

News from Newfoundland and Labrador

News from Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador Libraries

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University News:

Dr. Neil Bose has advised of his plan to retire on April 5, 2025, at the end of his current term as president and vice-chancellor *pro tempore*. [Read more.](#)

The search committee for the role of dean of the Faculty of Science has completed its work and recommended **Dr. James Gauld** for the position. Dr. Gauld will begin a five-year term effective April 1, 2025. [Read more.](#)

Dr. Jennifer Lokash has been appointed provost and vice-president (academic) of Memorial University. The appointment was approved on January 16 by the Board of Regents, following the unanimous decision of the search committee. [Read more.](#)

Dr. Neil Bose presented a budget update in December 2024. [Read more.](#)

The search committee for the role of dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science completed its work and recommended **Dr. Octavia Dobre** for the position. Dr. Dobre, who has been interim dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science since May 2022, began a five-year term effective January 1, 2026. [Read more.](#)

The search committee for the role of dean of the School of Music completed its work and recommended **Dr. Karen Bulmer** for the position. Dr. Bulmer, who has acted as interim dean of the Faculty of Music since June 2021, began a five-year term effective November 5, 2024. [Read more.](#)

Research:

On Friday, January 31, Grenfell public services Librarian **Chelsea Humphries** presented at the OLA Super Conference in Toronto, facilitating a conversation about burnout in academic librarianship.

On March 26, 2025, the **Centre for Newfoundland Studies**, QEII Library, is planning its annual event that recognizes recent book publications or other creative works (not including journal articles) by the Memorial community. [Read more.](#)

Dr. Patrick Gamsby was selected as a peer mentor for this year's [Librarians' Research Institute](#). Also Dr. Patrick Gamsby published his 3rd book - *The Dialectic of Herbert Marcuse* in the Fall of 2024. Read more about it on the [University's website](#).

The Education Library continued its series (funded by the Office of Public Engagement, Memorial) - *Tales to Teach, Tales to Reach*. Students, staff and faculty have an opportunity to engage with talented writers, illustrators, and storytellers in Newfoundland and Labrador. Partnering with a local teacher librarian, they will learn valuable lessons about integrating books and presentation skills in classrooms.

This collaborative series will highlight the rich collection at the Education Library and promote the love of literacy and the art of reading and writing. So far illustrator and writer **Lori Doody** and author and storyteller **Dale Jarvis** have presented to an engaged and participatory audience.

*(Education librarian **Courtney Crocker** and illustrator/author **Lori Doody** in the Education Library)*



Employee News:

Joan Ritcey, former head of the Centre for Newfoundland Studies (CNS) was one of the recipients of the inaugural Premier's Medal for Arts, Heritage, Sports, and Recreation in December 2024. She was honoured for her work with the Newfoundland and Labrador Historical Society. [Read more.](#)

Grenfell public services Librarian **Chelsea Humphries** is now a co-editor of the Canadian Journal of Academic Librarianship.

Congratulations to **Gordon Little** of Library IT Services. Gord's game "Moving Houses" was recently nominated for two prestigious Canadian Game Awards – Best Performance and Best Technology/Innovation. You can read more in [Saltwire](#).

[Marine Institute Library's](#) **Jessica Cahill-Bouzane** was featured on the CBC radio program "The Signal" in late November 2024 talking about **Dr. William Hampton** who she nominated as one of the [MUN Centennial 100](#).

Curious about the latest from the QEII Archives and Special Collections' Division? Visit **Patrick Warner's** Blog The Dog's Tooth. Recent acquisitions, exhibits, lectures and other interesting material relating to the unique world of special collections are profiled. The title of the blog refers to the medieval practice of burnishing gold leaf illumination with a dog's tooth.

Health Sciences Librarian **Michelle Swab** is on sabbatical for all of 2025, returning January 1, 2026.

Cool Stuff:

The Grenfell Library partnered with the Corner Brook Public Library to run a Public Library Card Drive on October 22. There was a table in the library space where Corner Brook Public Library staff member **Brittany Noseworthy**, a Master's student in our MALA program, registered students on the spot for their public library cards and shared information about NLPL's digital resources. A total of 14 students registered!

Library team members **Crystal Rose** and **Krista Howell** travelled to the Bonne Bay Marine Station in Norris Point December 1-3 to assist the Director with his plans to update and renovate the "library." They identified 6 boxes of unique/rare materials that are now at Grenfell and will be catalogued and added to the Grenfell collection, completed the first ever weeding of the collection, and reorganized the remaining collection.

The Grenfell Library hosted the launch of the undergraduate journal, *Bookish*, on November 1st. Congratulations to staff member, **Kit Stone**, on her publication!

This winter the **Education Library** team got creative with community engagement with their faculty and staff. They introduced a soup club aimed at bring folks together, providing some nourishment to sustain them through the long, dark winter months.

The QEII Library hosted another successful scavenger hunt at the start of Winter Semester 2025 with Memorial's first-year biology students. The students made their way through various divisions and spaces throughout the QEII – in an effort to learn a little about biology and the amazing services and spaces of the library.

Late fall, 25 students from the College of the North Atlantic's Records Management and Archives program visited **Archives and Special Collections** in the QEII Library, and 50 from Holy Spirit High in Conception Bay South also got a tour of both the CNS and the Archives and Special Collections Division.

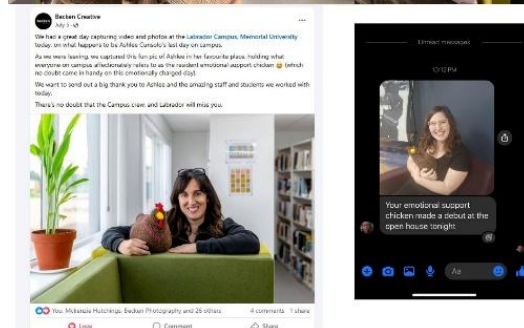
The **Labrador Campus Library** had an Emotional Chicken Ornament Making party before students went into finals. The Emotional Support Chicken in our library (not barcoded, or it would boost our library circulation statistics into the stratosphere) is the accidental Campus mascot. Public Services Librarian **Sarah Papple** knew the students would be heading home to families around Labrador with stories of the chicken, and thought a show-and-tell would be a better way to explain the concept! They enjoyed taking

their minds off STEM with a little STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, ART, and Math). A little play goes a long way for concepts to solidify in the brain. It seems the Emotional Chicken Ornaments travelled far and wide.

This January, the community was invited to the **Labrador Campus Library** to watch the film *Kiss the Ground*. This viewing underscored the message of access and highlighted the digital streaming collections, and connected the growing group of growers seen at the Library Farm Friday program, (which is action research -- growing food in the North and sharing experiences over coffee and snacks in the library).

The **Labrador Campus Library** hosted the “Bad Portrait” program that encouraged participants to connect and be vulnerable in a collective afternoon of staring at each other and creating portraits with no artistic parameters. Although the campus celebrates the ways of learning though doing and being together, there are still the same stresses of "getting it right." A program that celebrates getting it wrong was a great way to build a growth mindset in the campus community.

The **Music Library** created an Instagram account @mrc_mun. Please follow.



(A collage of emotional support chickens and the happiness they bring)

The QEII Library received the Valentines gift of a pop-up choir performance by the Holy Heart of Mary High School Chamber Choir on February 13.