Alumni of Distinction

Serving Communities, Building Community.

NOV. 5, 2026

Algonquin College's annual Alumni of Distinction Awards honour 10 alumni who have made outstanding professional and community contributions and one employer that empowers our students and graduates to make a difference.



The 2026 Alumni of Distinction Award recipients pose for a group photo. Left to right: Department of National Defence, Employer of the Year; Hannah Hempinstall, Brian Fraser Recent Graduate Award; Kurtis Funai, Science, Technology and Engineering Award; Kim Hiscott, Alumna of the Year; Jenny Tenasco, Changing Lives Award; Owen Welsh, Business Award; Marc Lépine, Creative Arts and Design Award; Jennifer White, Health Sciences Award; Travis Mellema, Community Services Award.



Shawn Turcotte, Skilled Trades Award Recipient



Hannah Hempinstall accepting the Brian Fraser Recent Graduate Award.





Owen Welsh (centre) pictured with Cory Haskins (left), Dean, School of Business and Hospitality, and Grant Perry (right), Vice President, Finance and Administration.



Holl Ellingwood, Rena Bowen Volunteer of the Year Award Recipient



Anita Tenasco, Director, Indigenous Initiatives, watching the awards ceremony with Jenny Tenasco.



Jennifer White in conversation at the event.

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Kim Hiscott pictured with her family at the event.



Hannah Thibedeau, 2025 Alumna of the Year, emceed the evening.



Kurtis Funai shaking hands with Sandra Brancatelli, Dean, School of Advanced Technology, while accepting his award.



Marc Lépine on his way to accept his award.



Claude Brulé, President and CEO, address the room at the event.





Tracy McDougall, Director, President's Office and Communications, in conversation with Shawn Turcotte.



Travis Mellema in conversation at the event.