

## News from Newfoundland and Labrador

### News from Newfoundland and Labrador Libraries

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### Memorial University Libraries

#### Strategic Planning

We are happy to announce the 2018-2023 Strategic Plan has been launched internally throughout the library system with a kick off celebration.

#### Research

We successfully launched the Memorial University Libraries lecture series thanks to Memorial University's Office of Public Engagement's Accelerator fund. Our first guest lecturer was Dr. [Denise Koufogiannakis](#), associate university librarian with the University of Alberta. We also welcomed guest lecturer Vincent Larivière, Canada Research Chair on the Transformations of Scholarly Communication, associate professor of information science at the École de bibliothéconomie et des sciences de l'information, l'Université de Montréal.

#### Employee News

We had to say some heartfelt goodbyes this quarter to some employees who retired. Together, they had over 100 years of service:

- Joan Ritcey Head of the Centre for Newfoundland Studies, retired after 38 years with Memorial University Libraries. [Learn a little about her amazing career.](#) Dianne Taylor-Harding retired from Information Services, QEII Library. Her expansive knowledge and dedication to reference services will be missed.

- Elizabeth Doody-Browne also retired from Information Services, QEII Library. Her uplifting presence and desire to help people in public services for almost 38 years will be missed.
- Donna Barron retired from Lending Services, QEII Library, with more than 25 years of service. Her infectious laugh will be missed.

### **We have also welcomed some new and existing colleagues into new positions**

- Ms. Alison Ambi has accepted the position of Division Head, Collection Strategies, Memorial University Libraries, for a three-year term.
- Kate Shore has accepted the position of Access Services Librarian effective March 1<sup>st</sup>, QEII Library.
- Jordan Patterson will be joining the Cataloguing and Metadata Division, QEII Library, in early March.

### **Cool Stuff**

- Grenfell Campus Library hosted a 150 acts of reconciliation event (#7 - read an indigenous autobiography). Faculty, staff, students, and alumni selected a book and posted photos on social media. The event was a collaboration between Grenfell Campus Student Affairs Officer for Aboriginal Affairs, Grenfell Library, and the Marketing Department.

### **Events**

- Memorial University Libraries' *Check it out!* public engagement series presented a panel discussion on mental health and well-being in February. Panelists included: Leigha-Chiasson-Locke (Regional Librarian, Newfoundland Public Libraries), Amelia Curran (musician and Mental Health Reform Advocate), Rob McLennon (Director of Employment, Stella's Circle), Jenelle Duval (Program Coordinator, St. John's Native Friendship Centre), and Brad Yetman (MUN Wellness and Counselling Centre).

## Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries (NLPL)

### **Background: Proposed NLPL branch closures**

- In April of 2016, the provincial government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced the potential closure of 54 of its public libraries. Due to the local and national outcry and protests that resulted from this news, the government announced that it would suspend the closures pending a review by consultation firm, Ernst and Young (EY). This announcement came on June 30, 2016, the day before the proposed cuts were to come into effect.
- After months of consultations, the final report was released on May 5, 2017. This report highlighted the issues and offered some recommendations, going forward. Since its release, the Newfoundland and Labrador Library Association (NLLA), the Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA), along with many other library associations, library workers, and supporters, have been vocal about the desired outcomes of the review, and of recommendations to be prioritized.

### **Recent News**

- On March 28, 2018, Education Minister, Dale Kirby announced that “there will be no closures of any branch of Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries” (CBC News). Kirby called the initial proposal a “dead issue”, and added, “back in 2016, it was shelved”. Now, “that’s the end of it”.
- While the library community is breathing a sigh of relief, and although it considers the final decision a victory, the concern of funding for our public library branches still hangs in the air. Underfunding was one of the ongoing issues outlined by the NLLA and APLA, and also in the EY report. Yet, “in the 2018 budget, there will be \$11.3 million put toward the public library system, which Kirby said is the ‘status quo’ amount” (CBC News). The hope is that funding increases beyond the status quo, for the betterment of the entire public library system and the communities it serves.

## APLA Conference, 2019

### **Planning has begun!**

- The APLA conference will be held in St. John’s, NL in 2019, and the planning committee is formed and excitedly organizing itself for the year ahead. Some initial decisions have been made, or are in the process of being finalized, and we look forward to announcing our theme and venue at APLA 2018 in Fredericton, NB. Stay tuned!