

News from Newfoundland and Labrador

News from Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador Libraries

Submitted by Kristine Power, Communications Advisor, Memorial Libraries

University News:

On behalf of the Presidential Search Committee (PSC), the Board of Regents is sharing updates regarding the search for Memorial University's next President and Vice-Chancellor. These updates are based on the PSC's most recent meeting. The committee comprises faculty, students, regents, staff and community representatives. [Read More.](#)

The search committee for the next Vice-President (Grenfell Campus), announced on Aug. 12, held its first meeting on Aug. 14. More updates will follow as the search begins. [Read more.](#)

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has announced **Justin Ladha** as the new chair of Memorial University's Board of Regents. The appointment was effective Tuesday, August 20. Mr. Ladha is Chief Executive Officer of KMK Capital Inc. He has experience as a member of the board of directors of Nalcor Energy-Oil and Gas Inc. and as a past Chair of the St. John's Board of Trade. [Read More.](#)

Memorial University's Office of Development and Alumni Engagement is proud to announce this year's Alumni Tribute Awards recipients. All four have made tremendous contributions to the health and justice of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador and those around the globe. [Read More.](#)

Lisa Russell is the Executive Director of the Board of Regents as of June 10th. Ms. Russell's appointment was approved by the Board of Regents at their May meeting and follows an internal competition and the recommendation to the board by the board chair and the president. [Read More.](#)

Research:

Michaela Doucette's role as Indigenous Archivist has grown to include the Labrador Campus Library and Archive. She will be working closely with **Sarah Papple**, and other members of the Labrador Campus, to support the curation, preservation, and accessibility of archival materials acquired by the Labrador Campus.

The Archives and Special Collections Division hosted a two-day workshop July 22nd-23rd titled "**Unsettling Colonial Legacies in Newfoundland and Labrador**" that was organized by **Dr. Julia Laite**, historian with the University of London, **Dr. Dean Bavington**, faculty member with Memorial's Geography Department, and **Madelyn White**, a graduate student in Memorial's Geography Department. The workshop brought together people from a variety of backgrounds and academic fields to discuss current and future research addressing the complex and unique histories of colonialism in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Project Learn Book club are reading (for discussion at their next gathering on September 24):

Belcourt, Billy-Ray. *A Minor Chorus*. Toronto: Hamish Hamilton. 2022. [Link](#)
Theme(s): National Indigenous Peoples Day, National Indigenous History Month & Pride Month

Kimmerer, Robin. *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teaching of Plants*. Minneapolis: Milkweed Editions. 2013. [Link](#)
Theme(s): National Indigenous Peoples Day & National Indigenous History Month

Good, Michelle. *Five Little Indians*. Toronto: Harper Perennial. 2020. [Link](#)
Theme(s): National Indigenous Peoples Day, National Indigenous History Month, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation & Orange Shirt Day

Library employees - **Amanda Tiller-Hackett**, **Liza-Ann Tucker** and **Laura Aylward** attended the thought-provoking EDI-AR Conference in May.

Colleen Field gave a lecture to the Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador on May 28th. She shared information about the family history resources available in the Centre for Newfoundland Studies (CNS) including those resources that have been digitized for the Digital Archives Initiative (DAI). It was their first in-person lecture since pre-pandemic days and their first hybrid session.

Laura Aylward presented to the Academic Libraries' Leadership Institute (ALLI) on June 15. ALLI was developed by the Gardiner Centre with input from CARL directors and senior academic library leaders and the program has been tailored specifically for senior academic library leaders, to assist their growth so that they are well positioned to lead Canada's academic libraries into the future. Her presentation is about the broad University budgetary context, common university budget models and how academic libraries are typically allocated funds through them.

Various members of the MUN Library team participated in the 2024 annual APLA Conference (Virtual) "Looking Forward: Library Futures." From behind-the-scenes planning work to mindful movement breaks, the conference was a great success. Thanks to all who presented, organized, and supported the conference.

QEII Cataloguing and Metadata librarian **Heather Pretty**, and Serials and Acquisitions librarian **Sue Fahey**, were part of a meeting of heads of metadata and technical services from Keep@Downsview member libraries. The meeting included a tour of the Downsview facility. An interesting fact: the University of Toronto is looking to make the facility the first NetZero building at the University.

Employee News:

As of June 3, the QEII Library administrative team had some changes. **Laura Aylward** (former manager of Finance and Administration) accepted a position as director of Finance, with Facilities Management. **Cindy Cranford** is serving as the Library's Interim Manager of Finance and Administration and **Paula Hennessey** will be returning to backfill as the Administrative Staff Specialist.

The Centre for Newfoundland Studies is happy to announce that **Karen Darby's** contract has been extended until July 18th 2025.

Cool Stuff:

Archives and Special Collections' **Linda White** was recognized for her work and dedication to the Greenspond Historical Society and to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the Greenspond Letter. She was presented with a Certificate of Recognition by Mayor **Herbert Burry**.

The HSL team held an employee retreat on July 9th during which they reviewed and discussed their strategic planning for the next two years, and participated in a couple of communication exercises. Both the Dean of Libraries and the Interim Dean of Medicine stopped by with words of appreciation and encouragement.

The Education Library is now on Tik Tok @mun_education_library. Check it out [here](#).

The QEII Library was lucky enough to hear the Cantare Children's Choir (conducted by Catherine Glaser-Climie) in late June. The choir is from Calgary and they were participating in the 2024 Harbour Voices Choral Festival. The choir was in the library to hear another presentation by **David Mercer** and **Matthew Keels**, and view First World War artifacts. The presentation left quite an impression which can you hear for yourselves in this [radio clip](#).

Also, a special shoutout to other QEII Library employees who participated in the 2024 Harbour Voices Choral Festival held in late June. **Meaghan Malone** is a member of Lady Cove, **Rob Ball** is a member of Newman Sound, and **Kate McClintock** is a member of Spectrum Queer Choir!

HSL's team of six, Gait Keepers, is participating in the 2024 Cross-Campus Step Challenge. After three weeks they are at 1,630,993.

The QEII Library was well represented on July 1st at the Centennial Ceremony at the National War Memorial in St. John's. **David Mercer**, **Matthew Keels** (members of the CLB Regimental Band), and **Keith Wade** (Regimental Sergeant Major of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment) were all present and are QEII Library employees. David was an honorary pallbearer for the unknown soldier who was repatriated and entombed during the ceremony.

The Education Library Team and the Faculty of Education hosted a very successful Drag Storytime on July 24, that had over 50 attendees from across campus. An amazing reading and Q & A by drag performer **Tara Nova**.

Grenfell's **Crystal Rose** was on CBC's Here & Now, interviewed as a "royal watcher" commenting on Princess Anne and her cancelled visit to NL. Crystal's commentary is also provided in [this CBC article](#).

June was Pride month. Various displays were created in the Branches to celebrate and support Pride initiatives.

The self-checkout (Meescan) in the QEII Library is now operational. The checkout will be available when the service desk is not open.

A recent story in Medium featured LITS employee **Gordon Little's** latest foray into video game creation and production. "Moving Houses" will be officially published as a video game in September but in the meantime, the story from Medium reached 56 million. Preview the game [here](#).

Multiple Grenfell Library staff helped Grenfell convocation ceremonies run smoothly on May 16. **Krista Howell** (Deputy University Marshal), **Chelsea Humphries** (Marshal), and **Brittany Piercey** (Graduate Room Coordinator) all participated and helped to make the day a memorable one for our graduates!

A group of MUN Grads and QEII Library Commons alumni have launched Kabby. **Nana Abekah**, **Haris Barki** and **Frank Nie** all worked at the Commons and are now the co-founders of the new ride-sharing company that is offering rides in St. John's. [Read](#) and listen [here](#) for more.

Health Sciences Library (HSL) installed three new bicycle desks.

The HSL print weeding project continued throughout the summer and work just began on their computer classroom to accommodate an increase in undergraduate medicine class size.

Gazette Stories that feature the Libraries:

"By Design: Cozy nooks, accessible space and calm vibes on the QEII's revamped fiesta deck" by Kristine Power. Read [here](#).