

2018 Tribute Award Citation for Doreen Whalen



After a 37 year career, Ms. Doreen Whalen retired from Memorial University in 2007 finishing her career as Director of the Division of Lifelong Learning.

Doreen has long served her church, Wesley United, and has continued that service in her retirement. Locally, she has played a key role in the restructuring of the governance of her church and visioning for the four downtown churches. Provincially, she has chaired the staff committee of the Newfoundland and Labrador Conference, a position not unlike Director of Human Resources. Nationally, she served on the Learning Fund Committee. And recently, she has been involved in a proposal to develop assisted living housing for seniors on church property.

VOWR Radio station was launched in 1924, Newfoundland and Labrador's pioneer radio station; its call letters are protected in the constitution of Canada. It broadcasts easy listening music throughout the week, a short spoken-word program each evening, and was the first radio station to broadcast religious services for all denominations twice each Sunday. Its motto –We Serve.

Doreen serves VOWR. She has been a member of the VOWR Radio Board since 1996, serving for the past five years as its Secretary. In 2014, she took on

the daunting task of Manager of the VOWR Radio Station, a case of baptism by fire. In addition to addressing regulatory issues, fee structure and copyright issues, maintaining a working knowledge of the latest technological developments and maintaining a dynamic programming structure, she works with about 70 volunteers, which brings its own unique challenges.

Immediately upon assuming the position of Manager, she discovered that the Station was not in compliance with CRTC, nor was it in compliance with Industry Canada regulations regarding its broadcast tower site, both of which put its broadcast licence at risk. But, after a herculean effort, a full, seven year broadcast licence was restored the following year. In short, Doreen has worked tirelessly to maintain the historic and cultural treasure that is VOWR.

Doreen also has maintained a connection with the University community. Immediately upon retirement, Doreen joined the MUNPA Board of Directors, serving as Vice-President and President. And 11 years into retirement, she continues to teach sessionally with the Faculty of Business Administration.

Today, we recognize her commitments and contributions to her communities with the MUNPA Tribute Award.