

## 2019 Tribute Award Citation for Dr. Leslie Cake



### A Man With a Cause!

Since he retired as a Professor of Psychology at the Sir Wilfred Grenfell Campus in 2009, Dr. Cake has worked tirelessly to realize the establishment of the Ageing Research Centre at Memorial University. To quote Dr. Sharon Buehler, “it is difficult to overestimate the hours contributed by Les to this nine- year effort”.

Until its establishment in 2019, Newfoundland and Labrador was the only province in Canada without such an entity, a surprising and embarrassing situation given that we have the fastest ageing population of any province/territory in Canada.

Three previous attempts to establish such a Centre had failed. When Dr. Cake’s vision was presented to NLCAHR’s Research Affinity Group on Ageing in 2009, it was enthusiastically received. He has worked to educate the “powers that be”, met with representatives of Eastern and Western Health, spoken to and been reported by the media, visited all such bodies in other provinces to educate himself on best practices in the field, collaborated in research projects with University colleagues, published papers and presented at conferences. Of particular note is the report “Building an Evidence-Based Framework for an NL Centre on Ageing”, published in 2011 and serving as a background paper for discussion with university and government officials.

The Ageing Research Centre was opened at Sir Wilfred Grenfell Campus in December 2018, and was introduced as the newest such centre in October of this year at the National Conference of the Canadian Association on Gerontology. Dr. Cake currently sits on the Centre’s Management Board.

Dr. Leslie Cake, aptly described by Dr. Jim Greenlee as a “citizen-scholar”, was nominated for the MUNPA Tribute Award in recognition of his dedicated work in bringing the Ageing Research Centre to life.

This is an award that is well deserved.