

WHAT IS LAVENDER GRADUATION?

Lavender Graduation is an annual ceremony conducted on numerous campuses to honour queer and trans students and acknowledge their achievements and contributions as they graduate their degrees.

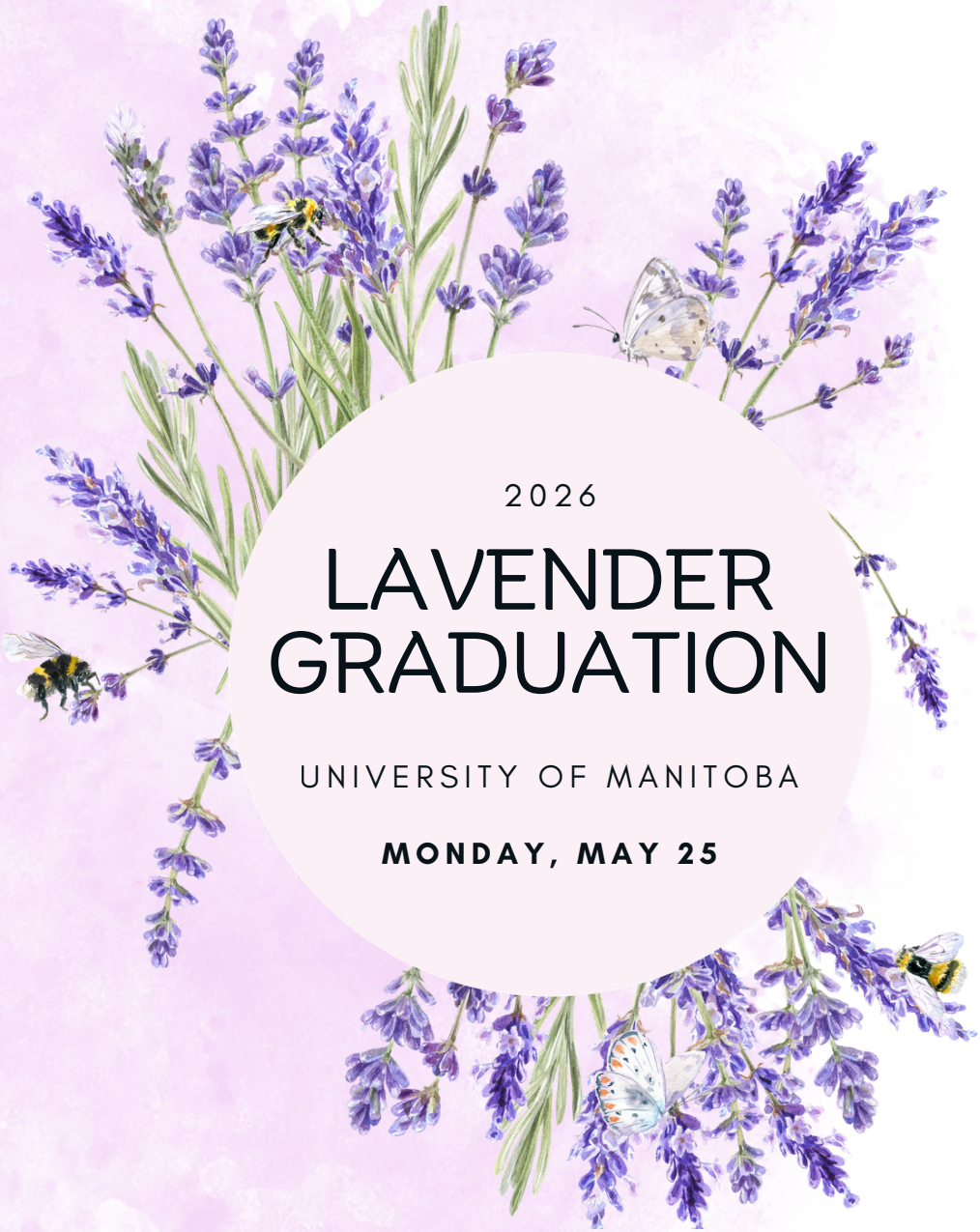
The Lavender Graduation Ceremony was created in 1995 by Dr. Ronni Sanlo, a lesbian who was denied the opportunity to attend the graduations of her own children because of her sexual orientation.

May 25, 2026 marks the third Lavender Graduation held at the University of Manitoba, and the second ceremony to honour graduates from any post-secondary institution in the province of Manitoba.

Lavender Graduation 2026 is made possible by:



and The Alan Klass Memorial Program in Health Equity



2026
LAVENDER GRADUATION
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
MONDAY, MAY 25



PROGRAM

MONDAY, MAY 25, 2026

- 1:00 PM** Graduate check-in
- 1:30 PM** Ceremony starts
Opening Prayer from Elder Albert McLeod
- Remarks from Dr. Rob Lorway
- Remarks from Lavender Grad Alum, Jay Saule Campagne
- Remarks from Queer & Trans Graduate Student Group President
- 2:30 PM** Reception

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Lavender Graduation 2026 is held on the University of Manitoba Fort Garry Campus. This campus is located on Treaty 1 territory, on the original lands of Anishinaabeg, Ininew, Anisininew, Dakota Oyate and Dene peoples, and on the National Homeland of the Red River Métis.

We respect and honor Treaty 3 Territory Shoal Lake 40 First Nation as the source of Winnipeg's clean drinking water. Sourcing water from Shoal Lake 40 led to surrounding Indigenous communities living under a boil water advisory, lacking access to clean drinking water, for more than two decades.

This land is also where Elder Myra Laramee was gifted the knowledge of Two Spirit in 1990. Two Spirit people have existed on Turtle Island since time immemorial. They have always been here and will always be here.

Today, and all days, we stand against the oppression of Two Spirit peoples. We stand against the harms of colonialism, in the past and in the present. We recognize the resistance of Two Spirit peoples to these harms.

Two Spirit people are sacred.

GRADUANDS

Doctoral

- **Kiersten Sanderson**, Juris Doctor - Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba
- **Lara Haidar**, Doctor of Philosophy (Pharmacy)- College of Pharmacy, University of Manitoba
- **Little Hermie Monterde**, Doctor of Philosophy (Mathematics) - Faculty of Science, University of Manitoba
 - 2026 Governor General's Gold Medal recipient
 - University of Manitoba's 2026 Distinguished Dissertation Award recipient
- **Rowan Black**, Juris Doctor - Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba

Diplomas

- **Teddy Lands**, Diploma in Social Innovation and Community Development (Indigenous Social Entrepreneurship) - Red River College Polytechnic

GRADUANDS

Bachelors

- **Amber Vandenberg**, Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) - Faculty of Arts, University of Manitoba
- **Annika Turenne**, Baccalauréat en Travail Social - École de travail social, Université de Saint-Boniface
- **Andrea Kirkwood**, Bachelor of Social Work - Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba
- **Alex Rana**, Bachelor of Arts (English) - Faculty of Arts, University of Manitoba
- **Asia Wright Makara**, Baccalauréat en Travail Social - École de travail social, Université de Saint-Boniface
- **Azka Ahmed**, Bachelor of Science (Microbiology) - Faculty of Science, University of Manitoba
- **Bazil Hasan**, Bachelor of Nursing - College of Nursing, University of Manitoba
- **Brody McQueen**, Bachelor of Fine Arts Honours (*first class*) - School of Art, University of Manitoba
- **Clay Mykietowich**, Bachelor of Arts (Rhetoric, Writing and Communications) - Faculty of Arts, University of Winnipeg

GRADUANDS

Bachelors

- **Hazel Funk-Froese**, Bachelor of Science Honours (Physics and Astronomy) - Faculty of Science, University of Manitoba
- **James Webster**, Bachelor of Arts (Rhetoric, Writing and Communications) - Faculty of Arts, University of Winnipeg
- **Jared Ramos Murphy**, Bachelor of Arts (Criminology, minor: Political Science) - Faculty of Arts, University of Manitoba
- **Mackenzie Borges**, Bachelor of Arts & Bachelor of Education - Faculty of Education, University of Winnipeg
- **Mae Juenke**, Bachelor of Science (Biological Sciences) - Faculty of Science, University of Manitoba
- **R. Jean Harrison**, Bachelor of Arts (Anthropology) - Faculty of Arts, Brandon University
- **Sonja Stone**, Bachelor of Social Work - Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba
- **Tamara Brady**, Bachelor of Education - Faculty of Education, University of Manitoba

GRADUANDS

Bachelors

- **Victoria Romero**, Bachelor of Arts (Political Science & History) - Faculty of Arts, University of Manitoba

Masters

- **Angela Ciceron**, Master of Arts (Economics) - Faculty of Arts, University of Manitoba
- **Ashley Bell**, Master of Nursing - College of Nursing, University of Manitoba
- **Elliott Long**, Master of Arts (Cultural Studies) - Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Winnipeg
- **Emma Cowman**, Master of Social Work - Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba
- **Grace Holwell**, Master of Social Work - Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba
- **Kyra Campbell**, Master of Human Rights - Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba
- **Sara Fehr**, Master of Arts (Sociology & Criminology) - Faculty of Arts, University of Manitoba