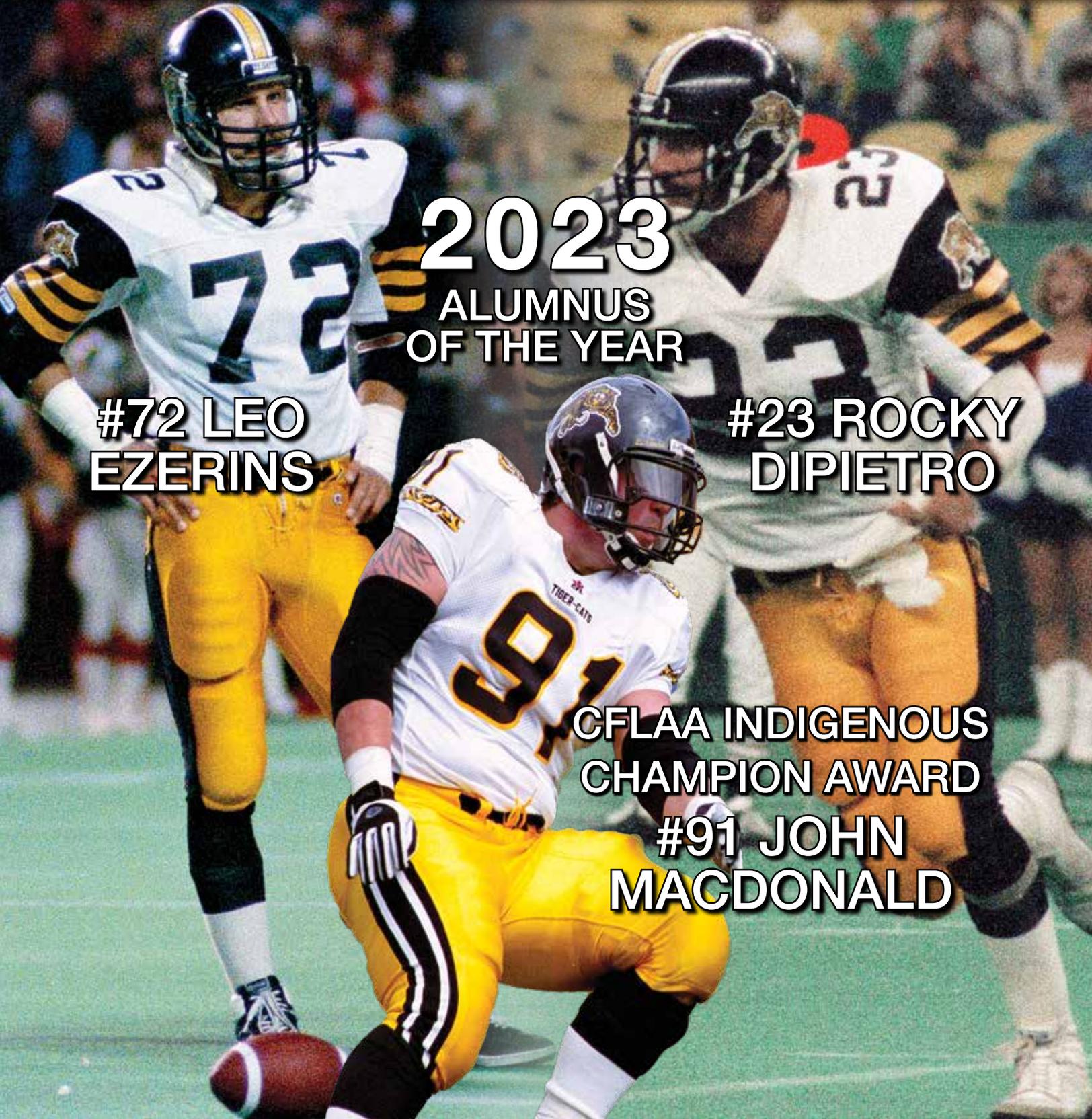


# ALUMNIUPDATE



# 2023

## ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

**#72 LEO  
EZERINS**

**#23 ROCKY  
DIPIETRO**

**CFLAA INDIGENOUS  
CHAMPION AWARD**

**#91 JOHN  
MACDONALD**

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# **CFLAA**

## **MISSION, VISION, VALUES AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

### **CFLAA Mission:**

To create value and camaraderie for our members by celebrating and supporting Canadian football and demonstrating commitment and service to our community.

### **CFLAA Vision:**

To support former CFL players, Canadian football and other communities of interest while fostering collaborative relationships with CFL stakeholders and others that enhance the well-being of our members and friends.

### **CFLAA Values:**

We value fellowship, collaboration, support, service, tradition and wellness.

### **CFLAA Strategic Priorities:**

Strategic Priorities are based on impact of the activity, ability to carry it out and relevance of the situation to the CFLAA mission, vision and values.

1. Work with our partners, including all club alumni associations, the CFL and the CFLPA, to facilitate communication while adding benefits, services and programs that promote fellowship among alumni and advance each organization's goals.
2. Grow the CFL Alumni Support Fund and promote its guidelines and criteria among the CFL alumni community.
3. Participate in activities that provide insight into sport related brain injuries and other health related issues.
4. Provide good governance and management for the Association to ensure its long term effectiveness and financial viability.
5. Continue to offer marquee events that highlight the valuable contribution of alumni and provides them with opportunities to participate in the CFL tradition at Grey Cup while supporting the Alumni Support Fund and the effects of other key partners.

**For any questions regarding the CFLAA to include donations, partnership opportunities, and advertising information for Grey Cup 2024 please contact Leo Ezerins, CFLAA Executive Director, [leo@cflaa.ca](mailto:leo@cflaa.ca)**

# Message from the President



## Wrapping up the 2023 CFL Season: A Year of Drama, Resilience, and Emerging Stars

Dear CFLAA Members,

As we approach the culmination of the 2023 CFL season, it's time to reflect on the incredible moments that have kept us glued to our screens and filled our hearts with pride for our beloved sport.

This year has been nothing short of electric. There's no denying that the season has been one for the history books, with a staggering number of close games that have left fans, both old and new, on the edge of their seats. These nail-biting finishes are a testament to the competitive spirit that continues to define Canadian football. We saw the end of several negative streaks and the start of positive ones.

However, it hasn't been without its challenges. Notably, injuries have been a significant storyline, with several of our top starting quarterbacks facing setbacks. While this could have dented the spirit of many teams, it instead showcased the depth of talent we have in the league. In the face of adversity, new and exciting players stepped up, delivering performances that have etched their names into the annals of CFL greatness. Their resilience and adaptability remind us of the unpredictability of the game and the importance of fostering young talent.

For our esteemed alumni, the season has been rich in content and topics of debate. From discussions on injury prevention and the evolution of the game, rule changes to reminiscing about our days on the field, and mentoring the next generation, the connection between past, present, and future remains stronger than ever.

Personally, I would like to thank MLSE for the effort they displayed in the 150th Anniversary year of the Toronto Argonauts. Alumni were front and center and honoured in so many ways and events. It was first class from start to finish, and I know the Argo Alumni appreciated their inclusion.

As we gear up for Grey Cup 2023, let us celebrate the game we love and the everlasting bond that unites all members of the CFLAA. Lastly, congratulations to the partnership between the Hamilton Tiger-Cat Football team, The Hamilton Tiger-Cat Alumni Association, and the CFLAA in hosting the Legends Luncheon and other events during the Grey Cup festival. A lot of thought and preparation has gone into these events, further enhancing CFL fans and Alumni Grey Cup experiences and memories. Well done!!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'C. ...' in a cursive style.

President, CFL Alumni Association

November 2023



## A Message from our Commissioner

To my fellow Canadian Football League Alumni and all our friends:

On behalf of the entire CFL, I want to congratulate the CFL Alumni Association on today's Legends Luncheon.

This is much more than a place where former players and lifelong fans get together to share a meal. It's where great memories, good humour, and deep gratitude combine to rekindle old friendships and start new ones. And that makes it one of the highlights of Grey Cup week.

Congratulations, as well, to your alumni of the year: two Grey Cup champions from the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, Rocky DiPietro and Leo Ezerins.

Leo was a tremendous linebacker who had an amazing 25 interceptions in his career. He went on, of course, to do great things after his playing career, including becoming the founder of the CFLAA.

Rocky, one of the most popular Ticats ever, had more than 700 receptions in a Hall of Fame career, and went on to success as an educator and coach.

These men embody what has always made CFL players great: excellence on the field, and service to the community, off the field, and after their playing days.

There has been no greater example of these qualities than the legend we lost just a few weeks ago, George Reed. I know you will remember him, and all of the alumni we have lost, at your gathering. They will always inspire us.

I want our alumni to know that the CFL continues to build upon the foundation they put in place. We've had a strong year in 2023.

On the field, we enjoyed high scoring, big play football, and the emergence of a new generation of quarterbacks.

On the business side, we saw a resurgence in our big city markets – Toronto, BC and Montreal – and higher television ratings across the league.

And a lot of this progress stems from the fact that we have one of the strongest groups of team owners and leaders in the history of the CFL, working with the incredible world-class athletes and coaches in the CFL today.

We can confidently say we see an even brighter future ahead – and we have that view because we stand on your shoulders.

Yours in football,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Ambrosie".

Randy Ambrosie, Commissioner  
Canadian Football League





# CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYERS' ASSOCIATION

6205 B AIRPORT ROAD, SUITE 208, MISSISSAUGA, ON L4V 1E3  
T: 1.800.616.6865 | WWW.CFLPA.COM

Dear Fellow Alumni,

On behalf of the Canadian Football League Players' Association, and our 650+ active members, we extend our sincere gratitude for your unwavering support over the years. Your commitment to our program's has played a pivotal role in shaping our experiences both on and off the field, and your footprints before us have left the path forward.

The mentorship, and sense of camaraderie that the Alumni Association provides have been instrumental in our development as athletes and individuals. Your continued dedication to fostering a strong bond between current players and alumni is truly appreciated.

As we strive for increased successes on the field, your support serves as a motivating force, reminding us that we are part of a legacy that extends beyond our current season. The impact of your solidarity on key issues that affect both our memberships, can be seen not only in the initiatives of today, but all things that will be upcoming.

Your belief in our potential encourages us to push ourselves to new heights, both as athletes and as members of the larger football family.

Once again, thank you for your invaluable support. We are proud to be associated with such a dedicated and passionate group of alumni. Together, we can continue to build a legacy that future players will carry with them.

Yours in solidarity,

Brian Ramsay  
Executive Director  
CFL Players' Association

# CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## Alumnus of the Year

### Background:

The inaugural CFL Alumni Association Man of the Year award was presented in 2008 at an exclusive Alumni event during Canadian Football Hall of Fame Weekend (first time in Winnipeg) at the Manitoba Club.

A nominee from each Alumni Association was submitted to the CFLAA Board of Directors. The Board unanimously selected Sam Etchevery.

Unfortunately, Sam passed two weeks before the event. The award was presented to his brother, Steve Etchevery, by Paul Robson. The event's emcee was Wade Miller.

In 2010 the Board decided to have the local Alumni Association of the host Grey Cup city make the selection for the award to be presented at the CFLAA Legends Luncheon.

The CFLAA Board renamed the CFLAA Man of the Year to CFLAA Alumnus of the Year.

The recipients are honored each year at the CFLAA Legends Luncheon during Grey Cup week.

### Award Criteria:

- Former Players, Management, Coaches
- Successful post career transition
- Past and/or currently involved in local Alumni Association and/or CFL Alumni Association
- Actively involved in the community and charitable causes
- Supports the local football club and the Canadian Football League

### Past Award Winners:

- 2009 – Sam “The Rifle” Etchevery (Montreal)\*  
Posthumously
- 2010 – Bayne Norrie (Edmonton)
- 2011 – Norm Fieldgate (BC)
- 2012 – Don Durno (Toronto)
- 2013 – George Reed and Carm Carteri  
(Saskatchewan)
- 2014 – Lui Passaglia (BC)
- 2015 – Wade Miller and Paul Robson (Winnipeg)
- 2016 – Michael “Pinball” Clemons and Peter Martin  
(Toronto)
- 2017 – Russ Jackson and Jeff Avery (Ottawa)
- 2018- Hector Pothier and Brian Fryer (Edmonton)
- 2019 – Tony Spoletini (Calgary)
- 2020 – Not Awarded due to COVID
- 2021 – Bob Krouse and Jason Riley (Hamilton)
- 2022 - Rob Bresciani and Rob Pyne (Saskatchewan)
- 2023 - Rocky DiPietro and Leo Ezerins (Hamilton)



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- Create efficiencies and reduce duplication.

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## Shari-Lee Srigley

Executive Director  
Fundraising and Development  
565 Sanatorium Road, Suite 205  
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ABOUT THRIVE GROUP Thrive Group is a non-profit, charitable organization incorporated in 2013 and governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. Through a network of distinct but integrated organizations, including St. Peter's Residence at Chedoke, AbleLiving Services, Capability Support Services, and Idlewyld Manor, Thrive Group provides a range of cost-effective health care services by maximizing resources, minimizing duplication, and creating efficiencies through collaboration. This allows operation-based government funding and donor contributions to be channeled where it is most needed – quality front-line care for clients and residents. Alongside our leadership approach when it comes to the provision of services that enable our clients and residents who need various levels of assistance to live as independently as possible, Thrive Group also provides an innovative approach to back-office support. Our dedicated staff members are committed to delivering excellence in the areas of Organizational Development, Human Resources, Finance, Information Technology, Facilities Management and Strategic Leadership. We provide these back-office services not only to our member organizations but will also assist other charitable organizations on a fee-for-service basis.

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# CANADIAN CONCUSSION CENTRE

Research | Diagnosis | Solutions

The Canadian Concussion Centre is the world's first program dedicated to a four-pronged approach to concussions: research, education, diagnosis and treatment. The project is based at the Krembil Neuroscience Centre at the University Health Network's Toronto Western Hospital, and is led by internationally acclaimed concussion expert, Dr. Charles Tator. The team includes world leaders in brain injury, cognition, imaging, mental health and clinical care working together to determine how concussions can affect us all.

The **CFL Alumni Association** has taken a leadership role in promoting research and awareness of brain injury and concussion since its inception in 2012. The CFL alumni involvement includes former players, **Leo Ezerins**, Executive Director, CFL Alumni Association and on the Advisory Group **Matt Dunigan** and **Robert Bronk**, President, CFLAA

The research is designed to better understand the full spectrum of concussions, in particular, persistent symptoms of concussion and the delayed effects of multiple concussions.

Our MISSION is to identify who has and who is at risk of developing the delayed neurodegeneration associated with multiple concussions. We are developing better **diagnostic tools** to detect the effects of multiple concussions, and we are trying to figure out the **underlying causes** of their long term effects. All of the above information is used to **develop mechanism-based treatments** to prevent or minimize the enduring effects of multiple concussions.

Note: The study will cover the travel expenses (hotel, flight, and per diem) incurred to participate in the research program in Toronto. Plan on two days of testing.

**If you are interested in being a participant in the research study or to donate your brain please contact:**

**Clinical Research Coordinator, Mozghan Khodadadi, 416-603-5800 ext. 4025**

**Email: Mozghan.Khodadadi@uhn.ca**

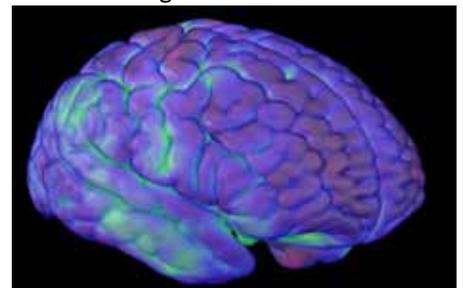


## Canadian Concussion Centre (CCC)

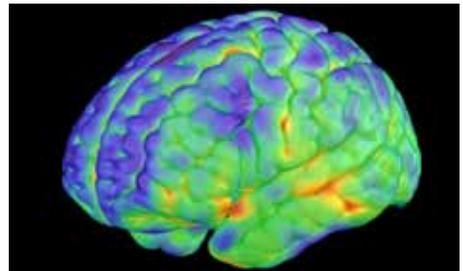
Krembil Brain Institute- Toronto Western Hospital-UHN

**Message from Dr. Charles Tator, the CCC director and Dr. Carmela Tartaglia, the Marion and Gerald Soloway Chair in Brain Injury and Concussion Research:** We are furthering our understanding of the relationship between concussions and delayed brain diseases. Thank you to all the participants who have donated their time to our program. We have so much more to discover to hopefully one day detect and treat these diseases, so please consider participating in our research program.

Negative PET Tau



Positive PET Tau



**CCC Purpose**

Since 2011, we are examining the possible correlation between repeated concussions and late deterioration of brain function.

**Study Update**

To date, 117 athletes including 74 former CFL players have participated in our study, and 34 athletes have completed at least one follow up assessment.

**Donate Your Brain**

We have received more than 50 brain donations for research purposes from elite athletes. If you are considering donating your brain to the study, please visit our website for more information at <https://www.uhn.ca/Krembil/Canadian-Concussion-Centre/Brain-Donation>

**Join Our Study**

We are recruiting new athletes. The study involves MRI, PET Scan, Neuropsychological and Neurological assessments, and a blood test during this two-day testing in Toronto. We pay for your flight and hotel room. If interested, Please call Mozghan Khodadadi at 416- 603-5800 ext. 4025 or 647-535-2021

**Published**

The CCC has published 73 studies in scientific journals:

**Education**

Watch our Patient Education Webinar Series here: <https://www.uhn.ca/Krembil/Canadian-Concussion-Centre/Education#webinarseries>

To learn more about our research program or to donate your brain, please contact Mozghan Khodadadi, Clinical Research Coordinator at 416-603- 5800, ext. 4025; 647-535-2021, [Mozghan.khodadadi@uhn.ca](mailto:Mozghan.khodadadi@uhn.ca) OR Dr. Carmela Tartaglia at 416-603-5483; [Carmela.Tartaglia@uhn.ca](mailto:Carmela.Tartaglia@uhn.ca)

# 2023 CFLAA Alumnus of the Year

## LEO EZERINS



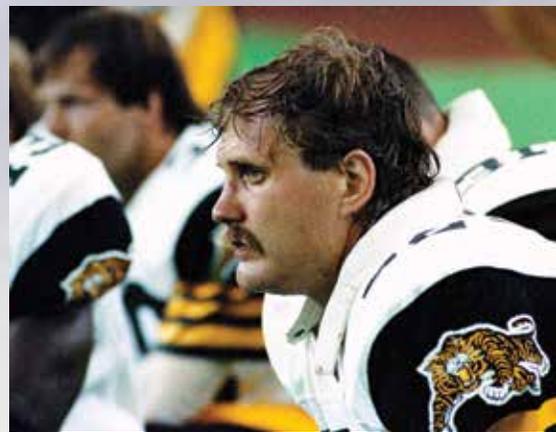
Leo Ezerins' accomplishments both on and off the football field, are well documented.

Ezerins played ten seasons in the CFL for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers and the Hamilton Tiger-Cats and was a 1986 Grey Cup-winning team leader. Ezerins, a graduate of Whitworth College (Hugh Campbell head coach), was a territorial protection of Winnipeg in 1978.

The former Eastern all-star played in 173 career CFL games, registering 13 sacks and 25 interceptions. He's still ranked first all-time in interceptions by a Canadian linebacker. Ezerins also made 23 receptions as a tight end.

After retiring, Ezerins founded the CFL Alumni Association in 2008, with its board creating the CFL Alumni Support Fund to help former players experiencing financial limitations because of medical or other challenges, and the highly popular CFLAA Legends Luncheon during Grey Cup.

Ezerins, an Inductee of Mike Ditka's Gridiron Greats Hall of Fame, is also active on the Canadian Concussion Centre advisory board and the Canadian Sports Concussion Research Project.



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## ROCKY DIPIETRO

Rocky DiPietro enjoyed a fantastic 14-year career in the CFL with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats—the native of Sault Ste. Marie and, former University of Ottawa Gee Gee, had 706 career receptions for 9,762 yards and 45 touchdowns. DiPietro also surpassed the 1,000-yard mark three times.

DiPietro retired in 1991 after starring in four Grey Cup games and hoisting the Grey Cup in victory in 1986. He was named to the Tiger-Cats Wall of Honour in 1994 and inducted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame in 1997. DiPietro was also a four-time Eastern all-star and selected All-Canadian twice.

DiPietro was named the CFL Outstanding player twice for his on-field efforts, and was a three-time recipient of the Lew Hayman trophy.

DiPietro became a high school learning strategies and special education teacher after his career. As coach of the Lakeshore Catholic High School football team in Port Colborne, Ontario, DiPietro led them to numerous championships.



# 2023 ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

## LEO EZERINS

### Amateur Football Accomplishments

- 1972 – Juvenile Football – Winnipeg Hawkeyes, Canadian Champs 1972, Canadian All-Star (Head Coach – George Motoch)
- 1973 – Junior Football – Winnipeg Hawkeyes (Head Coach- Mike DeBroni)
- 1974-1978 Whitworth University – Spokane, WA (Head Coach – Hugh Campbell, CF Hall of Fame Inductee)
- NAIA All American (1977)
- Pacific Northwest Conference All-Star (1975,1976,1977)
- Team Captain (1975,1976,1977)
- #4 in US College Football Punt Avg

### Professional Football Career

- 1978 Territorial Protection of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers
- Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1978 -1982 (TE, LB)
- Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1983 – 1987 (LB)
- Grey Cup Appearance 1984,1985, 1986
- Grey Cup Champion 1986, Eastern Conference All-Star, Team Captain
- Interceptions – 5th All-Time All linebackers, 1st All-Time Canadian
- Tiger-Cats – All-Time Team Linebackers (2017)

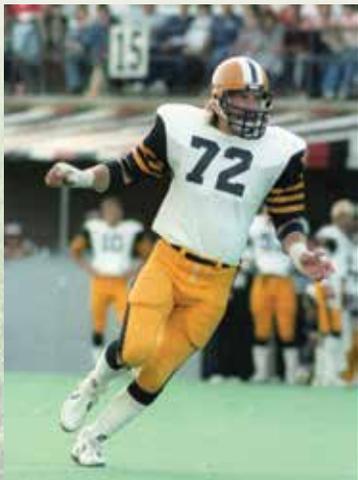
### Post Professional Football Career

- Founder/Executive Director – CFL Alumni Association, **CFLAA Support Fund, and CFLAA Legends Luncheon (2008 – present)**

- Inducted – Mike Ditka Gridiron Greats Hall of Fame 2017
- Nominated – Canadian Football Hall of Fame 2020 (Builder)
- General Manager, Grey Cup Festival 1991, Winnipeg, MB (first Grey Cup held in Winnipeg)
- Winnipeg Blue Bomber Alumni (President 1988-1991)
- Named into the Manitoba Football Hall of Fame (2023)

### Other accomplishments

- Named to the Globe and Mails- Power 50,2012
- committee member 100th Grey Cup Steering Committee, 2011=2012
- Honourary Member of the PPCLI (Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry Foundation 2011 (Lifetime)
- Founding Member of the Canadian Sports Concussion Research Project (Chaired by Dr. Charles Tator) 2014,
- Member of the fundraising committee for the Hamilton Ticats Alumni Clubhouse,
- member at large HTCAA since 2012
- Member of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats Tiger Town Council since 2016

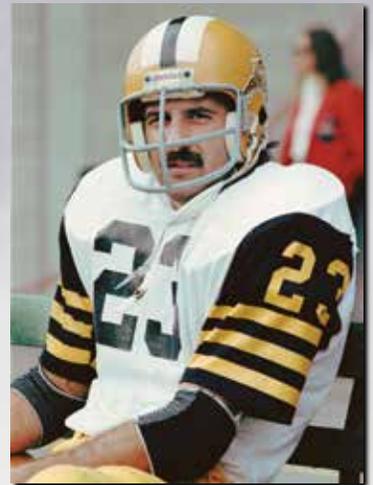


# 2023 ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

## ROCKY DIPIETRO

### Amateur Football Accomplishments

- Former receiver who started his football career in Sault-St. Marie
- Played three seasons with Ottawa Gee-Gees – (1975-1977)
- Helped Garnet and Grey win the Vanier Cup 1975.
- Member of the undefeated 1975 National Championship team (11-0) is considered to be one of the most dominant in Canadian college history.
- Named 39th best player in CIS football history by SportsNet in 2014

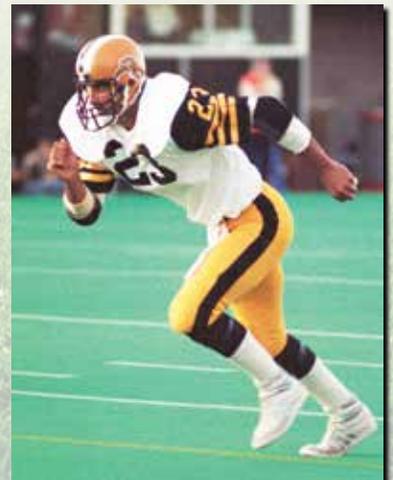


### Professional Football Career

- Receiver with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, from 1978-1991.
- During his 14-year career as a slotback and wide receiver
- Became the CFL's all-time pass reception leader in 1989.
- Career totals: 706 receptions for 9,762 yards and 45 touchdowns
- Played in four Grey Cup games, winning it in 1986.
- He was named to the Tiger-Cats Wall of Honour in 1994
- Inducted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame in 1997
- Named All-Eastern Slotback in 1981, 1982, 1986, 1989.
- Won Lew Hayman Trophy – 1982, 1986, 1989.
- Given Schenley Award for Most Outstanding Canadian – 1982, 1989
- Named All-Canadian Slotback – 1986, 1989

### Post Professional Football Career

- Coached high school football.
- 1992-1997 coached Welland Notre Dame High School
- 1998-2016 coached Lakeshore Catholic High School, Port Colbourne
- Other accomplishments
- Has a football stadium named after him in Sault Saint Marie
- Volunteers at HTCAA golf tournament



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## CFLAA INDIGENOUS CHAMPION AWARD

# JOHN MACDONALD

HAMILTON - Today, the Canadian Football League Alumni Association (CFLAA) is proud to announce that John Macdonald has won the CFLAA Indigenous Champion Award.

Macdonald will be honoured at the CARSTAR 2023 CFL Legends Luncheon in Hamilton on Friday, November 17.

“John Macdonald is an Indigenous leader who has made an incredible impact on the local community,” said Leo Ezerins, Executive Director of the CFLAA. “The CFLAA is proud to present this honour to John and to highlight his dedication to improving the quality of life of Indigenous people and his overall support of the CFL’s “Diversity is Strength” strategy and truth and reconciliation initiatives.”

John Macdonald, a member of the Mohawk Nation, Wolf Clan, from Six Nations of the Grand River territory, had an outstanding CIS and CFL career as a defensive lineman as well as an amateur football coach.

In 2001, his final CIS campaign, Macdonald earned second team CIS All-Canadian honours at McGill and was selected to the QIFC all-star team. He was also a CIS Academic All-Canadian in 2000.

During the 2002 CFL Draft, Macdonald was selected as a first-round draft pick (7th overall) by the Hamilton Tiger-Cats and went on to play 42 CFL regular season games.

Since leaving the CFL, Macdonald has been coaching high school football at Simcoe Composite School, Waterford District High School, McKinnon Park Secondary School, and Pauline Johnson Collegiate & Vocational School. Macdonald has earned multiple championships, including Pauline Johnson Collegiate's, in 2022, which ended a 16-year drought at the school.

He has also volunteered as a guest coach at the Guelph Gryphons and McGill Redbirds University camps, helping to prepare several players for the CFL.

Macdonald is also the varsity football governor for the Athletic Association of Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk (AABHN). Additionally, Macdonald serves on the Hamilton Tiger-Cat Alumni Association's (HTCAA) Board of Directors, where he has volunteered to be the Indigenous

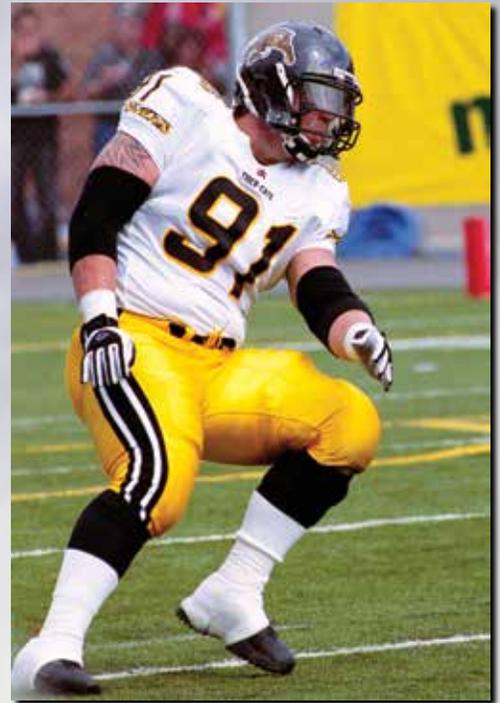
advisor on the HTCAA, the CFLAA, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats Football Club, and the Canadian Football League.

For his community efforts, Macdonald was inducted into Norfolk Sports Hall of Recognition in 2017 and named the winner of the 2018 Dreamcatcher Charitable Foundation Education Award (a national award presented to an Indigenous person making a significant impact in the field of education).

In 2021, the CFLAA added the Indigenous Champion Award to the event to support the CFL's Diversity Is Strength strategy and the Truth and Reconciliation initiatives.

This prestigious award was created to recognize former Indigenous CFL players and current advocates of Indigenous participants as players or coaches in the game of football.

“It is an honour to again present the CFLAA Indigenous Champion Award during Grey Cup week,” says Dr. Larry Rosia, Saskatchewan Polytechnic President and CEO. “The contributions of Indigenous people are an important part of our campus communities and our country. Congratulations to John Macdonald on this prestigious award. You are a great community leader and role model for students across Canada.”



# CFLAA LEGENDS LUNCHEON LIVE AUCTION ITEMS

## #1 - VIA RAIL EAST COAST TRAVEL PACKAGE

Donator: **Via Rail**

Includes:

- 4 Return Tickets from Toronto to Halifax
- Can be adjusted to originating from Winnipeg to Halifax
- Business Class for Tor/Mtl & Mtl/Tor portion of the trip
- Sleeper Class for Mtl/Hfx & Hfx/Mtl portion of the trip
- Sleeper Class for WPG/Tor & Tor/Wpg portion of the trip if applicable
- Includes meals, sleeper cars, scenic dome seating area and park car with lounges
- Expiration date is Nov. 16/24 (works for TD Atlantic)  
Specific dates dependent on availability
- Approximate value: \$6,000

## #2 - TWO PLATINUM TORONTO MAPLE LEAF GAME TICKETS & PRE-GAME MEAL

Donator: **Larry Tanenbaum and the MLSE Board of Directors**

Includes:

- One pair of center ice platinum tickets (“behind the Leafs bench”) for a 2023/24 regular season Toronto Maple Leafs home game
- Pre-game dinner for 2 in the private Board of Directors’ Lounge at Scotiabank Arena
- Approximate Value: \$2,000

## #3 – SIGNED SHAI GILGEOUS ALEXANDER SIGNED OKLAHOMA CITY JERSEY

Donator: **Ron Summers**

Description:

- Signed Oklahoma City Jersey by Hamilton’s own NBA Superstar Shai Gilgeous Alexander!
- Approximate Value: \$2,000

## #4 - 3 DAY/3 NIGHT WILDERNESS FLY-IN FISHING EXPERIENCE FOR TWO

Donator: **Kesagami Wilderness Lodge**

Includes:

- 3 days, 3 nights at Kesagami Lodge
- 45-minute fly-in to the lodge by float plane from Cochrane
- Rustic cabin with handsomely appointed rooms
- Spacious recreation area / lounge with massive fireplace and stained-glass windows offers guests relaxing moments and social activities when they are not fishing.

North of Cochrane, amid a sprawling and unspoiled wilderness, lies incredible Kesagami Lake – Ontario’s premier trophy northern pike lake. Kesagami is home to an inestimable number of giant world-class fish measuring 50 inches (30 lb).

Additionally, Kesagami Lake offers exceptional walleye fishing where rocky shoals, islands and points always hold high numbers of fish in the 1 to 4-pound class. This fly-in “American Plan” lodge is welcoming and luxurious beyond expectation.

You also have the ability to add more people to this trip at a significant discount. And you could also have TV Host/Master Angler, Henry Waszczuk as your personal fishing guide who has filmed over a dozen TV shows at this incredible lodge.

Remote and unspoiled, Kesagami is unquestionably Ontario’s premier fly-in fishing lodge.

- Approximate Value: \$5,000

## #5 - PALM SPRINGS, CA CONDO

Donator: **Hans Stasiuk**

Includes:

- Beautiful Palm Springs Condo located on Mesquite Country Club
- 2 - Queen bedrooms plus Queen pull-out couch
- 5 minutes from the airport and 5 minutes from downtown
- Availability - April 15 to December 31
- Approximate value: \$2,000

# 2023 CFLAA LEGENDS LUNCHEON SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

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SASKATCHEWAN, WINNIPEG, HAMILTON,  
TORONTO, OTTAWA, MONTREAL)

DR. JAN CHITHALEN

## KEY SUPPORTERS

THRIVE GROUP - CEO STEVE SHERRER, SHARI-LEE SRIGLEY

CFLAA PROGRAM – JOE GUNNIS

HAMILTON SPORTS GROUP

ARGYLL AND SUTHERLAND HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA –  
COLONEL GLENN GIBSON

MANULIFE

VIDEOS PRODUCTION (ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR,  
INDIGENOUS CHAMPION, AND IN MEMORIAM  
– JOE PASCUCCI

PHOTOGRAPHERS – BOB BUTRYM, RFB SPORTS,  
PHOTOHOUSE - PAUL SMITH & STEVE LACELLE

HENRY WASZCHUK

CFL OFFICIALS - DAVE FOXCROFT, JAKE IRELAND

CFLPA PENSION PLAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CANADIAN CONCUSSION CENTER

ROD PEDERSEN SHOW

EMCEES – DUANE FORDE AND ANDY FANTUZ

EVENT MANAGER – FRANCE BOURGEOIS

CO-CHAIRS – JASON RILEY AND RYAN DONNELLY

INDIGENOUS DANCERS – DAWN T MARACLE

## CFLAA PARTNERS



## STRUGGLING? Mental Health & Addiction Recovery Coaching

Pedersen Recovery Inc. is a multi-faceted agency offering one-one-one “Sober Coaching” for athletes, entertainers & public figures battling Addictions & Mental Illness. Founder & CEO Rod Pedersen is a Person In Recovery (OI-27-2015), has a Diploma as a Drug & Alcohol Treatment Specialist, and is a trained Interventionist. Rod is also a Recovery Advocate, and a sought-after keynote speaker in the field. He also hosts a popular Recovery Podcast. Rod is represented by EMJ Marketing.

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# **IN MEMORY OF**

FORMER PLAYERS, COACHES & EXECUTIVES THAT HAVE PASSED AWAY IN THE LAST YEAR

Glen Weir July 23, 1951-March 13, 2023  
Bud Grant May 20, 1927 - March 11, 202  
Keith Christensen May 10, 1947 – February 17, 2023  
Dimitrious Stanley September 19, 1974 – February 9, 2023  
Kaye Vaughan June 30, 1931 – February 5, 2023  
Roger Locke 1941 – 2023  
Joseph Moss April 19, 1930 – January 31, 2023  
Dr. Kenneth McFadden August 2 nd , 1929 – January 23, 2023  
Dave Albright January 25, 1960 – January 26, 2023

Greg Patrick 1969 – 2023  
Winthrop (Win) Sargent Headley July 4, 1949 – January 18, 2023  
Martin Fabi (November 1, 1942 – January 5, 2023)

Harold Balla August 19, 1925 – December 12, 2022  
John D. Kinch (December 20, 1954 – December 23, 2022)

Christian Saulsberry December 12, 1997 –  
John Gregory November 22, 1938 – December 12, 2022

Joe Kapp March 19, 1938 – May 8, 2023  
William Haskell Brown January 30, 1935– March 17, 2023  
Stephen Johnson Jr. 11/14/1961 – 03/24/2023  
Frank Gilliam January 7, 1934 – April 2, 2023  
Frank Lasky October 4, 1941 – April 10, 2023  
James Gordon Brown June 4, 1942 – April 20, 2023  
Curtis K. Merz April 17, 1938 – April 22, 2022  
Sonny Gordon July 30, 1965 – April 26, 2023

Gerald Nesbitt March 3, 1932 – April 27, 2023  
Eldridge Wayne Coleman June 7, 1943 – May 17, 2023  
Jim Copland January 2, 1939 – May 6, 2023

Rich Stubler August 4, 1949 – August 27, 2023

Paul Fedor January 28th, 1934 - July 2nd, 2023  
CR Roberts February 29, 1936 – July 11, 2023  
Zenon Andrusyshyn February 25, 1947 – August 7, 2023

Chip Barrett August 10, 1944 - May 29, 2023 T  
Bobby “Monk” Taylor March 5, 1939 - August 20, 2023

Carl Crennel September 14, 1948 – August 19, 2023

Darrel Aschbacher June 2, 1935 – July 15, 2023

Thomas Dwyer Beynon July 13, 1941 – June 26, 2023

Ralph “Marty” Huff December 19, 1948 – June 29, 2023  
Dahrran Diedrick January 11, 1979 – June 24, 2023

Thomas MacCallum December 22, 1970 - July 11th, 2023  
Gordon Brown June 24, 1932- July 15, 2023  
George Reed October 2, 1939 – October 1, 2023

Montreal Alouettes  
Winnipeg Blue Bombers  
Edmonton Eskimos  
Winnipeg Blue Bombers  
Ottawa Rough Riders  
Winnipeg Blue Bombers  
Ottawa Rough Riders  
Calgary Stampeders  
Memphis Showboats  
Saskatchewan Roughriders  
Hamilton Tiger-Cats  
Montral Alouettes  
Montreal Alouettes,  
Saskatchewan Roughriders  
Winnipeg Blue Bombers  
Hamilton Tiger-Cats, Toronto Argonauts,  
Ottawa Rough Riders,  
Saskatchewan Roughriders  
December 17, 2022 Edmonton Elks  
Saskatchewan Roughriders,  
Hamilton Tiger-Cats  
Calgary Stampeders, BC Lions  
Edmonton Eskimos  
  
Winnipeg Blue Bombers BC Lions  
Montreal Alouettes  
Winnipeg Blue Bombers  
Ottawa Roughriders  
Hamilton Tiger-Cats,  
Saskatchewan Roughriders  
Ottawa Rough Riders  
Calgary Stampeders, Montreal Alouettes  
Montreal Alouettes, Saskatchewan  
Roughriders, Toronto Argonauts  
Hamilton Tiger-Cats, Toronto Argonauts,  
Edmonton Eskimos, BC Lions,  
Calgary Stampeders, Montreal Alouettes  
Toronto Argonauts, Montral Alouettes  
Toronto Argonauts  
Toronto Argonauts, Hamilton Tiger-Cats,  
Edmonton Eskimos, Montreal Alouettes  
oronto Argonauts, Winnipeg Blue Bombers  
Calgary Stampeders, Toronto Argonauts,  
Hamilton Tiger-Cats, Edmonton Eskimos  
Winnipeg Blue Bombers, Monreal Alouettes,  
Edmonton Eskimos, Hamilton Tiger-Cats,  
Saskatchewan Roughriders  
Saskatchewan Roughriders,  
Montreal Alouettes  
Saskatchewan Roughriders,  
Ottawa Rough Riders  
Edmonton Eskimos  
Edmonton Eskimos, Montreal Alouettes,  
Hamilton Tiger-Cats  
Saskatchewan Roughriders  
Calgary Stampeders  
Saskatchewan Roughriders

THE CFL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION APOLOGIZES IN ADVANCE IF WE HAVE MISSED SOMEONE.  
PLEASE CONTACT US WITH ANY UPDATES: [INFO@CFLAA.CA](mailto:INFO@CFLAA.CA)

# CFLAA Support Fund

**CFLAA Support Fund is making a difference and so can you!**

The CFL Alumni Association (CFLAA) takes pride in our accomplishments both on and off the field. Was there ever a better feeling than sharing the thrill of victory with your teammates after a hard-fought win?

Now some of our former teammates and fellow alumni are feeling the effects of playing the game we all love. We have the opportunity to once again be there for our teammates and show our appreciation for the special life-long memories we created together.

## The CFL Alumni Association

**provides support for former players**

The CFL Alumni Association (CFLAA) raises money for a CFLA Support Fund (CFLASF) that offers financial support to CFL alumni who are experiencing financial hardship due to a medical condition or the sudden loss of income.

Our fund was created, and criteria developed, by members of the CFLAA. The Support Fund has two specific plans that provide various amounts of aid depending on each specific situation.

## Our Alumni need your support

We need to continue to build the fund so we are better prepared to meet future requests for financial support from your teammates and Alumni. The ever-growing reality of the effects on both the body and mind from playing football will increase the need for the Support Fund. As you know, current medical coverage aids with a very limited time post career, and this has only been available to alumni for the last few years. There are also recent challenges that COVID has had on everyone's financial and life situations.

## Support Fund has helped many former CFL players

- Recently, a former Hall of Fame player and CFL coach needed lower back surgery which left him unable to walk unassisted. We are helping by subsidizing the intensive physical therapy required so that he will be able to walk unassisted, and most importantly, be independent.
- The CFLAA, and 3 teams for which the individual played, contributed funds to an Alumnus who has had a lifelong

challenge with mental illness to assist in his medical expenses and costs to set himself up for his transition from hospital care back to independent living.

- The CFLASF aided an Alumnus and his family while his wife recovered from major surgeries for treatment of her cancer.
- We supported a member after years of struggle, including loss of family, who had admitted himself into a drug and alcohol treatment facility.

## Your generosity will continue to make a difference

To continue to help our fellow alumni through life altering issues, we need your help.

Presently, the CFLASF relies on funds raised at the CFLAA Grey Cup Legends Luncheon and other fundraisers, as well as donors such as the Never Alone Foundation (founded by former Winnipeg Blue Bomber, Lyle Bauer) Bench Brewing Company (Matt Giffen), the CFL, local Alumni Associations, and individuals.

While we appreciate all the donations we have received, and those who continue to support our fundraising events, we need to increase the amounts available for support. We can only do that by finding additional resources for the Alumni Support Fund.

## Please consider making a personal or corporate donation.

Your generosity will be used to assist your former teammates and all CFL alumni who are in need.

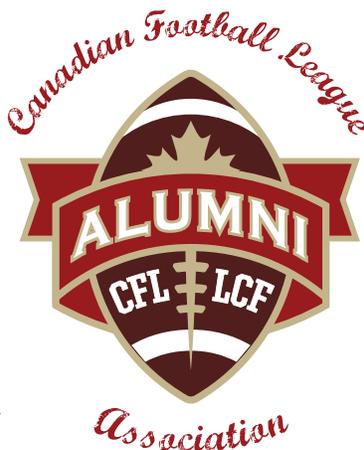
If you are a former CFL player, fan, or friend and you know of an alumni member in need, please visit CFLAA.ca and click on the Support Fund application button.

For more information on the Alumni Support Fund please visit CFLAA.ca or contact me personally at leo@cflaa.ca or 905-464-0007. All inquiries are confidential. Any support given is confidential unless approved by the recipient.

Sincerely,

Leo Ezerins  
Executive Director, CFL Alumni Association  
leo@cflaa.ca

**PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A PERSONAL OR CORPORATE DONATION.**





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## Quick Train Canada Fully Funded Micro-credentials

The Saskatchewan Polytechnic School of Continuing Education is a proud member of the Canadian Colleges for a Resilient Recovery (C2R2). The goal of these FREE micro-credentials is to provide training opportunities for Canadian workers to acquire the skills needed to support Canada's transition to a clean economy, foster a more inclusive and equitable workforce, develop training and research opportunities, and continue to further truth and reconciliation with First Nations, Inuit, and Metis peoples. These micro-credentials are fully funded by the C2R2 and the government of Canada.

### **Funding Eligibility:**

- Canadian Citizen/Permanent Resident
- Ages 18+
- Funding available until March 31, 2024

### **Fully Funded Micro-credentials in the following sectors:**

- Agriculture
- Clean Tech
- Construction
- Natural Resources and Environment
- Transportation

For more information & to register, please contact [quicktrain@saskpolytech.ca](mailto:quicktrain@saskpolytech.ca)





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