

Citation for Dr. Marguerite MacKenzie

After almost 20 years at Memorial, Dr. Marguerite MacKenzie retired in 2014, and was almost immediately awarded the title of Professor Emerita in recognition of her outstanding career as a researcher and teacher and for her contributions to Memorial.

Her retirement has been no less exceptional. She continues to participate in SSHRC funded Research Projects and, in 2016, served on SSHRC grant assessment committees, a mark of respect and high regard in the research community. She continues to sit on pan-University committees, including the VP (Research) Committee on Aboriginal Research Policy in 2017, and the Interdisciplinary Committee on Ethics in Human Research in 2016.



Most importantly, her volunteer and pro bono activities reflect support of education and tradition in indigenous communities, as well as her rapport with indigenous communities at both provincial and national levels.

Dr. MacKenzie is a founding member of the St. John's Native Friendship Centre, and has been elected to its Board of Directors every two years. The Board has fostered the growth of the Centre to one of the significant NGOs in the city, with a Homeless Shelter, Child Care Centre, Youth Centre and outreach for Indigenous people in the city. And, further demonstrating her commitment to the values of the Centre, she is the epitome of NL hospitality, opening her home to Innu people visiting St. John's, providing needed transportation and visiting those at hospital receiving medical care.

Her work in supporting education in indigenous communities has been prodigious since her retirement. She is, on a pro bono basis, an Innu Language Consultant with Mamu Tshishkutamashutau, the Labrador Innu school board. She travels to two Innu communities regularly to work with speakers to prepare Innu language materials for use in local schools, and has worked with Innu in Quebec in the production of online games to promote the Innu language. She collaborates with the Naskapi Development Corporation, producing books of traditional stories and legends that are used in local teacher training courses and that serve as an important record of the oral traditions of the Naskapi people. In 2016-17, she collaborated with Eastern Health, preparing booklets of Cancer Care vocabulary and body part diagrams for use in all Labrador indigenous communities.

For her continuing efforts as an educator, mentor, researcher and true friend of the indigenous community at home and nationally, Dr. MacKenzie is recognized today with the MUN Pensioners' Association Tribute Award.