

CONSUP

COUNCIL OF NOVA SCOTIA UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS

For Immediate Release

June 24, 2026

HALIFAX, NS – Nova Scotia’s universities are joining forces to strengthen access to higher education for military personnel, veterans, reservists and their families.

Through a first-of-its-kind partnership in Canada, the Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents (CONSUP) and the Canadian Military, Veteran and Family Connected Campus Consortium (CMVF3C) will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on June 24, 2026, establishing a province-wide framework to better support military-connected learners across Nova Scotia’s universities.

Nova Scotia is home to more than 13,000 military personnel and 1,600 reservists, with those numbers expected to grow in the coming years. The partnership recognizes the important role universities can play in helping military members and their families access post-secondary education and achieve their academic and career goals.

CMVF3C is a national consortium of post-secondary institutions and community partners dedicated to supporting military-connected students. Through the MOU, Nova Scotia’s universities will work together to improve access, student success and well-being for military-connected learners.

Key actions include:

- Recognizing skills, training and qualifications acquired through military service to support academic pathways;
- Assisting military members and families who transfer between institutions as a result of postings or relocation; and
- Strengthening campus-based supports and services that contribute to student success and well-being.

The agreement also aligns with Nova Scotia's growing role as Canada's capital of defence. Recent federal investments are strengthening military infrastructure and operational capacity in the province, while Nova Scotia continues to attract major defence and innovation initiatives, including NATO's North American headquarters for the Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA). With Canada's largest military base by population, a strong defence industry and world-class research institutions, Nova Scotia is well positioned to support the next generation of military personnel, veterans and their families as they pursue post-secondary education.

“We are delighted to enter into an MOU with CMVF3C, the first of its kind in Canada. Nova Scotia universities have a long history of welcoming military personnel and their families. This MOU brings our ten universities together to move quickly to support the expansion of military learners, and to

share best practices, to learn from one another, and to offer a welcoming and high-quality university experience regardless of the chosen university,” said Dr. Andrew Hakin, Chair of CONSUP and President, St. Francis Xavier University.

“This is truly an historic agreement” said Dr. Rob Summerby-Murray, co-chair of CMVF3C. “We are delighted to partner with all ten Nova Scotia universities, building on Nova Scotia’s long history with the defence sector. Nova Scotia’s universities already engage strongly in defence research and innovation and in the transition of Veterans to our universities and colleges. This new partnership is a powerful statement of further support for student success and of our shared commitment to a ‘whole of society’ approach to defence, security and sovereignty.”

"Nova Scotia's universities play a critical role in preparing learners for meaningful careers and supporting student success across diverse backgrounds” said The Honourable Brian Wong, Minister, Advanced Education. “This partnership reflects our shared commitment to ensuring military personnel, veterans, and their families have access to high-quality post-secondary education, receive recognition for their skills and experience, and thrive in our classrooms and communities. By working together, we are expanding opportunities for members of the military community while supporting the continued growth of Nova Scotia's workforce and economy."

“This government recognizes the importance of the military and the post-secondary sectors to our economy and communities” said The Honourable Barbara Adams, Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for Military Relations. “We support recruitment and retention efforts to ensure its continued growth, and we know that workforce development and training will be important to our collective success. By working together, with the leadership of the university sector, we can help grow Nova Scotia’s position as one of the Canada’s key defence hubs.”

The MOU will be signed by CONSUP and CMVF3C representatives on behalf of Nova Scotia’s ten universities.

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The Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents (CONSUP), founded in 1982, is an informal body consisting of the presidents of the 10 public universities in the province. The objectives of the Council are to work for the improvement of higher education in Nova Scotia, to exercise leadership in matters concerning post-secondary education, to promote cooperation and interuniversity planning among those institutions listed in the membership, to be the channel of collective communication between the universities and the government, as well as between the universities and other bodies or individuals.

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