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Bernadine and Toby Boulet to be granted honorary degrees at Fall 2025 Convocation

Turning unbearable tragedy into a national movement, Bernadine (BEd '88) and Toby (BEd '89, MEd '94) Boulet have been at the forefront of promoting organ donations across Canada by co-creating Green Shirt Day to honour the tragic passing of their son Logan. For their selfless commitment to motivating Canadians to participate in organ donations and saving countless lives, the University of Lethbridge will present Bernadine and Toby Boulet with honorary degrees at Fall 2025 Convocation.

"To see the way Bernadine and Toby have dealt with the devastating loss of their son, turning tragedy into hope for so many other families, is truly inspiring," says ULeithbridge Chancellor Terry Whitehead (BA '94). "Their unwavering positivity and willingness to allow their very personal story be the catalyst for a national campaign is remarkable and the University is proud to recognize their efforts through honorary degrees."



Bernadine and Toby Boulet will be bestowed with honorary Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, at Fall 2025 Convocation on Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025, at 10 a.m. in the Centre for Sport and Wellness gymnasium.

Bernadine (BEd '88) and Toby (BEd '89, MEd '94) Boulet

Bernadine and Toby Boulet were unwillingly thrust into the national spotlight when, on April 6, 2018, their son Logan was one of 29 passengers involved in the Humboldt Broncos bus crash. A day later, Logan succumbed to his injuries. Only months prior, he had been inspired to be an organ donor and let his parents know his wishes. While grappling with their grief, Bernadine and Toby offered to donate Logan's organs, thus saving six lives.

While national attention faded, Bernadine and Toby's unfathomable loss will never subside, and yet they found the strength to turn tragedy into a positive legacy. They started by telling Logan's story, how he was inspired by his mentor, late University of Lethbridge women's rugby coach Ric Suggitt who passed suddenly in 2017 — and how he saved six lives through organ donation.

Logan's story not only resonated with Canadians, it inspired almost 150,000 donor registrations across the country within a few weeks of the tragedy. This became known as the Logan Boulet Effect. With selfless devotion, Bernadine and Toby recognized they had a platform to make lasting, positive change for people's lives and keep the memory of their son alive.

Through tireless work, Green Shirt Day — a national movement to encourage conversations and organ donor registrations — was established. They formed partnerships with the Canadian Transplant Association, Kidney Foundation and Canadian Blood Services, giving them the opportunity to speak across the nation. With the Alberta ORGANization Group, they successfully lobbied legislators to change current laws to create Give Life Alberta. From their advocacy, Bernadine and Toby have changed how organ and tissue donation is viewed.

Through their passion and commitment to bettering society, Bernadine and Toby have been relentless advocates for the values and causes that matter most to them. Their philanthropic efforts endowed the Ric Suggitt Women's Rugby Memorial Award at ULeithbridge. Likewise, their fundraising efforts have exceeded \$750,000, benefitting groups such as KidSport, Special Olympics and youth fine arts, while simultaneously establishing the Logan Boulet Endowment.

In 2019, their consistent efforts with Canadian Blood Services and advocacy for the Lethbridge Plasma Centre earned them the national Schilly Award. Canadian Blood Services now annually presents the Logan Boulet Award for organ donation.

Bernadine and Toby Boulet use hope, compassion, generosity, selflessness and an unwavering commitment to make a lasting difference to transform their darkest day into a national movement that continues to change people's lives every day.

To view online: <https://www.ulethbridge.ca/unews/article/bernadine-and-toby-boulet-be-granted-honorary-degrees-fall-2025-convocation>

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Our University's Blackfoot name is Iniskim, meaning Sacred Buffalo Stone. The University is located in traditional Blackfoot Confederacy territory. We honour the Blackfoot people and their traditional ways of knowing in caring for this land, as well as all Indigenous Peoples who have helped shape and continue to strengthen our University community.