



University of
Lethbridge

News Release

For immediate release — Thursday, September 24, 2026

2026 distinguished alumna remarkable example of graduate success

From the halls of the University of Lethbridge to some of Canada's largest newsrooms, to the corridors of political power in Ontario, the Honorable Indira Naidoo-Harris ECO (BAsc (BA) '82) has leveraged her liberal arts education to build a career and legacy rooted in public service, activism and leadership.

Since graduating more than four decades ago, Naidoo-Harris has harnessed opportunities to hold lawmakers to account, risen to the political theatre herself and championed policy on gender equity and human rights on provincial, national and international stages.

Her accomplishments and legacy have earned her recognition from the University of Lethbridge Alumni Association (ULAA) as the 2026 recipient of its Distinguished Alumni Award.

"Indira's career is a remarkable example of where a University of Lethbridge education can lead," says Cyndi Crane (BMus '95, MEd '01), ULAA president. "She has moved from journalism to elected office, cabinet, post-secondary leadership and international conversations, while maintaining a consistent commitment to public service and creating opportunities for others. What stands out to me is the breadth of her leadership. She has been willing to ask difficult questions, step into complex spaces and use her voice where it can make a difference. Indira reflects the curiosity, critical thinking and courage we hope a liberal education inspires, and the alumni association is tremendously proud to recognize her as a distinguished alumna."

Naidoo-Harris will be honoured at the 2026 Alumni Achievement Awards Celebration on Friday, Oct. 16, 2026, at 7 p.m. in the Science Commons Atrium. Tickets are currently available [online](#).

Indira Naidoo-Harris

Indira Naidoo-Harris is an esteemed policymaker, journalist and human rights advocate. Her career reflects an intellectual rigour matched with ethical leadership and a deep commitment to social progress. In short, she reflects the very philosophy of a University of Lethbridge liberal arts education.

A political science graduate, Naidoo-Harris easily shifted from a student of politics to one actively engaging with policy makers. For nearly two decades, she anchored CBC, CTV Newsnet, TVO and OMNI Television newscasts, interviewing human rights leaders, premiers and prime

ministers. Whether her guests were reporting from war zones or debating policy, her reporting earned her a reputation for asking tough but fair questions. Her work consistently returned to the same subjects — equity, human rights and justice for those who need a champion.

Naidoo-Harris then left the newsroom to test her convictions from inside government. She worked as a Director of Communications at Queen's Park in Toronto before being elected as the Member of Provincial Parliament for Halton in 2014. Beginning as a Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, she rose to minister in Kathleen Wynne's cabinet, first as the Associate Minister of Finance, then as Minister Responsible for Early Years and Child Care, the Status of Women and Minister of Education. Her policies promoted initiatives that fought discrimination while furthering equity, accessibility and inclusion. This work laid the foundation to expand childcare access to more than 100,000 Ontario children.

Naidoo-Harris is also respected on the national and international stage. She represented Ontario at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, co-hosted federal-provincial talks on closing the gender wage gap and delivered a keynote at a World Economic Forum event in Davos on the need for integrated leadership following the global pandemic.

Most recently, Naidoo-Harris has served as Associate Vice-President, Diversity, and Human Rights, at the University of Guelph. There her work focused on policy, training, culture and issue-resolution touching every corner of the university community, from student life to research practices and employment standards. Frequently consulted on national conversations about equity in post-secondary education, she was named one of Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women in 2022 for her community impact.

Whether in front of broadcast news cameras, inside cabinet rooms or on campuses, Naidoo-Harris remains a true champion of human rights, working hard to build a fairer world.

To view online: <https://www.ulethbridge.ca/unews/article/2026-distinguished-alumna-remarkable-example-graduate-success>

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Contact:

Tom Roulston
Public Affairs Advisor
403-332-1768 (cell)
tom.roulston@uleth.ca
@ULethbridge

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.