

Trent University Honorary Graduates

2025

Doctor of Laws

Zabeen Hirji: for her remarkable achievements as the first South Asian woman to reach the C-Suite of a TSX-100 company, and passionate advocacy for increased EDI in the Canadian workforce.

Doctor of Science

Claudette McGowan: in recognition of her outstanding achievements in the fields of technology, cybersecurity, and digital transformation.

Doctor of Letters

Alice Olsen Williams/Minaajimokwe: in recognition of her Indigenous rights advocacy through her renowned textile art that aims to celebrate Indigenous history and rights.

2024

Doctor of Laws

Audrey Kobayashi: in recognition of her outstanding scholarly achievements in the fields of geography, gender studies and social justice, as well as her advocacy for equity, diversity, inclusion and Indigeneity at universities across Canada.

Harvey McCue (Waubegeshig): for his extraordinary contributions at the local, provincial and national levels to the creation and continued development of Indigenous education in Canada—including co-founding the Indian-Eskimo Studies Program at Trent University.

Cheryl Perera: in recognition of her advocacy for children's rights, in particular, her work to prevent the sexual exploitation of children.

2023

Doctor of Laws

The Honourable Christine Elliott: in recognition of her many achievements in Ontario politics, her contributions to the Durham region and for her work in the areas of health care and human rights.

Moogly Tetrault-Hamel: for his accomplishments in the Defense Aboriginal Advisory Group and his role as the Indigenous Advisory to the honorary Chaplain to the Queen.

Doctor of Letters

Drew Haden-Taylor: for his many significant contributions to Canadian literature and Indigenous performing arts.

Doctor of Science

Jenny Ingram: for her advocacy for the elderly and her leadership in dementia care and research.

2022

Doctor of Laws

Lillian Dyck: in recognition of her advocacy for equity in the education and employment of women, Chinese Canadians, and Indigenous Peoples.

Rosemary Ganley: for her passionate advocacy for human rights and community engagement.

Ana Lopes: for her extraordinary contributions to non-profit organizations delivering social programs for women, health, and mental health.

Doctor of Letters

Bob Ezrin: for his significant contributions to the Canadian entertainment industry and dedication to environmental causes.

Muriel Miguel: in recognition of her landmark contributions to contemporary Indigenous and feminist theatre movements.

Doctor of Science

Charles Krebs: for his extensive contributions in the areas of ecology, environmental science, wildlife conservation, and northern research.

2020

(Awarding of honorary degrees was delayed till 2021 due to COVID-19)

Doctor of Laws

Waneek Horn-Miller: for her remarkable achievements in sport, broadcasting and community activism and her life-long commitment to Indigenous rights.

Mobeenuddin (Mobeen) Hasan Khaja: in recognition of his extraordinary community activism and leadership.

Lisa LaFlamme: in recognition of her work as a trailblazer for women in journalism and Canadian broadcasting.

Ilse Treurnicht: in recognition of her entrepreneurial leadership in Canada's innovation community.

Doctor of Science

Ronald Reid: in acknowledgement of his significant contributions to science and conservation in Ontario and beyond.

2019

Doctor of Laws

Cindy Blackstock: in recognition of her contributions in the area of First Nation child welfare.

Jerry Coughlan: for his community leadership and generous support of organizations throughout the region.

Jeanette Corbiere Lavell: for her work in the area of First Nations women.

Mae Katt: for her work in the area of First Nations health.

Alice Klein: for her contribution to alternative media.

Doctor of Letters

Michael Cooke: for his contributions as a journalist and a Board member of Journalists for Human Rights.

Doctor of Science

Mark Angelo: for his work in the area of river conservation in Canada.

2018

Doctor of Laws

George Cope: for using his position as a corporate leader to champion social issues, in particular, mental health.

Max Eisen: for his efforts in the area of Holocaust education and promotion of human rights.

Sylvia Maracle: for her advocacy for Indigenous peoples, particularly for Indigenous urban youth.

Stephen Teeple: in recognition of his contributions to the body of Canadian architecture generally and the Trent University campus in particular.

2017

Doctor of Laws

The Right Honourable Paul Martin: for his significant achievements in business, politics, international affairs, and aboriginal empowerment.

The Honourable Dr. Jean Augustine: for her significant contributions to education and social justice.

Keith Knott: for championing First Nations peoples and in recognition of his enrichment of the Curve Lake First Nation community.

W. John Patterson and Thea Anna Patterson: for the commitment they exemplify as global citizens with a concern for the well-being of the planet.

Stephen Poloz: in recognition of his outstanding commitment to effective public service.

Fiona Sampson: for her commitment and dedication to seeking justice for society's disadvantaged.

2016

Doctor of Laws

Michael de Pencier: for his significant contributions to Canadian nature, art and publishing.

Kathleen Taylor: for her achievements in the banking industry, fostering respectful workplace cultures, and her dedication and contribution to charitable causes.

Doctor of Letters

Linwood Barclay: for his significant contributions to Canadian journalism and literature.

Roy MacGregor: for his noteworthy contributions to literature, arts, journalism and culture in Canada.

2015

Doctor of Laws

Martha Friendly: for her research and advocacy in the area of early childhood education and child care which have helped to shape policy on these issues.

Michael Thrasher: for his contributions in creating a climate of respect for Indigenous and Traditional knowledge in Canada and internationally.

Doctor of Letters

Stephen Stohn: for his significant contributions to the arts and cultural life of Canada.

Peter Rayment: for his contributions to Canadian culture and society through his documentary films exploring social injustice, politics, Canadian history and culture.

Doctor of Science

Drew Monkman: for his achievements in promoting knowledge of, and an appreciation for, the natural environment, especially in the Kawarthas.

2014

Doctor of Laws

Richard Johnston: for his outstanding contribution to public service and the welfare of so many Ontarians.

David Patterson: for his extraordinary success in socially and environmentally responsible business.

Doctor of Letters

Joseph Boyden: for his exceptional contributions to Canadian Literature and Indigenous culture.

Shelagh Grant: for her relentless dedication to Trent University and her inspired scholarship on Canada's northern regions and Aboriginal peoples.

Doctor of Science

Wade Davis: for his numerous achievements in both the arts and sciences, and his interdisciplinary approach to lifelong learning.

2013

Doctor of Laws

The Honourable Ed Broadbent: for his significant contributions to Canadian politics and, specifically, his work for an equitable tax system, equality for women, the constitutional entrenchment of aboriginal and economic rights, and ethics in government.

Justin Chiu: for his significant achievements in international business and his leadership in supporting post-secondary education.

His Excellency Bharrat Jagdeo: for his leadership achievements and his advocacy for the environment.

Doctor of Science

Bruce Falls: for his outstanding contributions in the areas of conservation of our natural environment and scientific research.

2012

Doctor of Laws

Sheila Fraser: for her significant contributions and diligence to Canadian public finance accountability, stewardship and transparency.

Ralph Heintzman: for his distinguished contributions to Canadian public service at the highest standard of ethics, accountability and service delivery.

Judith Shamian: for her distinguished contributions to the Canadian health care system, nursing research, patient advocacy and excellence in nursing leadership.

Doctor of Letters

Gwynne Dyer: for his significant international contributions as a geopolitical analyst, journalist, broadcaster, filmmaker, author and lecturer

Mark Starowicz: for his significant contributions in the advocacy of Canadian culture and identity, journalism and broadcasting.

2011

Doctor of Laws

Rick Beaver: In recognition of his significant contributions to aboriginal art, tourism, cultural history and environmental management.

The Right Honorable Kim Campbell: In recognition of her political achievements and leadership contributions in Canada and internationally in women's rights and democratic organizations.

Sandra Laronde: In recognition of her contributions and commitment to Aboriginal arts and cultural expression in Canada and internationally.

Lauren Woolstencroft: In recognition of her dedication and perseverance to achieving excellence in sports and engineering and as a role model to all athletes.

Craig Kielburger: In recognition of his significant international contributions to social justice and his advocacy for children's rights and youth leadership.

2010

Doctor of Laws

The Honorable Peter Adams: For his significant contributions to both the Trent University and Peterborough communities.

The Honorable William G. Davis: For his historic contributions to public education in Ontario.

Robert Glossop: For his outstanding contributions to Canadian social policy and understanding of Canadian families.

John Mighton: For his significant contributions to mathematics education and theatre.

Nancy Strickland: For her commitment to international development and her role as a global citizen.

2009

Doctor of Laws

Maude Barlow: For her outstanding leadership in citizen advocacy and for her international environmental work.

The Honourable Iona Campagnolo: For her distinguished contributions in public life and for her commitment to international humanitarian and environmental work.

Sarah Polley: For her award-winning and internationally-acclaimed achievements as an actor and film director.

Thomas R. Porter (Sakokwenionkwas): For his contributions as an Indigenous cultural educator, Elder and Spiritual Leader.

Mary Pratt - For her internationally-acclaimed achievements in contemporary realist art.

2008

Doctor of Laws

Zacharias Kunuk – For his award-winning accomplishments in film production and for showcasing Canada’s Arctic to the world.

Hon. Flora MacDonald - For her distinguished contributions in public life and commitment to international humanitarian work.

Donnell Leahy & Natalie MacMaster - For their nationally-recognized musical achievements and role in the Peterborough area’s musical community.

Michael MacMillan – For his contributions as a highly successful entrepreneur and his volunteer activities and commitment to community.

Doctor of Letters

Hugh Anson-Cartwright - For his work to support and preserve Canadian literature.

2007

Doctor of Laws

Jim Balsillie – distinguished contributions to society as a highly successful entrepreneur, volunteer activities and commitment to community

Ron Fourney – outstanding leadership in DNA forensic science and distinguished contributions to the development of the Trent-Fleming Forensic Science Program

Margaret & Wallace McCain - significant contributions to the arts, education, charities, and business communities through their extraordinary career and volunteer activities

Rosemary Speirs – distinguished leadership in advancing the representation of women in Canada's government and outstanding work to protect the natural environment

Doctor of Letters

Stuart McLean - distinguished contributions as an author, broadcaster and teacher

2006

Doctor of Laws

Charles Coffey - distinguished contributions to society through volunteer leadership

Roberta Jamieson - outstanding contributions to society in the field of dispute resolution and also for leadership in the Aboriginal community

Donald Tapscott - distinguished contributions to our understanding of the impacts of advances in information technology on people, workplaces and society

Doctor of Letters

Richard Wright - distinguished contributions to Canadian literature

2005

Doctor of Laws

Erica Cherney - Peterborough businesswoman, volunteer and honorary member and former chair of Trent University's Board of Governors

Jake Eberts - Canadian film producer and founder of Allied Filmmakers

Mary Simon - Canada's former Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs and former Chancellor of Trent University

General Romeo Dallaire (Ret'd) - celebrated Canadian, known for his courageous and principled leadership as former head of the UN peacekeeping Force in Uganda and Rwanda

2004

Doctor of Laws

Hon. Rosalie Silberman Abella - jurisprudence, champion of human rights, justice & equality

Terence Dickinson - science writer & communicator in the field of astronomy

Doctor of Letters

Jean Murray Cole - author, historian, volunteer

Donald N. LePan - scholarly publishing in Canada

Alistair MacLeod - writer, teacher

Patricia Kathleen (P.K.) Page - writer, painter

2003

Doctor of Laws

Frank Augustyn - renowned dancer, teacher, artistic director

2002

Doctor of Laws

John de Pencier- public service, service to Trent

Doris McCarthy - renowned artist, teacher

David Morton- public service, Peterborough

John O'Leary - literacy advocate

2001

Doctor of Laws

James Orbinski - doctor and humanitarian

Ernie Coombs - actor and childrens' entertainer

2000

Doctor of Laws

Tom Jackson - humanitarian, actor, musician

Alanis Obomsawin - writer and film maker

1999

Doctor of Laws

Madeleine Parent - union and feminist worker

Chris Hadfield - astronaut

1998

Doctor of Laws

Mary Walsh - comedienne, actor, writer, director, political satirist

Ian Affleck – physicist

Dorothy Burnham - textile historian

Installation - Doctor of Laws

Matthew Coon Come - native leader, political activist

1997

Doctor of Letters

Michael Valpy - journalist

Doctor of Laws

Sylva Gelber - women's rights pioneer, social activist

1996

Doctor of Letters

Julie Johnson - children's author

Doctor of Laws

Bob Gainey - athlete

1995

Doctor of Letters

Dennis Beynon Lee - poet, literary editor

Doctor of Laws

Nancy Ruth - feminist, social activist, business woman

David William Schindler - environmental scientist

1994

Doctor of Laws

Ernest Benedict - native elder

Douglas Cardinal - Metis architect

Rosemarie Kuptana - Inuit leader

1993

Doctor of Laws

Inger Hansen - jurisprudence, women's issues

David Trevor Moore - public service, service to Trent

Walter George Pitman - public service, educator

1992

Doctor of Laws

John Kim Bell - Cdn. Native Arts Foundation, orchestra conductor

Jack Matthews - International Studies, educator

Julia Phelps - art historian, teacher

Bertha Wilson - jurisprudence, women's concerns

1991

Spring - Doctor of Letters

Clara Thomas - academe

Spring - Doctor of Laws

Gary Potts - native rights **T.E.W. Nind** - academe, service to Trent

Morden Yolles - engineering

Fall - Doctor of Letters

Wayland Drew - author, teacher, environmental concerns

Fall - Doctor of Laws

Jon Grant - Peterborough businessman, environmental concerns, service to Trent

Stanley Rowe - ecologist

1990

Spring - Doctor of Letters

Dennis Dickens Sweeting - theatre, alumnus

Spring - Doctor of Laws

Kenneth Earl Kidd - academe

Martha Ann Kidd - heritage conservancy, Peterborough

Harold Barling Town - art

Ralph Ray Krueger - academe

Fall - Doctor of Letters

Scott Alexander Young - author

Fall - Doctor of Laws

Beth Appeldoorn - Canadian booktrade

Susan Sandler - Canadian booktrade

1989

Spring - Doctor of Letters

Raymond Murray Schafer - arts

Spring - Doctor of Laws

Edith Grace Firth - librarian

Geraldine Anne Kenney-Wallace - science

John Alexander Irving Young - engineering, Peterborough

Fall - Doctor of Letters (25th Anniversary)

Marion Golda Fry - academe, service to Trent

Richard Hay Sadleir - academe, service to Trent **S.G. Denis Smith** - academe, service to Trent
Fall - Doctor of Laws (25th Anniversary)

Hugh Franklin Waddell - public service, service to Trent

Walter George Ward - public service, service to Trent

1988

Spring - Doctor of Laws

Edward Walter Scott - religion

Diane Lynn Dupuy - arts

August 1988 - Special Ceremony

Charles Evan Feinberg - (library benefactor) Posthumous LL.D.

Fall - Doctor of Laws

Douglas Campbell Sadler - natural science

1987

Spring - Doctor of Laws

Meyer Brownstone - public service

Pierre Juneau - public service S

Sister Veronica O'Reilly - religious leader, Peterborough, alumni

Installation - Doctor of Laws

Alan Earp - academe, service to education

Fall - Doctor of Laws

William Dray - academe

Peter Gzowski - public service, broadcasting

1986

Spring - Doctor of Laws

William Fisher - business, Peterborough

Timothy Porteous - arts

Donald Rickerd - public service

Fall - Doctor of Laws

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela - prisoner of conscience

Andrei Dimitrievich Sakharov - prisoner of conscience

Hon. Mr. Justice Walter Surma Tarnopolsky - human rights

1985

Spring - Doctor of Laws

F. Norman Jewison - arts

W.O. Mitchell - arts

Fall - Doctor of Laws

John Holmes - public service

Jack McClelland - arts, publishing

1984

Spring - Doctor of Laws

Thomas Berger - jurisprudence

Lois Wilson - religion

Fall - Doctor of Laws

George Connell - academe

George Ignatieff - academe

Ronald Watts - academe

1983

Spring - Doctor of Laws

Donald Chant - academe

Maureen Forrester - arts

Maxwell Ward - public service

Fall - Doctor of Laws

Tommy Douglas - public service

Joseph Jacobs - arts

1982

Spring - Doctor of Letters

Timothy Findley - arts, Peterborough area

Malcolm Mackenzie Ross - academe

Spring - Doctor of Laws

Beverly Northcott Smallman - scientist, service to Trent

Fall - Doctor of Laws

Karen Kain - arts **David Sutherland** - local educational service

1981

Spring - Doctor of Laws

Peter Theodore Demos - academe, Peterborough

Trevor Lloyd - academe

Raymond Moriyama - architect

Fall - Doctor of Laws

David T. Suzuki - academe

1980

Spring - Doctor of Laws

Margaret Leonore MacKelvie - Peterborough service

William Belmont Common - jurisprudence

Spring - Doctor of Letters

Sir Alfred Ayer - academe

Fall - Doctor of Letters

Leo Yaffe - academe

Fall - Doctor of Laws

Bernard Danton Sandwell - service to Trent

1979

Spring - Doctor of Laws

Frederick Kenneth Hare - academe

Gordon Meredith Lightfoot - arts

Harry Reginald Williams - academe, Peterborough

Spring - Doctor of Letters

Mary Louise Northway - academe

Fall - Doctor of Laws

Frank Radford Crawley - arts

Arnold Cantwell Smith - public service

Fall - Doctor of Letters

Wilfred Cantwell Smith - academe

1978

Spring - Doctor of Laws

S. Robert Blair - public service

Francis Edward Paxton Whitehead - arts

Spring - Doctor of Letters

Eugene Alfred Forsey - Trent , public service

Fall - Doctor of Laws

Stanley Howard Knowles - public service

Fall - Doctor of Letters

A.J.M. Smith - academe

1977

Spring - Doctor of Laws

Celia Franca - arts

Spring - Doctor of Letters

Jose M. Valverde - Trent academe

Fall - Doctor of Laws

John Charles Polanyi - academe

Gordon Hamilton Southam - arts

Fall - Doctor of Letters

William Hugh Kenner - Peterborough , academe

1976

Spring - Doctor of Laws

Donald Olding Hebb - academe

William Reid - arts

Charles Stewart Almon Ritchie - public service

Spring - Doctor of Letters

Marie Tremaine - academe

1975

Spring - Doctor of Laws

William Herbert Cranston - public service

John Harry Ebbs - public service

Thomas Henry Bull Symons - service to Trent

Spring - Doctor of Letters

Gilles Vigneault - arts

Fall - Doctor of Laws

James Robbins Kidd - public service, academe

Fall - Doctor of Letters

Edith Margaret Fulton Fowke - arts

1974

Spring - Doctor of Letters

Harry Joseph Boyle - arts

Spring - Doctor of Laws

John Morgan Gray - arts

Ross Munro Matthews - Peterborough service

Fall - Doctor of Letters

Robertson Davies - arts

1973

Spring - Doctor of Letters

Kathleen Coburn - arts

Spring - Doctor of Laws

Harold Scott MacDonald Coxeter - academe

Winona Grace MacInnis - public service

Gilbert Ryle - academe

Fall - Doctor of Letters

Margaret Eleanor Atwood - arts

Fall - Doctor of Laws

Louis Rasminsky - public service

1972

Doctor of Laws

Hon. Therese F. Casgrain - public service

Hon. Mr. Justice Samuel Freedman - jurisprudence

Lady Mary Helen Ogilvie - service to Trent

William Augustus Ritchie - academe

Doctor of Letters

Margaret Laurence - arts

1971

Doctor of Laws

Gilbert Bagnani - service to Trent

George Parkin Grant - academe

Donald James LeRoy - academe, public service

Ronald James Thom - architect

Doctor of Letters

Alan Stewart Paton - civil liberties

1970

Doctor of Laws

Edward Hewlett Johnson - Biafra aid, mission

Fern Alma Rahmel - education

Doctor of Letters

James Alexander Corry - academe

Gratien Gelinas - arts

1969

Doctor of Laws

Col. John Alexander Dewart - Peterborough service

Louis Fine - public service

Doris Eileen Lewis - librarian

Hon. John Howard Sissons - jurisprudence

Doctor of Letters

Morris Bishop - academe

1968

Doctor of Laws

Charles K. Fraser - service to Trent

Rev. Roger Guindon - academe

Wilfrid Bennett Lewis - academe

Hon. James Chalmers McRuer - jurisprudence

Doctor of Letters

Alexander Brady - academe

Floyd Sherman Chalmers - patron of the arts

1967

Doctor of Laws

Major James William Coldwell - public service

Edwin Mirvish - patron of the arts

Bora Laskin - jurisprudence

Doctor of Letters

Charles Allan Ashley - academe

Alex Colville - artist