



For Immediate Release — Thursday, October 12, 2017

## **University of Lethbridge excited to celebrate graduating class at Fall 2017 Convocation ceremony**

The University of Lethbridge is preparing to celebrate the culmination of years of hard work and achievement of its newest group of graduates at the Fall 2017 Convocation ceremony, scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2017 in the 1st Choice Savings Centre gymnasium.

The U of L will award a total of 249 degrees, diplomas and certificates at the ceremony, with close to 200 students expected to participate in person. The public is welcome to join the festivities, either in person or by watching the streaming version at <https://livestream.com/u leth>.

Graduands will be assembling in University Hall starting at 8:30 a.m. The academic procession from University Hall to the 1st Choice Savings Centre begins at 9:50 a.m. Media are welcome to interview graduands between 8:45 and 9:15 a.m. in University Hall's sixth floor hallway, or following the ceremony. Media are also invited to attend the ceremony, which includes the bestowing of an honorary degree, the Speaker Research Award, and the Alumna of the Year award.

Buffy Sainte-Marie, a leader and longtime advocate for Aboriginal Peoples in Canada and around the world, will receive an honorary degree. In her career, she has addressed topics that often remain hidden – abuse, women's rights, equality, education and war. Her community work has allowed her to see the effects of colonialism on Indigenous people around the globe. These concerns became the themes for Sainte-Marie's music, teaching and artistry. Sainte-Marie will be available to media for a 15-minute scrum only in PE264 (across hall from Tim Horton's), 10 minutes following the conclusion of the ceremony.

Dr. Leroy Little Bear, Distinguished Niitsitapi Scholar, will be presented with the Speaker Research Award for his work as an international scholar, speaker and leader. A pioneer in the advancement of Indigenous education and an esteemed advisor on Aboriginal matters at the local, provincial, national and international level, he was a founder of the University's Department of Native American Studies, one of the first such departments in Canada.

The U of L Alumni Association will recognize Jamie Ahksistowaki Medicine Crane (BEd '05) with the 2017 Alumna of the Year Award. Medicine Crane has made an indelible impression on the way education is delivered to Indigenous communities, all the while promoting Indigenous rights, women's rights, human rights and justice.

More information: [Fall 2017 Convocation](#)

To view online: <http://www.uleth.ca/unews/article/celebrating-graduates-fall-2017-convocation>

-- 30 --

Contact:

Trevor Kenney, News & Information Manager  
403-329-2710  
403-360-7639 (cell)  
[trevor.kenney@uleth.ca](mailto:trevor.kenney@uleth.ca)