



CNA Corner Brook Graduation:

A Social Narrative and Event
Guide

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About this Document

- Social narratives are personalized tools used by some Autistic and other neurodivergent people. They explain social situations, set clear expectations, and break events into simple steps.
- Developed from Carol Gray's Social Stories™ and expanded by other contributors, these tools help people navigate social situations.
- This guide uses those principles to provide clear, detailed information about CNA's graduation event for anyone who wants it.
- Please note: Individual event elements may be subject to change.

Step 1: Getting Ready (Before You Leave for Civic Centre)

- Graduation is a formal milestone and often considered a ‘Sunday best’ event for clothing, hygiene and behaviour.
- Prior to a big event, many people take time for self-care, such as a fresh haircut or asking a friend for outfit feedback.

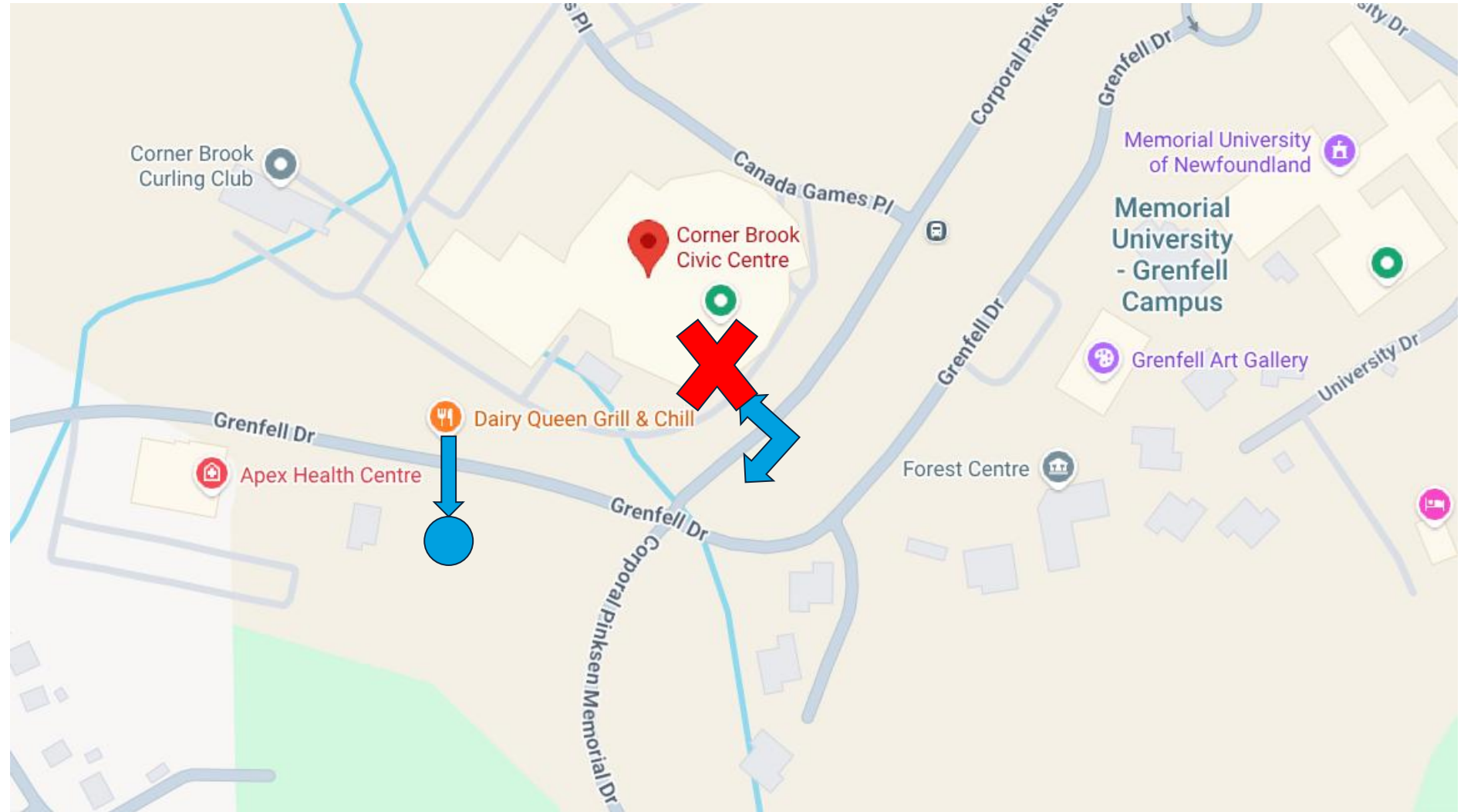


Step 2: Civic Centre Map Location

Where: Corner Brook Civic Centre, 1 Canada Games Place

When:

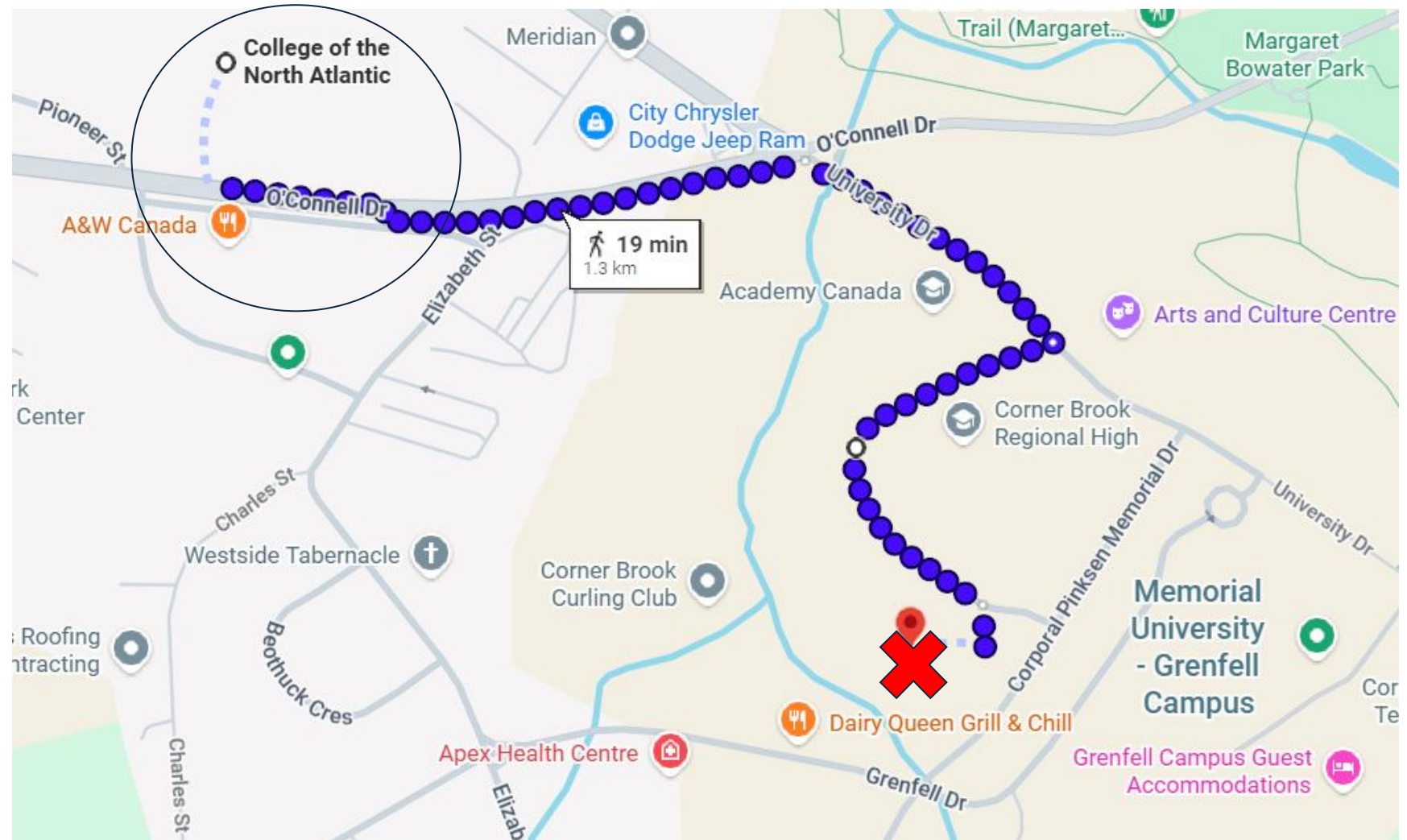
- **Graduates should arrive no later than 9:00AM**
- **10:00AM, Friday, June 12**
(Ceremony Start)



AccuWeather Early Forecast for Fri 6/12: Mix of sun/clouds.

Step 2: Transportation options

- **Bus:** Route 2, 8:41am (approximate) pick-up time, Union Street at A&W, stops at Elizabeth St at Westside Tabernacle
- **Walk:** 19 minutes from CNA Corner Brook Campus (but steep/uphill in places)
- **Drive:** ~4 min from CB Campus
- **Taxi:** Star Taxi (709) 634-4343
- Note: Uber is very limited in Corner Brook



Step 3: Entering the Civic Centre

- **Location: Corner Brook Civic Centre, 1 Canada Games Pl, Corner Brook, NL A2H 6C9**
- **Arrival:** Arrive no later than 9:00AM to find parking and settle in. Anticipate increased traffic due to nearby high school.
- **Entrance: Main Entrance** (look for **red pillars** and **blue lettering saying: "Welcome to Corner Brook Civic Centre"**).
- **Accessible Parking** is directly in front of the Main Entrance.
- **Important Note – Traffic & Taxis:** Although Corner Brook is a small city, traffic can occasionally build up during large events, and taxi wait times may increase. Please allow extra travel time.



Use Main Entrance, not Studio Entrance



Main Entrance: enter here.



Lobby is through these doors

Step 4: Graduate Check-in



Graduates! Got Your Name Card? Get Ready to Go Here!

Elevators



Graduates: Get Your Name Card Here First!

↑

**Guest Seating in arena,
straight Ahead!**

Step 4: Getting Situated - Logistics (Lobby)



Step 4: Getting Situated – Logistics

- **Arrive no later than 9:00AM** to get oriented and reduce uncertainty
- **Lobby Environment:** It may be noisy and crowded. It is normal to feel excited and nervous. Some people may want to take pictures.
- CNA staff will greet you in the lobby, help you get your name card, and you can take a program for the ceremony. You will proceed to the meeting rooms to get ready.



Step 4: Getting Situated – Logistics (Further Info)

- **Lobby Layout (See Previous Slides):**
 - **Right:** To the right is the Box Office. This is where graduating students will get their name cards. It's very important that graduating students **don't lose** this card, as they will carry it with them onto the graduation stage and hand it to the Emcee who will announce their name as they graduate.
 - **Right-Diagonal Corner:** This is the entrance to the corridor leading to the **Meeting Rooms**. **The Meeting Rooms are where graduating students will congregate in groups and then prepare to go to the stage.**
 - **Left-Diagonal Space:** **Elevators**. The seating is on the main arena floor. An elevator is available as an alternative to stairs.
 - **Left (Far Left):** offices for Forever Young Fitness Centre and Samantha Piercey-Murphy, RMT. They have no role in CNA's event but could be useful landmarks.
 - **Straight Ahead:** These doors are where **guests** will pass through into the Main Arena to be seated.



Step 4: Getting situated slide 2

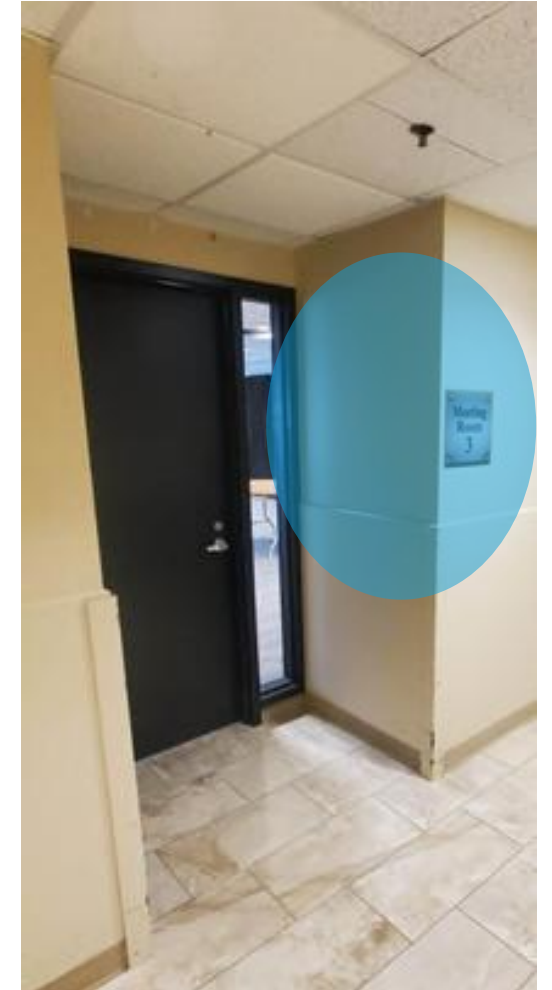
- **Meeting Rooms:** This hall has entrance to the Meeting Rooms where **graduating students** will congregate before going on stage.

- **Landmark:** Recycling bins (♻️) are at the entrance to Meeting Room 1.



Step 4: Getting situated slide 3

- **Meeting Rooms:** These are entrances to some of the Meeting Rooms (where **graduates** go).
- **Landmark:** Meeting Room 1's entrance (see previous slide) is marked by **recycling cans** nearby.



Washroom

Washrooms & Fresh Air

- **Location:** Newer washrooms are down the hall from the Meeting Rooms.
- **Public Access:** Also accessible to other attendees via the Canteen (between seat markers **L** and **K**).
- **Fresh Air:** Exit doors are located to the **right** (keep these in mind for a quick break).



Step 5: Ceremony Preparation

- **Meeting Rooms:** This is where **graduating students will congregate before going on stage**. CNA staff will be there to assist. Students will pick up their graduation cap, gown, and V-stole (a coloured scarf/sash).
- **Program Groups:** CNA staff will help students get into their groups at 9:45 to walk down the stairs and into the ceremony. Being prepared to join one's group can help one feel ready.
- **Social Expectations:** Choosing to pay attention shows respect for the event and your role in it. You are expected not to wander, ignore directions, speak loudly or scroll on your phone during the ceremony's formal remarks.
- **Manners:** Once formal remarks begin, a quiet whisper during a silent interval is okay, while open or sustained conversation is considered rude, as it may distract others.

GRAD FIT CHECK

How to Wear your V-Stole & Gown



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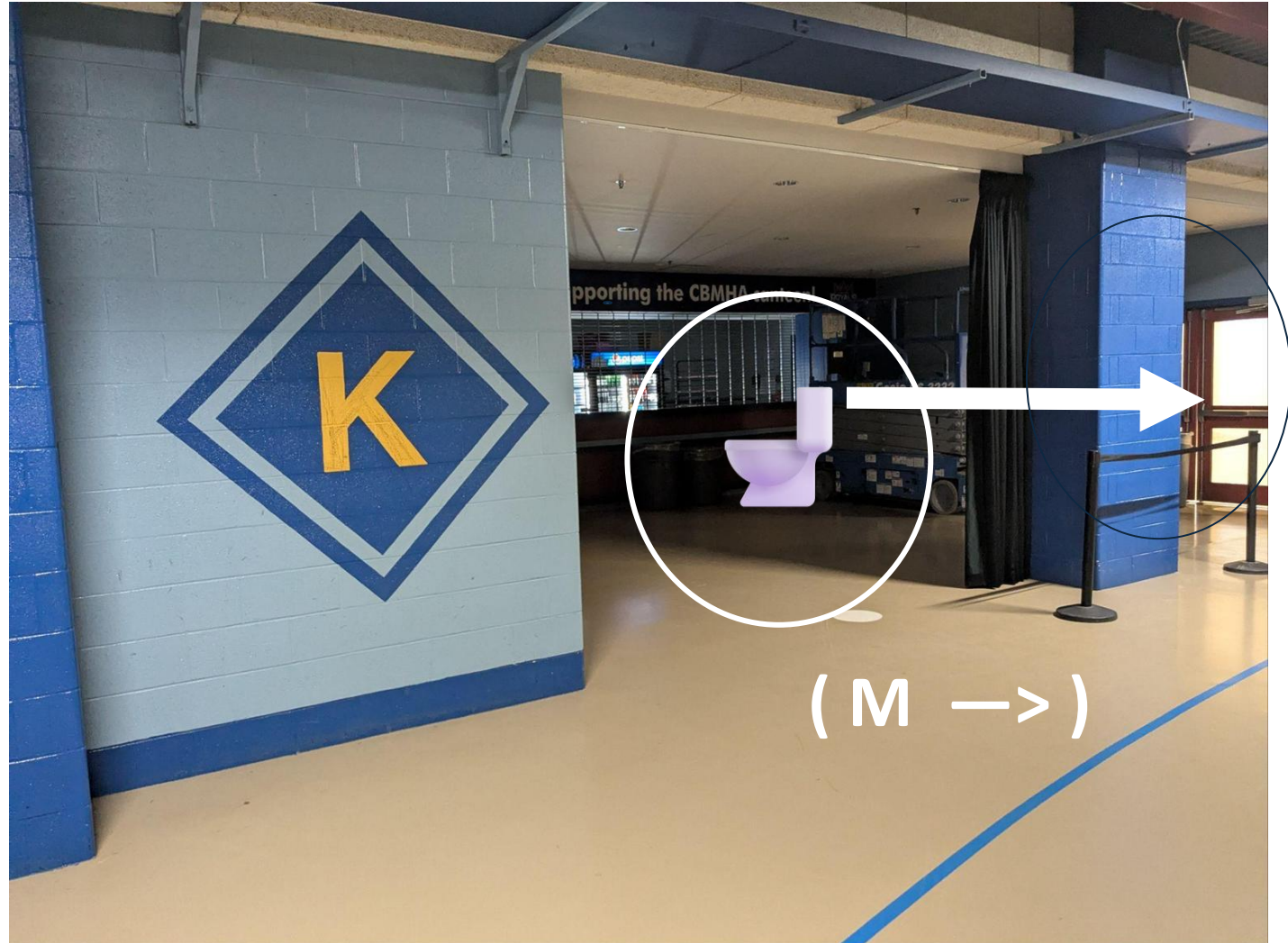
Step 5: Ceremony Preparation, slide 2

- **Noise:** Graduating students and attendees should expect sounds such as traditional drumming, other music, and singing during the national and provincial anthems. People stand during the anthems and show respect during traditional drumming.
- **Sensory Details:** Both fixed arena (guest) seating and more accessible seating (at level with the walking track) is hard plastic. Consider bringing a cushion if it may be needed.
- **Bathrooms:** There are a number of bathrooms adjacent to the Walking Track. **Newer bathrooms are by the canteen, between the seating markers for L and K.**
- **Additional Support:** Accessibility Services staff are ready to help you if you require **additional support** during the event. If you do, you may come to the helpdesk near seating section **marker M.**



Locations to note

- **Graduate Entry to Stage:** Between **K** and **L**, exiting from the Meeting Rooms. CNA staff will lead students by program group.
- **Washrooms:** While there are other washrooms off the Walking Track, newer washrooms are near the canteen (doors by Marker K).
- **Accessibility Helpdesk:** Marker M



Step 6: Ceremony

- The Ceremony itself will feature pre-recorded video messages and in-person remarks.
- **Social Context:** It is normal to find the actual ceremony a bit slow-paced. This year, the event is expected to take about 1 hour from 10:00am.
- Students will be led by CNA staff from the meeting rooms down the stairs onto the arena floor and will be seated on folding chairs.



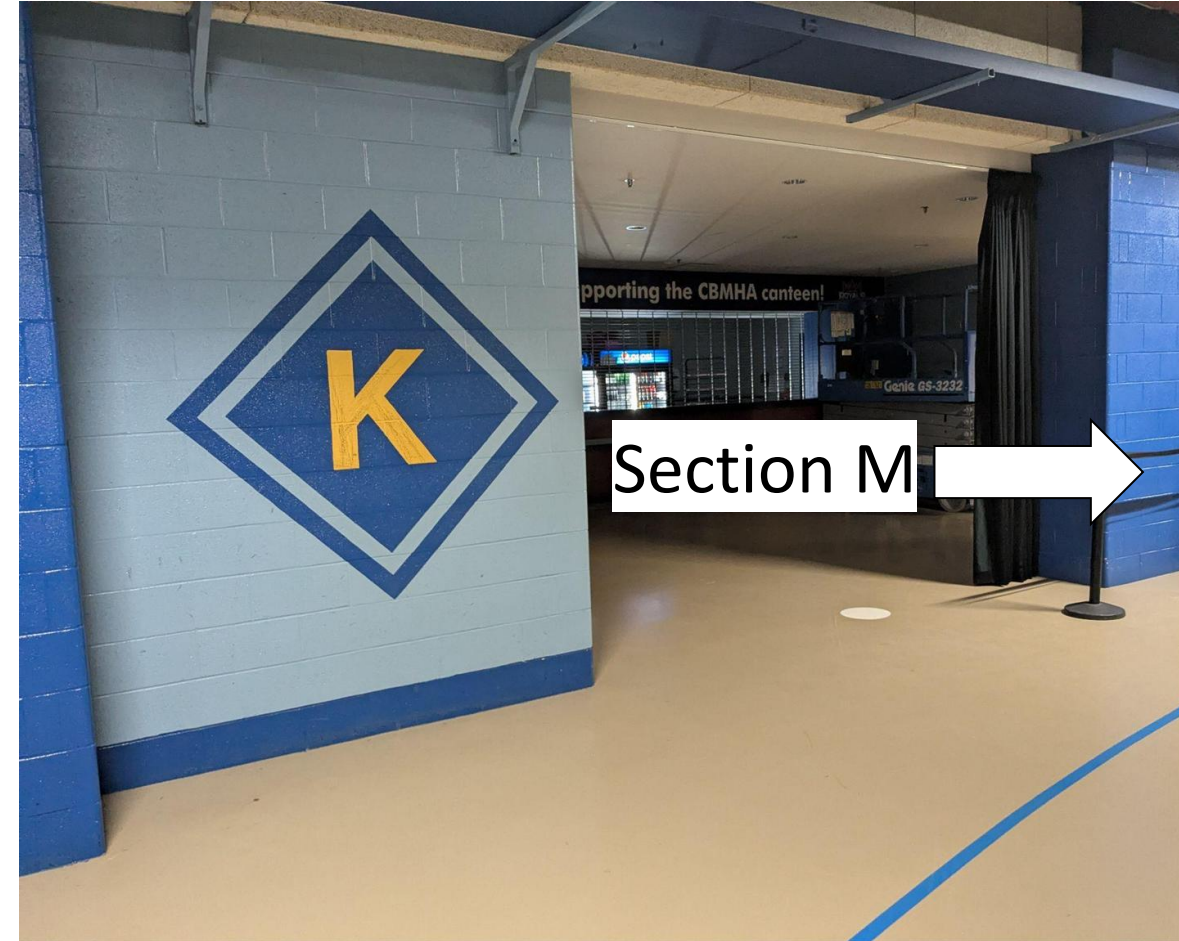
Step 6: Ceremony Slide 2

- Degrees are awarded by program group (e.g., PCA, Practical Nursing), V-stoles designate certificate or diploma.
- You will be guided by CNA staff to line up one program at a time to cross the stage.
- You will hand your name card to the Emcee as you walk onto the stage. The Emcee will announce your name.
- You will cross the stage and exit, returning to the student seating as the ceremony continues.



Additional Support & Special Assistance

- For those requiring **special assistance** during the event, **Accessibility Services Helpdesk** is located near the **marker for seating section M**.
- Staff at this desk can help by providing:
 - Non-professional physical assistance, directions or an escort to outside or a quieter area if you need a break
 - Noise reduction earmuffs (limited quantities) or earplugs
 - Basic AAC support on staff phone with Visual Voice, Color Blind Pal
 - Coordination with other staff for other needs



Step 7: Post-Ceremony celebration (CNA Campus)

- After the ceremony, you are invited back to campus for refreshments and additional award presentations.
- This will take place in the atrium at CNA Corner Brook Campus (141 O'Connell Drive).



Further Information

- This concludes the text portion of our written guide. However, if further information about event social context could be helpful to you, feel free to email the staff email at the very last slide.
- **Congratulations to our graduating students! The Accessibility Services Team wishes you a happy and memorable ceremony :)**

Acknowledgements

- This guide draws on the foundational principles of social narratives developed by Carol Gray, Siobhan Timmins, Catherine Faherty, Aaron Lanou, Team Social Stories, the Social Stories™ community, and social context researchers such as Damian Milton and Elizabeth Pellicano.
- We also acknowledge the contributions of Autistic-led research communities, the neurodiversity advocacy movement and family support organizations that continue to shape best practices in inclusive education and support.

CONTACT US

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The logo for the College of the North Atlantic (CNA) is a blue square with the lowercase letters 'cna' in white. The background of the entire page is a photograph of three students sitting on a grassy hillside, looking at a book together. One student is wearing a red jacket, another a grey shirt, and a third a plaid shirt. There are backpacks and a red bag with 'cna' on it nearby.