

Mount Allison UNIVERSITY

Talk by former NFL quarterback — Sept. 25

Sep 24, 2007

SACKVILLE, NB — Mount Allison University will welcome former NFL and CFL quarterback and social activist Donald G. McPherson to kick off the Leadership Mount Allison Speakers Series. His talk will take place in Crabtree Auditorium at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 25. Everyone is welcome and there is no admission charge.

Donald G. McPherson was an NFL and CFL quarterback drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles in 1988, after a college career at Syracuse University. During his time at Syracuse he won the Maxwell Award and finished second in the 1987 Heisman Trophy voting. He also played for the Houston Oilers and for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats and Ottawa Rough-Riders. After retiring from football in 1994, McPherson joined the staff of Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society, before becoming the first executive director of the Sports Leadership Institute at Adelphi University.

As a social activist he has founded several outreach and mentoring programs, and states that the standard constructions of masculinity and femininity both limit men's emotions and overall well-being as well as contribute to gendered violence. In this capacity he has testified before hearings of the United States House of Representatives. Now Don works with athletes, students, and young men to change the culture that cultivates abuse. "This movement is about challenging what men say to each other in all male environments, how we raise our boys, and how we talk about women," says Don. "Violence against women is a men's issue and men have to confront other men; otherwise, it won't end."

Executive director of the Adelphi Sports Leadership Institute in New York, and a guest on the Oprah Winfrey show, Don McPherson is not afraid to call himself a feminist.