

UPEI's Recognition of Founders Ceremony

Schurman Market Square

Don and Marion McDougall Hall

Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 2:30 pm

Citation for Mr. Len Doucette

Read by Zare Onaivi

Good afternoon,

It is my honour to introduce Mr. Len Doucette, one of the founding staff members at the Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island.

In the fall of 1986, the Atlantic Veterinary College opened its doors to its first students—the Class of 1990. They entered a brand-new program housed in a building that was still under construction. In fact, in the book *Pets, Professors, and Politicians*, an account of the College's early years, one student in that class recalled wearing a hard hat in a makeshift anatomy lab in the barn.

In 1987, Mr. Doucette was hired as the first postmortem technician at the College. He was given the monumental task of setting up a new, state-of-the-art laboratory that would provide veterinary students with essential postmortem training. It would also function as a diagnostic laboratory serving PEI's agricultural community and the general public.

Mr. Doucette took this responsibility very seriously, working under the direction of Dr. Reg Thompson, founding dean of the Atlantic Veterinary College and a renowned pathologist himself. And he succeeded!

During his 27-year career, Mr. Doucette saw approximately 1,400 veterinarians graduate, most of which have spent time on the postmortem floor under his watchful eye. In addition, he left his mark on countless residents, interns, and graduate students, all who have benefitted from his experience and advice. His incredible work ethic, conscientious attitude, and genuine enjoyment in his work made him an indispensable asset. His devotion to his job helped the laboratory adapt and grow into a safe, highly functional workplace. He retired in 2014.

Today, we are proud to name Mr. Len Doucette a Founder of the University of Prince Edward Island in recognition of his exceptional contributions to the University and the Atlantic Veterinary College.