

November 10, 2009

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to advise you that, starting today, we are launching the development of a Research Plan for Memorial University.

The development of the Research Plan is a direct response to the Strategic Plan for Memorial University, released in 2007, which includes “Research, Creative Activity and Scholarship” as one of five key pillars to advance the University’s Mission. It will provide an opportunity to engage the University and its stakeholders in a process that we have developed, rather than being driven by an externally-imposed timeline as is often the case with new funding programs. The timing of the process will allow a President-designate an opportunity to be informed by the findings of the consultations, and to have timely and substantial input to the Plan as it emerges.

The Plan will cover all aspects of scholarship including research and creative activities, as well as the translation of knowledge into products, practices and policies and other forms of community engagement. All units of the University and its separately incorporated entities with a research role will be included in the planning. I am attaching a document providing the background and process for this exciting initiative, which is being led by Dr. Ray Gosine, Vice- President (Research) Pro Tempore and Dr. Reeta Tremblay, Vice-President (Academic), Pro Tempore. They will be supported by a Steering Committee consisting of Academic Deans and Directors, and the Senate Committee on Research will have regular input to the process. Dr. Rob Greenwood has been seconded from his position as Director of the Harris Centre for a significant portion of his time to help lead the planning process. He is being supported by a small team, including Dr. Kevin Keough, whose extensive experience and contacts will help inform and evaluate alternative approaches for the Plan.

You will find background materials and contact information concerning the Research Plan process at the website <http://www.mun.ca/research/plan>. As the process proceeds, there will be extensive internal and external consultations, including opportunities for individuals to submit their ideas through the website and at open forums.

Once completed, the Research Plan will set out objectives and actions that will inform decision making at all levels of the University, enabling us to allocate available resources to support research, creative activity and scholarship. It will also serve to

advance our research aspirations and objectives with external stakeholders and partners, including government and other funding partners. I look forward to your full engagement and collaboration in this key initiative for the advancement of Memorial University.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher W. Loomis, Ph.D.  
President and Vice-Chancellor  
*Pro Tempore*

Encl.