**

Akindele, Nathanael	Halifax, NS
Bagnell, Isaac ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Burgess, Erin ( <i>Honours</i> )	Falmouth, NS
Hossain, Mohammad Shakhawat	Dhaka, Bangladesh
Jameson, Promise ( <i>Honours</i> )	Lagos, Nigeria
Laprise, Michael	Halifax, NS
Lefort, Ethan	Dartmouth, NS
Mackay, Marrick	Conrod Settlement, NS
Murray, David	Dartmouth, NS
Ogungbola, Joel ( <i>Honours</i> )	Lagos, Nigeria
Ritik, Ritik	Dartmouth, NS
Sebastian, Aparna	Halifax, NS

## **Diploma in IT Systems Management and Security**

Babin Stiene, Hannah	Yarmouth, NS
Burke, Emily	Halifax, NS
Burke, Philip ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Carroll, Aaron	Halifax, NS
Chiasson, Soa	Halifax, NS
Connolly, Connor	Halifax, NS
Corbin, Ryan	Edmonton, AB
Doran, Carlin ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Gordon, Jack	Cole Harbour, NS
Hu, Miao	Halifax, NS
Ledrew, Garrett ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Liu, Xin	Halifax, NS
MacKay, Terran ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
McLaughlin, Samuel	Halifax, NS
Morningstar, Neptune	Dartmouth, NS
O'Connell, Brian	Dartmouth, NS
O'Malley, Kai	Halifax, NS
Starcevic, Sven	Varaždin, Croatia

Wyatt, Doug (*Honours*)  
Zhu, Weifeng

St John's, NL  
Bedford, NS

### **Diploma in IT Web Programming**

Asiegbu, Emmanuel

Nnewi, Nigeria

Boutilier, Zachary

Lakeview, NS

KC, Mahit (*Honours*)

Kharbang, Baglung, Nepal

Lake, Ethan

Halifax, NS

Langdon, Rhys (*Honours*)

Uxbridge, ON

Langille, Allura

Halifax, NS

MacDonald, Nicholas

Halifax, NS

Mohammed, Abdelmohaiman (*Honours*)

Sirte, Libya

Sharkey-Chouinard, Xander (*Honours*)

Dartmouth, NS

Soni, Kushal (*Honours*)

Vyara, India

Sood, Rahul (*Honours*)

Delhi, India

Travis, Laura

Enfield, NS

### **Graduate Certificate in Business Intelligence and Analytics**

Ambrose, Sven

Nassau, Bahamas

Ayide, Juliana

Lagos, Nigeria

Garnier, Morgan (*Honours*)

Eastern Passage, NS

Murray, Edward

Amherst, NS

Mwangi, Ann (*Honours*)

Nairobi, Kenya

Njoku, Chisom

Owerri, Nigeria

Odaro, Tracy

Halifax, NS

Okafor, Michael

Halifax, NS

Okoro, Chukwuma

Imo, Nigeria

Opara, Chibuzor (*Honours*)

Lagos, Nigeria

Pham, Thi Kim Thanh (*Honours*)

Halifax, NS

Tiwari, Yashaswi (*Honours*)

Nainital, India

Zafar, Syeda Samiha (*Honours*)

Bangladesh

### **Graduate Certificate in Full Stack Application Development**

Abhulimen, Priscilla (*Honours*)

Lagos, Nigeria

Brun, Thomas (*Honours*)

Quatre Bornes, Mauritius

Chudnovsky, Michael (*Honours*)

Halifax, NS

Cole, Benjamin (*Honours*)

Dartmouth, NS

Hansen, Christian

Risum-Lindholm, Germany

Kakkar, Sonia (*Honours*)

Dartmouth, NS

Kumar, Tanuj

Haryana, India

Matyeni, Sonwabise (*Honours*)

Johannesburg, South Africa

Montoya Rodriguez, Victor Hugo (*Honours*)

Ciudad de Mexico, Mexico

Poulin, Sarah (*Honours*)

Lake Echo, NS

Savkar, Vrushali (*Honours*)

Halifax, NS

Tang, Yanye ( <i>Honours</i> )	Beijing, China
Ugwu, Ebuka ( <i>Honours</i> )	Enugu, Nigeria
Wang, Zexi ( <i>Honours</i> )	Wuhan, China
Wynter, Daryan	St. James, Jamaica

### **Graduate Certificate in Programming for Artificial Intelligence**

Ani, Victor	Ebonyi, Nigeria
Chafe, Benjamin ( <i>Honours</i> )	Bridgewater, NS
Eruokwu, Emeka ( <i>Honours</i> )	Saint John, NB
Hall, Mitchell ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Lalonde, Mike ( <i>Honours</i> )	Sarnia, ON
Nwokoro, Uzo ( <i>Honours</i> )	Lagos, Nigeria
Pacquiao, Ellen Mae ( <i>Honours</i> )	Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, Philippines
Poirier, Jacob	Halifax, NS
Scoville, Rose ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Sharma, Sanjeev ( <i>Honours</i> )	Delhi, India

# Convocation 2026 Honorary Diplomas

NSCC is pleased to award Honorary Diplomas to these outstanding individuals who demonstrate true leadership in their field and community.



## David Frederick Arenburg

### **Burridge Campus**

David Frederick Arenburg is a successful business owner, dedicated supporter and passionate advocate of NSCC. Having served on the NSCC Foundation Board of Directors for more than 10 years, he has left a lasting impact on the College and the many students he has supported – whether as an advocate, employer or mentor.

David was a key supporter of the NSCC Foundation Make Way campaign in 2018-19 and is a frequent guest speaker at NSCC's Burridge Campus – sharing insights on business models, including franchising.

For over 30 years, David and his wife, Elizabeth, owned and operated franchises in Southwest Nova Scotia, including five Tim Hortons locations and one Wendy's.

His commitment to his community and province extends beyond his businesses, with service on numerous boards, including the Yarmouth Hospital Foundation, the Nova Scotia Western Regional Enterprise Network and Nova Scotia Business Inc. David was named the Yarmouth

Chamber of Commerce Businessperson of the Year (2007) and received the Waste Check Environmental Service Award (2012).

His current passion is supporting the community's efforts to raise \$10 million for the \$42-million expansion of the Mariners Recreation Complex in Yarmouth.

David and Elizabeth enjoy spending time with their two daughters and their families. As an experienced sailor, he values time on the water with friends and family.

David's commitment to supporting others and strengthening his community has left a lasting impact that will continue to be felt for years to come.



## Ann Brown

### **Institute of Technology Campus**

Ann Brown has worked with Nova Scotia Power for almost 17 years. Most recently, she has been the company's Contract Management Analyst – a role she designed based on the needs of the company.

After attending Women Unlimited – a trades and technology career exploration and preparation program at NSCC – Ann went on to complete a Marine and Industrial Rigging program at the College which launched the trajectory of her career. She completed her apprenticeship as an industrial electrician at Nova Scotia Power and then worked in the plants and substations for more than a decade.

In addition to her work at Nova Scotia Power, Ann is a prominent member of its diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) community. She has served in the role of co-chair for the Black Employee Resource Group for three years and was a founding member of, and continues to serve on, their first Employee Resource Group to support women in trades (WEARE+).

Ann has spearheaded numerous events across the company to educate on and celebrate the Black experience, particularly as it relates to Nova Scotia's historic Black communities. Ann is someone who "leads from behind" and despite not being one for the spotlight, she is also regularly called upon as a speaker, panelist and participant in internal events,

community events and engagements with community investment partners.

Ann has shown an outstanding commitment to supporting and advocating for women in trades. Her tireless efforts have helped break barriers, create opportunities and foster an inclusive environment for women pursuing careers in traditionally underrepresented fields.

Ann serves as a role model and mentor in many areas. After receiving support from Women Unlimited at the outset of her career search, she now gives back by mentoring those beginning their professional journey. She advocates for systemic and policy change and is heavily involved in community engagement.

Ann has not only empowered individuals, but her efforts have strengthened the trades sector by promoting the importance of diversity and inclusion efforts. She thrives on inspiring others and continuously works to “pass along the positivity” every day.

Ann and her husband have eight wonderful children - four daughters and four sons - and seven wonderful grandchildren.



## Jude Clyde

### **Truro Campus**

Jude Clyde has dedicated his life to serving others as a coach, mentor, community leader and advocate for equity and social action. His purpose and personal experiences have fueled his passion for helping individuals navigate their own unique journeys toward personal growth, healing and fulfillment.

Jude is a proud African Nova Scotian from a small Black community in Truro known as “The Island,” where he has lived for most of his life. His community has shaped his values, perspective and commitment to service. As a husband, father and grandfather, family remains at the centre of everything he does.

Before beginning his work with the Black Educators Association at NSCC’s Truro Campus, Jude worked with the Department of Community Services and was actively involved in community development initiatives throughout northern Nova Scotia. During this time, he helped create and support programs focused on youth development, education and cultural identity, including Afrocentric Saturday school programming, tutoring initiatives, summer camps and adult literacy programs.

For more than 25 years, Jude built a distinguished career within the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC), working with individuals and communities across both urban and rural regions. He began at Springhill Institution in Nova Scotia, later moving to the Dartmouth Parole Office as

a community parole officer before relocating to the Truro Area Parole Office in 2010.

Jude worked collaboratively with the Crown in Truro and community partners to help develop the Colchester African Nova Scotian Justice Strategy – a community-based initiative aimed at addressing gaps between African Nova Scotian communities and the justice system. The strategy included the development of a justice navigator role and other culturally responsive supports for individuals in conflict with the law. From 2022 to 2025, he served on the Board of Directors of the African Nova Scotian Justice Institute.

Jude later assumed the role of Senior Project Officer within the Anti-Racism, Diversity and Inclusion Directorate at CSC National Headquarters, where he has continued advancing initiatives focused on equity, inclusion and culturally responsive approaches within corrections.

His community leadership has extended beyond his professional career. He helped establish Community Strong – an organization focused on community support, service initiatives, youth engagement and community events. He also founded the Black Men’s Wellness Group at NSCC’s Truro Campus, creating a safe and supportive space for Black men to engage in conversations related to health, identity and mental wellness. Jude is also involved in organizing the Black Men’s Conference in Halifax and the Black Men’s Summit in Tatamagouche.

Jude currently serves as Secretary of Futureworx and President of the Truro Black Cultural Development Association.

Through his wellness coaching, facilitation and community engagement work, Jude continues to support individuals and communities in realizing their potential and creating meaningful change.

His dedication to community service and social justice has been recognized through numerous awards. These include the CSC Emerson Douyon Multiculturalism Award, the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission’s Dr. Burnley Allan “Rocky” Jones Award, the Truro Sports Heritage Society Sport and Recreation Award and being named 2016 Colchester County Volunteer of the Year.



# Doug Doucet

## Akerley Campus

Doug Doucet is a hands-on, strategically focused executive known for building high-performing teams, strengthening client relationships and delivering complex projects. He is President and CEO of Doucet Developments in Bedford, Nova Scotia, a front-facing entity for the Doucet Developments group of companies.

Doug's leadership spans three decades and many operating companies, including rcs construction, Mill-Right Woodworking, Tier Too Properties and PMco. He is also an active business partner in local hospitality ventures, including restaurant operations, a golf course and holds additional property interests such as hotels and multi-residential assets.

At Doucet Developments, Doug emphasizes operational discipline, scalable production capacity, and a culture built on reputation and long-term relationships. He supports execution and alignment using an Entrepreneurial Operating System, reinforcing clear priorities, accountability and measurable performance across teams. Doug champions a values-driven approach rooted in accountability, communication and teamwork, and continues to grow the organization while maintaining a family-minded, relationship-driven environment.

Doug's leadership priorities are guided by four pillars: workplace diversification, culture engagement, mental wellness and digital optimization – reflecting his belief that strong teams, modern systems

and a healthy workplace culture drive consistent outcomes for clients and long-term success.

Community leadership is a meaningful part of Doug's life and work. In recent years, he has served in a range of board, trustee, advisory and chair roles. These include serving as a Trustee with the Frank H. Sobey Awards for Excellence in Business Studies, Advisory Board Member with Kwik Chef Inc., Chair of the Canadian Cancer Society: Think Like Cancer Committee and Board Member/Investor with Halifax Hurricanes Basketball. His past governance roles also include governance representation with Mount Saint Vincent University, the IWK Health Centre, the IWK Foundation and the Construction Association of Nova Scotia. He is particularly proud to have been part of the Great Big Dig for the IWK, helping raise over \$1 million for the IWK during his time as Chair and Innovator.



## Jax Irwin

### Ivany Campus

Jax Irwin is an award-winning creator, podcast host and radio and television personality from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. She is best known for her viral short-form content across digital platforms, including her East Coast Call series.

A graduate of NSCC's Radio Television Arts program (now Radio Television Journalism) in 2010, Jax began her career in broadcast media after discovering the College through an information session. She worked in media across British Columbia, Ontario and Nova Scotia, building her career from Halifax radio to eventually co-hosting the morning show on Virgin Radio Toronto.

After stepping away from traditional broadcast in 2023, Jax began building her own digital media and production company in Toronto, creating story-driven content and social campaigns for brands including General Motors, Paramount+, BMO and Tim Hortons. In 2025, she also launched the podcast "The Adam Wylde & Jax Show" alongside her longtime friend and former co-host, Adam Wylde, continuing to grow her audience across audio, video and social platforms.

Jax enjoys creating content that makes people smile and built a large audience through her "Random East Coast Calls" series, centred around spontaneous conversations with strangers across Atlantic Canada. Living away from Nova Scotia, she found the series gave her a meaningful connection to the region and helped her stay connected to

her roots while away from home. The series has resonated widely for its warmth, humour and celebration of East Coast culture and community.

Jax credits NSCC as an invaluable part of both her personal and professional journey. She often speaks about the confidence, belonging and creative direction she found at the College, and remains a proud supporter of the opportunities it creates for future storytellers and creatives.



# Debbie Johnson-Powell

## Ivany Campus

Debbie Johnson-Powell has served as a community interpreter in Nova Scotia for more than four decades. A Child of Deaf Adults (CODA), Debbie's life and career have been shaped by an unwavering commitment to accessibility, equity and social inclusion.

Debbie began interpreting for her parents and her brother, who is also Deaf, at a very young age. Over time, she became widely known across Nova Scotia as the person Deaf community members turned to for support in whatever situations arose. What began simply as an act of care and responsibility eventually evolved into a deeply respected interpreting career.

In addition to mentoring countless American Sign Language/English Interpreting Program (AEIP) students across generations, Debbie has provided interpreting services for the College on numerous occasions. In doing so, she has helped ensure access for Deaf employees, students and community members – reinforcing the College's commitment to accessibility.

Through her decades of sustained engagement with AEIP students, faculty, Deaf community members and provincial partners, Debbie's interpreting work and mentorship have fostered important relationships

beyond the classroom, strengthening social infrastructure and equitable participation across Nova Scotia.

Debbie's leadership in the field was publicly recognized during the COVID-19 pandemic. She interpreted every provincial update, alongside the Premier and Chief Medical Examiner, to support the timely and equitable access to critical public health information for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Nova Scotians. This tireless work, alongside team member Richard Martell, received the gratitude of the Nova Scotia Government.

Debbie's work was also honoured through an award from the Halifax Association for the Deaf (1994) and by the Canadian Association of Sign Language Interpreters with the Phyllis Joynt Mentorship Award (2016).

Her work embodies the very heart of interpreting as a profession rooted in relationship, responsibility and service to Deaf communities in Nova Scotia.

Debbie and her husband, Ron, have one son.



## Stuart MacLeod

### **Sydney Waterfront Campus**

Stuart MacLeod is the founder of MacLeod Lorway Insurance, headquartered in Sydney with offices across Nova Scotia.

In 1965, after gaining early career experience in Calgary, Montreal and New Glasgow, Stuart returned to Sydney to join his father's insurance business. He later assumed full ownership of Stuart MacLeod Limited and began expanding the family enterprise. Through the merger with C.R. Lorway and Son, MacLeod Lorway Insurance was formed and grew into one of the province's leading brokerages.

Beyond his business achievements, Stuart has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to community leadership. He has served as President of the Insurance Brokers Association of Nova Scotia and has been actively involved with many local organizations. Stuart is a strong supporter of Cape Breton University, Cape Breton Regional Hospital Foundation and Nova Scotia Community College - Sydney Waterfront Campus. He has also played a significant role in local hockey, serving as President of the Glace Bay-Sydney Metro Bees and the Sydney Millionaires, and as a founding member and long-time Chair of the Cape Breton Eagles.

His contributions have been widely recognized, including being inducted into the Cape Breton Business Hall of Fame (2006) and the Cape Breton Philanthropy Hall of Fame (2022), as well as being awarded an honorary degree from Cape Breton University. This year, the Cape Breton Regional Municipality recognized his 60 years in business and lasting

impact on the community by declaring January 7, 2026 as Stuart MacLeod Day.

A resident of Northside East Bay, Stuart exemplifies dedication, leadership and community service. He and his wife, Nonie, recently celebrated 60 years of marriage and are proud parents of four children, ten grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.



# Joseph Patrick Shannon

## **Strait Area Campus**

Joseph Patrick Shannon, who grew up in Sydney and now calls Port Hawkesbury home, began his career as a truck driver. He is now president of Atlantic Corporation Limited (holding company for his group of companies that include Shannex, Seaboard Transport Group and Metro Self Storage). His corporate interests also extend to the IT, real estate and construction sectors.

Joseph's acumen and energy grew the corporation from a small-town business to a giant in North America. His efforts have been instrumental in modernizing Cape Breton's economy through the restructuring of several major Crown corporations, as well as his commitment to mentoring young business leaders.

Joseph has extended his success in business to generous support for organizations including the Cape Breton Regional Hospital Foundation, the QEII Health Science Centre, the Gaelic College and the Port Hawkesbury Community Centre, among many others. His extensive support of Cape Breton University includes helping to develop its Purdy Crawford Chair in Aboriginal Business Studies and Aboriginal Youth Mentorship Program at the Shannon School of Business. Most recently, major donations were made to a group of Atlantic universities to advance research in health care, AI and workforce development.

Joseph has been a valued and trusted partner of NSCC for over 25 years, especially through Shannex and its various service lines, including long term care and transitional health services. During this time, he has

built a legacy of philanthropy and a deep commitment to education and the evolving needs of the healthcare sector. Through initiatives such as Sponsor-a-Student and bursaries for Practical Nursing students, the Shannon family and Shannex continue to demonstrate their belief in the College's work by reducing financial barriers and empowering students to pursue meaningful careers in healthcare.

Most recently, Shannex provided a transformative gift that will have a lasting impact on students, the College, and Unama'ki-Cape Breton's healthcare workforce. The new Shannex Continuing Care and Nursing Labs provide students with a modernized learning environment equipped with the latest technology. Joseph was connected to this project from the very beginning – including dropping into an evening class to greet Continuing Care and Practical Nursing students with his two sons. The College is deeply grateful for his leadership and vision which have strengthened support for health-related programs at NSCC campuses across the province.

His extensive achievements have been recognized nationally – as a laureate of the Canadian Business Hall of Fame and as a member of the

Order of Canada; and provincially – as a laureate in the Nova Scotia Business Hall of Fame and as a member of the Order of Nova Scotia.

Locally, Joseph was the first person to be inducted into the Cape Breton Philanthropy Hall of Fame.

The tireless efforts, generosity and entrepreneurial contributions of Joseph Patrick Shannon have enriched the lives of community members and organizations throughout the province and beyond.

## Convocation 2026 Valedictorian

NSCC is proud to introduce the outstanding student(s), chosen by their campuses to represent the achievements and experiences of the Class of 2026.



## Paul Mahar

### Institute of Technology Campus

#### IT Programming

Paul arrived as a student at NSCC with a rich and varied work history. He had owned a convenience store, photographed weddings, and worked in construction, sales and tech installations. Those experiences shaped his adaptability and curiosity, ultimately leading him to pursue something he'd always been drawn to: programming.

Choosing IT Programming at NSCC felt like the right step. The College's hands-on, job-ready approach was exactly what he was looking for, and it paid off: he secured a full-time web developer position even before graduating. What kept him motivated throughout the program was a mix of curiosity and determination. He wanted to understand how things worked and he didn't want to walk away from something he had finally chosen for himself. He takes pride in how much he's grown during his time at NSCC – from the early days to the complex work he can do now.

What stood out most during his time at NSCC was the sense of acceptance and support. Classmates and instructors created an environment where everyone helped one another, making it easy to ask questions and even easier to feel like he belonged.

After graduation, Paul will continue his role as a web developer with Aptitude Digital. His message to the Class of 2026: "You deserve to be here. Even on the days you doubt it, remember that belonging isn't a feeling – it's a fact."

# Major awards

## **Governor General's Academic Medal**

Awarded to a graduating student of a College Diploma Program who has achieved the highest academic standing.

Xander Sharkey-Chouinard  
IT Web Programming

## **Nova Scotia Community College Gold Medal**

Awarded to a graduating student of a College Certificate Program who has achieved the highest academic standing.

Keisha Adams  
Academic and Career Connections

## **Board of Governors' Award**

Awarded to a graduating student of a College Diploma Program who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and contributed to campus and/or community activities.

Elodie Papp  
Occupational Health and Safety

## **President's Award**

Awarded to a graduating student of a College Certificate Program who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and contributed to campus and/or community activities.

Reanne McDowell  
Medical Office Administration

## **NSCC Alumni Award**

Awarded to a graduating student of a College Program (Diploma or Certificate) who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and whose service and leadership has made a difference in the lives of others.

Colton Snelgrove  
Adult Learning Program

## Photos

In the two weeks following the ceremony, you will receive a link to download your graduation photo for free. If you do not receive an email by July 1, please email [ITcampus.info@nsc.ca](mailto:ITcampus.info@nsc.ca) for your photo information.

Institute of Technology Convocation  
June 9, 2026  
2:00 pm

# Land Acknowledgement

NSCC is located in Mi'kma'ki, the unceded territory and traditional homeland of the Mi'kmaq Nation. Our relationship is based on a series of peace and friendship treaties between the Mi'kmaq Nation and the Crown, dating back to 1725.

As Treaty beneficiaries, we recognize that we are all Treaty People.

## African Nova Scotian recognition

NSCC recognizes the African Nova Scotians as a distinct group who arrived here 400 years ago. From that time on, they have contributed to the infrastructure and economic wealth of the towns and cities they helped to build.

Let us learn more about how respective communities were shaped by the historical contributions of African Nova Scotians to Mi'kma'ki.

# Order of proceedings

## **Processional**

### **Mi'kmaq Honour Song**

Elder, Gary Joseph

### **Lift Every Voice and Sing**

LaToya Saunders

### **O Canada**

Jolene Pattison

### **Principal's welcome**

Jason Sharpe

### **President's remarks**

Anna Burke

## **Presentation of credentials**

## **Presentation of major awards**

### **Valedictory address**

Milad Haydari

## **Recessional**

Please rise as you are able when the academic procession enters and remain standing until the conclusion of *O Canada*.

Please remain at your seats until the platform party and graduates have exited.

Music during the presentation of credentials is arranged and produced by NSCC Music Arts faculty Tom Easley and Bill Stevenson.

Please join us after the ceremony for a reception in honour of our graduates, presented by NSCC Alumni Relations.

## **About the *Mi'kmaq Honour Song***

The *Mi'kmaq Honour Song* performed at NSCC Convocation ceremonies is an act of Reconciliation, community, cultural revitalization and inclusivity. The song shared by singers is an invitation for the audience to participate in a powerful ceremony, which is a unifying symbol of the connection to land and enduring spirit of Mi'kmaq people.

Composed by Elder George Paul of Metepenagiag, the *Mi'kmaq Honour Song* calls on L'nu people to honour who they are. Performed through song, chanting and hand drumming during ceremonies and gatherings, it calls on ancestors for spiritual guidance and holds a strong message to help and respect one another. It encourages community and connection in Mi'kmaq culture and traditions - so they are preserved, shared and celebrated for generations to come.

View lyrics to the *Mi'kmaq Honour Song* at [nsc.ca/ceremony](https://nsc.ca/ceremony)

### **About *Lift Every Voice and Sing***

Often referred to as the Black National Anthem, *Lift Every Voice and Sing* is a powerful hymn of hope, resilience and liberation. By incorporating *Lift Every Voice and Sing* into our Convocation ceremonies, we affirm our commitment to the Scarborough Charter's guiding principle of Black Flourishing and the Black Community Council's (BCC) mandate of ensuring an inclusive, anti-racist and equitable learning environment - acknowledging the past and the harms done to African Nova Scotians are honoured and never forgotten.

Originally written as a poem by James Weldon Johnson in 1900 and later set to music by his brother John Rosamond Johnson, the anthem has become a cornerstone of Black cultural identity and collective memory across North America.

At NSCC, including *Lift Every Voice and Sing* during Convocation, holds deep cultural and historical significance. It reflects our presence on Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. It honours the legacy of the historic African Nova Scotian communities whose contributions continue to shape the fabric of this province.

Sung across generations, the anthem speaks to the enduring strength, dignity and perseverance of African descendants in the face of enslavement, racism and systemic injustice.

View lyrics to *Lift Every Voice and Sing* at [nsc.ca/ceremony](https://nsc.ca/ceremony)



**Anna Burke**

**Message from the Acting NSCC President**

Graduates,

Today, we come together to recognize and celebrate your perseverance, your dedication to your studies, and the commitments you've maintained throughout your journey. Every challenge you faced and connection you made along the way has shaped this significant milestone - and so much more.

Your journey as an NSCC student began the moment you chose to make a change in your life: to learn more, to grow, and to pursue something new. That powerful decision led you here - to become a student who worked hard, stayed focused, and kept showing up. It wasn't always easy, but you've proven that you can do it.

While today marks the culmination of your efforts and achievements, it also marks the beginning of a new and exciting chapter - as NSCC graduates. I encourage you to trust the same determination that carried you through your studies, and to take your new skills, knowledge, and experiences forward with confidence. Whatever positive steps you take next, know that we are so proud of you.

On behalf of all of us at NSCC, **congratulations class of 2026!**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anna Burke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Anna Burke**

# Class of 2026

*This program is printed in advance of Convocation ceremonies. As a result, the names of graduates recorded in the program are those who were approved to graduate at the time of printing. It is possible a graduate's name may not be recorded if a late approval (after the print deadline) has been made.*

## School of Access, Business, Creative Industries and Education

### Nova Scotia High School Graduation Diploma for Adults

Abdi, Bilan Mohamed ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Adam, Mahadi	Khartoum, Sudan
Alhallak, Taghreed ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Al Marrach, Hiba	Halifax, NS
Alhasan, Sabah ( <i>Honours</i> )	Aleppo, Syria
Ashura, Nyota ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Atakuzieva, Buroziyahon	Halifax, NS
Bitar, Mohammad ( <i>Honours</i> )	Aleppo, Syria
Collette, Jade ( <i>Honours</i> )	Sackville, NS
Fofana, Aicha ( <i>Honours</i> )	Kalocan, Liberia
Gannon, Aaliyah	Halifax, NS
Gutama, Gamachu ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Hall, Kai	Halifax, NS
Hall, Rebekah ( <i>Honours</i> )	Vancouver, BC
Hamadi Juma, Islau ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Haydari, Milad ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Hiles-Herring, Shawn	Halifax, NS
Hussen, Turkia	Halifax, NS
Ismael, Mohamed	Halifax, NS
Jones, Cassidy	Halifax, NS
Kambale, Mathew	Halifax, NS
Khater, Nazeer	Halifax, NS
Kiflesus, Furtuna ( <i>Honours</i> )	Asmara, Eritrea
Kiflesus, Helen	Asmara, Eritrea
Lopez Castillo, Maria	Halifax, NS
Loveless, Alexis ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
MacDonald, Justine	Williamswood, NS
Maduka, Chinaecherem ( <i>Honours</i> )	Lagos, Nigeria
Manuel, Lynn ( <i>Honours</i> )	Seabright, NS
Mcinnis, Kathleen ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS

Mendez, Karolay ( <i>Honours</i> )	Trujillo, Venezuela
Mirzadamahboob, Aqela ( <i>Honours</i> )	Taloqan, Afghanistan
Mohamed, Mustafa ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Mombourquette, Matthew ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Proctor, Linda ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Rad Mihr, Ezat ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Rashidi, Fawad ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Rose, Michelle	Halifax, NS
Saify, Mohammad Mahdi ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Salcedo, Kristy ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Sardooi, Behnaz ( <i>Honours</i> )	Bandar Abbas, Iran
Shain, Ismail ( <i>Honours</i> )	Khartoum, Sudan
Shin, Dongjae ( <i>Honours</i> )	Seoul, Republic of Korea
Sibomana, Juma ( <i>Honours</i> )	Bujumbura, Burundi
Snelgrove, Colton ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Spencer, Gregory ( <i>Honours</i> )	Lower Sackville, NS
Stanhope, Logan ( <i>Honours</i> )	Timberlea, NS
Tagawa, Perry ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Tekie, Tigsti ( <i>Honours</i> )	Senafe, Eritrea
Tkle, Abezash	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Yimesgen, Fireweini ( <i>Honours</i> )	Asmara, Eritrea

### **Certificate of Completion in Achieve**

Deviller, Mia	Halifax, NS
Elassy, Nour	Halifax, NS
Field, Nicholas	Halifax, NS
Gosney, Wallace Connor	Tantallon, NS
Halman, Jack	Halifax, NS
Harhash, Ahmad	Halifax, NS
Haroudah, Aya	Halifax, NS
Lamorre, Kaia	Halifax, NS
Martin, Joshua	Bedford, NS
Meade, Clayton	Halifax, NS
Schnare-Smith, Owen	Halifax, NS
Wilde-Mcdowell, Sage	Halifax, NS

### **Certificate of Completion in English for Academic Purposes**

Alshaban, Rasha	Halifax, NS
Alsmadi, Yasmeen	Halifax, NS
Chen, Jiahuan	Shanghai, China
Chen, Jie	Shanghai, China
Chourattana, Sudarat	Bangkok, Thailand
Dong, Bingnan	Luoyang, China
Fonseca Diaz, Andres	Bogotá, Colombia

Gonzalez Idarraga, Pablo	Lower Sackville, NS
He, Chang	Sichuan, China
Le, Thuy My Linh	Bedford, NS
Li, Wenhao	Halifax, NS
Li, Yue	Halifax, NS
Lee, Kit Wai	Hong Kong
Lyu, Yan	Shanghai, China
Niyonkuru, Djafari	Halifax, NS
Pham, Thi Quynh Nhu	Halifax, NS
Polat, Deniz	Istanbul, Türkiye
Salem, Hasnaa	Halifax, NS
Tiako, Marie Christiane	Halifax, NS
Truong, Hieu	Bedford, NS
Zhao, Chunyan	Halifax, NS

### **Certificate in Academic and Career Connections**

Dickey, Brayden	Greenfield, USA
Gelle, Jade ( <i>Honours</i> )	Manila, Philippines
Jalabi, Mohamad Emad ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Jordan, Lanazia	Halifax, NS
Kim, Hyunwoo ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
MacDougall, Alexander	Halifax, NS
Moger, Babita	Halifax, NS
Stott, Emily	Halifax, NS
Sullivan, Marshall ( <i>Honours</i> )	Lakeville, NS

### **School of Applied Technology and Innovation**

#### **Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety**

Addo, Henry ( <i>Honours</i> )	Greater Accra, Ghana
Banks, Peter-Gay ( <i>Honours</i> )	Kingston, Jamaica
Boylen, Jedidiah ( <i>Honours</i> )	Kentville, NS
Du, Tran Dieu Thu ( <i>Honours</i> )	Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Godian, Ifeanyi ( <i>Honours</i> )	Imo, Nigeria
Graham, D'Andra ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Kearney, Keenen	Oshawa, ON
Mcgrath, Brianna	Enfield, NS
O'Leary, Akayla	Antigonish, NS
Papp, Elodie ( <i>Honours</i> )	Edmonton, AB
Samah, Pius	Accra, Ghana
Wade, Emmalee	Halifax, NS
Welsh, Wallace ( <i>Honours</i> )	Stellarton, NS

### **Institute of Skilled Trades**

## **Certificate in Industrial Mechanical**

Anthony, Tyler	Bridgewater, NS
Fanning, John	Halifax, NS
Feltmate, Stuart	Pictou, NS
Floyd, Timothy	Hampton, NB
Gosnell, Tanner	Bathurst, NB
Layes, Samuel	Enfield, NS
Lewis, James	Halifax, NS
Lovasi, Mitchell ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Lucci-Vance, Lucas	Amherst, NS
Maclean, Garret	Enfield, NS
Montgomery, Landon ( <i>Honours</i> )	Fall River, NS
Myette, Porter	Truro, NS
Newhook, Chantelle	Lake Charlotte, NS
Nowe, Keisha	Enfield, NS
Spears, Lily ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Whynot, Ryan	Liverpool, NS
Williams, Naveah	Dartmouth, NS
Wilmot, Brett ( <i>Honours</i> )	Millbrook, NS

## **Certificate in Plumbing**

Arsenault, Jeffrey	Halifax, NS
Basange, Arafat ( <i>Honours</i> )	Bukoba, Tanzania
Cool, Corey	Halifax, NS
Copp, Jeremy ( <i>Honours</i> )	Calgary, AB
Daviau, Michele	Antigonish, NS
Eagles, Jayden	Halifax, NS
Eticha, Moti	Halifax, NS
Foujdar, Sachin ( <i>Honours</i> )	Hubbards, NS
Hider, Reese ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Jacobs, Hunter	Halifax, NS
Jurov, Andrii	Kiev, Ukraine
Lynch, Christopher	Prospect, NS
Marchand, Max ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS
Mattar, Georges	Kafaraaka, Lebanon
Mckenzie, Nicholas	Cole Harbour, NS
Rix, Evan	Dartmouth, NS
Singh, Atinder	Punjab, India
Steeves, Brent	Halifax, NS

## **Diploma in Pipe Trades**

Barton, Alexander	Hammonds Plains, NS
-------------------	---------------------

Casey, Jodecy	Halifax, NS
Chute, William	Timberlea, NS
Findlay, Jack	Halifax, NS
Greenough, Scott ( <i>Honours</i> )	Dartmouth, NS
Hart, Shawn	Cambridge, NS
Letterick, Jack	Halifax, NS
Michaud, Brayden	Lockeport, NS
O'Donnell, Matthew	Cole Harbour, NS
Puri, Tanush	Halifax, NS
Robar, Deven ( <i>Honours</i> )	Bridgetown, NS
Shrabi, Radwan	Halifax, NS
Smith, Astrid ( <i>Honours</i> )	Halifax, NS

## NSCC Employee Learning Programs

### **Certificate in Leadership Essentials**

Francheville, Andrea	Fall River, NS
Pivi, Ilaria ( <i>Honours</i> )	Eastern Passage, NS

# Convocation 2026 Honorary Diplomas

NSCC is pleased to award Honorary Diplomas to these outstanding individuals who demonstrate true leadership in their field and community.



## David Frederick Arenburg

### **Burridge Campus**

David Frederick Arenburg is a successful business owner, dedicated supporter and passionate advocate of NSCC. Having served on the NSCC Foundation Board of Directors for more than 10 years, he has left a lasting impact on the College and the many students he has supported – whether as an advocate, employer or mentor.

David was a key supporter of the NSCC Foundation Make Way campaign in 2018-19 and is a frequent guest speaker at NSCC's Burridge Campus – sharing insights on business models, including franchising.

For over 30 years, David and his wife, Elizabeth, owned and operated franchises in Southwest Nova Scotia, including five Tim Hortons locations and one Wendy's.

His commitment to his community and province extends beyond his businesses, with service on numerous boards, including the Yarmouth Hospital Foundation, the Nova Scotia Western Regional Enterprise Network and Nova Scotia Business Inc. David was named the Yarmouth

Chamber of Commerce Businessperson of the Year (2007) and received the Waste Check Environmental Service Award (2012).

His current passion is supporting the community's efforts to raise \$10 million for the \$42-million expansion of the Mariners Recreation Complex in Yarmouth.

David and Elizabeth enjoy spending time with their two daughters and their families. As an experienced sailor, he values time on the water with friends and family.

David's commitment to supporting others and strengthening his community has left a lasting impact that will continue to be felt for years to come.



## Ann Brown

### **Institute of Technology Campus**

Ann Brown has worked with Nova Scotia Power for almost 17 years. Most recently, she has been the company's Contract Management Analyst – a role she designed based on the needs of the company.

After attending Women Unlimited – a trades and technology career exploration and preparation program at NSCC – Ann went on to complete a Marine and Industrial Rigging program at the College which launched the trajectory of her career. She completed her apprenticeship as an industrial electrician at Nova Scotia Power and then worked in the plants and substations for more than a decade.

In addition to her work at Nova Scotia Power, Ann is a prominent member of its diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) community. She has served in the role of co-chair for the Black Employee Resource Group for three years and was a founding member of, and continues to serve on, their first Employee Resource Group to support women in trades (WEARE+).

Ann has spearheaded numerous events across the company to educate on and celebrate the Black experience, particularly as it relates to Nova Scotia's historic Black communities. Ann is someone who “leads from behind” and despite not being one for the spotlight, she is also regularly called upon as a speaker, panelist and participant in internal events,

community events and engagements with community investment partners.

Ann has shown an outstanding commitment to supporting and advocating for women in trades. Her tireless efforts have helped break barriers, create opportunities and foster an inclusive environment for women pursuing careers in traditionally underrepresented fields.

Ann serves as a role model and mentor in many areas. After receiving support from Women Unlimited at the outset of her career search, she now gives back by mentoring those beginning their professional journey. She advocates for systemic and policy change and is heavily involved in community engagement.

Ann has not only empowered individuals, but her efforts have strengthened the trades sector by promoting the importance of diversity and inclusion efforts. She thrives on inspiring others and continuously works to “pass along the positivity” every day.

Ann and her husband have eight wonderful children - four daughters and four sons - and seven wonderful grandchildren.



## Jude Clyde

### **Truro Campus**

Jude Clyde has dedicated his life to serving others as a coach, mentor, community leader and advocate for equity and social action. His purpose and personal experiences have fueled his passion for helping individuals navigate their own unique journeys toward personal growth, healing and fulfillment.

Jude is a proud African Nova Scotian from a small Black community in Truro known as “The Island,” where he has lived for most of his life. His community has shaped his values, perspective and commitment to service. As a husband, father and grandfather, family remains at the centre of everything he does.

Before beginning his work with the Black Educators Association at NSCC’s Truro Campus, Jude worked with the Department of Community Services and was actively involved in community development initiatives throughout northern Nova Scotia. During this time, he helped create and support programs focused on youth development, education and cultural identity, including Afrocentric Saturday school programming, tutoring initiatives, summer camps and adult literacy programs.

For more than 25 years, Jude built a distinguished career within the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC), working with individuals and communities across both urban and rural regions. He began at Springhill Institution in Nova Scotia, later moving to the Dartmouth Parole Office as

a community parole officer before relocating to the Truro Area Parole Office in 2010.

Jude worked collaboratively with the Crown in Truro and community partners to help develop the Colchester African Nova Scotian Justice Strategy – a community-based initiative aimed at addressing gaps between African Nova Scotian communities and the justice system. The strategy included the development of a justice navigator role and other culturally responsive supports for individuals in conflict with the law. From 2022 to 2025, he served on the Board of Directors of the African Nova Scotian Justice Institute.

Jude later assumed the role of Senior Project Officer within the Anti-Racism, Diversity and Inclusion Directorate at CSC National Headquarters, where he has continued advancing initiatives focused on equity, inclusion and culturally responsive approaches within corrections.

His community leadership has extended beyond his professional career. He helped establish Community Strong – an organization focused on community support, service initiatives, youth engagement and community events. He also founded the Black Men’s Wellness Group at NSCC’s Truro Campus, creating a safe and supportive space for Black men to engage in conversations related to health, identity and mental wellness. Jude is also involved in organizing the Black Men’s Conference in Halifax and the Black Men’s Summit in Tatamagouche.

Jude currently serves as Secretary of Futureworx and President of the Truro Black Cultural Development Association.

Through his wellness coaching, facilitation and community engagement work, Jude continues to support individuals and communities in realizing their potential and creating meaningful change.

His dedication to community service and social justice has been recognized through numerous awards. These include the CSC Emerson Douyon Multiculturalism Award, the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission’s Dr. Burnley Allan “Rocky” Jones Award, the Truro Sports Heritage Society Sport and Recreation Award and being named 2016 Colchester County Volunteer of the Year.



# Doug Doucet

## Akerley Campus

Doug Doucet is a hands-on, strategically focused executive known for building high-performing teams, strengthening client relationships and delivering complex projects. He is President and CEO of Doucet Developments in Bedford, Nova Scotia, a front-facing entity for the Doucet Developments group of companies.

Doug's leadership spans three decades and many operating companies, including rcs construction, Mill-Right Woodworking, Tier Too Properties and PMco. He is also an active business partner in local hospitality ventures, including restaurant operations, a golf course and holds additional property interests such as hotels and multi-residential assets.

At Doucet Developments, Doug emphasizes operational discipline, scalable production capacity, and a culture built on reputation and long-term relationships. He supports execution and alignment using an Entrepreneurial Operating System, reinforcing clear priorities, accountability and measurable performance across teams. Doug champions a values-driven approach rooted in accountability, communication and teamwork, and continues to grow the organization while maintaining a family-minded, relationship-driven environment.

Doug's leadership priorities are guided by four pillars: workplace diversification, culture engagement, mental wellness and digital optimization – reflecting his belief that strong teams, modern systems

and a healthy workplace culture drive consistent outcomes for clients and long-term success.

Community leadership is a meaningful part of Doug's life and work. In recent years, he has served in a range of board, trustee, advisory and chair roles. These include serving as a Trustee with the Frank H. Sobey Awards for Excellence in Business Studies, Advisory Board Member with Kwik Chef Inc., Chair of the Canadian Cancer Society: Think Like Cancer Committee and Board Member/Investor with Halifax Hurricanes Basketball. His past governance roles also include governance representation with Mount Saint Vincent University, the IWK Health Centre, the IWK Foundation and the Construction Association of Nova Scotia. He is particularly proud to have been part of the Great Big Dig for the IWK, helping raise over \$1 million for the IWK during his time as Chair and Innovator.



## Jax Irwin

### Ivany Campus

Jax Irwin is an award-winning creator, podcast host and radio and television personality from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. She is best known for her viral short-form content across digital platforms, including her East Coast Call series.

A graduate of NSCC's Radio Television Arts program (now Radio Television Journalism) in 2010, Jax began her career in broadcast media after discovering the College through an information session. She worked in media across British Columbia, Ontario and Nova Scotia, building her career from Halifax radio to eventually co-hosting the morning show on Virgin Radio Toronto.

After stepping away from traditional broadcast in 2023, Jax began building her own digital media and production company in Toronto, creating story-driven content and social campaigns for brands including General Motors, Paramount+, BMO and Tim Hortons. In 2025, she also launched the podcast "The Adam Wylde & Jax Show" alongside her longtime friend and former co-host, Adam Wylde, continuing to grow her audience across audio, video and social platforms.

Jax enjoys creating content that makes people smile and built a large audience through her "Random East Coast Calls" series, centred around spontaneous conversations with strangers across Atlantic Canada. Living away from Nova Scotia, she found the series gave her a meaningful connection to the region and helped her stay connected to

her roots while away from home. The series has resonated widely for its warmth, humour and celebration of East Coast culture and community.

Jax credits NSCC as an invaluable part of both her personal and professional journey. She often speaks about the confidence, belonging and creative direction she found at the College, and remains a proud supporter of the opportunities it creates for future storytellers and creatives.



# Debbie Johnson-Powell

## **Ivany Campus**

Debbie Johnson-Powell has served as a community interpreter in Nova Scotia for more than four decades. A Child of Deaf Adults (CODA), Debbie's life and career have been shaped by an unwavering commitment to accessibility, equity and social inclusion.

Debbie began interpreting for her parents and her brother, who is also Deaf, at a very young age. Over time, she became widely known across Nova Scotia as the person Deaf community members turned to for support in whatever situations arose. What began simply as an act of care and responsibility eventually evolved into a deeply respected interpreting career.

In addition to mentoring countless American Sign Language/English Interpreting Program (AEIP) students across generations, Debbie has provided interpreting services for the College on numerous occasions. In doing so, she has helped ensure access for Deaf employees, students and community members – reinforcing the College's commitment to accessibility.

Through her decades of sustained engagement with AEIP students, faculty, Deaf community members and provincial partners, Debbie's interpreting work and mentorship have fostered important relationships

beyond the classroom, strengthening social infrastructure and equitable participation across Nova Scotia.

Debbie's leadership in the field was publicly recognized during the COVID-19 pandemic. She interpreted every provincial update, alongside the Premier and Chief Medical Examiner, to support the timely and equitable access to critical public health information for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Nova Scotians. This tireless work, alongside team member Richard Martell, received the gratitude of the Nova Scotia Government.

Debbie's work was also honoured through an award from the Halifax Association for the Deaf (1994) and by the Canadian Association of Sign Language Interpreters with the Phyllis Joynt Mentorship Award (2016).

Her work embodies the very heart of interpreting as a profession rooted in relationship, responsibility and service to Deaf communities in Nova Scotia.

Debbie and her husband, Ron, have one son.



## Stuart MacLeod

### **Sydney Waterfront Campus**

Stuart MacLeod is the founder of MacLeod Lorway Insurance, headquartered in Sydney with offices across Nova Scotia.

In 1965, after gaining early career experience in Calgary, Montreal and New Glasgow, Stuart returned to Sydney to join his father's insurance business. He later assumed full ownership of Stuart MacLeod Limited and began expanding the family enterprise. Through the merger with C.R. Lorway and Son, MacLeod Lorway Insurance was formed and grew into one of the province's leading brokerages.

Beyond his business achievements, Stuart has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to community leadership. He has served as President of the Insurance Brokers Association of Nova Scotia and has been actively involved with many local organizations. Stuart is a strong supporter of Cape Breton University, Cape Breton Regional Hospital Foundation and Nova Scotia Community College - Sydney Waterfront Campus. He has also played a significant role in local hockey, serving as President of the Glace Bay-Sydney Metro Bees and the Sydney Millionaires, and as a founding member and long-time Chair of the Cape Breton Eagles.

His contributions have been widely recognized, including being inducted into the Cape Breton Business Hall of Fame (2006) and the Cape Breton Philanthropy Hall of Fame (2022), as well as being awarded an honorary degree from Cape Breton University. This year, the Cape Breton Regional Municipality recognized his 60 years in business and lasting

impact on the community by declaring January 7, 2026 as Stuart MacLeod Day.

A resident of Northside East Bay, Stuart exemplifies dedication, leadership and community service. He and his wife, Nonie, recently celebrated 60 years of marriage and are proud parents of four children, ten grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.



# Joseph Patrick Shannon

## **Strait Area Campus**

Joseph Patrick Shannon, who grew up in Sydney and now calls Port Hawkesbury home, began his career as a truck driver. He is now president of Atlantic Corporation Limited (holding company for his group of companies that include Shannex, Seaboard Transport Group and Metro Self Storage). His corporate interests also extend to the IT, real estate and construction sectors.

Joseph's acumen and energy grew the corporation from a small-town business to a giant in North America. His efforts have been instrumental in modernizing Cape Breton's economy through the restructuring of several major Crown corporations, as well as his commitment to mentoring young business leaders.

Joseph has extended his success in business to generous support for organizations including the Cape Breton Regional Hospital Foundation, the QEII Health Science Centre, the Gaelic College and the Port Hawkesbury Community Centre, among many others. His extensive support of Cape Breton University includes helping to develop its Purdy Crawford Chair in Aboriginal Business Studies and Aboriginal Youth Mentorship Program at the Shannon School of Business. Most recently, major donations were made to a group of Atlantic universities to advance research in health care, AI and workforce development.

Joseph has been a valued and trusted partner of NSCC for over 25 years, especially through Shannex and its various service lines, including long term care and transitional health services. During this time, he has

built a legacy of philanthropy and a deep commitment to education and the evolving needs of the healthcare sector. Through initiatives such as Sponsor-a-Student and bursaries for Practical Nursing students, the Shannon family and Shannex continue to demonstrate their belief in the College's work by reducing financial barriers and empowering students to pursue meaningful careers in healthcare.

Most recently, Shannex provided a transformative gift that will have a lasting impact on students, the College, and Unama'ki-Cape Breton's healthcare workforce. The new Shannex Continuing Care and Nursing Labs provide students with a modernized learning environment equipped with the latest technology. Joseph was connected to this project from the very beginning – including dropping into an evening class to greet Continuing Care and Practical Nursing students with his two sons. The College is deeply grateful for his leadership and vision which have strengthened support for health-related programs at NSCC campuses across the province.

His extensive achievements have been recognized nationally – as a laureate of the Canadian Business Hall of Fame and as a member of the

Order of Canada; and provincially – as a laureate in the Nova Scotia Business Hall of Fame and as a member of the Order of Nova Scotia.

Locally, Joseph was the first person to be inducted into the Cape Breton Philanthropy Hall of Fame.

The tireless efforts, generosity and entrepreneurial contributions of Joseph Patrick Shannon have enriched the lives of community members and organizations throughout the province and beyond.

## Convocation 2026 Valedictorian

NSCC is proud to introduce the outstanding student, chosen by their campuses to represent the achievements and experiences of the Class of 2026.



## Milad Haydari

### **School of Access, Business, Creative Industries and Education**

#### **Adult Learning Program**

As Milad settled in Canada after arriving from Afghanistan, he knew education would be an important part of creating a stronger future for himself. Returning to school to complete his high school diploma became the first step toward that goal – a chance to rebuild confidence, strengthen skills and open doors to new opportunities.

What drew him to the Adult Learning Program was the opportunity to continue his education in a supportive environment. NSCC felt like the right place to begin again. From the start, he was motivated by a clear purpose: keep moving forward even if progress came in small steps. Seeing that progress – week by week, assignment by assignment – inspired Milad to keep going.

Milad gives credit to the steady support he received from faculty and his classmates. Their positivity and encouragement helped him grow and the diverse campus community created a sense of belonging that made each day easier. He dedicated time to giving back – volunteering as a food pantry coordinator, getting involved in the Student Association and serving as MC for year-end campus events. He learned that progress doesn't have to be perfect. Consistency, patience, and persistence can lead to real change.

After graduation, Milad plans to complete the English for Academic Purposes program as he works toward his long-term goals.

His message to the Class of 2026: “Never give up. Even small steps move you forward. Believe in yourself and keep going.”

# Major awards

## **Governor General's Academic Medal**

Awarded to a graduating student of a College Diploma Program who has achieved the highest academic standing.

Xander Sharkey-Chouinard  
IT Web Programming

## **Nova Scotia Community College Gold Medal**

Awarded to a graduating student of a College Certificate Program who has achieved the highest academic standing.

Keisha Adams  
Academic and Career Connections

## **Board of Governors' Award**

Awarded to a graduating student of a College Diploma Program who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and contributed to campus and/or community activities.

Elodie Papp  
Occupational Health and Safety

## **President's Award**

Awarded to a graduating student of a College Certificate Program who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and contributed to campus and/or community activities.

Reanne McDowell  
Medical Office Administration

## **NSCC Alumni Award**

Awarded to a graduating student of a College Program (Diploma or Certificate) who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and whose service and leadership has made a difference in the lives of others.

Colton Snelgrove  
Adult Learning Program

# Staff

Abu Baker, Yousef	Faculty
Al-Jokhadar, Linda	Counsellor—Personal and Career
Al-Shaghay, Bana	Faculty
Anthony, Pamela	Auxiliary Faculty
Arthur, Larry	Faculty
Aucoin, Pamela	Facilities Support Lead
Barter, Pam	Student Services Advisor
Best, Stephen	Faculty
Boudreau, Shantelle	Auxiliary Faculty
Boutilier, Lisa	Administrative Assistant
Brake, Carly	Campus Librarian
Brittain, Katrina	ALP Counsellor
Brown, Jarrod	Academic Chair
Burke, Jocelyn	Faculty
Burton, Randy	Building Services Lead
Caines, Michael	Faculty
Campanis, George	Faculty
Campbell, David	Faculty
Chase, Kevin	Faculty
Christensen, Chris	Vice Principal
Cleveland, Lyn	Faculty
Conrad, Allison	Course Materials Lead
Culligan, Tracy	Faculty
Etmanskie-Denny, Ellen	Administrative Assistant
Dela Cruz, Rey	Facilities Support Assistant
Devaney, Sara	Faculty
Deveaux, Jean-Paul	Faculty
DiGiosia, Marco	Manager, Administrative Services
Dobbin , Terry	Faculty
Dolinger, Patrick	Faculty
Donaldson, Rene	Facilities Support Assistant
Duke, John	Building Services Assistant
Dutka, Marie	Faculty
Evans, Akira	Program Navigator (Women Unlimited)
Everett, Brian	Faculty
Farran, Leonardo	Faculty
Fiske, Colin	Faculty
Flindall, Tina	Faculty
Frigault, Ronda	Faculty
Gilbert, Bill	Facilities Support Assistant
Gilbert-Francis, Jessica	Student Care Navigator
Gillespie, Geoff	Faculty
Golding, Lena	Faculty

Gouda, Nadia	Faculty
Grant, Leslie	Auxiliary Faculty
Guzman, Imelda	Facilities Support Assistant
Hall, Trena	Administrative Assistant
Hartling, Jamie	Academic Chair
Hayek, Mirna	Employment Specialist
Hirtle, Crystal	Faculty
Hu, Shanwei	Facilities Support Assistant
Hunter, Jennifer	Faculty
Hyett, Rachel	Student Accessibility Specialist
Im, Cheolsoo	Faculty
Isner, Robbie	Facilities Manager
Iverach, Jocelyn	Administrative Assistant
Izzard-Wells, Katrina	Auxiliary Faculty
Jarvis, Yvette	Program Coordinator (Women Unlimited)
Jessop, Nick	Digital Technology Analyst
Jones, Wendy	Administrative Assistant
Joy, Melodie	Faculty
Karas, Mel	2SLGBTQ+ Student Advisor
Keener-Lacroix, Damen	Facilities Support Assistant
Kowalski, Bill	Faculty
Kuzniar, Carson	Faculty
Lachance, Beth	Program Assistant
Landry, Nolon	Equipment Technician
LaRusic, Joy	Achieve Program Coordinator
LeBlanc, Andrew	Faculty
Lin, Hamlet	Faculty
Lively, Peter	Faculty
Lovie, Michael	Faculty
Lowthers, Jon	Faculty
Lucas, Corey	Faculty
MacDonald, John	Faculty
MacDonald, Sarah	Faculty
MacDonald, Shannon	Faculty
MacKinnon, Erin	Campus Library Technician
Macquarrie, Hamilton	Faculty
Marques, Delano	Faculty
McLeod, Ronald	Faculty
Meisner, Shelley	Faculty
Misner, Stephen	Faculty
Mitchell, Christine	Administrative Assistant
Mitchell, Zoe	Faculty
Morash, Andrew	Faculty
Morris, Dillon	Administrative Assistant
Mullins, Sara	Administrative Assistant
Mulvihill-Gaudet, Karen	Campus and Events Coordinator

Munday, Russell	Faculty
Murdoch, Chris	Manager, Student Services
Murdock, Claire	Faculty
Muskic, Amel	Material Control Assistant
Nichols, Michael	Faculty
O'Brien, Shawn	Faculty
O'Leary, Sherisse	Faculty
Osborne, Katherine	Administrative Assistant
Parsons, Kim	Faculty
Pattison, Jolene	Faculty
Penny, Daniel	Faculty
Pentney Deschenes, Vickie	Facilities Support Assistant
Perez Cano, Vicky	Administrative Assistant
Perez, Mary Aprilyn	Facilities Support Assistant
Piercey, Bruce	Faculty
Purcell, Michael	Academic Chair
Racca, Flavio	Faculty
Russell, David	Faculty
Saadi, Muna	Faculty
Scarfone, Marc	Faculty
Scott, Helene	Auxiliary Faculty
Seibert, Kristopher	Student Accessibility Specialist
Sernyk, James	Faculty
Shewan, Brian	Faculty
Sharpe, Jason	Principal
Short, Dennis	Program Assistant
Simon, Regan	Learning Commons/Test Ctr Admin
Smith, Brandon	Faculty
Smith, Katie	Faculty
Smith, Stephen	Facility Support Assistant
Smith, Ryan	Faculty
Smith, Wade	Lead Hand – Security
Spanik, Vince	Facilities Support Assistant
Steadman, Alex	Faculty
Stirr, Eric	Digital Technology Lead

Stirr, Natasha	Administrative Assistant
Street, Paul	Faculty
Swales, Pam	Administrative Assistant
Tarry, Brendan	Faculty
Thibeau, Jeffrey	Faculty
Trimmings, Byron	Faculty
Trumbull, Michael	Faculty
Tsaltas, Dean	Faculty
Turner, Karl	Assistant Registrar
Veinot, Nick	Faculty
Verge, Paul	Faculty
Verge, Todd	Faculty
Walters, Lisa	Faculty
Wasacase, Tanya	L'nu Indigenous Student Advisor
Wheeler, Eugene	Lead Facilities Technician
Whitehouse, Nicole	Faculty
Wollner, Chey	Administrative Assistant
Worthylake, Tristan	Faculty
Wright, Terry	African NS & Black Student Advisor
Yeo, Sung Su	Digital Technology Analyst
Zabaldica, Karen	Facilities Support Assistant

# Photos

In the two weeks following the ceremony, you will receive a link to download your graduation photo for free. If you do not receive an email by July 1, please email [ITcampus.info@nsc.ca](mailto:ITcampus.info@nsc.ca) for your photo information.