

### ***Section 1: Setting the Stage for Indigenizing the Academy***

#### **Four Decades of *The Morning Watch* – moving to Indigenizing the Academy?**

We see this province as a special place. Both of us have lived in other provinces and countries, and traveled extensively. While we admit that all places are distinctive and special, Newfoundland and Labrador is unique in that it continues to seek its place within Canada after its relatively late entry into Confederation in 1949. Memorial University is also unique in that two key distinctions separate it from other public universities. First, the Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN) was created as a Memorial to those who gave their lives in World War I. However, our forbearers did not simply vision MUN as a monument to past sacrifice but as a living legacy to the future. Our creation is a testament to hope, that through education we can create a living legacy in our students and faculty to build a better future. A sense of identify that is still strong in our university community. Second, we are the only university serving this province so a core mission and value is to serve our unique responsibility to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. Given these distinctions of both province and university the reader might see a robust defence of our argument for this being a special place.

Given Memorial's legacy and special connection to the Newfoundland and Labrador, we in Memorial are to be the province's champion. We embrace this knowing that Canada has the highest achieving public education system in the English speaking world. Reflecting this record of excellence, Memorial University is ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in Canada as a comprehensive university category (McLean's, 2013). To excel within an excellent system is cause for celebration. It honours our legacy well.

*The Morning Watch*, a scholarly journal, embedded in the Faculty of Education, is part of the distinctive legacy. In this edition, we celebrate *The Morning Watch* and its 40 year tradition of scholarship which started in 1973. It is full of many powerful pieces from scholars and practitioners. There is no other journal so deeply rooted in educational and social issues relevant to this province, and this material has merit for those far beyond our shores and boundaries.

Kirk Anderson published his first academic writing in *The Morning Watch* in 1994, a piece on success in small schools (Anderson, 1994). He was principal of Bonne Bay Academy in Western Newfoundland at the time. As Associate Dean of Education at the University of New Brunswick, he contributed a second article on the emerging scholars of Canadian educational leadership in 2010 (Anderson, 2010). Maura Hanrahan is new to *The Morning Watch* with one previous article in a special issue on the experience of becoming a researcher. Our most recent contribution to *The Morning Watch* is this 40th anniversary edition under the timely title *Indigenizing the Academy*, which we have co-edited.

A lot has changed in 40 years and some things have remained the same. In 1973, Memorial meant the Elizabeth Avenue Campus. While much of Memorial University still means the Elizabeth Avenue (St. John's) Campus, today it is much more. Memorial is now a multi-campus university which includes the Marine Institute (and its widely-scattered sites), the Elizabeth Avenue Campus (called the Valley Campus by some at the Marine Institute), the Grenfell Campus (called the campus of choice by some at Grenfell) in Western Newfoundland, and the Harlow Campus in England. Add to this a number of institutes such as the Labrador Institute in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and the Marine Centre in Bonne Bay and the reader

can see the degree to which this university has flourished. We have said much about locations and buildings but the people are changing as well. Besides our healthy cohort of students from Newfoundland and Labrador, our faculties, schools and divisions attract students from all over the world, many at the graduate level (in fact, our graduate school enrolment has doubled in recent years). Memorial is also drawing attention nationally and internationally as each of our campuses become a 'campus of choice' for many people seeking higher education. *The Morning Watch* is a creation of professors from Memorial University's Faculty of Education, a faculty with almost 90 years in teacher education and research. We have over 1,500 years of experience, assuming an average of 25 years of educational experience for the equivalent of 60 Faculty members. The Faculty of Education is, without doubt, the foremost authority on teaching and learning in this province. Its reach extends beyond the province as the Faculty is also highly ranked nationally and internationally.

Now 40 years old and like no other academic journal, *The Morning Watch* celebrates the ways of this province and of Canada just as it addresses salient social issues. To celebrate excellence without acknowledging grave concern for social justice is not something we can do. This special hard cover edition hopes to promote paths to celebration for a people who, to our shame, have been long left out of the Canadian success story. In particular, we highlight the resurgence of Indigenous identity as we enable a frank discussion on Indigeneity within the academy, helping, we hope, to Indigenize the academy.

This edition has two types of writing. Some of the articles deal with the theme of identity and 'being' Indigenous, which ranges from the search to reclaim or preserve Indigenous identities, which are not always understood or protected in the academy. Other articles deal with the more global context of what Indigenizing the academy means. We trust there are many insights and helpful ideas herein.

We start this special issue with a narrative from Kirk Anderson about personal identity and links to place and culture. Anderson's narrative on identity is followed by Jacqueline Ottmann's exemplary discourse of what Indigenising the academy means. In many ways, Anderson sets the tone for many of the personal journeys evident in the articles presented and Ottmann sets the stage for the academy, perhaps even the country. Then Sheila Carr-Stewart, Geraldine Balzer, and Michael Cottrell focus on the Western Canadian experience with a particular emphasis on the legislative aspects of First Nations education.

Following Anderson and Ottmann, we revisit Labrador in the 1970s, a region with a substantial Indigenous population on the verge of major development and change. First we flash back to Innu and Inuit perspectives which are introduced through Amarjit Singh's *The Morning Watch* (Singh, 1975) interview with two leaders, Bart Jack and the late Bill Edmunds. Leaping ahead to today, Jodie Lane's article brings us into the experience of young Inuit as they grapple with the challenges of post-secondary education. Lane's piece segues into Maura Hanrahan's discussion with Amy Hudson, a Labrador Metis woman who has journeyed through high school to graduate school and now works in the academy.

The final section contains articles about contemporary issues of Indigenizing the academy and the processes involved. Elizabeth Yeoman talks to two linguists, Sarah Townley and Marguerite McKenzie, who are involved in Indigenous language education efforts for the Inuit and Innu. This is followed by a powerful piece by Memorial University scholars and Nunatsiavut Government staff, which takes the reader through the story of a highly successful Inuit Bachelor of Social Work program, a partnership program delivered in Labrador. Finally, in two separate articles, Rainer Baehre and Maura Hanrahan tell the stories of Indigenization at Memorial University, identifying the steps involved as well as best

practices. The case of Memorial's Grenfell Campus is particularly intriguing as it is linked to the political and cultural resurgence of the Mi'kmaq presence in Newfoundland with the establishment of the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation band after a decades-long struggle by the thousands of members of the Federation of Newfoundland Indians.

As we embark on the idea of Indigenizing the academy, we note that there have been failures yet there are some stellar success stories and all of these needs to be shared and we are pleased to do so through this special issue of *The Morning Watch*.

All our relations,

**Kirk Anderson and Maura Hanrahan**

**Memorial University of Newfoundland**