

Sydney Waterfront Campus Convocation June 6, 2025 10AM

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

O Canada

Principal's welcome

Carla Arsenault

President's remarks

Don Bureaux

Awarding of Honorary Diploma

Presentation of credentials

Presentation of major awards

Valedictory address

Ivy Leon, Automotive Service Repair

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.



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!**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Don Bureaux'. The signature is stylized with a large, looping 'D' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Don Bureaux

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.

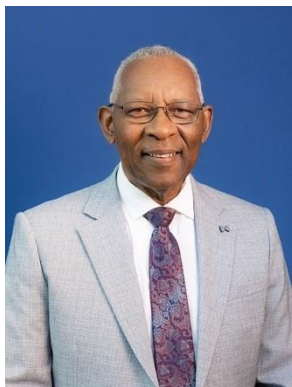
Jim began his career as a carpenter before founding Joneljim Concrete Construction in 1970. Under his leadership, Joneljim has grown into one of Cape Breton's largest contractors, providing general contracting, project and construction management, and heavy civil contracting. The Joneljim Group of Companies 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-for-profit, 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 Honourary 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.

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 that a graduate 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

Clarke, Tori	Sydney, NS
Dawson-Macpherson, Kaitlynn	Sydney, NS
Drew, Carissa (<i>Honours</i>)	Glace Bay, NS
Drodge, Tammy (<i>Honours</i>)	Sydney, NS
Ling, Melanie	Glace Bay, NS
MacMullin, Gil (<i>Honours</i>)	Whitney Pier, NS
McPhee, Ethan	New Waterford, NS

Certificate of Completion in Achieve

Bonaparte, Gavin	Lower Washabuck, NS
Hanrahan, Blair	Glace Bay, NS
Hartigan, Kayleigh	Sydney, NS
Hussey, Michael	Sydney, NS
Ingraham, Gabrielle	Glace Bay, NS
Johnson, Dawson	Eskasoni, NS
Paul, Meaghan	Membertou, NS
Royal, Xander	Glace Bay, NS
Thomas, Dylan	Glace Bay, NS

School of Business and Creative Industries

Certificate in Culinary Skills

Francis, Bruce	Eskasoni, NS
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Certificate in Medical Office Administration

Aucoin, J Marlene (<i>Honours</i>)	Glace Bay, NS
Bourgeois, Chloe (<i>Honours</i>)	Glace Bay, NS
Brogan, Lisa	New Waterford, NS
Buchanan, Jaylin (<i>Honours</i>)	Sydney, NS

Croft, Hayley
Currie, Kylie (*Honours*)
Curtis, Harrison
Hall, Courtney (*Honours*)
Hughes, Suzanne (*Honours*)
MacDonald, Breanna
Phillipo, Drew
Tutty, Stephanie
White, Brooke

Glace Bay, NS
Kitchener, ON
New Waterford, NS
Glace Bay, NS
River Ryan, NS
Grand Mira North, NS
Sydney, NS
Glace Bay, NS
Glace Bay, NS

Diploma in Business Administration

Boutilier, Jaelyn
Crane, Matt
Gillis, Sloane
Jobe, Aaron
Kehoe, Bailey
MacLean, Ethan
MacQueen, Joshua
McCormack, Karl
Moore, Brennan
Nicholas, Raven
Ward, Jamie

Glace Bay, NS
Seattle, WA, US
Sydney, NS
Dominion, NS
Sydney, NS
Sydney, NS
Sydney, NS
Glace Bay, NS
Sydney River, NS
Eskasoni, NS
Sydney, NS

Diploma in Business Administration - Accounting

Black, Rachelle
Boutilier, Rownn (*Honours*)
Brandon, Kayla
Kang, Harpreet
Keagan, Patricia
Poirier, Audrey (*Honours*)

Baddeck, NS
Glace Bay, NS
Sydney, NS
Sangrur, India
Sydney, NS
Glace Bay, NS

Diploma in Culinary Management

Besso, Darion
Dennis, Wynter
LeBlanc, Jameson
Peck, Elijah

Sydney, NS
Eskasoni, NS
North Sydney, NS
Wagmatcook, NS

School of Health and Human Services

Certificate in Continuing Care

Aucoin, Alicia
Balfour, Robert (*Honours*)
Garcha, Jashandeep (*Honours*)
Gavel, Tori

Marion Bridge, NS
Perth, ON
Sydney, NS
New Ross, NS

Gould, Danielle	Membertou, NS
Hutchison, Candace (<i>Honours</i>)	Sydney, NS
Kandapath, Mohammed Shebin	Sydney, NS
Kaur, Lovepreet	Sydney, NS
Kaur, Pawandeep (<i>Honours</i>)	North Sydney, NS
Kaur, Rajvir	Sydney, NS
Keillor, Hailey	Glance Bay, NS
Lloyd, Ashlee (<i>Honours</i>)	Glance Bay, NS
MacCormack-Walsh, Avery	Marion Bridge, NS
MacKinnon, Rebekah	Sydney Mines, NS
MacPherson, Bridget	New Waterford, NS
McPhee, Sarah	Glance Bay, NS
Omollo, Cecilia	Nairobi, Kenya
Prosper, Lenora	Paq'nkek, NS
Sharma, Jaskaran Deep	Sydney, NS
Simmons, Olivia	Dominion, NS
Somerton, Camryn (<i>Honours</i>)	Glance Bay, NS
Thurbide, Ann Marie	Port Caledonia, NS
Tighe, Isabella	New Waterford, NS
Wu, Chin-Ming (<i>Honours</i>)	Taiwan
Yao, Yinzi (<i>Honours</i>)	Beijing, China

Diploma in Disability Supports and Services

Anyadike, Maryjane Nkechi (<i>Honours</i>)	Sydney, NS
Apata, Ikeoluwa (<i>Honours</i>)	Illesha, Nigeria
Boadu-Ayeboaf, Joshua (<i>Honours</i>)	Kumasi, Ghana
Clarke, Erin (<i>Honours</i>)	Sydney, NS
Crawley, Mitchell (<i>Honours</i>)	Whitney Pier, NS
Dadzie, Anna (<i>Honours</i>)	Tarkwa, Ghana
Evans, Alexandra (<i>Honours</i>)	North Sydney, NS
Evbaziegber, Scottish (<i>Honours</i>)	Benin City, Nigeria
MacLeod, Erynn (<i>Honours</i>)	Dartmouth, NS
Olabamiji, Oluwatobiloba (<i>Honours</i>)	Sydney, NS
Omosule, Oluwayemisi (<i>Honours</i>)	Sydney, NS
Otieno, Beatrice (<i>Honours</i>)	Nairobi, Kenya
Philips, Marissa	Middle River, NS
Semper, Princess	San Fernando, Trinidad & Tabago
Tunji, Toun	Lagos, Nigeria

School of Technology and Environment

Diploma in Cyber Security

Benson, Jack	Hammonds Plains, NS
Boutilier, Coleton	Glance Bay, NS
Campbell, Aiden	Glance Bay, NS
Carabin, Matthew	Glance Bay, NS
Fraser, Vinyl (<i>Honours</i>)	Dartmouth, NS
Haggett, Gabe	Frenchvale, NS
Henry, Korvid	New Waterford, NS
Lenders, Robert	Antigonish, NS
McNeil, Cody	Sydney Mines, NS
McNeil, Vicky	Sydney, NS
Moses-Fitzgerald, Liam (<i>Honours</i>)	Cape North, NS
Niedzielski, Colby	Sydney Forks, NS
Rideout, Wade	North Sydney, NS
Salawu, Adeyemi	Sydney, NS
Spencer, Mathew	Catalone, NS
Suresca, Janna	Quezon City, Philippines
Uche-Amuchie, Mercy	Enugu, Nigeria
Walker-Dufour, Nathan	Sydney, NS
Yorke, Aidan	Sydney, NS

Diploma in Information Technology Programming

Babin, Emily	Sydney, NS
Feng, Xiangyu	Shenzhen, China
Hamper, Frederick	North Sydney, NS
Hillier, Avrey	Sydney, NS
Hudson, Michael	Sydney, NS
Mackinnon, Alexander	Sydney, NS
McDonald, Colin	Glance Bay, NS
Parsania, Jenil Kishor (<i>Honours</i>)	Junagadh, India
Pillas, Carlos Andre (<i>Honours</i>)	San Pablo City, Philippines
Rogers, Lucas	Reserve Mines, NS
Rogers, Zachary	Reserve Mines, NS

Diploma in Information Technology Systems Management and Security

Donavan, Brendon	Frenchvale, NS
Fleet, Christopher (<i>Honours</i>)	Sydney, NS
Martin, Michael	Sydney, NS
Nicholson, Liam	Baddeck, NS
Power, Colin (<i>Honours</i>)	Sydney, NS
Swan, Dylan (<i>Honours</i>)	Sydney, NS

School of Trades and Transportation

Certificate in Automotive Service Repair

Crawley, Colton	Sydney, NS
Deveau, Marie (<i>Honours</i>)	Cheticamp, NS
Leon, Ivy (<i>Honours</i>)	Sydney, NS
MacDonald, Jacob	Sydney, NS
MacLeod, Coltin	Fourchu, NS
MacMillan, Ryan	Glace Bay, NS
O'Leary, Samantha	Reserve Mines, NS
Sheppard, Daniel (<i>Honours</i>)	Glace Bay, NS
Snow, Dillon	Port Hawkesbury, NS
Thompson, Brielle (<i>Honours</i>)	Dominion, NS
Watkins, Renee	Reserve Mines, NS

Certificate in Carpentry

Buckland, Cory	Membertou, NS
Chahal, Devender (<i>Honours</i>)	Hisar, India
Kimeli, Felix (<i>Honours</i>)	Kaptarakwa, Kenya
MacNeil, Dylan	East Bay, NS
Yang, Cheng (<i>Honours</i>)	Shanghai, China

Certificate in Electrical Construction and Industrial

Bagnell, Sophie	Louisbourg, NS
Campbell, Brody	Sydney, NS
Charlton, Ryan (<i>Honours</i>)	Glace Bay, NS
Corbett, Thomas	Sydney, NS
Desmond, Joshua	Sydney, NS
Dunford, Eden	Sydney, NS
Ferguson, Conrad	Portage, NS
Jones, Brendan (<i>Honours</i>)	New Waterford, NS
Kelly, Nathan	East Bay, NS
MacAulay, John	Glace Bay, NS
MacIntyre, Logan	Glace Bay, NS
MacLean, John	Sydney, NS
Matias, Rudolfo (<i>Honours</i>)	Louisbourg, NS
Reid, Emily (<i>Honours</i>)	Sydney, NS
Roney, Aiden	Halifax, NS
Sidney, Noah (<i>Honours</i>)	Sydney River, NS
Slade, Dallas	Sydney, NS
Smith, Tyler	Albert Bridge, NS
Somerton, Karen	Glace Bay, NS
Thomson, Keagan	Glace Bay, NS

Diploma in Carpentry

Balfour, Jim

Dye, Terry

Ellsworth, Ryan

Francis, Jonephen

Googoo, Dante

Keeping, Terrance (*Honours*)

McLean, Michael

Oakley, Jacob

Thompson, Madison

Varrence, Madison

Wheaton, Julian

Perth, ON

Sydney, NS

Glace Bay, NS

Eskasoni, NS

Membertou, NS

Ramea, NL

Glace Bay, NS

Glace Bay, NS

Sydney, NS

Sydney, NS

Dominion, NS

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.



Ivy Leon

School of Trades and Transportation

Automotive Service Repair

From the small community of Coxheath, just outside of Sydney, Ivy made her way to NSCC following two summers working with CBRM Recreation. From facilitating programs and managing events to drumming in local bands, her roles and hobbies always found a way to blend creativity with community involvement.

Ivy's path to the Automotive Service and Repair program began with Women Unlimited. While she initially thought she would pursue Carpentry, it was the energy and environment of the auto shop that drew her in. She quickly discovered how much she loved the work, and how empowering it felt to learn skills that would not only keep her safe but also prepare her for a meaningful career.

Ivy thrived in the hands-on, welcoming environment she found on campus. She credits her Women Unlimited leaders for helping her find her place and passion, and her program instructors for giving her the confidence and knowledge to pursue a future in the automotive industry. She deeply valued being in a space where her questions were taken seriously and her learning was supported. The beauty and community on campus, paired with the purpose she found in her program, made each day something to look forward to.

After graduation, Ivy plans to continue her apprenticeship and work toward Red Seal certification.

Ivy's advice for the Class of 2025: "Stay curious, keep learning and trust that every experience is shaping you into who you're meant to be."

Major awards

Governor General's Academic Medal

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

Chang Lu
Therapeutic Recreation

Nova Scotia Community College Gold Medal

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

Courtney Hall
Medical Office Administration

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.

Kate Fraser
Early Childhood Education

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.

Raj Kumar
Refrigeration & Air Conditioning

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.

Nichelle Johnson
Practical Nursing