

**Grenfell Campus Fall Convocation**  
**Speaking Notes for Dr. Gary Kachanoski**  
**President and Vice-chancellor**  
**Friday, May 9, 10:00 a.m.**

Good morning, everyone. Welcome to our 2014 spring convocation for Grenfell Campus, Memorial University.

We are so pleased that you have joined us this morning for what is always a special time in the life of a university, a time when we celebrate the success of our students. So, of course, a special welcome and congratulations to every one of you, our graduating students.

I know that your parents, families, friends and professors all played a supporting role in your success, but make no mistake – ultimately it was your dedication, hard work and talent that brought you here to this point, so congratulations on your accomplishments.

Graduands, you walked into this hall today as students who have successfully completed the requirements for your degrees. You will leave as graduates of Memorial University, as alumni, joining a family of almost 80,000 strong. And just as importantly, you will be counted among the thousands of alumni of Grenfell Campus.

One of the wonderful things I've learned as president of Memorial is that the strength of spirit of Grenfell's students and alumni – their affinity for this place – is simply immeasurable. Students who come here invariably, "find their corner." And I am confident you carry that same sense of connection and we want you to stay connected.

I would like to acknowledge and welcome a distinguished Memorial graduate who joins is on stage this morning, Ms. Iris Petten, chair of our Board of Regents. She is joined by many other members of our board here at convocation.

We also have a special guest on stage with us this morning, one whom we are all pleased will soon join the ranks of distinguished individuals named as honorary graduates of Memorial University.

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I am speaking of Mr. Michael Enright, a household name in Canadian broadcasting and current host of CBC Radio One's *The Sunday Edition*.

In a career and contributions have spanned more than half a century working with national media - the *Globe and Mail*, the *Toronto Star*, *Maclean's*, CBC, and *Time Canada* and *Quest* magazines, just to name a few.

Mr. Enright has also established himself in our province as well, having found a house in Salvage, Bonavista Bay. And for 10 years he has hosted and been a regular contributor to Winterset in Summer, the Eastport literary festival. By that task alone, he has highlighted the national and international calibre of writing and the literary arts being produced in our province today.

This morning Mr. Enright will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree in recognition of his significant contributions. We will hear more about, and from him, a little later.

Ladies and gentlemen, as president and vice-chancellor of Memorial University for the past four years, it has been my pleasure to watch the positive impact of important and strategic initiatives and investments here at Grenfell, and experience each of these successes with our extended community here on the west coast.

There is so much to celebrate as we approach 2015 and start to plan the celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Grenfell Campus – the new arts and science building extension, the wonderful new residence, the boreal ecosystem research facility, new academic programs and partnerships, and much more.

We are all proud of the work and accomplishments being done at Grenfell Campus by our students, faculty and staff.

All these investments, initiatives and successes are focused on helping us achieve our most important mandate – fostering student academic success.

And clearly people are getting the message that Grenfell is the place to be. Dedicated recruitment staff, combined with new scholarships and an increased presence nationally and internationally, are helping to get the good news out about Grenfell Campus.

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Over 1,350 students are currently enrolled at Grenfell, including 110 out-of-province students and 68 international students, and as indicated in our new enrolment plan, those numbers will continue to increase.

The importance of this growth is highlighted in the City of Corner Brook's economic strategy and college town theme, and Campus City Connect partnership. The influx of new students has been warmly welcomed by Corner Brook and the other communities we serve here in western Newfoundland.

And this is so important because, as I have often said, Newfoundland and Labrador needs Grenfell Campus to be successful, not just to support advanced education and the growth and development of the west coast of the island, but for the entire province.

And it is through Grenfell's success, and the important outcomes of research and student education and training, that Memorial will achieve its vision to become one of the most distinguished universities in Canada and beyond.

But of course we cannot accomplish this alone. So I would like to take this opportunity to thank our community and municipal leaders, and other west coast partners for their unwavering commitment and support of Grenfell Campus, and through it, support for all of Memorial University.

And I would be remiss in not thanking our key partner, the provincial government.

I want to acknowledge the Honourable Tm Marshall, premier of our great province, who joins us on stage today. Premier, on behalf of the entire Memorial University community, I extend my sincere thanks to you and your government for your continued tremendous support of our university.

Ladies and gentlemen, I truly believe that even greater things are in store for Grenfell. And nothing symbolizes our collective success more than our convocation ceremonies.

Convocation is an assembly of our university community and, together with our extended community, we gather to not only celebrate and rededicate the university's

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primary responsibility – the success of its students – but also to reaffirm and express our ongoing responsibility to serve the public good.

This is demonstrated later in convocation when you will hear the chancellor say these words to our graduating students, “I admit the candidates to these degrees and confer upon them all rights, privileges and responsibilities associated with the degree.”

Graduands, think about that. Today we publically acknowledge and celebrate that you have acquired the breadth and depth of learning and experience associated with your degrees. But you also have a responsibility – a responsibility, I suggest, to be active, engaged citizens and to make the world a better, more prosperous, more interesting place.

Our success and sustainable future depend on talented people like you with creative ideas, and a passion for discovery and innovation.

This is your time – time to take to heart the responsibilities and privileges that come with your degree and make your mark in Newfoundland and Labrador, and across the country and the world.

As President Mose Morgan told the students at the special convocation to celebrate the opening of Grenfell in 1975, “I stress the heavy responsibility that is yours. The reputation of the college will depend in no small measure upon how you behave and what you achieve. Don’t lose your opportunity.”

You are about to write a new chapter in your lives and just like your alma mater, I see tremendous success on the horizon for each of you.

Best wishes to each of you as you leave here today to begin the next adventures in your lives. Thank you.

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