

Backgrounder

Edward Kabatay

Graduate of the Native Child and Family Services and Aboriginal Canadian Relations programs

Edward Kabatay came back to school late in life – and in a big way. This year, Ed graduates from both Native Child and Family Services program and the Aboriginal Canadian Relations Board of Governors Certificate program after receiving his General Arts and Science diploma in 2016. He said he went back to school to be an example for his grandchildren to demonstrate the importance of education.

“They asked me when I had graduated, and that’s when they caught me – I’d left college and never went back. So that was my little impetus to get me back to college.”

Ed, who is originally from Membertou First Nation on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, wants to continue working with Indigenous youth and help reduce the impact of generational trauma from the Residential School era and the Sixties Scoop.

“I want to go back to the young people with the message to stay away from destructive habits. It’s a result of low self-esteem and a lack of their culture, and they’ve turned to substance abuse to cure the pain that they’re feeling. I want to see them walk a better path,” he said.

Ed’s own remarkable path is an inspiration for all – despite challenges returning as a mature student and learning new technology, he graduates with Honours and with Letters in First Class Standing.

“My journey at Confederation College has been the greatest experience of my life,” he said. “I’ve just been welcomed and treated so kindly. All my instructors and professors have done so much to change my world.”