

**Convocation Address**  
**Dr. Gary Kachanoski, President and Vice-chancellor**  
**Grenfell Campus Convocation**  
**10:00 am, Friday, May 10, 2013**

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Good morning everyone. Welcome to our 2013 spring convocation at Grenfell Campus, a very special time when we celebrate the success of our students, and through that, the success of Memorial University.

So, of course, a special welcome and congratulations to our graduating class. Graduands, it was your effort, determination, and talent that brought you here today, to convocation. The entire university community, your family and friends share in your joy and your sense of accomplishment, so congratulations!

I am pleased to acknowledge and welcome a number of distinguished individuals who are with us this morning to help celebrate the accomplishments of our students.

First on behalf of the entire university community, I am pleased to welcome Dr. Susan Dyer Knight to her first convocation as Memorial's seventh chancellor.

Dr. Knight has been involved with Memorial in many capacities over the years and is very familiar with the university. And with her national and international reputation, and passion for Memorial University, she is a wonderful choice as our new chancellor, and we look forward to her.

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Earlier this year the government also announced the appointment of Ms. Iris Petten as chair of our Board of Regents. Ms. Petten, a proud Memorial alumna, is a distinguished business and community leader.

She has been a strong supporter of our university with considerable on-going connections particularly through our Marine Institute campus. She joins us on-stage today, and on behalf of all of Memorial, I ask that you please join me in welcoming her to her first convocation as our chair of the Board of Regents.

I am pleased to introduce some new faces at the senior administrative level, Dr. Cecilia Reynolds and Dr. Richard Marceau.

Dr. Cecilia Reynolds is the university's new deputy provost (students) and associate vice-president (academic) undergraduate studies. Dr. Reynolds has been a full professor and the dean of the College of Education at the University of Saskatchewan since 2003 and has 18 years of experience as an academic leader.

Prior to becoming dean at Saskatchewan, she was associate dean at the Ontario Institute for the Studies in Education at the University of Toronto, and took on several leadership roles while on faculty at Brock University. Dr. Richard Marceau will be our next vice-president (research) beginning in June.

Dr. Marceau comes to Memorial from the University of Ontario Institute of Technology, where he currently serves as provost and vice-president (academic), and where he directed that institute's explosive growth since 2005. Prior to that he served as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at The

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Université de Sherbrooke, Quebec, and is currently president of the Canadian Academy of Engineering.

He joins us today in the audience having spent the last few days here on the west coast and at Grenfell Campus. I know that he is excited about getting to know the campus and extended community here.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Cecilia Reynolds and Dr. Richard Marceau to our university community.

Dr. Marceau takes over the VP(R) reins from Dr. Chris Loomis, who has led the research portfolio at Memorial for many years, spearheading the significant growth of our research activities.

Between that and the invaluable institutional leadership Dr. Loomis provided when he served *pro tempore* as president and vice-president (academic), and earlier as dean of pharmacy, as a teacher and researcher of considerable note, he has given his all to Memorial.

Chris, I want to thank you personally for your contributions as part of the senior leadership team and on behalf of the entire university community, wish you all the best in your on-going activities at Memorial.

We also have a special guest 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. He's very familiar to the Grenfell and Corner Brook communities – Mr. Gary Graham.

A music teacher, organist, mentor, theatre and choir director, Mr. Graham has been a force in the musical, cultural and artistic life of Corner Brook since arriving in the city in 1966, and this morning he will receive a doctor

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of laws for his exceptional and unparalleled contribution to music on Newfoundland's west coast.

I congratulate Mr. Graham and look forward to hearing more about him and from him later in convocation.

Convocation is a time for us to reflect on another incredible year of accomplishments and success across all of Memorial, as it continues to distinguish itself as a nationally competitive, flag-ship, teaching-research university – a university unequivocally committed to the public good.

Dr. Mary Bluechardt, VP (Grenfell campus) will have much more to say on Grenfell's accomplishments and progress in her report to convocation. And let me tell you, there is so much to celebrate and be proud of.

There is an unmistakable and irresistible momentum here at Grenfell, an energy that is driving the campus solidly into the future.

We have dedicated, talented, and experienced vice-presidents – with Dr. Mary Bluechardt from Grenfell as an integral member – that acknowledge and whole-heartedly support the multi-campus nature of Memorial.

And working with Dr. Bluechardt, we have an outstanding leadership team here on the Grenfell Campus who recognize and support the important role Grenfell has for university education, not just for the west coast, but for the whole province.

This past year we opened the beautiful new Arts and Science building extension that is already having a significant impact on academic programming and student success. And with the new atrium addition nearing completion, this facility will serve us for decades to come.

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The much need new 200-bed student residence is scheduled to open in mid-July, and soon after the new environmental science research labs will open with tremendous implications for teaching and learning in environmental, forestry, and agricultural science, and expanded research and graduate programming.

Despite challenging provincial demographics with declining K-12 enrolment and significantly fewer grade 12 graduates, Grenfell Campus has had and continues to have significant and growing demand for its quality programs.

And with the new branding strategy, we are working hard to accelerate enrolment growth by highlighting the uniqueness and strengths of Grenfell Campus across the Atlantic region, Canada, and beyond.

And all of this success is great news for the province and this region, whose success and sustainable future depends on attracting talented people with creative ideas and a passion for innovation and discovery.

Of course, a key part of that success story is because of the extraordinary support of the provincial government for university education here in western Newfoundland and throughout the province.

I want to acknowledge the Honourable Tom Marshall, Minister of Natural Resources, who is representing the provincial government at this convocation session. Minister, once again I extend my sincere thanks to you and the provincial government for the continued tremendous support for Memorial.

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It is support that ensures that Memorial has the stability and the resources necessary to deliver on our mandate and achieve our vision to be one of the most distinguished public universities in Canada and beyond.

Support that ensures Memorial will continue to meet our special obligations to the people of this great province, including those who live in rural Newfoundland and in Labrador.

Support that will ensure we deliver on our aspiration to be a truly first-rate, world-class learning and research institution, and a key resource for leading the province into a successful and sustainable future. And, of course, we cannot do this by ourselves.

So I would also 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 that all of Memorial University.

Throughout Grenfell's history, the partnership between the university, governments, and all of our extended communities representing every aspect of Newfoundland society, has been a key component of the campus's success and aspirations.

And as we approach 2015, a short year and a half away, and start to plan the celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Grenfell Campus, it is important to reflect on just how far the campus has evolved from its start in 1975 as a small liberal arts college offering only two-year courses leading to a university degree – a degree finished somewhere else.

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Twenty-one years ago the Grenfell community gathered to celebrate the first graduating class from the fine arts program. Those 25 students were the first who had completed their university programs, start-to-finish, here at Grenfell.

That day in May 1992 was a pivotal point in the growth and evolution of university education in this region – growth and evolution that continues to this day.

Now, with full four-year degree programs in 18 areas, a new master of arts graduate program in environmental policy, more graduate programs planned, and new and expanded teaching and learning and research facilities, the future looks bright indeed.

And, of course, nothing symbolizes the success of Grenfell Campus more, than our convocation ceremonies and the success of more than 150 graduating students here today.

Graduands, just as Grenfell's first students would be amazed at the campus and programs they would see today, so do we expect that 20 years from now, you will marvel at what Grenfell has become, and we will cheer and celebrate all that you , our alumni, have accomplished.

In the spirit of our new marketing for the campus, I hope during your time at Grenfell that you found your corner.

Whether you are leaders, helpers, transformers, or explorers, I am confident that Grenfell was instrumental in nurturing your personal goals, pushing your boundaries of thinking and learning, and ensuring that you have acquired the breadth and depth of learning, experience, and know-

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how associated with your degree, confident that as you leave this corner and walk through the doors to your future that you are prepared for the next stage of your life, whether in work or further studies.

As you envision what that future might entail, I'll leave you with the wise words of our campus's namesake, Sir Wilfred Grenfell: and I quote "Real joy comes not from ease or riches or praise, but from doing something worthwhile."

I look forward to all of your worthwhile endeavours as you make your mark in Newfoundland and Labrador and across the country and the world.

Do us proud.

Thank you.

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