



2024

Report to Donors



CBU at a Glance

\$3 Million in 2022-23 to more than
\$4 Million in scholarship, bursary and
award disbursements in 2023-24.

Table of Contents

Our Sincerest Thank You	1
Cape Breton Medical Campus.....	2
Remembering Wanda.....	4
Forever CBU Update.....	5
A Wave of Generosity.....	6
CBU'S 50 TH Anniversary	8



Over the past year, **143 individual CBU employees** have made more than 1,500 unique gifts to CBU totalling nearly **\$180,000**.

Since 2022, participation in CBU's Employee Giving Program has increased by **136%**.



More than **14,000** alumni living
on Cape Breton Island.



Nearly **40,000 alumni** in
more than **75 countries**
around the world



CBU is now the
2ND LARGEST
University in Nova Scotia



Up to **30 STUDENTS** annually
will begin their training at the
Cape Breton Medical Campus -
Beginning Fall 2025.

Cover Photo:
Attendees of the CBU Students' Union
Reunion proudly pose with President
Dingwall in the courtyard during a cheque
presentation, celebrating their generous
\$51,000 collective gift to the Forever CBU
campaign – See more on Page 10.

Did you know about our Monthly Giving Program?

Becoming a monthly donor allows you to make smaller, more manageable, reoccurring gifts, which have a huge impact over time. AND – there is no need to keep track of multiple receipts for donations made throughout the year. One cumulative tax receipt will be sent to you annually.

Our Sincerest Thank You



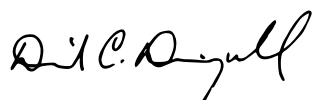
On behalf of the Cape Breton University (CBU) Board of Governors, faculty, staff and most importantly, our students, I send my sincere thanks to you – our donors for your continued and generous support of CBU. Your contributions are the cornerstone of our continued growth and success. As our valued supporters, I am introducing our latest Donor Report with great enthusiasm.

This report arrives at a particularly exciting time, as we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of Cape Breton University. Our Institution's journey has been marked by a steadfast commitment to academic excellence and community service. As you'll read throughout these pages, this year-long celebration has included a series of memorable events, dedications and projects.

We are also proud to share significant progress in our capital infrastructure projects. The construction of the Medical Sciences Building, the future home of the Cape Breton Medical Campus, is well underway, promising to enhance healthcare education in our region. Soon, we will take ownership of the former Nova Scotia Community College Marconi Campus and will begin its transformation into a multi-use building that will include a Collaborative Healthcare Clinic that will serve 10,000 patients annually. The Canada Games Complex is being transformed into a modern facility dedicated to health and wellness, including the first arena in Canada dedicated to women and girls' hockey. Additionally, the planning and consultations for the Centre for Discovery and Innovation are making great strides, promising new state-of-the-art research and teaching spaces on campus.

Your support is not only an investment in our University but in the communities we serve and the futures we are building. Thank you for being an integral part of our journey. Together, we are making a profound impact.

Yours very truly,



David C. Dingwall
President and Vice-Chancellor



I am honoured to express my deepest appreciation for your generous support and commitment to Cape Breton University. It is through your contributions that we continue to thrive and innovate, paving the way for future generations of students and scholars.

In this Donor Report, you will find exciting updates on the significant progress of our Forever CBU Campaign, including the transformative \$5 million gift from the FDC Foundation. This generous donation, one of the largest in CBU's history, comes with a matching clause that will double the impact of all pledges and donations received until September 30, 2024. This matching challenge presents an incredible opportunity to amplify our fundraising efforts, in particular, to advance the Cape Breton Medical Campus project, enhancing healthcare education and access in our region.

Additionally, we are delighted to share just a few of the inspiring stories of generosity and philanthropy we have witnessed over this past year – from you, our incredible donors, like the announcement of a second \$1 million gift from Keith MacLeod and Gail Matheson, alumni of CBU. These stories highlight the remarkable impact of donors. We also celebrate the support from many amazing alumni whose collective gifts have strengthened our community. Each story reflects the profound dedication and commitment of our donors.

Your dedication and generosity are truly inspiring, and we are immensely grateful for your partnership. Thank you for your continued support as we strive to create a brighter future for all.

Sincerely,



Sara Salter-Burke
Vice-President Development

Cape Breton Medical Campus

We are excited to share the latest updates on the Cape Breton Medical Campus (CBMC), a partnership with Dalhousie Medical School. Nova Scotia's second medical school campus is on track to open in the fall of 2025 with 30 seats for first-year medical students, with a focus on practising in rural Nova Scotian communities.

Our new medical sciences building will be the cornerstone of the Campus, which will train family doctors with a special focus on rural health issues including aging, frailty and disease prevention, as well as Indigenous health and African Nova Scotian health. CBU's health and counselling centre will become a key clinical training facility and address the increased demand for healthcare among students.

In March, we hosted our first admissions sessions, with more than 200 attendees learning about the process. As of June, we began accepting applications for our very first class of medical students.

Construction of the CBMC is progressing, with the foundation and key structures already well underway. Meanwhile, with NSCC's upcoming departure from the Marconi Campus, work will begin immediately to convert the former community college campus into a collaborative care medical clinic that will serve 10,000 patients per year – crucial for our educational and healthcare goals.

Time-lapse cameras are capturing the progress, and steel framing arrives soon.

These milestones are crucial in improving healthcare access in rural and Indigenous communities.

THANK YOU for your continued support as we build a brighter future for healthcare in Nova Scotia.



A Transformational Gift

Toronto-based FDC Foundation confirmed a \$5 million gift to the Forever CBU Campaign. This historical gift, one of the largest in CBU's history, is designated to the Cape Breton Medical Campus and comes with a matching clause.

THIS MEANS THAT ANY
CAMPAIGN PLEDGE RECEIVED
BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 2024,
WILL BE MATCHED BY FDC UP
TO \$5 MILLION.



David Dingwall, CBU President and Vice-Chancellor (centre), Addictions and Mental Health Minister Brian Comer (fifth from right), and members of the Cape Breton Medical Campus team with members of Trifos Design Consultants at the April 30 funding announcement (Communications Nova Scotia).

A Family's Tribute

One gift, in particular, that we have received is from the Julie Patel Foundation. The Foundation was established in 2018 by Julie and Ahmed Patel's three children and six grandchildren in memory of their beloved parents and grandparents' commitment to education. This gift will be used to create the Julie Patel Scholarship for a medical student studying at the Cape Breton Medical Campus.



Operational Funding

We are also pleased to announce that on April 30, 2024, Nova Scotia committed an additional **\$11.6 million** for operational costs over two years and **\$1.5 million** for five more seats at Dalhousie Medical School for 2024-25, totalling 15 funded seats with a return-of-service requirement.

In March 2023, the Province announced a **\$58.9 million** investment to develop the campus, including **\$49 million** for the medical sciences building and related infrastructure, **\$6.2 million** for a new collaborative care clinic and **\$3.7 million** to expand the health and counselling centre.



Remembering Wanda

In February 2022, the world lost a key figure in social justice, Dr. Wanda Robson. At 76, Wanda achieved her dream of earning a Bachelor of Arts from Cape Breton University in 2004 and received an honorary degree in 2014 for preserving her sister's legacy.

Wanda, the youngest sister of Viola Desmond, who defied racial segregation in 1946, championed social justice in her sister's name for more than 20 years. Shunning the spotlight, Wanda ignited national activism, from Viola Desmond's historic pardon to her portrait on the Canadian \$10 bill.

Wanda inspired thousands across the country by sharing her sister's story and encouraging resilience in the face of racial inequality. In 2021, another chapter was written in the Wanda Robson legacy story. The establishment of a scholarship at Cape Breton University in Wanda's name to support African Nova Scotian learners for generations to come. The Wanda Robson Scholarship will change lives for recipients in pursuit of their dreams.

Today, thanks to the generosity of donors like the Jeannine Deveau Achievement Fund, The Wanda Robson Scholarship fund now supports a minimum of ten \$3,000 scholarships annually for incoming and current African Nova Scotian students at Cape Breton University.



The Centre for Discovery and Innovation (CDI)

Planning for the CDI is well underway, and consultations about space utilization and schematic development are ongoing. This new building will be at the centre of campus and will be built in an existing parking lot. This new building will replace outdated labs and create state-of-the-art, collaborative research and teaching space. There will also be enhanced and collaborative learning spaces and innovative spaces to drive industry partnerships. The centrepiece of CDI will be a space dedicated to honouring Donald Marshall Jr. This space will focus on L'nu Health, Elders and Youth Leadership, Climate Change and the Environment and Treaty Rights.



Canada Games Complex

Renovations are well underway at the Canada Games Complex. This updated complex will provide new health and wellness space for students, an expanded Nancy Dingwall Health and Counselling Centre, a walking track, a fitness centre and convocation and event space. It will also be the first arena in Canada dedicated to women and girl's hockey and will be home to the Cape Breton Blizzard Female Hockey Association, CBU Women's Capers Hockey Team and CBU Recreational programming.

Cape Breton Blizzard Female Hockey Association

This past April, the Cape Breton Blizzard Hockey Female Hockey Association presented a cheque to the Forever CBU Campaign and the creation of the Home of Women's Hockey at CBU. Players and their parents sold tickets on a car raffle and held a 50/50 during the Kraft Hockeyville celebrations. The **\$110,000** donation will be used for the renovations and expansion of the Canada Games Complex and the new Home for Women's Hockey.

Thank you to all the players and parents who worked hard to raise this money!

Included in the photo are members of the Blizzard Female Hockey Association, members of the CBU Women's CAPERS hockey team, CBU President David Dingwall, Manager of Development at CBU Steve Horne, Blizzard Female Hockey Association President Christina Lamey, and former professional hockey player and Team Canada member Jessica Wong.



A Wave of Generosity

The Forever CBU Campaign has ignited a wave of philanthropy and has highlighted the notion that education is the great equalizer. Gifts of all sizes from all corners of the community have generously been donated to the campaign. Here are just a few.

In May, more than 100 Alumni and friends gathered in Calgary, Alberta, to reconnect, catch up and hear about the exciting new developments at CBU. During the gathering, Alumni Keith MacLeod, on behalf of himself and his wife, Gail Matheson, announced they had made a second **\$1 million** donation to CBU and the Forever CBU Campaign.

In 2019, Keith and Gail established the MacLeod-Matheson Bursary with their first commitment of **\$1 million**. As Alumni who consider themselves average academically in high school but found success in university, they felt it was important to support students not solely based on their high school grades. They also believed in considering financial need and involvement in campus life and the community.

Keith spoke about why he and his wife, Gail Matheson, created an endowment for Cape Breton students to attend CBU.

To date, Keith and Gail have supported more than 90 students from across Cape Breton Island, and it is that impact that motivates them to continue to give and support CBU students.

To other Alumni, Keith and Gail had this to say... "We are proud to support CBU students and to be able to increase the MacLeod-Matheson Bursary. We want to encourage other Alumni to support the Forever CBU Campaign as well. No matter the size of the gift, it is the act of giving back to your community and the act of impacting the life of a student that is the important part."



Keith MacLeod speaks to a crowd of CBU alumni and friends at the Calgary CBU Alumni reception.





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David Gillis is an alumnus of four of our five predecessor institutions and is a leader in the Cape Breton Business Community. Dave has contributed **\$50,000** to the CBU Forever Campaign.

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Ankit Wadhwa is an MBA student and employee at CBU's World Tourism Institute. Ankit also founded a group called Cape Breton Influencers, which hosted a Diwali event and raised funds for a new award at CBU. This event raised **\$4,000**.

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Maureen Barrington is an alumna and CBU employee who is also a payroll deduction donor. CBU's payroll deduction program was relaunched in 2021 after a hiatus, and currently, CBU employees donate close to **\$70,000** a year to the Forever CBU campaign.

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This past October, the family of **the Late Cynthia Anne MacKinnon (Anne)**, established a bursary to honour her memory and ensure her legacy lives on through the Cynthia Anne MacKinnon Education Bursary. This newly created bursary will support students who are pursuing a Bachelor of Education. The family hopes to make a meaningful difference in the lives of students who aspire to become educators and have a passion for education, just like Anne.

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Back in 2018, Ted and Sandra Nolan made a generous gift to Cape Breton University to establish **The Rose Nolan Memorial Scholarship** to recognize Aboriginal First Nation women who are achieving their educational and training goals while maintaining strong community involvement. In March, Jamey Toney-Gagne became our most recent recipient of the \$5,000 scholarship. Jamey is from Eskasoni First Nation and is also an active member of the Student Union as the Indigenous representative for the Ekkian Room.

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Receiving the MacLeod Matheson Award has been a tremendous honour for me. Coming from the small town of Mabou, Nova Scotia, studying to be a nurse at Cape Breton University has been a dream come true. Upon completing my degree, I plan to return home and work at the Inverness Memorial Hospital. I am deeply grateful for the support I have received during my studies and look forward to the opportunity to give back to the community that has shaped me into the person I am today.

Ellie MacLean, Nursing Student
Mabou N.S.



Cape Breton University is celebrating its 50th anniversary as an independent post-secondary institution with an autonomous Board of Governors. The celebrations began in January 2024 and will continue throughout the year with a series of exciting events, activities, and special projects.

We kicked things off in January with a journey through time as distinguished speakers guided us through lectures reflecting our past, present and future. This historic celebration was a tribute to 50 years of academic excellence at CBU, inspired by Dr. Donald F. Arseneau's first inaugural lecture, "Xavier Traditions," in 1974, a defining moment in our journey from the College of Cape Breton to the University College of Cape Breton, and now, our beloved CBU.



In May, the Old Sydney Society Sydney Museum launched the exhibit **Cape Breton University - 50 Years in the Making**. This showcase of CBU's history will be open to the public until **November 15, 2024**.

The museum, located at 173 Charlotte Street, Sydney, welcomes visitors from Tuesday to Saturday.

At the end of May, CBU hosted **two memorable nights at the Savoy Theatre**, featuring performances by honorary degree holders such as Men of the Deeps, Barra MacNeils, Matt Minglewood, Gordie Sampson, Maynard Morrison and Bette MacDonald and Ashley MacIsaac – and some moving musical tributes to Rita MacNeil, Buddy MacMaster, Winnie Chafe, John Allan Cameron, Bruce Guthro and Dougie MacPhee.



On May 31, we had the pleasure of welcoming more than 100 student leaders, now proud alumni, back to campus for a special **CBU Students' Union reunion**. Spanning over five decades, these incredible individuals, including executives from every decade since the 1970s, came together to celebrate Cape Breton University's rich history and shared experiences.

This group worked tirelessly to raise and commit more than **\$50,000** for student awards at CBU through the Forever CBU campaign. This generosity will have a lasting impact on current and future students, fostering new generations of leaders. Here's to many more years of unity, leadership, and success!



UPCOMING 2024 EVENTS

- President's Leadership Dinner - **September 12**
TICKETS ON SALE NOW
- CAPERS WEEKEND - **October 3-6**
- Chris Hadfield Visit - **October 18**
- Indigenous Alumni Gala - **October 25-26**

For more information, visit **CBU.ca/50**



To learn more about how you can join us on this journey as we create a strong, sustainable future for *our students – our future leaders – our University and our Island home*, please visit:

Forever**CBU**.ca

FOREVER

