## Akerley Campus Convocation June 13, 2025 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.

# Order of proceedings

#### Processional

**Mi'kmaq Honour Song** Elder, Gary Joseph

Lift Every Voice and Sing LaToya Saunders

**O Canada** LaToya Saunders

**Principal's welcome** Jason Sharpe

**President's remarks** Don Bureaux

#### Presentation of credentials

Presentation of major awards

Valedictory address Kali Williams

#### 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* is a powerful, unifying symbol of the resilience and enduring spirit of the 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 pride in Mi'kmaq culture and traditions - so they are preserved, shared and celebrated for generations to come.

The *Mi'kmaq Honour Song* is performed during NSCC Convocation ceremonies as an important part of the College's commitment to reconciliation, community, cultural awareness and inclusivity.

### 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. 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 52 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. By incorporating *Lift Every Voice and Sing* into our ceremony, NSCC affirms its 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.



## Don Bureaux

### Message from the NSCC President

Graduates,

Today, we recognize and celebrate your perseverance, your dedication to your studies, the commitments you've maintained, the challenges you've overcome, the connections you've made - 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 2025!

Don Bureaux

# Class of 2025

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, Education and Language

#### Nova Scotia High School Graduation Diploma for Adults

Boutilier. Sarah (Honours) Bradley, Ian (Honours) Carman, Melanie (Honours) Christie, Max Covey-Harnish, Dustin (Honours) Day, Travis Fahie, Chelsea (Honours) Gillard, Kyle (Honours) Gillis. Beniamin Human, Arthur (Honours) Johnson, Lacy Leaman, Katrina (Honours) LeBlanc, Cydnee Manette, Hailey (Honours) Munroe, Wyatt (Honours) Ryder, Ashley (Honours) Shea, Lexus (Honours) Stillwell, Kristan (Honours) Sutcliffe-Mccarthy, Chad (Honours) Thomas, Mary

Dartmouth, NS Kingston, ON Bedford, NS Dartmouth, NS Lake Echo, NS Dartmouth. NS Dartmouth. NS Cole Harbour, NS Dartmouth, NS Halifax. NS Enfield, NS Dartmouth, NS Dartmouth. NS Halifax, NS Eastern Passage, NS Dartmouth. NS Dartmouth, NS Halifax, NS Fort St. John. BC Eastern Passage, NS

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

Brewer, Julianna Canning, Breann Considine, Gabriel Davila, Etienne Dewolfe, Theo Fredericks, Landon Lirette, Sam MacCaul, Mason McLaughlin, Colson McNutt, Johnathan Stevens, Ronan Wambolt, Shane Newfoundland Dartmouth, NS Cole Harbour, NS Lubbock, Texas Dartmouth, NS Eastern Passage, NS Halifax, NS Dartmouth, NS Lower Sackville, NS Halifax, NS Dartmouth, NS Dartmouth, NS

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

Baxter, Alexander McDonald-Ansara, Dawn Peake, James Qiao, Anlan *(Honours)* Saulnier, Bryce *(Honours)*  Dartmouth, NS New Minas, NS Port of Spain, Trinidad Shanghai, China Halifax, NS

#### Diploma in Early Childhood Education (Africentric Cohort)

Adams, Mackenzie Barnaby, Natasha Diggs, Dana (Honours) Downey, Iesha (Honours) Downey, Shonice (Honours) Downey, Torakessa Izzard, Raneeya (Honours) Jones, Afrika Jordan, Lariah Pittet, Araba (Honours) Simmons, Keona-Mae Halifax, NS Halifax, NS Halifax, NS North Preston, NS Cherry Brook, NS Halifax, NS Halifax, NS Upper Big Tracadie, NS Halifax, NS Timberlea, NS Preston, NS

#### **Diploma in Early Childhood Education**

Adamski, Kenzie Balogun, Abisola Victoria (Honours) Connell, Grace Diggs, Alexis Dong, Tanchun He, Peining Huang, Jing (Honours) Huang, Shengxia (Honours) Inwood, Hannah Kaur, Ammantbeer (Honours) Kaur, Harsimranjeet Kaur, Preet (Honours) Kc, Kamana (Honours) Li, Qin (Honours) Mansi, Mansi (Honours) Okoro, Hauwa (Honours) Owensby, Aria Pellev. Hailev Saloni, Saloni (Honours) Sharma, Shreya (Honours) Sharma, Tania (Honours) Singh, Harman (Honours) Tripathi, Aastha

Grand Lake, NS Lagos, Nigeria Fall River, NS Dartmouth. NS Halifax, NS Beijing, China Beijing, China Hefei, China Halifax, NS Moga, Punjab, India Punjab, Ropar, India Punjab, India Syanja, Nepal China Muzaffarnagar, India Abuja, Nigeria Quispamsis, NB Bridgewater, NS Punjab, India India Punjab, India Punjab, India Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh Wilkinson, Aimee Williams, Kali Yang, Shubo Aylesford, NS Upper Hammonds Plains, NS Qingdao, China

### School of Business and Creative Industries

#### **Certificate in Baking and Pastry Arts**

Brimacombe, Aaron Chao, Antoinette (Honours) Chung Michelsen, Paula (Honours) Cunningham. Antone Dennis, Stephanie (Honours) Doucette, Winter (Honours) Fisher. Marlow Fitzgerald, Taylor Gosselin, Angélique Hann, Thomas Kean, James Lameman, Kaylynn (Honours) Lane, Annabella (Honours) Lemay, Sarah Miller, Sam Ouellette, Janne Pettipas, Brooklyn Richard, Sophie Roy-Girard, Emilie Thomson, Joshua Walkes-Beneby, Duranda Waller. Thomas Wanless, Autumn Webb, Jeremy

#### **Certificate in Culinary Skills**

Beals, Vaughandez Coelho, Julia Eguaoje, Cynthia

#### **Certificate in Tourism Hospitality**

Adedeji, Aduragbemi Bawa, Preeti Ceesay, Hawa Mitiev, Danylo Singh, Baljit Xu, Xi

Victoria. BC Hammonds Plains, NS Iquique, Chile St. Ann. Jamaica Sipekne'katik First Nation, NS Potlotek First Nation, NS Halifax, NS Dingwall, NS Enfield, NS Eastern Passage, NS Eastern Passage, NS Potlotek First Nation, NS Truro, NS Halifax, NS Halifax. NS Edmundston, NB Halifax, NS Halifax, NS Halifax. NS Lyons Brook, NS Nassau, Bahamas Dartmouth. NS Whitehorse, Yukon Lower Sackville, NS

> North Preston, NS São Luís, Brazil Ogute-Emai, Nigeria

Oyo, Nigeria Rajpura, India Busumbala, The Gambia Halifax, NS Canada Anshan Liaoning, China

#### **Diploma in Business Hospitality**

Addo, Emmanuel (Honours) Aggarwal, Aradhya (Honours) Akbar. Sk Mahmud Athiyarath Sathyan, Sanath Krishna Beaver, Chelsea (Honours) Chen. Yan Etin, Nir Jahanvi, Jahanvi Jamie, Subrina Habib (Honours) Kaur, Samreen Olukoya, Florence Pham, Thuy Minh Thu Somuah, Abena Ying, Lijing **Diploma in Business Tourism** Bhullar, Kulwant Diaz Villafuerte, Luis Fitzsimmons, Zoë Guo, Tianhong Jiang, Lei Joseph, Mathew Kaur, Arshdeep (Honours) Kaur, Daljeet Kubota, Claudio Llovd. Connor Lockhart, Jamie Ogunlaja, Orivomi Pathak, Madhur Singh, Gurnoor (Honours) Singh, Uttambir Thalia, Jayesh (Honours) Varga, Sara Virk, Kiratpal

Accra, Ghana Amritsar, Punjab Dhaka, Bangladesh Kerala, India Antigonish, NS Shanghai, China Halifax, NS Halifax, NS Dhaka, Bangladesh Punjab, India Abeokuta, Nigeria Halifax. NS Accra, Ghana Jiaxing, China Punjab, India Merida, Yucatan Halifax, NS Hebei. China Qingdao, China Pembroke, Malta Puniab. India Moga, Punjab, India Sao Paulo, Brazil

Moga, Punjab, India Sao Paulo, Brazil Enfield, NS Orillia, ON Iperu, Ogun Stat, Remo Punjab, India Punjab, India Mumbai, India Dartmouth, NS Amritsar, Punjab, India

#### **Diploma in Culinary Management**

Adenekan, Abimbola Ampoloquio, Iyam Karl Bello, Maria Brunet, Devon Capodicasa, Juan De Oliveira Soares, Lucas De Silva, Shevon Ferguson, Brady Fok, Kin Leung Hu, Chenfei Lagos, Nigeria Garcia- Hernandez, Bohol, Philippines La Serena, Chile Halifax, NS Venezuela Curitiba, Brazil Muscat, Oman Guelph, ON Hong Kong Jinan, Shandong, China

Huang, Xianze Idris. Omotoni (Honours) Kathuria. Mahima Katyal, Samarth Kaur, Harmandeep (Honours) Kaur, Kashishpreet Kaur, Nimrat Lee. Aiden Lenin Vijayalakshmi, Oviya Macphee, Brandon Ménard, Samuel Nguyen, Minh Nguyen, Ngoc Thuy Trang Nguyen, Tran Thanh Van Okunoye, Maudlyn Park, Shin Hee (Honours) Phong, Pham Bui Xuan Pineda, Rafael Anthony Reji, Rejo Rolle, Lesma Singh, Gobindjot Singh, Rohit Smith, Jacob Sousa, Daniel Ssedyabule, Ingrid Tao. Lina (Honours) Tian, Caihua (Honours) Uppal, Mohit Wei. Jina Wilson, Hannah Yan, Yunlan (Honours) Yeung, Yuen Kwan

Quanzhou, China Lagos, Nigeria Panipat, India New Delphi, India Nawanshahr, Punjab Punjab, India Sangrur, Punjab Lower Sackville, NS Halifax. NS Halifax, NS Montréal, QC Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam Saigon, Vietnam Abuja, Nigeria Halifax, NS Hai Duong, Viet Nam Quezon City, Philippines Kerala, India Nassau, Bahamas Dartmouth. NS Sonipat, Harvana, India Fredericton, NB Minas Gerais, Brazil Kamapala, Uganda Hangzhou, Zheijang, China Shandong, China Malerkotla, Punjab, India Langfang, Hebei, China Halifax, NS Zhejiang, China Hong Kong

## Convocation 2025 Honorary Diplomas

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



### James Kehoe School of Trades and Transportation

### Sydney Waterfront Campus

James Kehoe's dedication to building strong communities extends far beyond his successful career in the construction industry.

Jim began his career as a carpenter before founding Joneljim Concrete Construction in 1970. Under his leadership, Joneljim has grown into one of Cape Breton's largest contractors, providing general contracting, project and construction management, and heavy civil contracting. The Joneljim Group of Companies also includes building supply operations, a millwork business and residential and commercial rental properties.

Jim is a founding member of New Dawn Enterprises and the not-forprofit, BCA Investment Cooperative. He has served on the Board of the IWK Children's Hospital, Cape Breton University's Board of Governors, Nova Scotia Business Inc., Talbot House, and the Financial Board for the Diocese of Antigonish.

Jim's contributions have been recognized through one of the Province's highest honours. In 2002, he was awarded the Order of Nova Scotia for his outstanding contributions to the province's economic well-being. In 2023, Jim was inducted into the Cape Breton Business and Philanthropy Hall of Fame, further celebrating his dedication to the region. In 2018 he received an Honorary Doctorate from Cape Breton University.

Over the years, Jim and his late wife Roma were involved in many philanthropic efforts here in Cape Breton and across Nova Scotia. A

proud father to two daughters, Claudette Porter and Paulette Kraitzek, and grandfather to four, Jim cherishes time spent with his family.

Through his leadership and commitment to his community, Jim's dedication to empowering others and fostering growth continues to inspire positive change across Nova Scotia.



### Joel Marsman School of Trades and Transportation

#### **Akerley Campus**

Joel Marsman's dedication to occupational health and safety, mentorship and community empowerment has left a lasting impact on Nova Scotia. His achievements, including becoming the first Black person in Canada to earn the Canadian Registered Safety Professional (CRSP) designation, have paved the way for others.

He has served as coordinator for the Black Business Initiative's Constructing the Future program, an initiative aimed at helping African Nova Scotians enter the construction trade. As Program Coordinator for the Africadian Empowerment Academy's Trades Program, he helped Black tradespeople obtain Red Seal certification and supports like training and test preparation to foster their success. He was also involved with the Pathways to Shipbuilding program, where he was part of a working group that created a dedicated training and employment pipeline for Black welders.

Joel was the Manager of Occupational Health and Safety at the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation before founding Marsman Safety Services, where he provides program development and occupational health and safety training for industry organizations and government agencies. His contributions extend to serving on boards for various organizations including the Nova Scotia Construction Safety Association, the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Board, the Nova Scotia Labour Department Board and the Canadian Society of Safety Engineering.

In 2012, Joel was honoured by the African Heritage Month Information Network and the Province of Nova Scotia as an "Unsung Hero: Men Who Make a Difference."

Joel's unwavering commitment to the success of others exemplifies NSCC's vision: Transforming Nova Scotia one learner at a time.

# Convocation 2025 Valedictorian

NSCC is proud to introduce the outstanding student(s), chosen by their campuses to represent the achievements and experiences of the Class of 2025.



# Kali Williams

### School of Access, Education and Language

#### **Early Childhood Education**

Kali began her post-secondary journey at Acadia University, where she spent a year studying in the Bachelor of English program. While she valued that experience, she was looking for a more supportive and community-focused learning environment. That search led her to NSCC where she felt seen and supported by faculty who met her where she was and encouraged her growth.

During her time at NSCC, Kali found inspiration in the meaningful connections she made through work experiences and as well as her participation in the NSCC International Learning Experiences in 2024 and 2025, through the Culture, Entrepreneurship, Leadership and Professional Skills program offered to African Nova Scotian Students. She especially valued the cultural respect and appreciation of African Nova Scotians in addition to the sense of community at Akerley Campus where the small sizes and beautiful library made it feel like a second home. Kali enjoyed learning more about herself through the program and discovered the importance of resilience and self-belief. One of the most important lessons she took away from NSCC was that when one door closes, another opens.

After graduation, Kali plans to continue her education at Mount Saint Vincent University in the Bachelor of Child and Youth Study program. She is deeply grateful for the support of her faculty, academic chair and student advisor throughout her journey. To the Class of 2025, Kali offers this message: "Always believe in yourself, even when things become difficult. Give yourself grace. Nothing grows by staying the same."

# Major Awards

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

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

Abisola Balogun Early Childhood Education

#### Nova Scotia Community College Gold Medal

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

Bryce Saulnier Academic Career and 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.

Jayesh Thali Business Tourism

#### **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.

Fiona MacGregor Auto Body and Collision Repair

#### **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.

Chloe Marshall Metal Fabrication

# 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 akerley.info@nscc.ca for your photo information

### Staff

Abbott, Nathan Allen. Laird Allen. Andrew Allison, Russell Amirault. Michelle Ash. Tara Aucoin, Claude Bartlett, Adam Beaulieu. Denis Bell. Christina Bennett, Richard Benoit. Bev Benoit, Suzanne Blake, Tessa Boulton, Josh Boutin, Tracey Bowes. Marianna Boyd-Johnson, Jocelyn Boyer, Joel Brooks, Sandra Brown. Garth Buchanan, Daniel Bundy, Heather Burrows, Stacie Canning, Johnathan Carey, Thomas Cassell, Danny Cathcart. Aaron Chaisson, Zachariah Christensen, Chris Colter. Erica Conrad. Trevor Cooke, Bill Cooke, Rob Crawley, Fred Creelman. Steve Crocker, Carolyn Cunningham, Killian Day, Greg DeBay, Willie Dewey, Wendi

Faculty Facultv Equipment Technician Facultv Facultv Facilities Support Assistant Facultv Academic Chair Program Assistant Equipment Technician Facultv Facilities Support Assistant Facultv General Services Assistant Faculty Administrative Assistant Program Assistant Faculty Facultv Facilities Support Assistant Facultv Faculty Student Services Advisor Administrative Assistant Faculty Facultv Facultv Facultv Facultv Academic Chair Facultv Facultv Facultv Facultv Facultv Manager Facilities Achieve Program Coordinator Facultv Faculty Facultv Faculty

Doherty, Ryan Doridam. Jean-Luc Eakin. Pam Etmanskie-Denny, Ellen Ewing, Doug Farmer, Nikki Ferguson, Melissa Fewer, Melissa Fillmore. Meghan Flanagan, Michelle Flint. Clavton Forrest, Jason Fortes, Jean-Claude Foster-Scott, Stacey Fougere, Joe Francis. Burton Frizzell, Charlene Frv. Melvin Gallant. Stella Gaudet, Jacques Gidney, Chris Gillis-Lynds, Dayna Gouthro, Courtney Grant. Alecia Green, Elaine Grout. Gerard Guan. Yunfei Halverson. Blaine Hard, Craig Harvey, Nancy Harvie, Nicholas Haverstock, Lee Hawkins, Paul Heard, Teri Henneberry, Connor Hillier. Mark Hiriart. Angela Hiscock. Sean Jakeman. Matt Jamieson, Michael Jeffrey, Duane Jennex, Laura Jillette, Tony Johnson, Carol

Facultv Facultv Campus Librarian Administrative Assistant Material Control Assistant Program Navigator (WUL) Military Coordinator Program Assistant **Campus Library Technician** Faculty Faculty Facultv Cook Administrative Assistant Facultv Facilities Support Assistant General Services Assistant Faculty Food Service Assistant Facultv Administrative Assistant Facultv Facultv Facilities Support Assistant Administrative Assistant 2 Facultv Facilities Support Assistant Facultv Faculty Facultv **Building Services Assistant** Facultv Faculty Facultv **Digital Technology Analyst** Facultv Facultv Facultv Facultv Facultv Facultv Manager Admin Services Facultv LCA /Test Centre Administrator

Jones, Shauna Jurcina. Bernard Kettley, Sean King, Kelly LaPierre, Adam Leckie, Dale Lefuel, Diane Long, Rick MacArthur, Christy MacAulay, Jamie MacDonald, Cindy MacDonald, Bradley MacDonald, Donnie MacDougall, Lisa MacEachern, Mark MacKinnon, Kathrvn Manazza, Roberto Mann. Robert Marion. Jake Martin, Carly McCarron. Matthew McKillop, Shawn McLean, Jenny McWaid. Jonathan Meades, Kevin Meister. Jennifer Menendez Sanchez, Wilber Mepham, Molly Michels, Melissa Millett. Ian Monk. Luke Mooney, Barry Mosher, Allison Muise, Jenna Nauven, Kim Odinga, Godfrey Ogban, Simeon Oo. Swe Swe O'Toole, Tim Parkinson, Richard Parsons, Barry Pei, Penny Pellerin. Graham Phillips, Natalie

Assistant Registrar Facultv Facultv Administrative Assistant Facultv Faculty LCA/Test Centre Administrator Faculty ALP Counsellor Facultv Administrative Assistant Facultv Faculty Manager, Student Services Facultv Facultv Cook Lead Facilities Technician Facultv Student Accessibility Spec Facultv Academic Chair SS Advisor, International Supp Facultv Facultv Facultv Facultv Coordinator, Campus Housing Faculty Digital Technology Lead Faculty Automotive Program Facultv Facultv Facilities Support Assistant Administrative Assistant Academic Chair Building Services Lead Admin Assistant Facultv Faculty Facultv SS Advisor Facultv Faculty

Place. Tonv Preeper, Donnie Publicover. Tiffanv Reade. Erick Robertson, Andrea Robinson, John Rushton, Dana Sachs. Chris Sampson, Matthew Sanford, Owen Schelleman. Matthew Sharpe, Jason Shaw, Paul Shortte, Moashella Silver. Steven Skipper, Stephanie Smith. Brad Smith. Hal Snider. Patrick Solarski, Debora Soley, Meagan Spencer, Kyle Stevens, Julie Stewart. Steve Strachan, Aldane Taneja, Swadhin Taylor, Dylan Theriault. Beniamin Tidd, Craig Wade, Terry Wallace. Shellev Walsh, Johnny West. Justin Wilkie, Makayla Willcott. Cindv Williams, SaDeia Wright, Terry

Wright, Shawn Yach, Michael

Facultv Facultv Administrative Assistant Facultv Administrative Assistant Facultv Facultv Facultv Facultv Faculty Facultv Principal Facultv Facultv Facultv SS Advisor & International Supp Facultv Facultv Facultv Employee Services Advisor Achieve Program Coordinator Facultv Facilities Support Assistant Facultv Facilities Support Assistant Facultv Facilities Support Assistant Cook Lead Public Safety Officer Administrative Assistant Program Coordinator (WUL) Electrician Facultv Achieve Prgm Assistant Employment Specialist Student Services Counsellor SS Advisor & African Canadian Supports Facilities Support Lead Faculty