The Inverness Oran (NS)

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news-20260603-HID-a0005314395

Source name
The Inverness Oran (NS)

Source type
Press • Newspapers

Periodicity
Weekly

Geographical coverage
Local

Origin
Inverness, Nova Scotia, Canada

Wednesday, June 3, 2026

The Inverness Oran (NS)

• p. 10

• 664 words



NSCC awards Shannon with Honourary Diploma

Joe Shannon

More than 4,000 students will graduate from Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) during 22 convocation ceremonies taking place across the province from June 3rd to 16th.

“Convocation ceremonies represent the highlight of each student’s learning journey,” said NSCC Acting President Anna Burke. “This is our opportunity to celebrate with them –_along with family, friends, and loved ones – as they mark this important milestone and prepare for next steps.”

In addition to the awarding of credentials, 24 students will be honoured as valedictorians Five major awards will also be presented at each ceremony to highlight student SUCcess and academic achievement — Board of Governors” Award, President’s Award, Gold Medal, Alumni Award, and the Governor General's Medal. Major award recipients will be published on nscc.ca/Convocation following each ceremony.

Eight outstanding Nova Scotians will also be presented with Honorary Diplomas – the highest form of recognition presented by NSCC. Recipients are chosen based on their contributions to the community and the college.

Included is Joseph Patrick Shannon, Inverness County, who will receive his honourary diploma on June 4th at 4:00 p.m.at the Strait Area campus.

“Joe” 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 Sponsora-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'kiCape Breton’s healthcare workforce. The new Shannex Continuing Care and Nursing Labs provide stu-

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dents 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 healthrelated 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.

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