

2023-24

# Donor **IMPACT** Report

## Message from the President

**T**hanks to your foundational investments in our university, UNB students and researchers really hit their stride in 2023-24.

Your transformational gifts are enabling UNB to construct world-class facilities that will support the translation of knowledge into innovation while educating the next generation of technological entrepreneurs and health and social service professionals.

In Fredericton, construction of a new Engineering Commons is underway at Head Hall. In Saint John, a Health and Social Innovation Centre is rising, which will house new collaborative health research clusters and educational programs. On both campuses, the McKenna Institute is contributing to the digitization of New Brunswick society and forging new ties between UNB, other universities and the private sector.

Growth and renewal in the faculty of law is also well underway, thanks to the generous support and leadership of supporters like you.

Our students have achieved remarkable success this past year, from the classroom and lab to playing fields and hockey arenas. Whenever they test their knowledge or their prowess, they do so knowing that you have faith in them and in their capacity to make a difference.

I take this opportunity to thank Jeff Wright, former executive director of Development and Donor Relations. His dedication and expertise have been consistently demonstrated in the role and his efforts have helped to strengthen our community. I wish him all the best in his future endeavours. Marcie Nixon, associate director of principal gifts, has stepped in as the acting executive director. She brings a wealth of experience and a deep



commitment to our institution and is very well placed to lead the team during this transition period.

Thank you for being a supporter and friend to UNB. The world needs more people like you. The world needs more UNB.

**Paul Mazerolle**

UNB President and Vice-Chancellor ■

## Your **GIFT** makes a **DIFFERENCE**

Join us in our ongoing effort to define excellence at UNB.

If you have questions regarding making a donation, please contact us:

### DEVELOPMENT AND DONOR RELATIONS

PO Box 4400	PO Box 5050	devdr@unb.ca
Fredericton NB	Saint John NB	unb.ca/giving
E3B 5A3	E2L 4L5	

(506) 453-5053 (506) 638-2441

## Find the **DONOR HONOUR ROLL** online

Support from donors like you is critical to the mission of UNB. We celebrate those who give in the Donor Honour Roll (May 1, 2023 - April 30, 2024), recognizing each donor at:

[unb.ca/dhr](https://unb.ca/dhr)



We are grateful to each of our alumni and friends who step up to empower our students and help us tackle society's challenges for a better tomorrow.

# IMPACT *of Giving*

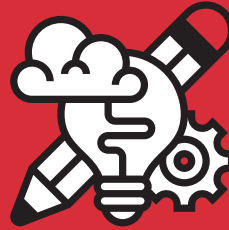
2023-24

## STUDENT SUPPORT: \$14,842,350



Donors supported **2,379** students in 2023-24, ensuring access to a UNB education and the opportunities that foster the next generation of engaged and educated citizens.

## RESEARCH AND CHAIRS: \$1,074,850



Thanks to our donors, UNB is tackling society's great challenges head-on. With the guidance of our research chairs, the industry-leading work done at more than 45 major labs and centres at UNB has the power to change the world.

## CAPITAL MAINTENANCE: \$362,142



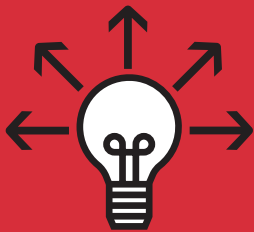
UNB strives to preserve architectural heritage while upgrading energy efficiency and accessibility. Through donor support, UNB maintains our spaces, ensuring every student has access to experiential learning in an inclusive environment.

## TEACHING PROGRAMS: \$2,156,613



At UNB, our 14 faculties manage more than 75 undergraduate and graduate programs for thousands of students on our campuses. With support from our donors, we continue to lead the way in providing quality education.

## OPPORTUNITIES FUNDS: \$658,356



Gifts toward the Opportunities Funds on each of our campuses, and for the university as a whole, allow us to support new initiatives, pursue emerging priorities and help students with unforeseen needs.

## ATHLETICS: \$448,047



A gift to athletics allows us to attract and retain talented student-athletes to our teams. In 2023-24, donors supported **170** athletes across our campuses, recognizing their hard work on the field of play to showcase UNB.

## OTHER PURPOSES: \$2,550,485

# TOTAL: \$22,092,843

**THANK YOU!**



## HARMONIZING DREAMS:

*How a scholarship struck the right chord for a French horn virtuoso*

▣ Lessa Thornton

**M**usic, art and computer science: these are the three passions that drive Lessa Thornton.

This may seem to some like an unlikely combination, but Lessa explains how they connect for her. “The great thing about computer science is that if you want to get farther in the industry, it really is about having those creativity and problem-solving skills, which can come from things like doing music and art. And I feel like that helps me broaden my horizons and vision.”

Lessa is a 2023-24 recipient of the **John Khoury Scholarship**, established through a gift from John Khoury via the McKenna Institute. Valued at \$15,000, and with preference given to women and Indigenous students, the scholarship is awarded annually to four students enrolled in an undergraduate computer science degree program.

There are few students at UNB who are as busy as Lessa, and few students

who are as passionate about their endeavours. In addition to her full-time course load in computer science at UNB Saint John, she plays French horn for both the New Brunswick Youth Orchestra and the Saint John Youth Orchestra, both of which require hours of practice each week. She is an artist who has been working in recent years to publish her own comic and sell her art. And when she can, she likes to act in local theatre productions.

Lessa’s full schedule and regular orchestra travel make a part-time job nearly impossible, so she is grateful to have received this scholarship to help her make ends meet. “I would not have had time to get a job; things would have started falling through the cracks. I grew up really poor, and this money really helped.”

Looking forward, Lessa is excited about refining her focus on computer science in her upper-year courses. “I came to UNB for computer science courses!”

she says. But she’s equally excited to take a comics course, and to continue honing her orchestral skills. Lessa’s diverse talents weave together in an extraordinary way, opening countless doors for her future. ■

### DIGITAL INNOVATION

*You can find the  
2024 McKenna Institute  
Impact Report online:*



[unb.ca/mckenna](https://unb.ca/mckenna)



□ *Doug and Anne Johnson*



# DOUG AND ANNE JOHNSON: *A UNB Love Story*

**T**he University of New Brunswick has always been much more than an institution of higher education for Doug (BScCE'74, MScCE'79) and Anne Johnson. Since they first met on the Fredericton campus 50 years ago, UNB has been instrumental in shaping their lives, their careers, their world view and their legacy.

For this long-married couple, UNB is something of a love story.

**The Doug and Anne Johnson Transportation Scholarship** for graduate students in civil engineering, focused on transportation, is a \$1,000 award given annually to students from New Brunswick, Ontario, British Columbia, or Newfoundland and Labrador – the provinces with ties to the Johnson family. It is based on a \$25,000 bequest from Doug and Anne to help students get the most out of their time at UNB.

Doug and Anne met at UNB in 1974 when he was a graduate engineering student in the newly formed

transportation group, and she was the administrative assistant for the group's principal founder – Dr. Frank Wilson.

Anne caught Doug's eye right away.

"I used to go into her office a lot to see if I could use the phone and it was really just a way to get into her office to see her," he says with a laugh. "That was the start of our life together. We got married in 1977, but we really consider 1974 the beginning of our story. We have been hanging out together now for 50 years."

Doug and Anne have kept in touch with most of the graduates from the Class of '74. There is a reunion in Fredericton every five years with their colleagues, many of whom went on to become CEOs and leaders in engineering and design across North America.

Thirty-nine of the graduates are still living, Doug says, and 22 of them were able to make it to the 50th reunion this year.

"They are like family to me," Doug says. "They are like my brothers."

Doug worked in the New Brunswick Department of Transportation for years. Among other things, he was project manager of the Fredericton-Moncton Highway Project, the largest transportation construction project in New Brunswick history. Doug was assistant deputy minister in transportation from 2001 until his retirement in 2010.

Doug says he and Anne created the scholarship to give back to an institution that has meant so much to them. The couple also has decided to donate a bench to UNB to be placed by the old engineering building, engraved with the words Rest, Reflect, Remember.

"We wanted to create the scholarship because we went to UNB, we enjoyed it, and it helped us with our lives and our work. Our hope is this will help students get as much out of their time at UNB as we did." ■

# Young Scholar leads team's **IMPACTFUL RESEARCH** in infant health



**M**aryam Kebbe is leading groundbreaking research into how maternal nutrition and physical activity relate to the composition of breast milk and infant health.

Maryam joined UNB as an assistant professor in 2023 after earning her medical doctorate at the University of Alberta and completing postgraduate studies at the University of Oxford and Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Louisiana.

“I was drawn to UNB because of its strong commitment to research and innovation, particularly in the fields of health sciences, pediatrics and nutrition. The university’s collaborative environment and state-of-the-art facilities provide an ideal setting for conducting impactful research and advancing knowledge in pediatric health.”

Maryam was awarded a 2023-24 **Harrison McCain Young Scholar Award** to pursue research into the

interaction between breast milk and the development of the infant gut microbiome.

“Understanding how the gut microbiome evolves in early infancy can provide valuable insights into factors influencing microbial composition and their potential long-term effects on obesity and metabolic health. This research can contribute to the development of targeted interventions and strategies to modulate the microbiome for improved health outcomes.”

Maryam is continuing her research as director of UNB’s Perinatal-Pediatric Health & Developmental Studies (PEADS) Lab.

“The PEADS lab is one of the few in Canada that works with vulnerable populations such as pregnant women and infants/toddlers. Our research projects include characterizing the nutritional quality of commercial infant feeding products and the overall



□ Maryam Kebbe

nutritional status of young children in Canada, investigating the effects of different types of foods and dietary patterns on the infant gut microbiome, and exploring the connections between maternal diet, fitness and mental health on breastfeeding practices and infant health. We aim to develop strategies to improve health outcomes for mothers and children.”

*The Harrison McCain Young Scholar Awards provide special support to tenure or tenure-track faculty members who received their PhD less than 10 years ago and whose employment at UNB does not exceed six years. ■*

# Fellowship **FUELS** autism studies

**In** her many years as a teacher, Gail Francis has imparted a great deal of knowledge about the Wolastoqey and Mi'kmaq languages, cultures and traditions to her students and the readers of her popular children's book, *Moonbeam*.

But Gail is also a student herself, broadening her knowledge and understanding of early childhood through the opportunities offered by her PhD studies at the University of New Brunswick.

Gail is the two-time recipient of the **Webster Fellowship in Early Childhood Education**, a \$35,000 award made possible by the R. Howard Webster Foundation. She says the fellowship has helped enormously, especially in her focus area of autism in early childhood.

"I was very honoured to get it," Gail says of the Webster fellowship. "It gives me the freedom to attend events and programs I would not have been able to attend. Back in June, I went to an Indigenous autism conference in Alberta. That was really awesome and I learned a lot. So I now have the opportunity to go to different places to experience what other communities are doing in terms of autism, especially in the early years, which is what I'm doing my PhD on."

Among other things, Gail is looking into the possibility of travelling to Australia and New Zealand – two countries that have made strides in helping Indigenous students with autism. "It's something I'm thinking about and without the fellowship I wouldn't have the means to go."

Gail says that when she worked in the school system, she realized there were significant gaps in terms of services



for autistic students and their parents. She is working on a toolbox for autism in the early years. "I want to make their educational journey a little easier for them."

In addition to her studies, Gail, who is originally from the Neqotkuk (Tobique) First Nation and now lives in Miramichi, is building on the success of her first children's book, *Moonbeam*, which is published in English, Wolastoqey and Mi'kmaq. A second book, *Moonbeam*

*Meets the Medicine Man*, was released in November in English, French, Wolastoqey and Mi'kmaq.

The books are a labour of love for Gail.

"I was a resource teacher, and we didn't have a lot of culturally relevant books to work with in the schools. I guess this is one way of getting the language out there, utilizing it and, you know, just having it there for the kids to choose to read." ■



## OF CFUW FREDERICTON

**F**or eight decades and counting, the Canadian Federation of University Women Fredericton (CFUW Fredericton) has had strong ties to UNB and its students.

The group's 80th anniversary this year happens to align with another milestone: over \$400,000 in donations from the group to CFUW scholarships at UNB.

The national CFUW was founded in Winnipeg in 1919. The Fredericton CFUW chapter – or *club* – is one of 94 CFUW clubs nationwide. It was founded with the aim of enlarging and deepening educational interests, promoting friendship, and stimulating interest in and action on the problems of the day. The goals of CFUW Fredericton continue to be those established in 1944 while encompassing a broader community of women. Social justice is at the forefront of the club's advocacy today.

Promoting women's education through scholarships is a priority for CFUW Fredericton. Through the group fundraising efforts – primarily comprised of an annual spring book fair – scholarships are funded at several post-secondary institutions. The vast majority of these awards are through UNB.

“Historically, there has been a strong connection between the CFUW and UNB, with many members being UNB faculty members,” says CFUW Fredericton's past president, Baukje (Bo) Miedema (BA'87, MA'90, PhD'96). Today, the group welcomes and advocates for women from all educational backgrounds, whether or not they have attended university.

One of the CFUW's earliest scholarships was established in honour of the club's co-founder,

Bea Phillips (1901-1985), who worked tirelessly to establish a thriving library at Fredericton High School. Today, the **Bea Phillips CFUW Fredericton Scholarship** is valued at \$2,000 and awarded annually to a graduate of a high school in Fredericton.

CFUW awards run the gamut of women students at UNB, with awards for undergraduate students, graduate students, part-time students and adult learners juggling many responsibilities. The 10th UNB award to be added to the CFUW roster is the **CFUW Fredericton 80th Anniversary Adult Learner Scholarship**, which comes into effect in the 2024-25 academic year.

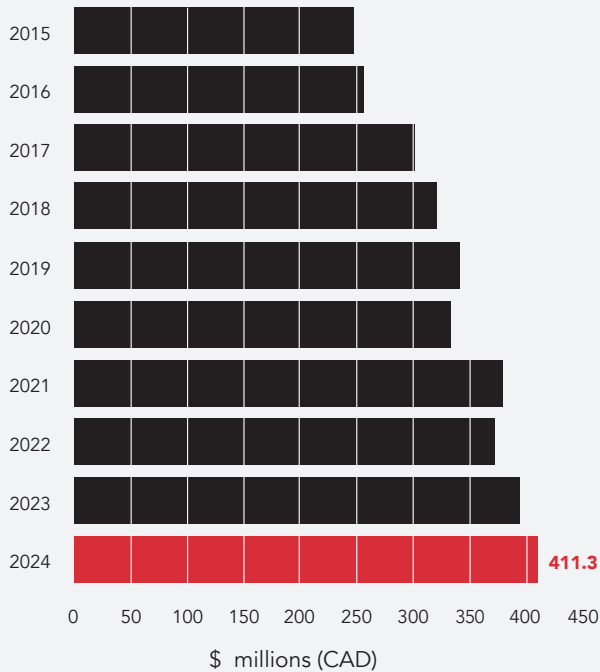
More than 200 women's lives have been changed through scholarships funded by CFUW Fredericton. Hundreds more will be changed in the decades to come. ■

# UNB'S TRUST AND ENDOWMENT FUND

Read the full report online: [unb.ca/giving](http://unb.ca/giving)

## PRINCIPAL GROWTH 2015-24

AS OF APRIL 30, 2024



## CHANGES IN TRUST AND ENDOWMENT

### Balance 2023-24

(Market value in millions)

Balance April 30, 2024 **\$411.3**

Balance April 30, 2023 **\$395.7**

**Net increase during the year \$15.6**

### INCREASE DUE TO:

Donations and other additions to capital **\$21.9**

Investment income **\$26.7**

Spending **-\$33.0**

**\$15.6**



Members of UNB Saint John's Students' Representatives Council at the campus food pantry.

## UNB GIVING DAY

**On** Feb. 29, UNB held its first annual Giving Day, a fundraising initiative that shows support for our students at a time of year when they need it most.

The winter semester is often especially difficult for students; the increased cost of living and the challenges that come with an Atlantic Canadian winter mean that many are forced to make difficult financial choices.

No one should have to choose between paying a heating bill and affording their next meal. That is why UNB's Giving Day fundraising efforts have been directed to our campus food banks to support the ongoing effort to combat food insecurity amongst our student population.

Thanks to the generosity of hundreds of donors, more than \$45,000 was raised. The funds allowed our student-run food banks to stock their shelves and provide more options for fresh produce, ensuring the UNB community has access to a variety of supplies to meet their needs. ■



Fredericton's Student Union members at the campus food bank.



# Bursary helps **BUILD A DREAM**

**L**ike many newcomers to Canada, Hussein Al Ali is making the most of the opportunities available to him in his new home in New Brunswick.

Hussein, 20, a third-year student in the bachelor of health in biomedical sciences at UNB Saint John, moved to the province with his family in 2016. They arrived from Lebanon, where the family had fled following the political upheaval and civil war in their native Syria.

Hussein, who wants to be a physician, is the recipient of the **Johnson Undergraduate Opportunity Bursary**, made possible by the Johnson Scholarship Foundation. It is awarded on the basis of financial need to students enrolled in an undergraduate degree program on a full-time basis.

Hussein, like all recipients, participated in the UNB Saint John Promise Partnership program in order to qualify. The program helps kids in poorer neighbourhoods by giving them educational help offered by UNB student volunteers.

“The partnership program was awesome,” Hussein says, adding he was involved in the program throughout high school and then as a volunteer himself once he was in university.

“If there was something I didn’t understand in school, I would go to [the UNB volunteers] and they would sit me down with a tutor and they’d teach me. It was fantastic help and made a big difference in my studies.”

It’s difficult to tell that just eight years ago, when the Al Ali family arrived in New Brunswick, Hussein could not speak English. He is now completely fluent, but the adjustment has not been easy for the family.



*“It’s unimaginable how much support a bursary or a scholarship gives a student. ... I can focus on my studies without that worry. It lifts a huge weight off my shoulders. It’s a blessing.”*

“It was a big adjustment. It was moving into a whole different world because, first of all, we didn’t know the language or the people. There were no guarantees – it could have been good or it could have been bad, but thankfully, it has been a very good experience. We are very thankful.”

Hussein says the \$10,000 annual bursary has helped enormously in making his dreams come true. He hopes to begin medical school next year and, at this point, is considering becoming a general practitioner.

“It’s unimaginable how much support a bursary or a scholarship gives a student knowing they don’t have to focus on getting money. I can focus on my studies without that worry. It lifts a huge weight off my shoulders. It’s a blessing.” ■

## HEALTH AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

You can find the 2024 Integrated Health Initiative Progress Report online:



[unb.ca/integrated-health](https://unb.ca/integrated-health)

# BEAVERBROOK SCHOLARS

SINCE 1920



□ Beaverbrook Scholars dinner — Oct. 1, 2024.

## Beaverbrook Scholars Award reaches **\$4M MILESTONE**

**A**fter more than 40 years of fundraising, the **Beaverbrook Scholars Award** has reached \$4 million in total donations.

The gift that pushed the fund over the \$4-million mark was made by the family of the late Dr. James (Jim) King, who was a Beaverbrook Entrance Scholar in 1950 and a Postgraduate Overseas Scholar in 1957. Jim passed away in August 2023.

Jim came to UNB very sure of his future as a chemist, and here he found a world-class department of chemistry.

After completing his bachelor of science and PhD at UNB, Jim went on to postdoctoral work with future Nobel laureates at both Imperial College London and Harvard University. He ultimately spent his career in the department of chemistry at Western University, continuing his work as professor emeritus after his retirement in 1999. “Chemistry was more than a job for Jim; it was really a vocation,” says his wife, Diane King.

The family’s \$50,000 gift was made because it was always important to Jim to give back.

“When we met, we both realized we were each regularly giving money to our alma maters,” Diane says. They continued these gifts throughout their marriage because they believed in the transformative potential of education.

“Giving to UNB – I had always assumed we would do that in some way,” says Diane. “I think Jim would have approved.” ■

# Innovation fund **BOOSTS** entrepreneurs

**G**etting a persuasive new product in front of investors can be a challenging process. It's not enough to have a promising idea: investors want to see that the product can be built in a cost-effective manner and meet consumer expectations.

Enter UNB alumni benefactors Kelly (BBA'79) and Mary Lou Shotbolt (BPE'80) and the **Shotbolt Technology Management and Entrepreneurship (TME) Seed Fund**.

Before attending UNB, Kelly had worked at St. Stephen wood products company Flakeboard. After graduating, he continued with the company, working his way up to president and CEO. He led Flakeboard's transition from a commodity producer of raw panels to an integrated manufacturer of decorative panels. When Flakeboard was acquired by Arauco, Kelly became president and chairman of Arauco North America before retiring.

"It was building a business from St. Stephen into a North America-wide business that got me interested in creating entrepreneurial opportunities," Kelly says. "When we saw what UNB was doing with the TME program, it just felt right.

"When I went to UNB, I was hungry to connect the dots between what I was learning in the classroom and running a real-world business. That's what we hope this seed fund will help students to do."

The Shotbolt TME Seed Fund provides monies to assist individuals and teams in moving from a concept to a prototype. Grants from the fund are awarded on a competitive basis, starting with an online application. Funding is allocated in three phases: first in the fall, then winter and finally the summer term.



□ Brycen Munroe, left, at the 2023 Engineering Design Symposium.

The first student to benefit from the fund is Brycen Munroe, who received \$10,000. His company, Mulli Swing Solutions, has already been able to leverage the funding through Canadian innovation accelerator MITACS. Mulli is developing an intelligent golf training aid to help beginning and intermediate players become more consistent in their swing. Their product aims to collect data from a player's swing to help them see what works best and then provide prompts that help build good habits.

The company was incorporated by four engineering students in UNB's TME 4025: Product Design & Development course, and two of its founders have already completed their master's degrees in technology management and entrepreneurship. Brycen just started the Masters in Technology Management and Entrepreneurship (MTME) program. He plans on using his background in electrical engineering to further develop their product.

"The leveraged funding we have been able to access through MITACS has been essential for our team, helping

bridge the gap between academia and the professional world," Brycen says. "Contributions made by donors like the Shotbolts will have a lasting, positive impact on my professional career. Whether it's through my own venture or other endeavours, the knowledge and experience I've gained will serve me well."

The Shotbolts have also created a **TME Special Projects Fund** to support student participation in pitch competitions across the region, attract global entrepreneurship leaders to visit campus and mentor students, and increase access to online startup and business venture resources including giving students access to investors and startup competition landscape.

It's all about giving entrepreneurial students more opportunities to develop the skills and mentorship networks that will help them succeed, so entrepreneurs like Brycen can take a swing at securing investment and land that hole in one. ■



□ 2017 Margot Roach Scholars

## A \$2.2-MILLION Legacy

**As** a student, two gifts shaped the life and career of Margot Roach.

The first was an internship program that enabled high school students to explore studying science in university. The second was the Chestnut Scholarship at UNB because it ensured she could devote her energy to studying and participating in university life without financial pressures.

Margot Roach (BSc'55, DSc'81) went on to become a leading researcher into the structure and function of blood vessels and a professor of biophysics and medicine at Western University. But she never forgot her formative experiences at UNB and vowed to create new opportunities for undergraduate science students here.

UNB awarded Dr. Roach an honorary degree in 1981. She created her first named scholarship at UNB in 2005. She continued to create new awards and grow the value of her scholarships until her death in August 2023.

In September 2024, the estate of Dr. Margot Roach and UNB announced her final act of generosity: a bequest of \$2.2 million. The bequest includes support for paid high school internships in UNB's physics department, undergraduate scholarships in physics, and scholarships for students graduating into Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick's physician education program.

"Dr. Margot Roach exemplifies the impact that UNB can have on young scholars,"

says Dr. Paul J. Mazerolle, UNB's president and vice-chancellor. "These scholarships represent a perpetual legacy that will benefit students and society far into the future."

The **Dr. Margot R. Roach Summer Student Program** will support paid internships for three high school students per year in UNB's physics department. **The Dr. Margot R. Roach Scholarship in Physics** will support a minimum of four undergraduates per year with individual scholarships valued at \$20,000 each. **The Dr. Margot R. Roach Scholarship in Medicine** will support two \$10,000 scholarships per year for students graduating from UNB into Dal Med NB's physician education program.

Dean of Science Sanjeev Seahra says "The Dr. Margot R. Roach Scholarships may be the largest awards for undergraduate physics students in Canada. Matched with her support for high school internships and post-graduate studies in medicine, this bequest affirms UNB's place as a destination university in science."

Ann Wildish, a long-term friend, recalls Dr. Roach's closing remarks in the speech she gave when she received her doctor of science degree from UNB in 1981. She believes it is a message Dr. Roach would have wanted students to hear today. She says, "As long as you think learning is fun, and you are willing to look at both sides of the question, and try hard enough to do it, you will never cease learning, and so you too will be truly educated." ■

## Ways to GIVE



### SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

Support the next wave of innovative thinkers at UNB.



### MEMORIAL GIFTS

Dedicate an award in a loved one's name.



### ANNUAL GIVING

Join alumni and friends in supporting UNB.



### BEQUESTS

Build a legacy: leave a gift to UNB in your estate.



### RESEARCH

Support the innovative work being done at UNB.

Explore all the ways you can give and donate today:

[unb.ca/giving](https://unb.ca/giving)