

(gentle orchestral music)

(bagpipe music)

â O Canada â

â Our home and native land â

â True patriot love in all of us command â

â With glowing hearts we see thee rise â

â The True North strong and free â

â From far and wide â

â O Canada, â

â we stand on guard for thee â

â God keep our land â

â Glorious and free â

â O Canada â

â we stand on guard for thee â

â O Canada â

â We stand on guard for thee â

(bright music)

- Welcome graduates, family  
members, and friends.

We are happy to have you join us

for the Spring 2021 Convocation ceremony.

My name is Brenda Whiteside,

and I am the Interim Director

of Administration & Student Services

at the University of Guelph-Humber.

Today is a very special day.

Today is the day of your graduation,

and I'm so proud to be here

to celebrate this significant  
milestone with you.

We hope wherever you are  
watching from this evening

that you feel proud, recognized,  
and celebrated on this very important day.

My hope for you as you embark  
on the next phase of your journey

is that you've been  
inspired during your studies

at the University of Guelph-Humber  
and that you will pave your own path  
and leave a positive mark on the world.

Over the last few years during  
your undergraduate studies,  
you've become an engaged thinker,  
a critical problem-solver,  
and an impassioned leader, bravo!

While things may look different  
than what we had expected,  
convocation is always a time to celebrate.

To celebrate your years of hard work,  
dedication, and overall success.

To celebrate the impact you  
have had on our communities

and will have as you  
embark on your next steps,  
whether that be postgraduate studies  
or entering into the workforce.

Convocation is an important  
milestone in your life,  
and I hope you are truly proud  
of your academic accomplishments,

your perseverance, and your resilience.

On behalf of the University  
of Guelph-Humber community,

I want you to know how inspired we are

by your accomplishments.

Congratulations, University  
of Guelph-Humber graduate!

To begin our Convocation ceremony,

let us recognize the land

where the University of  
Guelph-Humber is located.

I now welcome Jason Seright,

Dean of Indigenous  
Education and Engagement,

to provide the territorial  
land acknowledgement.

Boozhoo, Anin, Tawaw. Welcome.

As a visitor to this territory,

it's important for me to  
acknowledge and honour the ancestors

who originally inhabited these lands.

As the Dean of Indigenous  
Education and Engagement,

I want to acknowledge and honour  
the traditional territories

that the University of  
Guelph-Humber campus is located on.

The University of Guelph-Humber is located

within the traditional and treaty lands

of the Mississaugas of the Credit,

known as Aadoobiigok,  
the Place of the Alders.

In Michi Saagiig language,

the region is uniquely situated

along Humber River Watershed,  
which historically provided  
an integral connection  
for Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee,  
and Wendat peoples  
between the Ontario Lakeshore  
and the Lake Simcoe/Georgian Bay regions.

Now home to people of numerous nations,

Adoobiigok continues to  
provide a vital source

of interconnection for all.

Miigwetch, Kinanaskotomin, Nia:wen. Thank you.

Hello, everyone,

I'm Dr. George Bragues,  
Interim Vice-Provost.

Today, you will be presented and admitted  
to your respective degree and diploma.

I invite Dr. Charlotte Yates,

President and Vice-Chancellor  
of the University of Guelph,

and Dr. Chris Whitaker, President  
and CEO of Humber College,

to confer your degree  
and diploma in absentia.

(gentle piano music)

- Welcome, graduands, family members,  
and friends to this special celebration.

I am Charlotte Yates,

the President and Vice-Chancellor

of the University of Guelph.

I have the great honour of  
conferring your degree today.

By virtue of the authority vested in me  
and in the University of Guelph,  
I hereby accept you in absentia  
for admission to your degree,  
with all the rights, privileges,  
and obligations appertaining thereto.

Today, I am deeply honoured

to celebrate your hard  
work and accomplishments.

I encourage you to remember this moment

and use it as a reminder  
of your perseverance,

talent, and your ability  
to overcome any challenge.

Congratulations, University  
of Guelph-Humber graduates.

We are all so proud of you.

- Welcome graduands,  
family members, and friends

to this special celebration.

I'm Chris Whitaker, the President  
and CEO of Humber College.

Today, I have the great honour  
of conferring your diploma.

By virtue of the authority  
vested in me and Humber College,

I hereby accept you in absentia

for admissions to your diploma,

with all the rights, privileges,

and obligations appertaining thereto.

I am proud to join you for this  
special Convocation ceremony

and mark this very important day for you.

A day which recognizes all your hard work,  
commitment, sacrifice, and resilience.

You have demonstrated  
remarkable flexibility

and adaptation completing your program  
during these unprecedented times.

Your dual credential

and unique experience at  
UGH have prepared you well

for whatever lies ahead,

and we look forward to hearing  
about your continued success.

Good luck and congratulations,

University of Guelph-Humber graduate.

- On behalf of all faculty, staff,

and administration within  
the Business program

at the University of Guelph-Humber,

congratulations, class of 2021, on earning

your Honours Bachelor of  
Business Administration Degree

and Diploma in Business Administration.

Alongside your formal studies,

you have also completed a  
master class in resilience

and adaptability over the last year

as a result of the pandemic.

We couldn't be more proud of  
all that you've accomplished

over the past few years.

With every ending there's  
also a new beginning,

which is true for you

as Guelph-Humber alumni.

You are part of a generation  
that knows how to create more

than any generation before.

You know how to be your own brand,

take advantage of that.

History has shown that  
fundamental changes will occur

when a pandemic ends.

With these changes comes opportunities

for each and every one of you.

You will help drive  
change and make history

because of the knowledge, skills,

and competencies you've  
acquired during your studies

at the University of Guelph-Humber.

Good luck, please keep in touch,

and know that we can't wait to hear

about all of your future  
milestones and accomplishments.

(gentle orchestral music)

(gentle orchestral music continues)

(gentle orchestral music continues)

(gentle orchestral music continues)

(gentle orchestral music continues)

(gentle orchestral music continues)

- Thank you for joining us today

to celebrate your graduation,

and congratulations on this  
extraordinary achievement.

I hope you've been able

to reflect on your time  
at the University of Guelph-Humber  
and thank the people who have helped you  
throughout your academic career.

To all the family members,  
friends, and supporters,

thank you for joining us today

and for the support and  
guidance you've provided

to our graduates.

I would like to take this opportunity  
to encourage you, our newest alumni,  
to stay connected with the university  
and look for opportunities to engage  
with the alumni community.

Following this ceremony,

I invite you to join our Live Reception  
hosted by our Alumni Services Department.

The University of Guelph-Humber is honoured  
to have you as part of our legacy,

and we wish you all the best  
in your future endeavours.

Congratulations, University  
of Guelph-Humber graduates.

I can now announce that  
Convocation is dismissed.

I look forward to seeing you  
at the Reception taking place at 6:00 p.m.

(uplifting music)