

Trent University Celebrates FNHPA Board Member Harvey McCue with an Honorary Doctorate

The First Nations Housing Professionals Association (FNHPA) is thrilled to announce that Harvey McCue, a distinguished alumnus and Board of Governors emeritus, has been awarded an honorary Doctor of Law degree from Trent University. As the CEO of FNHPA, Candace Bennett had the profound honor of paying tribute to McCue with a speech at a special luncheon on July 21st, 2024.

Harvey McCue's journey with Trent University began in 1969 when he co-founded the Indigenous Studies department, the first of its kind in Canada. As the first Acting Chair of what was then known as the Indian Eskimo Studies program, McCue taught for 14 years, laying the groundwork for a deeper understanding and appreciation of Indigenous cultures, histories, and contributions.

McCue's passionate advocacy for Indigenous educational opportunities was instrumental in shaping Trent University's curriculum and creating the Indigenous Bachelor of Education program. His groundbreaking efforts have not only impacted the Trent community but have also influenced national discussions on Indigenous rights, education, and governance.

Harvey is also a distinguished member of the Order of Canada, and his 40-year career as a scholar, administrator, and visionary, is a testament to his dedication and passion for creating meaningful change. He has held diverse and influential roles, including Director of Education at the James Bay Cree School Board in Quebec, Executive Director of the Mi'kmaq Education Authority in Nova Scotia, and the first Indigenous Director General of what is now Indigenous Services Canada.

Since 1995, McCue has been a highly regarded consultant in Ottawa, collaborating with esteemed clients such as the Aboriginal Financial Officers Association, the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, Aboriginal Head Start, the Assembly of First Nations, Agriculture Canada, the Department of Justice Canada, and of course, FNHPA. His work on Federal Task Forces and in advisory roles has significantly shaped policies and programs that will benefit Indigenous peoples across Canada for years to come.

Since 2019, McCue has been a founding board member of the FNHPA, where he brings a unique perspective and has been instrumental in shaping the direction and success of the association's initiatives. Beyond his professional achievements, Harvey McCue is also known for his humility and wisdom. His calming presence in the FNHPA boardroom is legendary and has always brought a sense of order and focus to discussions. He has been a mentor to many including our very own CEO Candace Bennett and has always motivated everyone around him to dig deeper, go further, and soar higher.

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We could not be prouder to celebrate Harvey McCue and could not think of anyone more deserving of such an honour. Thank you for being an inspiration to us all. Congratulations on your Honorary Doctorate Degree!

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