

O CANADA

O Canada! Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all thy sons command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise
The True North strong and free!
From far and wide, O Canada,
We stand on guard for thee.

*God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.*

O Canada! Terre de nos aïeux
Ton front est ceint de fleurons glorieux!
Car ton bras sait porter l'épée,
Il sait porter la croix!
Ton histoire est une épopée
Des plus brillants exploits!

*Et ta valeur, de foi trempée
Protégera nos foyers et nos droits.
Protégera nos foyers et nos droits.*

ODE TO NEWFOUNDLAND

When sun rays crown thy pine-clad hills,
And Summer spreads her hand,
When silvern voices tune thy rills,
We love thee smiling land.
We love thee, we love thee,
We love thee, smiling land.

When spreads thy cloak of shimm'ring white,
At Winter's stern command,
Through shortened day and starlit night,
We love thee, frozen land.
We love thee, we love thee,
We love thee, frozen land.

When blinding storm gusts fret thy shore,
And wild waves lash thy strand,
Through sprindrift swirl and tempest roar,
We love thee, wind-swept land.
We love thee, we love thee,
We love thee, wind-swept land.

As loved our fathers, so we love,
Where once they stood we stand.
Their prayers we raise to Heaven above:
God guard thee, Newfoundland!
God guard thee, God guard thee,
God guard thee, Newfoundland.



MEMORIAL'S MISSION

Memorial University is an inclusive community dedicated to creativity, innovation and excellence in teaching and learning, research and scholarship, and to public engagement and service. We recognize our special obligation to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Memorial welcomes students and scholars from all over the world and contributes knowledge and shares expertise locally, nationally, and internationally.

For more information on Memorial's plans and activities, view the Strategic Plan at www.mun.ca/strategicplanning and the *President's Report 2009* at www.mun.ca/2009report.

Official Visitor to the University
His Honour the Honourable John C. Crosbie, P.C., O.C., O.N.L., Q.C., B.A.(Hons.), LL.B., LL.D.
Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador

SPRING CONVOCATION
Sir Wilfred Grenfell College
May 14, 2010

PRESIDING OFFICERS

General Rick J. Hillier (Retired), C.M.M., M.S.C., C.D., B.Sc.,
Chancellor

Christopher W. Loomis, B.Sc.(Hons.), M.Sc., Ph.D.
President and Vice-Chancellor *Pro Tempore*

Reeta C. Tremblay, B.A.(Hons.), M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.,
Vice-President (Academic) and Pro Vice-Chancellor *Pro Tempore*

VICE-PRESIDENT (CORNER BROOK)

Holly Pike, B.A.(Hons.), M.A., Ph.D. (Acting)

UNIVERSITY MARSHAL

Chris Sharpe, B.A.(Hons.), M.A., Ph.D.

DEPUTY MARSHALS

B. Paul Wilson, B.A., B.Ed., M.Ed., Ed.D.

Ed Andrews, B.Sc., B.Ed., M.Sc.

UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR

Glenn Collins, B.Sc., B.Ed., M.Sc.

COLLEGE REGISTRAR

Sharon Noftall-Bennett, B.S.W., M.Ed.

UNIVERSITY ORATOR

Georg Gunther, B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D.

MACE BEARER

Carolyn Parsons, B.B.A., M.Ed.

PIANIST

Gary Graham, O.N.L., L.Mus., B.Mus., B.A.(Mus.)

TRUMPETER

Darren Hancock

This ceremony at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College is the first of nine sessions
of Memorial University's Spring Convocation 2010.

While most students receiving their degrees at this session have completed their programs of study
at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, a number have completed programs offered at the St. John's campus.

For the purposes of publicly celebrating the success of our students and updating university marketing materials, Memorial University's
photographer will attend convocation to take photos of the ceremony and to capture candid shots of the ceremony and reception. If
you have any questions or concerns regarding this activity, please contact the convocation co-ordinator, Paula Eddy-Shea, at (709) 737-
3990 or paulaes@mun.ca.

UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS

Other university officials participating in the Convocation ceremony may include:

Mr. Robert Simmonds
Chairman, Board of Regents

Mr. Kent Decker
Vice-President (Administration and Finance)

Dr. Ray Gosine
Vice-President (Research) *Pro Tempore*

Dr. Doreen Neville
Associate Vice-President (Academic)

Dr. Grant Gardner
Associate Vice-President (Academic)

Dr. Noel Roy
Acting Dean, Faculty of Arts

Dr. Wilfred Zerbe
Dean, Faculty of Business Administration

Dr. David Dibbon
Dean, Faculty of Education

Dr. John Quaicoe
**Dean *Pro Tempore*
Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science**

Dr. James Rourke
Dean, Faculty of Medicine

Dr. Mark Abrahams
Dean, Faculty of Science

Dr. Noreen Golfman
Dean, School of Graduate Studies

Dr. Tom Gordon
Director, School of Music

Dr. Judith McFetridge-Durdle
Director, School of Nursing

Dr. Linda Hensman
Director, School of Pharmacy

Dr. Antony Card
Acting Director, School of Human Kinetics and Recreation

Ms. Ellen Oliver
Acting Director, School of Social Work

Dr. Lilly Walker
Dean, Student Affairs and Services

Mr. Glenn Blackwood
Executive Director, Marine Institute

Dr. William Iams
Acting Vice-Principal, Grenfell College

Dr. Ivan Emke
Associate Vice-Principal (Research), Grenfell College

Ms. Mary Sparkes
Co-ordinator of Student Services, Grenfell College

ACADEMIC PROCESSION

The Academic Procession heralds Convocation, the most significant gathering of the university community.

The Academic Procession will enter the hall at ten o'clock in the morning.

The audience is requested to stand while the Procession enters and leaves the hall, during the anthems, and at other times as noted in the Proceedings.

Entering the hall, the Procession may include:

Deputy Marshal

Students

Staff

Faculty

Deputy Marshal

Members of the Board of Regents

Honorary Graduates

University Marshal

Heads

Directors

Honorary Graduand

Orator

Associate Vice-Principal

Vice-Principal

University Registrar

College Registrar

Associate Deans

Deans

Associate Vice-Presidents

Vice-Presidents

Heads of Sister Institutions

Representative(s) of Provincial Government Cabinet

Chairman, Board of Regents

President and Vice-Chancellor

Mace-Bearer

Chancellor

Lieutenant Governor, the Official Visitor to the University

While the order and composition of the Procession generally remains the same for each session of Convocation, certain officials may not attend all ceremonies.

PROCESSIONAL

Ceremonial Music, Opus 62; Michael Parker, Composer

ANTHEM *O Canada*

THE CHANCELLOR WILL DECLARE CONVOCATION OPEN

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

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

REPORT TO CONVOCATION

Holly Pike, Acting Vice-President (Corner Brook)

CONFERRING OF UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

The College Registrar will present the candidates
The Chancellor will confer the degrees
The Vice-President (Corner Brook) will place the hoods

CONFERRING OF GRADUATE DEGREES

The College Registrar will present the candidates
The Chancellor will confer the degrees
The Vice-President (Corner Brook) will place the hoods

SIR WILFRED GRENFELL COLLEGE TEACHING AWARD

Presenter: William Iams, Acting Vice-Principal, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College
Recipient: Kathleen Snow

PRESENTATION OF HONORARY GRADUAND

Georg Gunther, University Orator

CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREE UPON

Stephen Lewis
The Degree of Doctor of Laws

DR. LEWIS WILL SIGN THE REGISTER AND ADDRESS CONVOCATION

THE CHANCELLOR WILL DECLARE CONVOCATION CLOSED

ANTHEM *The Ode to Newfoundland*

RECESSIONAL

Ceremonial Music, Opus 62; Michael Parker, Composer

Reception: Pepsi Studio
and
Pepsi Studio foyer

University Medals for Academic Excellence

Business Administration

Jonathan Michael ANDREWS

English

Donna Alexandra FLYNN

Environmental Science

Jake Liam RUSSELL-MERCIER

Historical Studies

Carolynne Angela GABRIEL

Psychology

Loni Megan SLADE

Social/Cultural Studies

Andrew James BOWERS

Theatre Arts

Meghan Elizabeth GREELEY

Visual Arts

Kathy-Anne Gabrielle HUGHES

**The Association of Registered Nurses of
Newfoundland and Labrador Award for Excellence -
BN**

Katherine Ann PENNEY

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS)

Pamela Jean BLACK Hanmer, Ont. Adam Franklin Josiah ROSE Steady Brook
 Jenna Amy JONES Corner Brook

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Catherine Alice ALLAN Corner Brook	Patrick David JOSLIN Richmond, Ont.
Darby Christopher ASHTON Corner Brook	Nicolle Joyce JOSEPH Corner Brook
Gail Marie BAILEY Channel-Port aux Basques	Tammy Vanessa LERICHE Channel-Port aux Basques
Brittany Brigitte BARIL Corner Brook	Madison Ashley MUGGRIDGE Pasadena
Mark Stanley BELBIN Rothesay, N.B.	Ashley Viola NEARY Corner Brook
Cory Enos BLANCHARD Corner Brook	Stephanie Stella PAYNE Corner Brook
Andrew James BOWERS Pasadena	Nichelle Kate PENNEY Victoria, B.C.
Garland Ryan BURTON La Scie	Candice Irena Faye PILGRIM Kings Point
April CROCKER Woody Point	Christina Marie Antoinette ROBARTS Hantsport, N.S.
Rachell Faith ELLERBECK Verona, Ont.	Kyle Richard SAUNDERS Corner Brook
Tanya Renée ELSON Corner Brook	Hilary Dawn SHEPPARD Lark Harbour
Shem Clifford Owen EVANS Mount Pearl	Vanessa Marie TERRY Corner Brook
Donna Alexandra FLYNN Corner Brook	Kelly Ann Alice TOBIN Channel-Port aux Basques
Carolynne Angela GABRIEL Komoka, Ont.	Holly Colleen WELLS Corner Brook
Alexander Bert GOODYEAR Gander	Tara Leigh WHELAN Corner Brook
Amanda Marie HILLYARD Reidville	Jason WISEMAN Corner Brook
Jillian Georgina JENKINS Twillingate	

BACHELOR OF MUSIC

Whitney Elizabeth ROWE Corner Brook

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS)

Jonathan Roy GARCIN Corner Brook	Natasha Marianna Takara MONNON Ottawa, Ont.
Jasmine Marie GILLIS St. Fintans	Neil Matthew PENNEY Corner Brook
Jennifer Anne JACKMAN Corner Brook	Jake Liam RUSSELL-MERCIER Corner Brook
Angelica Ericka KNEE Grand Falls-Windsor	Loni Megan SLADE Deer Lake

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Alexander MacKay ALLISON St. John's	David Desmond PENNEY Pasadena
Natalie Rose ALTEEN Corner Brook	Catherine Elaine POWER Corner Brook
Andrea Megan AU COIN Codroy Valley	Sheralyn Louise RUMBOLT Norris Point
Clinton Jerry BENNETT St. Paul's	Keanne Rita Marie RUSSELL Springdale
Donivan Lewis GALLANT Stephenville	Zachary Bradley THOMAS Cogmagun, N.S.
Jeffrey Edward HENNEBURY Baie Verte	Christina Ann WHELAN Corner Brook
Joseph Daniel GEORGE Benoit's Cove	Shauna Annette WOODMAN Corner Brook
Sarah Jane KENNEDY Corner Brook	

BACHELOR OF NURSING

Nicole Shelly ALLEN North West River	Lara Leanne BAGU Crowsnest Pass, Alta.
Robyn Lynn Victoria ANTLE Botwood	Amy Ivy Karen BRAGG Grand Falls-Windsor

Renelle Christina BRYAN Burnt Islands
 Sarah Denise BUSSEY St. Lunaire
 Danielle Jessie CAINES Bartletts Harbour
 Christine CHAULK Mud Lake
 David Edward CLARKE Corner Brook
 Nikita Shirley Elsie COLEMAN. Isle aux Morts
 Rachelle Mary DEAN Corner Brook
 Adam Christopher ELLIOTT. Botwood
 Gina Christine FLEMING. Corner Brook
 Terrilynn Denise FLYNN Conche
 Robyn Kate FOLEY Bishop's Falls
 Jenna Claire FOULDS Saskatoon, Sask.
 Rebekah Sarah GALE Cormack
 Jennifer Joan GEORGE Deer Lake
 Charlotte Nakita GOODYEAR. Lumsden
 Callista Greta Ann GREEN Grand Falls-Windsor
 Arzana HAKANJIN Corner Brook
 Angela Robin HAMLIN Port Saunders
 Heather Joy HART Fogo
 Laura Jean HYNES Port au Port East
 Trudy Nicole KEARNEY Croque
 Jennifer Sarah KELLY. Grand Falls-Windsor
 Kayla Susan KELLY Corner Brook

Romena Dulcy LAWLESS Corner Brook
 Erica Elizabeth LEGGE Corner Brook
 Colleen Ida Vera LODER. Badger
 Ashley Theresa MERCER Grand Falls-Windsor
 Janice Lillian MONTAGUE North West River
 Elizabeth Chantelle MULLINS. Corner Brook
 Jana Ashley NEWBURY Clarenville
 Natalie Diane OAKE. Deer Lake
 Melvina Minnie Grace PARSONS. South Brook
 Katherine Ann PENNEY Corner Brook
 Angela PETERSON Burgeo
 Genista Gail PIKE Red Bay
 Ashley Lynn PRESTON Corner Brook
 Samantha Sharon RICKS. Goose Cove
 Samantha Sharon RUMBOLT. Norris Point
 Kimberly Ann SWAN L'Anse au Loup
 Janet Leigh SWEETAPPLE Corner Brook
 Terri Lee TOOPE. Pond Cove
 Cheryl Nancy TORARAK. Hopedale
 Christopher Adam WHITE. Pasadena
 Kristin Emily Laura WILLIAMS Happy Valley-Goose Bay
 Tina Isabelle YOUNG. Stephenville Crossing

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PHARMACY

Matthew Fredrick Austin CROUCHER. Burnt Islands

BACHELOR OF MUSIC EDUCATION

Whitney Elizabeth ROWE. Corner Brook

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS (THEATRE)

Michael James DONOVAN Petty Harbour
 Ciarán Anthony Bruce DYKE. St. John's
 Brendan Kenneth ECKSTROM Sexsmith, Alta.
 Arsene Todd FELIX Cape St. George

Meghan Elizabeth GREELEY. Corner Brook
 Laura Kate Louisa HUCKLE
 Ardleigh Colchester, United Kingdom
 Donovan Richard Cochrane PURCELL Windsor, N.S.

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS (VISUAL ARTS)

Mark Desmond ADAMS Joe Batt's Arm
 Myrna Jacinta BRIAND. Sydney, N.S.
 Devan Troy Zachery BURRY Corner Brook
 Martha Caroline GEORGE. Brookfield, N.S.
 Kathy-Anne Gabrielle HUGHES Corner Brook
 Charlotte Grace MORGAN. St. John's
 Jillian Barbara MURPHY St. John's
 Bailey Elizabeth OAKE Big Bras d'or, N.S.
 Mary Debbie PIKE Lanark, N.S.

Amanda Marie POWER Grand Falls-Windsor
 Courtney Pamela PRITCHETT. Gander
 Martine Alice ROBICHEAU Upper Tantallon, N.S.
 Krystal Lynn STOCKLEY Burin
 Erin Elizabeth SUMMERS Corner Brook
 Ellen Beth VICKERSON Summerside, P.E.I.
 Lisa Nicole WAKEHAM Paradise
 Sarah Rose WILLETT. Dartmouth, N.S.

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Jonathan Michael ANDREWS Corner Brook
Meagan Marlene BILLARD Burgeo
Andrew Melvin BOONE Woody Point
Arlene Jacquelyn DODD Corner Brook
Jason Lawrence HURLEY Corner Brook
Kayla Brianna NORTHCOTT Margaree
Nicholas Shawn Scott O'BRIEN Pasadena
Michael Stephen PARCON Corner Brook

Lyndon John RAFUSE Chester, N.S.
Jacinta REID Stephenville
Bruce Peter SMITH Pasadena
Danielle Janine SMITH Corner Brook
Ian Ralph SPENCER Channel-Port aux Basques
Philip Gregory STREET Corner Brook
Kayla Kristen Vickie TOBIN Benoit's Cove

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

William James NEWELL Corner Brook

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Carolyn Cynthia BURRIDGE McIvers - Earth Sciences (Geology)

MASTER OF EDUCATION

Nancy Ramona HEAD Baie Verte - Curriculum, Teaching and Learning Studies

**SIR WILFRED GRENFELL
COLLEGE TEACHING
AWARD**

This award recognizes excellence in teaching, teaching innovation or teaching leadership. This year's recipient of the Sir Wilfred Grenfell College Teaching Award is Kathleen Snow, a lab instructor with the math program in the Division of Science.

Kathleen Snow has been working at Grenfell for 16 years. She is beloved by her students and peers as one of the most patient, understanding and inventive teachers that the college has to offer. In letters of support for her candidacy, students speak of Ms. Snow's ability to make math understandable to even the most despairing pupil: she has spent countless hours with them in order to help them master mathematical concepts, always with patience, understanding and good humour. Ms. Snow's peers similarly write of her inventive ways of teaching mathematics using innovative methods that involve combined learning approaches, all of which underscore her longstanding commitment to excellence in teaching.

Outside the classroom, Ms. Snow has also been instrumental in the development of Grenfell's math camps, which take place every summer on campus. Beyond her reputation as an excellent math instructor, however, Ms. Snow is someone the entire Grenfell community admires for her strength, dedication and modesty. In the words of one colleague, she is one of our deepest treasures. Without question, her students would concur.

HONORARY DEGREE

Candidates for honorary degrees may be nominated by any member of the community to the Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees and Ceremonial which, after due consideration, forwards its recommendations to Senate for approval.

To be considered for an honorary degree, candidates must normally have been benefactors of the university, or persons who have achieved eminence in learning or in the arts, or those who have otherwise distinguished themselves by outstanding public service.



photo: Gordon Griffiths

STEPHEN LEWIS

One of the most visible Canadians on the world scene, Stephen Lewis has had an extraordinary career in effecting change.

At age 25, Mr. Lewis was an elected member of the Ontario Legislative Assembly, where he served from 1963 to 1978. In 1970 he became leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party and subsequently became leader of the Official Opposition.

His standing as a man of principle was likely what led Prime Minister Brian Mulroney to appoint him as Canadian ambassador to the United Nations in 1984; this was the first of his several senior United Nations roles spanning two decades. However, it was in his role as the UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa (2001-2006) that he had the greatest impact, helping to bring global attention to the severity of the AIDS pandemic in Africa.

Mr. Lewis is the chair of the board of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. He serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Clinton Health Access Initiative and of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative.

Stephen Lewis holds 30 honorary degrees from Canadian universities and is a Companion of the Order of Canada, Canada's highest honour for lifetime achievement. He was awarded the Pearson Peace Medal in 2004 by the United Nations Association in Canada; the award celebrates outstanding achievement in the field of international service and understanding.

For his contributions to Canada, and for his role in effecting social change internationally, Stephen Lewis will be awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree.

The academic dress for matriculated undergraduates of the university shall be similar to the scholar's gown of the University of Oxford. It shall be worn whenever the president so directs.

The gowns of the Bachelors shall be of black stuff. The gowns of the Masters shall be of black stuff or silk. The gowns of the Doctors shall be of fine scarlet cloth or silk, or of black stuff or silk.

The pattern of the Bachelor's gown shall be similar to that of the Oxford Bachelor's gown. The pattern of the Master's gown and the Doctor's black gown shall be similar to that of the Oxford Master's gown, except that the Doctor's gown shall have an edging of black silk braid at the opening of the sleeve. The Doctor's scarlet gown shall be similar to that of the Oxford Doctor of Divinity's gown.

The hoods of the Bachelors shall be made of black stuff, the hoods of the Masters of black silk, and the hoods of the Doctors of scarlet silk. They shall be full in shape and lined with the university colours of claret and white. The hoods of the Bachelors shall be trimmed with white fur, the tippets with velvet in the colours distinctive of the faculty or degree. The hoods and tippets of the Masters shall be edged with velvet in the colours distinctive of the faculty or degree. The hoods and tippets of the Doctors shall be edged with silk in the colours distinctive of the faculty or degree; however, the hood of the Doctor of Philosophy shall be of claret silk, lined and edged with claret silk.

The University hood, worn by official representatives of Memorial participating in ceremonies, shall be made of black stuff, and lined and edged with claret and white silk.

The distinctive colours for the degrees shall be:

B.A., B.A.(Police Studies), M.A.	White
B.Comm., B.Comm.(Co-op.), B.B.A., I.B.B.A., M.B.A., M.O.G.S.	Tan
B.Ed., B.Ed.(Intermediate/Secondary), B.Ed.(Primary), B.Ed.(Elementary), B.Ed.(Primary/Elementary), B.Sp.Ed., B.Ed.(Native and Northern), B.Mus.Ed., B.Voc.Ed., B.Ed.(Post-secondary), M.Ed.	Light Blue
B.Eng., M.Eng.	Orange
B.F.A.(Theatre), B.F.A.(Visual Arts)	Amethyst
B.M.S., B.Tech., M.M.S.(Fisheries Resource Management)	Navy Blue
B.Mus., M.Mus.	Pink
B.N., M.N.	Coral
B.P.E., B.P.E.(Co-op.), B.Rec.(Co-op.), B.Rec., B.Kin.(Co-op.), B.Kin, M.P.E., M.Sc.(Kinesiology)	Sage Green
B.Sc., M.A.S., M.A.S.P.(Co-op.), M.A.Sc., M.Env.Sc., M.Sc.	Gold
B.Sc.(Pharmacy), M.Sc.(Pharmacy)	Clover
B.S.W., M.S.W.	Ruby Gem
M.E.R.	Chocolate Brown
M.D., M.Sc.(Medicine), M.P.H.	Green
M.Phil., Ph.D.	Claret
M.W.S.	Purple

The caps of Bachelors and Masters shall be black and of the square shape, with black tassel. The caps of the Doctors shall be similar to the Oxford Doctor's bonnet.

The academic dress for the Officers of the University shall be as follows:

Chancellor – a silk gown heavily embroidered with gold braid

Vice-Chancellor – a silk gown embroidered with gold braid

Pro Vice-Chancellor – a silk gown embroidered with gold braid

University Registrar and other Officers of the University – gowns of a pattern approved by Senate

In June of 1950 Memorial University held its first convocation, which was a fairly simple affair. Led by Engineering Prof. Jack Facey (who would later perform the role of convocation marshal for 46 years), the students and faculty moved from the Parade Street campus across to St. Patrick's Hall School for the conferring of undergraduate degrees. The university presented its first graduate degrees in May 1956 and its first honorary degree in May 1960.

The ceremony for that first honorary degree, presented to Monnie Mansfield, who had been Memorial's registrar for 30 years, served as a dress rehearsal for the most elaborate convocation the university has ever held – that for the opening of the Elizabeth Avenue campus in October 1961. Overseeing the arrangements were Prof. Facey as the marshal of convocation, responsible for the organization, direction and decorum of the occasion, and Dr. G.M. Story as the public orator, responsible for the delivery of the orations about the honorary graduands, a special feature of Memorial's convocations. Nineteen honorary degrees were conferred on a galaxy of dignitaries local, national and international. That day the public orator and his deputy each had to deliver as many as 10 orations, each a concise but rhetorically lively account of the rationale for conferring the degree.

From 1961 to 1968 convocation was held in the gymnasium of the Physical Education Building. With the opening of the St. John's Arts and Culture Centre, Memorial in effect acquired a new convocation hall, which became the regular site of the ceremonies after 1970. Designed partially on the ideas of then-Premier Joseph Smallwood, the back of the stage with its descending staircase was developed specifically for Memorial's convocation. Fall convocation was inaugurated in 1970 to accommodate increasing numbers of graduates and to support the three-semester academic calendar. In May 1992, 23 graduates received degrees in the first regular session of convocation held at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Memorial's Corner Brook campus.

The ceremonial trappings of convocation began to be developed in the early 1960s. Our academic robes are based on those of Oxford University. The silver mace – the symbol of the university's authority and the presence of which signals the official opening of convocation – and the marshals' staves were donated by Chancellor Lord Thomson in 1961. The original chancellor's chair and a lectern were presented in 1963 by then-Lieutenant Governor Campbell Macpherson. Other complementary birch wood furniture pieces were subsequently commissioned from the St. John's firm of Clarmanis and Son Ltd.; the chairs bear the university's coat of arms, hand carved and painted bas-relief. The signing table, gift of the former marshal Dr. Jack Facey, was added in 1996.

In 2002 plans were made to create a second convocation furniture suite so that a complete set would permanently reside at each of the St. John's and Corner Brook campuses. The design of the new suite, intended to reflect the culture and traditions of the province, was undertaken by retired Memorial University designer Ian Stewart; Paterson Woodworking of Upper Amherst Cove was commissioned to construct the set. The first piece completed in this suite, a black walnut convocation table with a fish-splitting table motif, was presented by then-Lieutenant Governor Edward Roberts in 2003. The kneeler was donated in 2005 by honorary graduate Alan Perry. Hon. Dr. Roberts and his brother Douglas Roberts sponsored the signing table and bench, completed in 2005, as well as the chancellor's chair and the four companion chairs, which were completed in 2006. They also donated the two speaker's lecterns, which were completed in 2007. The Roberts' contributions to the suite of furniture were undertaken in memory of their father, Dr. Harry D. Roberts, a graduate of Memorial University College ('31), an honorary graduate of Memorial University and for many years a member of the Board of Regents.

In 2009, on the occasion of the 100th regular session of Convocation, composer and retired professor of classics at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Dr. Michael Parker, was commissioned to create a special suite of music for convocation ceremonies. The suite, being premiered at Spring Convocation 2009, is dedicated to the late Ferriss Hodgett, vice-principal of Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, 1975-1992.

The desire to share the ceremonies beyond the audience seated in the convocation hall led to television coverage of the ceremonies beginning in the 1970s and, more recently, web-casting (by the university's Distance Education and Learning Technologies unit) which virtually brings the ceremony to the whole world via the university web site at www.mun.ca. Other university units that play a role in convocation include the Office of the Registrar and the School of Graduate Studies, which ensure that students have completed their programs and are certified for their degrees; the Division of Marketing and Communications, which co-ordinates the logistics of this special event and assists the graduands with preparations for the ceremony and the celebrations surrounding it; and the Office of Alumni Affairs and Development, which welcomes graduates into the Memorial University Alumni Association.

Convocation has been a day of pride for thousands of students and more than 500 honorary graduates, resulting in more than 65,000 alumni members worldwide. While our convocation, as a ceremonial occasion, has grown from the practices and procedures of older universities, after more than half a century it has become a distinctive event for all who attend, be they distinguished guests or faculty, honorary graduates or our students who are, as they should be, the focus of the event.