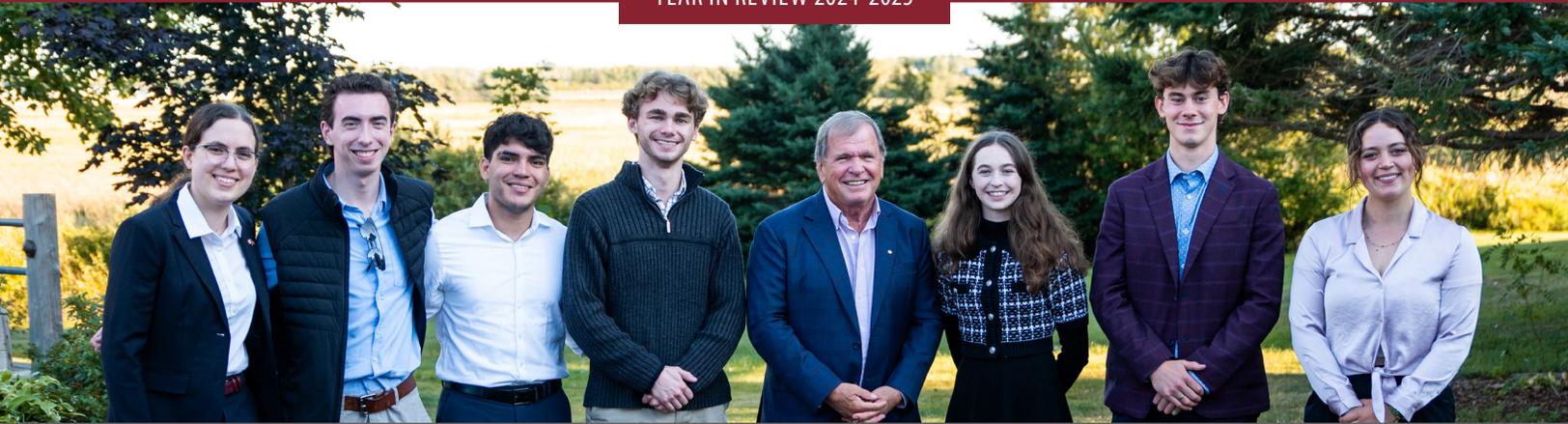


Frank McKenna School

— of PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS, & ECONOMICS —

YEAR IN REVIEW 2024-2025



The Honorable Frank McKenna (LLD '91) with current PPE students.



Mount Allison President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Ian Sutherland, and Mount Allison Provost and Vice-President, Academic and Research Dr. Richard Isnor ('89)



PPE student Sadie Shelly, and Mount Allison's Vice-President, University Advancement Courtney Pringle-Carver

CELEBRATING THE McKENNA SCHOOL

Students and supporters unite at special event

Last fall, students, alumni, faculty, and supporters attended a special event celebrating the first five years of the Frank McKenna School of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics.

“The McKenna School was created thanks to the incredible leadership of the Honorable Frank McKenna and a group of supporters committed to exemplary education,” says Dr. Ian Sutherland, Mount Allison president and vice-chancellor. “It was wonderful to see members of that group and new supporters come together to meet with students and engage in meaningful discussions on education and the impacts our students want to have in the world.”

The Honorable Frank McKenna (LLD '91), former premier of New Brunswick and Canadian ambassador in the U.S.; the Honorable Marilyn Trenholme Counsell (LLD '00), former Canadian senator and lieutenant governor of New Brunswick; and the Honorable Aldéa Landry (LLD '08), former deputy premier of New Brunswick, were among the event's special guests. Carol ('81) and Steve ('82) Chapman kindly hosted the event at their home.

WHAT IS THE McKENNA SCHOOL?

The Frank McKenna School of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) provides students insights into the meaning of citizenship, how government works, the nature of justice, and the outcomes of economic systems and policies. It is one of Canada's only PPE programs and is modelled after the well-established program at England's University of Oxford.



Leyla Atli

“I understood from a young age that the world is far from perfect and want to be like my parents, who both had careers working for the UN Refugee Agency, and help others have an easier life. I want to do some good in this world and believe studying politics and the Mount Allison experience is going to help me do that.”

“At Mount Allison, my professors know my name, are always willing to help, and I get this feeling they are there to help me get exactly where I want to be in life, rather than just help me graduate and get out of here. I’ve liked all my classes so far, and I enjoy writing on political issues for The Argosy student newspaper.”

“The McKenna Scholarship really opened the door for me. It made coming to Canada from Turkey to study possible. It inspires me to work for what I want to achieve, and it pushes me to do better.”

LEYLA ATLI

2024-25 RECIPIENT OF THE MCKENNA SCHOOL
ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIP

NEW BRUNSWICK POLITICS WORKSHOP

The Department of Politics and International Relations hosted a workshop on New Brunswick politics, where participants examined the province’s political landscape and public policy since 2000, with an eye toward identifying lessons that can guide governance across the country.

“New Brunswick has a long tradition of pioneering governance and policy reform,” said workshop organizer and professor Dr. Mario Levesque. *“From early adoption of the secret ballot and voters’ registries to landmark social welfare renewal through the Equal Opportunity Program and Indigenous rights advancements, the province has consistently served as a testing ground for progressive policy initiatives.”*

POLITICAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The Department of Politics and International Relations hosted the 2024 Atlantic Provinces Political Studies Association (APPSA) Conference. Scholars, students, and political practitioners from throughout the region came together to explore pressing issues in governance, leadership, and global politics over the course of the three-day event. The theme of the conference was Reimagining Governance in Turbulent Times. APPSA is the longest continuously running regional political science association in Canada.

MCKENNA SCHOOL FELLOW

The 2024-25 McKenna School Postdoctoral Fellow was Dr. Casey Pender, who joined the economics department. Pender holds a BA in philosophy from Carleton University, an MA in PPE from Cevro Institute in Czechia, and a PhD in economics from Carleton University.



Dr. Stephen Law, acting convener, McKenna School, with students Hinke Younger and Emily Pachell

CRITICAL CLIMATE POLICY

McKenna School hosts inaugural Atlantic Undergraduate Policy Case Competition

This year, McKenna School students welcomed peers from St. Francis Xavier University and Acadia University to campus for the inaugural Atlantic Undergraduate Policy Case Competition. The theme of the event was Climate Adaptation and Mitigation in Atlantic Canada, and it was an important opportunity to apply course content to real-world policy issues.

Six teams of students made policy presentations to a panel of judges. Presentations covered topics around residential flood risk assessments and energy initiatives, shoreline management and coastal resilience, the efficient allocation of shipping resources, and a sustainable future for the Chignecto Isthmus.

Students also had the opportunity to network with each other and special guests and to hear from keynote speaker Beverly Gingras, executive director of the Conservation Council of New Brunswick.

Creating the event was the idea of McKenna School students Emily Pachell and Hinke Younger.

“We wanted to create an opportunity for passionate and engaged students to come together and share their insights and ideas,” says Pachell. “Hinke and I both wanted the inaugural conference to centre on the climate crisis, recognizing it as the defining challenge of our generation.”

The two co-organizers remain committed to making this an annual event, with the possibility of rotating hosts among the region’s universities.

“This pilot year was a success,” says Younger. “I think it represented what the McKenna School is all about — a place where students can innovate, take the initiative, and try new things, knowing they will have the School’s faculty and the University’s staff 100 per cent behind them, providing help when asked and supporting efforts.”



Reception for the Atlantic Undergraduate Policy Case Competition



PPE READING GROUP

McKenna School students and faculty formed the PPE Reading Group, where they regularly meet for lunch and informal discussions of PPE readings. This past term, the group discussed the works of philosopher Elizabeth Anderson, economist Kenneth Boulding, and others. The 2024-25 McKenna School distinguished speaker, economist Bart Wilson, joined one of the sessions as a special guest. The PPE Reading Group lunches are held in the University’s newly renovated Trueman Cottage (formerly President’s Cottage).

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

This year’s McKenna School distinguished speaker was Dr. Bart Wilson, director of the Smith Institute for Political Economy and Philosophy at Chapman University and author of the new book *Meaningful Economics: Making the Science of Prosperity More Human*.

CONGRATULATIONS — CONVOCAATION PRIZE

Oliver Batchilder ('25) was awarded the McKenna School Convocation Prize during the 2025 graduation ceremony. This prize recognizes outstanding graduates and their contributions to the McKenna School's academic life. Batchilder will be heading to Ottawa to participate in the Parliamentary Internship Programme. "I'm excited to continue my education in a non-partisan capacity by working with MPs from various political parties," says Batchilder. "The opportunities I received through the McKenna School of PPE, whether that be pursuing unique internships, attending conferences, or focusing on my academics, played a huge role in shaping my interest in public policy, and I'm eager to keep building on that foundation."

MtA THINKING ABOUT HOUSING

This on-campus event fostered meaningful discussions on the challenges and future of housing in Canada and featured Mount Allison alumni as guest speakers.

- *The price of shelter*, Rebekah Howlett ('20), economist, Statistics Canada Consumer Prices Division
- *Access to housing*, Keith Stewart ('11), senior specialist, Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- *Pathways into homelessness*, Jeff Hicks ('14), assistant professor, Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto

We are grateful to the donors and friends that helped create the McKenna School and continue to support its programming and student experience.

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Mount Allison is once again recognized by *Maclean's* annual university rankings as the top university in Canada — 25 times in the last 34 years!



"I am honoured to have received the Dr. Barry MacLeod Scholarship, and I am deeply grateful for the generosity of all donors who have made Philosophy, Politics, and Economics a reality at Mount Allison University. The PPE department at Mount Allison is a leader across Canada, and it is through generous donations that this has become a reality. Your support helps make incredible opportunities possible, challenging students to think critically and deeply engage with pressing issues. I feel incredibly lucky to be a part of such a remarkable community that values a well-rounded and robust undergraduate education. Thank you for investing in the future of both students and Mount Allison University."

EMILY PACHELL

24-25 RECIPIENT OF THE DR. BARRY MacLEOD
SCHOLARSHIP FOR PPE STUDENTS