

## News from Newfoundland and Labrador

### News from Memorial University Libraries

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**Useful acronyms:** HSL (Health Sciences Library), CNS (Centre for Newfoundland Studies), MRC (Music Resource Centre), ASC (Archives and Special Collections), LITS (Library Information Technology Services)

### University News

Memorial has established a multi-year deferred maintenance program that includes the demolition of Coughlan College, the refurbishment of nearly one kilometre of academic tunnels, an elevator modernisation project, a building envelope system replacement, a new primary data centre, and an emergency fund. [Read more.](#)

The Board of Regents approved a real estate divestment that includes Signal Hill Campus, the Johnson Geo Centre, the Ingstad building in St. John's and the Harlow Campus in the U.K. [Read more.](#)

**Dr. Rod Russell** was named interim associate vice-president (research). His term is from January 19, 2026-January 15, 2027. [Read more.](#)

**Scott Bishop** was appointed associate vice-president (finance) and chief financial officer and began his tenure on February 2, 2026. [Read more.](#)

**Dr. Tana Allen** concluded her role as vice-president (research) *pro tempore* and accepted a position at Trent University as vice-president research and innovation. [Read more.](#)

**Dr. Christine Arnold** is the new associate vice-president (academic) and dean of students. She began her five-year term effective January 1, 2026. [Read more.](#)

### Research

The Project Learn Book Club is expanding beyond the library system and is now open to the broader campus. The **Project Learn Book Club** reads books written by Indigenous authors or in collaboration with Indigenous communities. The books correspond with designated themes for that month that reflect locally and nationally recognized dates relating to Indigenous peoples, events, and initiatives. The goal of the Book Club is to elevate Indigenous voices and perspectives and change the approach to learning about Indigenous people and history. The Project Learn Book Club is led by **Michaela Doucette**, Indigenous Archivist, ASC.

The [Margaret Williams Trust Fund Award](#) continues to support students pursuing full-time or part-time graduate studies in librarianship, archival studies, or teacher librarianship. Since its inception in 1983, the

award has granted more than \$65,000 to 64 students. This year's award recipients are **Brittany Jeans** and **Doyle Stone**.

Librarian **Chelsea Humphries** participated in the Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning's Instructor Series with the presentation, "What instructors need to know about GenAI literacy" on January 20. [A recording is available online.](#)

With support from the Wabanaki-Labrador Health Research Network, the Labrador Campus Library hosted a hybrid Plant Medicine Book Club panel that brought together more than 35 participants on campus and online. Registrants received a copy of *Berries of Labrador* by **Ellen Bryan Obed** and a handcrafted Labrador Tea soap. Panelists **Heather Angnatok**, **Dana Marshall**, and **Mckenzie Hutchings** shared stories of intergenerational knowledge, experimentation, and the often-humorous lessons learned while working with Labrador's healing plants. A WLN-funded lunch kept conversations flowing long after the formal session ended. A lively Q&A centered on *Our Plants...Our Land* by **Alain Cuerrier** and **Luise Hermanutz**, a much-used but out-of-print resource. Following the event, the campus library connected with Cuerrier and will serve as a contact point for the forthcoming expanded edition, which will include trees and shrubs of the Big Land.

The Labrador Campus Library was host to a *Pulse Check* scarf-knitting program that offered students a fresh, low-pressure way to engage with statistical math. Basic knitting lessons were provided as needed, and the participants (students, community, faculty, and staff) colour-coded BPM and tracked their data week-to-week. The scarves are becoming sites of statistical analysis in material form, and although it is not a solution for all things "R", it is helping visualize data and real-life statistical situations. The students have become such confident knitters that they are planning to make face clothes for a fundraiser this spring.



**Chelsea Humphries** also recently published an article, “Critical AI Literacy for Sustainable Scholarly Publishing,” in [Imaginations: Journal of Cross-Cultural Image Studies, 16\(1\), 207–214](#).

**Chelsea Humphries** delivered a virtual workshop for The Partnership’s Education Institute on November 10: “Glow, Don’t Burn: Managing Burnout and Thriving in Libraries.”

ADL **Crystal Rose** served as a guest speaker for the Rotary Club of Corner Brook on December 11, presenting on the Grenfell Library’s Archives and Special Collections.

**Crystal Rose** presented an AI and Copyright Update for all libraries and members of the Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning GenAI Community of Practice, in partnership with the Libraries’ AI Strategic Project Team on November 19.

On November 7, **Chelsea Humphries** partnered with Grenfell Campus’s Student Housing RAs and the Learning Centre to help with “Study Grounds,” a late-afternoon coffee break and working session on campus to help students tackle their final assignments with drop-in and scheduled research and citation help, writing assistance, and peer tutoring, all in one space.

On November 21, the Grenfell Library participated in the Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador Annual Conference’s Hospitality Night. They welcomed over 300 municipal leaders.

LITS recently began implementing Permafrost through Scholars Portal, which will enable the libraries to provide long-term archival storage of digital objects using Archivematica and make these preserved materials viewable through the Digital Archives Initiative (DAI).

ASC’s **David Mercer** was featured on CBC News as part of Remembrance Day coverage. He was interviewed about artifacts relating to a soldier in the Newfoundland Regiment during World War One. You can watch the coverage on the [CBC News NL YouTube Channel](#) (8:40-16:05). The estimated reach of this story is 42.5k.

The Archives and Special Collections Division, QEII Library, was acknowledged on CBC's The Signal with **Adam Walsh**. He [interviewed various contributors of the book Dear Mr. Smallwood - Confederation in the Words of Those Who Lived It](#).

The DAI team has uploaded [Our unsung heroes - World War One](#) stories from Newfoundland and Labrador and it features a number of Library employees- **Dennis Flynn** (LITS), **Mike Foley** (former LITS member), and **David Mercer** (ASC).

The QEII Library partnered with the Office of Research to host a student Research Showcase event as part of the annual Memorial University Research Week. The event was designed to highlight the work of

Royal Society of Canada members and their students. The event took place on November 26, 2025 and was so successful, there are discussions about making it an annual partnership.

December was a busy month of hands-on learning at the Labrador Campus Library. As part of the Bachelor of Arctic and Subarctic Interdisciplinary Studies (BASIS), a group of students experienced a wet and cold land-based AI module, exploring meaning and metaphors related to working with AI tools worked to bring understanding to how information exchange processes are calculated within Large Language Models (LLMs). Students made connections to the gaps in data and analysis within a northern context and explored the ways this impacts health care in Labrador. While at the Pye Centre, students also enjoyed late-season carrots from the garden and strengthened their connections with each other and the land.



(BScN first year students at the Pye Centre for Northern Boreal Food Systems)

Labrador Campus Librarian **Sarah Papple** presented her research project, funded by the Library Research Fund, during [Memorial's Research Week](#): Big Land, Small Mysteries: A Fairy Spotting Adventure in a hybrid session with high engagement and attendance at the campus. The project brought her nose-to-nose with the land of Labrador and through this deepened understanding of the ways in which space and place are integral to the cultural identity of Labrador.

Labrador Campus hosted an important gathering of elders and leaders to highlight the campus community and celebrate student achievements and opportunities in December. The library is becoming known as a safe space to share stories and ask questions, especially when facilitated alongside the incredible Elders, Aunties, and Uncles Program Coordinator **Heather Angnatok**, and supported by Student Recruitment, Retention, & Relationships Officer **Mckenzie Hutchings**, and aided by our Nursing Faculty member **Kathy Gillet** with a fun tour of the Nursing Skills lab.

HSL was approached by medical students to host a book club in the new year for graphic novels in medicine. There will be four books over four months with discussions in the Historical Collection room.

The Education Library partnered with the LIFT Literacy Conference on November 27-28 to host a family literacy night. In addition to crafting, local writer and illustrator **Dawn Baker** was on hand to give a reading of her work.

## **Employee News**

**Louise White** will retire at the end of April after nearly 40 years of service at the QEII Library. Throughout her career, she has held a variety of positions including Interim University Librarian, Associate Dean of Libraries, and she is currently the Keep@Downsview lead with Collections Strategies.

**Colleen Field**, Head of CNS, will retire in June after 37 years of dedicated service. Under her leadership, the CNS has embarked on many initiatives, including the popular “Celebrating Memorial’s Research and Creative Works.” This annual event showcases research happening on campus and by the campus community and highlighting the important work of the CNS and its ever-growing collection.

**Chrissy Glavine** was the successful candidate for the Administrative Staff Specialist position in the Admin Office of the QEII Library. Chrissy will be in this role for a two-year term.

HSL’s **Sherry Squire-Grace** returned to full-time work on February 2, 2026.

HSL’s **Alison Farrell** has stepped away from the Division Head role to focus on other areas. Collectively, the HSL staff and librarians decided that at this time not seek an interim replacement.

## **Cool Stuff**

On Sunday, January 25, the CNS welcomed celebrated St. John’s poet **Mark Callanan** for “The Work Work of Art: Poetry as Work/Play.” This Creative Writing Workshop was offered in collaboration with WritersNL, and was made possible with funds from the Office of Public Engagement. Inspired by prompts drawn from the CNS, Map Library and ASC collections, fourteen participants spent the afternoon looking, listening, writing, and sharing new poetic works in a supportive learning environment.

**Linda White**, ASC team member, was recently profiled in the Downhome Magazine by LITS roving reporter **Dennis Flynn**. “Love Letters to Greenspond” is a celebration of the 30 years that Linda has been covering all things Greenspond through her publication “The Greenspond Letter.” You can read every issue on the [Digital Initiative Archive](#).



A small group of representatives from the Memorial University Libraries' fundraising committee delivered a cheque for \$5,400 to the Gathering Place on January 23. They also brought \$200 worth of Dollar Store gift cards which the Gathering Place gives directly to guests for a variety of reasons. Since 2015, the libraries have donated \$30,081 and \$660 in gift cards.

**Joanne Cole**, QEII Library retiree, was recently interviewed on CBC's morning show about losing her recently built studio to the summer wildfires of Conception Bay North. Those who know Joanne will not be surprised that she is [turning this experience into art](#). And some good news - Joanne has a new studio beginning to take shape.

On January 16, the Grenfell Library hosted a special 50th Anniversary-themed, "Groovy Grenfell" board game night. It featured many popular board games from 1975, including Hungry Hungry Hippos, Connect Four, and Wheel of Fortune, and the candy bar included pop rocks! (Don't worry, no one ate them with soda.) [See the event recap video and watch Crystal and Chelsea "enjoy" some pop rocks.](#)

Over 300 Biology 1002 students wandered through the QEII this January on a scavenger hunt in January designed by the library and **Dr. Yolanda Wiersma** and **Dr. Tom Chapman**. The idea of the hunt is to get students familiar with what the library has to offer. They had to go to the Map Room, CNS, the Commons, and public services. You can read more about it in a [Gazette story written last year](#).

**Monika Stephenson** of the Cataloguing and Metadata Division played a key role in moving all theses (11,418) from EPrints to DSpace and in fully cataloguing them. This required extensive metadata clean-up to improve user experience.

Cataloguing and Metadata Division's **Jae Jin** took part in the St. John's Storytelling Festival in late Fall as part of The Kamishib'ys. Kamishibai (Japanese for "paper play") is a form of street theatre and storytelling, where narrators set up a miniature wooden stage, revealing a series of colourful illustrations as the tales unfold. The Kamishib'ys also includes local storyteller Dale Jarvis and graphic artist Graham Blair.

LITS employee **Gord Little's** annual QEII Library Christmas card was featured on the CBC's [website](#).

The Commons in the QEII Library wrapped up another busy fall semester with some impressive numbers! More than 27,000 computer logins were recorded in the QEII, and Commons student staff assisted with nearly 5,500 support requests.

The CNS hosted a traditional NL Christmas-themed experience for students on December 8th. The students were part of the Study and Stay NL Program with International Education Newfoundland and Labrador (IENL). **Dennis Flynn** of LITS, and **Bonnie Morgan** delivered interactive presentations on traditions such as mummering and NL-specific trivia.

In December, the Education Library partnered with the Teacher Librarians NL (TLNL) for a special screening of documentary film [The Librarians](#). TLNL is a professional learning community that supports the growth of NL's teacher-librarians. The award-winning film explores how librarians are the "first responders in the fight for democracy and First Amendment Rights" in the United States.