

(gentle orchestral music)

(bagpipe music)

â O Canada â

â Our home and native land â

â True patriot love â

â 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, O Canada â

â We stand on guard for thee â

â God keep our land, 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

and 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.

And 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  
that 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 Adoobiigok,

the "Place of the Alders."

In Michi Saagiig language, the  
region is uniquely situated

along the 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,  
Aadoobiigok 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.

- 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 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.

- Congratulations to  
every one of you graduates

from the Justice Studies programs here  
at the University of Guelph-Humber.

You have proven that you can be successful  
in the face of adversity  
and overcome unanticipated obstacles.

You have faced stress and  
challenges that no other student  
in recent history has had  
to face, yet you overcame.

You will now carry your knowledge  
and the character you have  
built from those challenges

out into the world where  
you'll make your mark.

The challenge is to leave a legacy of good  
as you forge ahead.

And you have shown that  
you have everything  
that it takes to do this.

I expect great things from all of you,  
never stop caring, never stop learning,

always wear your  
credibility as your crown,

always have the courage to  
communicate truth to power,

and always strive to be  
part of collaborative teams

that accomplish more together

than each of you could do on your own.

I hope that you're proud of yourselves,

we are certainly proud of you.

(lively music)

- 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 the 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 PM.

(gentle music)