

2026

Fall
Convocation



DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY



New Dawn Staff of Place and Belonging

Dalhousie's New Dawn Staff of Place and Belonging is carried into the convocation ceremony by the University Beadle at the head of the graduate procession and placed onstage to signal the start of the celebration, then carried back out to mark the end. Through its mix of symbols, materials and textures, the New Dawn Staff of Place and Belonging reflects the rich diversity of individuals who make up the Dalhousie community today and their collective history in this place that we share together.

The New Dawn Staff was designed and created by artists Alan Syliboy of Millbrook First Nation and Mark Austin of Colchester County, with guidance from the university and in collaboration with a team of artists and craftspeople from diverse communities across Nova Scotia.

To learn more, visit dal.ca/newdawnstaff

Dalhousie University

Fall 2026 Convocation

Order of Proceedings

Academic and Graduate Processions

Welcome

Conferring of Degrees

Convocation Address

Closing Remarks

Recessional

Dalhousie Leadership	4
Messages to Graduates	5
Congratulations	6
Convocation and Ceremonial Elements	7

Dalhousie University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We are all Treaty people.

Dalhousie Leadership

President

President and Vice-Chancellor
Dr. Kim Brooks

Chancellor

Dr. Rustum Southwell

Vice-Presidents

Provost and Vice-President Academic
Dr. Brenda Merritt

Vice-President, Research and Innovation
Dr. Graham Gagnon

Vice-President, Finance and Administration
Cathie O'Toole

Vice-President, Strategic Engagement
Matt Hebb

Vice-President, People and Culture
Grace Jeffries

Vice-Provosts, Associate, and Assistant Vice-Presidents

Associate Vice-President, Academic
Dr. Leslie Phillmore

University Registrar and Assistant Vice-President, Enrolment Management
Aminah Mithani

Assistant Vice-President, Advancement and Chief Philanthropy Officer
Jen Laurette

Assistant Vice-Provost, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility and Belonging
Shakira Weatherdon

Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Vice-President, Financial Services
Cheryl Earle

Assistant Vice-President, Facilities Management
Craig Arthur

Chief Information Officer and Assistant Vice-President of Information Technology
Jody Couch

Assistant Vice-President, Athletics and Ancillary Services
Tim Maloney

Assistant Vice-President, Housing and Campus Connections
Linda Parker

Chief Assurance and Risk Officer and Assistant Vice-President University Risk Management
Donna Birmingham

Vice-Provost, Indigenous Relations
John R. Sylliboy

General Counsel and University Secretary
John Hope

Assistant Vice-President Planning and Institutional Effectiveness and Chief Data and Analytics Officer
Sonia Beattie

Associate Vice-President, Planning and Strategy
Leanne French-Munn

Associate Vice-President, Research, Talent and Development
Dr. Jeanna Parsons Leigh

Assistant Vice-President, Innovation and Entrepreneurship
Jeff Larsen

Associate Vice-President, Global
Dr. Balakrishnan Prithiviraj

Assistant Vice-President, Government Relations
Laura Hynes Jenkins

Vice-Provost, Student Affairs
Dr. Rick Ezekiel

Assistant Vice-Provost, Student Engagement and Success
Quenta Adams

Assistant Vice-Provost, Campus Living and Student Wellbeing
Melissa MacKay

Deans

Dean and Campus Principal, Faculty of Agriculture
Dr. Heather Bruce

Faculty of Architecture and Planning (Acting)
Dr. Eric Rapaport

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Dr. Jennifer Andrews

Faculty of Computer Science
Dr. Nur Zincir-Heywood

Faculty of Dentistry
Dr. Benjamin Davis

Faculty of Engineering (Acting)
Dr. Yi Liu

Faculty of Graduate Studies
Dr. Christian Blouin

Faculty of Health (Acting)
Dr. Kyle Wilby

Schulich School of Law
Sarah Harding

Libraries (Acting)
Elaine MacInnis

Faculty of Management
Dr. Mike Smit

Faculty of Medicine
Dr. Saleem Razack

Faculty of Science
Dr. Charles (Chuck) Macdonald

Faculty of Open Learning and Career Development (Acting)
Jennifer Hann

Board of Governors

Chair, Board of Governors
Cheryl Fraser

Vice-Chair, Board of Governors
Kristan Hines

Members
Dr. Rustum Southwell (ex-officio)
Dr. Kim Brooks (ex-officio)
Dr. Sachin Seth (ex-officio)
Randolph deGooyer
Justin Ghosn
Joyce Hoeven
Wendy Davis Johnson
Shona Kinley
Louis Lawen
Steven Mata

Jay MacIsaac
Owen Sagness
Mark Hobbs
Allison Coffin
Caroline Zayid
Paul Beesley
Jo Galarneau
Jason Strandberg
Anjali Seshadri
Steven Mata
Gaby Pasternack
Dr. Angela Siegel
Dr. Alexander Brodsky

Senate Leadership

Chair of Senate
Dr. Sachin Seth

Interim Senate Vice-Chair, Academic Programs
Dr. Jamie Blustein

Senate Vice-Chair, Student Affairs
Dr. Yassine El Hiani

Dalhousie Student Union Executive

President
Anjali Seshadri

Vice-President, Internal
Suha Manal

Vice-President, Finance and Operations
Anton Kredt

Vice-President, Academic and External
Orpy Dey

We recognize the inspiring role of our faculty in the education of our graduates, enhanced by the tremendous support of our staff and administrators.

While too numerous to list, we celebrate the impactful contributions of these individuals alongside university leadership.

Messages to Graduates

Chancellor's Message

I am pleased to extend my warmest congratulations to all graduates, and to your families, friends, and supporters. It is a privilege to share this important milestone with you.

As you cross the stage today, take a moment to reflect on the dedication, perseverance, and passion that have brought you here. This achievement represents not only years of academic effort, but also resilience, growth, and a commitment to your future.

Today marks both an ending and a beginning. As you move forward, I encourage you to carry with you a sense of confidence and possibility. You have developed the knowledge, skills, and perspective to make meaningful contributions in your communities and beyond. Use both your head and your heart; combining critical thinking with empathy, curiosity with purpose, as you shape the path ahead.

I have every confidence that the Class of 2026 will make a lasting and positive impact on the world. Enjoy this well-deserved moment of celebration. I wish you every success in the years ahead.



Dr. Rustum Southwell, O.N.S.
Chancellor
Dalhousie University

President's Message

Convocation has the feeling of a harbour at the start of a journey: full of energy, anticipation, gratitude, farewells, and with the promise of beginnings. It is a moment when we pause to celebrate how far you have come and to imagine the directions you will travel from here.

This day marks the culmination of years of effort, curiosity, resilience, and growth. It is a moment to recognize the families, friends, teachers, mentors, classmates, and communities who helped make your achievement possible. No one arrives at Convocation alone.

At Dalhousie, our purpose is to lift people, ideas, and communities — by cultivating the ability to imagine better futures and acting to bring them within reach. My hope is that your time here has helped you do exactly that: to think deeply, to act with courage, to lead through service, and to notice the people and possibilities around you.

The world you are entering needs your talent. It needs your creativity, your judgement, your compassion, your discipline, and your willingness to build trust across difference. It needs people who understand that excellence is not only measured by what we achieve for ourselves, but by what we make possible for others.

Class of 2026, I hope you leave Dalhousie knowing that you belong to this community. Thank you for spending this part of your journey with us. We are enormously proud of you.

Congratulations.



Dr. Kim Brooks
President and Vice-Chancellor
Dalhousie University

Congratulations

Graduate and distinctions lists can be accessed via the QR codes below, or by visiting <https://www.dal.ca/convocation/program>



Convocation and Ceremonial Elements

Convocation

Convocation is a celebration where students transition to alumni, celebrating their achievements as they cross the stage.

New Dawn Staff of Place and Belonging

Dalhousie introduced the New Dawn Staff of Place and Belonging on May 10th, 2019. The Staff officially replaced the University Mace as the ceremonial object used to open and close Convocation ceremonies. Like the Mace before it, the New Dawn Staff is carried into the ceremony by the University Beadle at the head of the graduate procession and placed onstage to signal the start of the celebration and carried back out to mark the end.

The New Dawn Staff of Place and Belonging was designed and created by artists Alan Syliboy of Millbrook First Nation and Mark Austin of Cumberland County with guidance from the university and in collaboration with a team of artists and craftspeople from diverse communities across Nova Scotia.

Dalhousie is one of the first universities in North America to replace its traditional mace with a new ceremonial object. Through its mix of symbols, materials and textures, the New Dawn Staff reflects the rich diversity of individuals who make up the Dalhousie community today and their collective history in this place that we share together.

Symbols and materials integrated along the shaft signify Dalhousie's location in Mi'kma'ki and important on-going relationships with Mi'kmaq communities. Descendants of early European and international settlers, Acadians, Peoples of African descent, persons with disabilities, all genders and the LGBTQ2S+ communities are acknowledged with Staff elements in an effort to convey inclusion, diversity, and equity. Contributions by artists from Mi'kmaq, African Nova Scotian and other communities celebrate that Dalhousie is part of a larger geographic and cultural place of diversity and inclusion.

More than thirty materials and twenty processes were used in the creation of the New Dawn Staff and its accompanying stand. Nova Scotian materials were used when possible, including the white ash that serves as the base material for the pole and driftwood that forms the top segment. Textiles from around the world,

near-field chip technology, recycled gold, and several other natural materials were incorporated throughout using processes ranging from wood turning and textile wrapping to laser cutting, wire weaving, and gilding.

At 7'4" (2.24 metres) tall, the New Dawn Staff cuts an impressive figure befitting of a symbol of achievement. But as a walking stick it also symbolizes the idea of a journey — educational and otherwise — and provides functionality as an aid for walking and as a beacon for community. Four distinct grip zones mean the staff can be carried by individuals with different walking or sitting heights.

Artists involved in the creation of the New Dawn Staff of Place and Belonging were Mark Austin, Alan Syliboy, Wendie Poitras, Annie Martin, Mohammed Issa, Jessie Marshall, Mark Hamilton, Matt D'Entremont, Fred Marshall, Lily Volio, Debby Finkbeiner, Arjun Lal, and many unknown makers whose pre-existing work was incorporated for its cultural significance.

With the New Dawn Staff of Place and Belonging, Dalhousie journeys proudly through its third century informed by the past and inspired for the future.

Coat of Arms

The Dalhousie University Coat of Arms, which you see hanging at the back of the stage, is based on the heraldic achievement (commonly called "Coat of Arms") of the Ramsay family of Scotland. The Rt. Hon. George Ramsay, Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, founded the University in 1818. Initially the Ramsay family coat of arms was used to identify Dalhousie. But over time, it has evolved, as have most heraldic devices through marriage or political alliances.

The seal used by the University differs from that of the Ramsay family version in three ways. First, through marriage one of the supporters on the Ramsay achievement has now changed to include a greyhound on the right. Secondly, the original Ramsay supporters were griffins (half lion, half dragon), while Dalhousie's are dragons. The third change occurred in 1950 when the Board of Governors changed the colour of the shield from white (silver) to gold, to reflect the University's colours of black and gold.

Since 1987 the university has used the eagle and shield as the basis for its logo.

Academic Dress

Academic dress — also known as academic costume or regalia — is the distinctive gowns and hoods worn by all participants (including faculty members and university officials who sit onstage) during a Convocation ceremony. The lining of the hood identifies the field of study.

The tradition of graduates wearing gowns and hoods dates back to the 12th and 13th centuries. This tradition continues today at Dalhousie University to signify a graduate's academic accomplishment.

During the ceremony, Indigenous graduates may be recognized by Elders with the gift of a traditional handmade **Medicine Pouch**. A medicine pouch is traditionally worn around the neck and carries medicines, such as sweet grass, cedar, tobacco and sage, as well as objects that provide protection to each individual person. It is a sign of strength for all those that carry one and a means of acknowledging the creator.

Indigenous graduates may also wear a symbolic graduation stole and/or are welcome to wear traditional dress in a manner that celebrates their heritage along with their ceremonial hood.

In recognition of their heritage, Black graduates of African descent may wear a **Kente Sash**; a symbolic stole, using hand woven material made in Ghana.

Hood color references for Dalhousie degrees:

BA	White silk/white faux fur border	BTech	Emerald green silk/gold & blue silk border	MJ	Royal blue/royal blue border with white corded piping
BAgr	Royal blue/gold & blue silk border	BSW	Gold silk/white silk border	MI/MLIS	Mid-forest green silk
BArch	Vermilion/white corded border	DDS	Scarlet silk/gold border	MMM	Navy silk/sea-green silk border
BASc	Gold/white corded border with blue piping	JD/LLB	White silk/gold silk border	MN	Apricot silk
BACSc	Emerald green/white border	MD	Scarlet silk/white silk border	MPlan	Peacock blue/green corded border
BCBD	Chartreuse silk/peacock blue silk border with red cording	PharmD	White silk/purple silk border	MPA	Sky blue silk
BCD	Green silk/peacock blue corded border	LLM	Purple silk	MPAS	Scarlet silk/royal blue border
BCom	White satin/light blue border	MA	Crimson silk	MPer	Gold silk/scarlet silk border
BCSc	Emerald green/gold border	EMEC	Emerald green/purple border with turquoise piping	MPS	Cobalt crepe satin
BDH	Deep purple satin/gold border	MACSc	Emerald green/silver border with white piping	MREM	Copper silk/white silk border
BE	Dark blue satin/white border	MAHSR	White silk/sky blue silk border with white piping	MSc	Scarlet silk
BEDS	White/two parallel strips of white corded border	MArch	White/two parallel stripes of red corded boarder	MSW	Citron silk
BEng	Gold/white corded border	MASc	Sky blue/gold border with white piping	MURP	Peacock blue/green corded border
BHIM	Peacock satin/white border	MASc/	Peacock blue/gold border with white piping	JSD	Gown of black faced with Olympic blue bordered with yellow, the hood is black corded/lining of Olympic blue and bordered with yellow of the Cambridge design, birretum is black velvet with yellow cord
BHP	Forest green silk/gold silk border	MPlan	Peacock blue/gold border with white piping	PhD	Black gown faced with yellow (gold), hood is black of Cambridge design with yellow, birretum is black velvet with gold cord.
BHSc	Silver satin/white border	MASc/	Peacock blue/gold border with white piping		
BINF	Emerald green/white border	MURP	Crimson silk/white silk border		
BLA	Emerald silk/royal blue and silver-white border	MAT			
BMgt	White silk/teal green silk border	French	Turquoise silk		
BMus	White satin/lavender border	MBA			
BMusEd	Lavender satin/white border	MCS	Emerald green/gold border with white piping		
BN	White silk/royal blue silk border	MDE	Medium blue silk/red scarlet silk border		
BPE	Sage green silk/white silk border	MDI	Purple silk/emerald green border		
BRec	Yellow silk/forest green silk border	MEC	Emerald green/purple border with turquoise piping		
BSc	White silk/scarlet silk border	MEd	Royal blue silk		
BSc Agr	White silk/gold & blue silk border	MEDS	White/three parallel stripes of white/vermillion corded border		
BSc	Royal blue/gold & blue silk border	MEng	Blue/gold border		
BVSC	Forest green silk/gold silk border	MEng/	Peacock blue/gold border		
BScHE	Forest green silk/gold silk border	MPlan			
BScHP	Forest green silk/gold silk border	MEng/	Peacock blue/gold border		
BScK	White silk/crimson silk border	MURP			
BSc	White silk/scarlet silk border	MES	Copper silk		
Med Sc		MFA	Royal blue/burgundy border with white corded piping		
BScN	White silk/royal blue silk border	MGC	Silver silk/scarlet silk border with white cord		
BScOT	Peacock satin/crimson silk border	MHI	Scarlet silk/emerald green silk border		
BScPh	White silk/purple silk border	MHA	Sky blue silk/white silk border		
BScPT	White silk/scarlet & gold silk border	MIM	Mint green satin/white border		
BScRec	Yellow silk/forest green silk border	MITE	Teal green silk/white silk border with gold piping		
BSE	Gold silk/emerald silk border				

Congratulations!

You are officially an alum of Dalhousie, an amazing community of more than 170,000 alumni around the world.

To learn more, visit

dal.ca/alumni

Alumni benefits

You have access to a variety of benefits, including:

- Preferred rates and special promotions
- Career development and other programs
- Travel and accommodation discounts
- Entertainment and retail specials

To learn more, visit

dal.ca/alumni-benefits



Stay connected

You will always be a part of the Dal community. There are a variety of opportunities to stay connected:

- Keep in touch with your classmates through alumni **events and reunions**.
- Influence important university initiatives and decisions through the **Dal Insight Circle**.
- Share your personal and professional milestones with the Dal community and **submit a class note**.
- Take on a leadership role as an alumni **volunteer**.

Be sure to keep us up to date on your achievements and successes, as well as your current contact information. We look forward to hearing from you at alumni@dal.ca.

To update your information, visit

dal.ca/alumni-update



