

Maple League of Universities Monthly Report

April 30, 2021



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Executive Director's Note:

April showers have taken on new metaphorical meaning with a series of fresh new funding announcements, connections and external engagement.

- We received \$170,000 from Business Higher Education Round Table to support work-integrated learning through the Online Learning and Technology Consultants (OLTC) program
- The federal government awarded us \$31,470 in Canada Summer Jobs opportunities
- We've engaged in early conversations with Co-operative Education and Work-Integrated Learning (CEWIL) to partner on curricular work-integrated learning experiences and looking to the June 15 deadline for funding that supports applied research as part of a 21st-century liberal education
- The MAPLE Business Council reached out to us to explore partnerships to support student experiences and leadership. This innovative business council, with offices in California and New York City, is dedicated to building a bridge between Canada and the U.S. as an executive-level organization focused on cross-border investment, trade and entrepreneurship

Our hard work this winter has blossomed this spring with lots to celebrate, including external recognition for many innovative change-makers across our four universities:

- Celebrated two 3M National Teaching Fellows from Maple League universities
- Stewarded three 3M Student Fellows successfully through our mentorship network
- These faculty and students have been featured in news media outlets for their innovative approaches to quality undergraduate education
- President Andy Hakin sat on a panel for Universities Canada on quality undergraduate education in Canada

We are also fertilizing new spaces by ensuring we are grounded in our values; engaging in strategic visioning helps us look towards a post-COVID consortium that is sustainable, inclusive, and resilient.

- Finalized details for incorporation, trademarks, and other governance structures to ensure the sustainability of the consortium over the longer term
- Steered strategic visioning for the Maple League Student Fellows Program
- Engaged in critical reflective practice with many of our key thought partners on topics of research, student affairs, athletics, academic courses, micro-certificates in teaching and learning, and more

Here is to (metaphorical) May flowers as the sun shines brightly on all your endeavours and we start to reap the rewards of a difficult but transformative learning season.

~ Dr. Jessica Riddell, Executive Director, Maple League of Universities

I. Extraordinary Student Experiences

Three Maple League Students Awarded Prestigious 3M National Student Fellowships

The Maple League of Universities is proud to announce that three students from the four universities have been selected as recipients of the 2021 3M National Student Fellowship. This fellowship recognizes ten students across Canada who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in their lives and at their post-secondary institution. Congratulations to Leah Creaser from Acadia University, Georges-Philippe Gadoury-Sansfaçon from Bishop's University and Devon Parris from St. Francis Xavier University!



Leah Creaser created a first-year biology lab incorporating Mi'kmaq Traditional Knowledge as a research topic and ensures that the campus is an open inclusive space for all Indigenous students to feel safe.

"It is wonderful to see Leah recognized for her dedication to research and learning," said Dr. Peter Ricketts, Acadia President and Vice-Chancellor. *"She is a leader and active member of our campus and community, and she is thoroughly deserving of the national award."*

Georges-Philippe Gadoury-Sansfaçon is a Chancellor's Scholar studying Applied Psychology and Mathematics at Bishop's and is a coordinator for the Online Learning and Technology Consultants (OLTC) program. He is passionate about building spaces for students to be partners in the design and delivery of a 21st century liberal education.

“Georges-Phillipe’s collaboration this year in the development of our OLTC program has been invaluable to me personally, but will also shape techno-pedagogical support at Bishop’s for years to come. His insistence that the student voice become a first-class consideration in the development and running of classes brings us closer to the student-centred goals of modern education,” noted Scott Stoddard (Director of Information Technology, Bishop’s).

Devon Parris’ project is the “[Anti-Racist Film Review](#)”—a film review site that analyzes anti-racist discourse within film while critiquing superficial, exploitive, and misrepresentations of contemporary racism.

“It definitely means a lot to have the opportunity to work alongside the STLHE and the student leaders they are developing. I’m really excited to develop and contribute towards the fantastic projects the STLHE have to offer,” says Mr. Parris, a graduating fourth year honours English major and former varsity athlete from Kingston, ON.

Special thanks to members of the 3M Student Mentors program who helped to steward a number of students through various stages of the application and submission process.

Read more about Leah Creaser [here](#).

Read more about Georges-Philippe Gadoury-Sansfaçon [here](#).

Read more about Devon Parris [here](#).



Federal Government Awards \$31,470 to the Maple League Student Leadership Program

The Maple League has just received **\$31,470** through the Canada Summer Jobs program (with funding decisions received from three of the four universities). This money comes from a federal fund that pays for youth employment opportunities. Students will be employed through the Maple League Student Fellows Leadership program (including as social issues researchers, educational coordinators, etc). This fellowship will support the Online Technology and Learning Consultants (OLTC) program that is launching later this summer. Students will be embedded in communities of practice. The Maple League aims to provide students with meaningful work-integrated learning (WIL) and professional development opportunities to ensure that students have future-facing skills to be engaged citizens and navigate a rapidly shifting 21st century job sector. The Maple League works with universities as industry partners; together we create hubs of connectivity to shape the landscape of undergraduate education with students as thought leaders and collaborators.

Maple League Student Fellows Program Gets a New Strategic Framework

In the developmental assessment of the Maple League Fellows program this year, we conducted one-on-one exit interviews with all twelve fellows, and asked them to critically reflect on their work and learning over the past year. We will publish the impact report in May, but we've taken the feedback as well as evidence-based research on student leadership and engaged in strategic visioning around the Fellows program. The Maple League Fellows program has identified the following competencies and designed professional development modules and training so students graduate from this program equipped with future-facing competencies:

- ***Social and emotional skills (SES)***
- ***Digital literacy and Technology-supported problem solving***
- ***Design Thinking***
- ***Strategic Visioning and Planning***
- ***Project and Change Management***
- ***Communications & Corporate Stewardship***
- ***Critical reflection***

The Maple League is Hiring a OLTC Program Coordinator

The Maple League is actively hiring for a Program Coordinator for the Online Learning and Technology Consultants (OLTC) program. The Bishop's University pilot project, launched in June 2020, hired 23 undergraduate students to help faculty prepare for Fall 2020 as OLTCs. They were trained in educational technology and pedagogy, with a particular focus on supporting high impact practices, accessibility and accommodations, and authentic learning environments.

The OLTC program goals are threefold:

1. Offer individualized support for faculty to enhance student learning experiences (through engagement, community-building, and transformative learning) in person and remotely
2. Provide students with work-integrated learning (WIL) experiences and future-facing skill development (digital literacy, design thinking, creative problem solving, emotional and social intelligence)
3. Help re-imagine a 21st-century liberal education that engages students as key collaborators in the co-design of their university experience

The OLTC program is an innovative model of the creative ways that universities can provide opportunities for students to develop key transferable skills, such as teamwork, leadership, analytical skills, written and verbal communication, and knowledge mobilization. The benefits of these skills reach far beyond the student employee; they have large impacts on the institution, the higher education sector, and the communities within which these universities are embedded.

This program also won a Bishop's University Students' Representative Council Impact Award on April 15th at the Awards gala. This is an example of how Maple League universities engage students in the co-design of their 21st-century liberal education. This is truly remarkable work - congratulations!

For more information about this opportunity click [here](#).



Digital Media Campaign Highlights the Value of Being a Maple League Student Athlete

The four Maple League universities have a strong commitment to fostering growth in the various spheres of their students' lives. Maple League student-athletes benefit from supporting programs that empower our future graduates. Academic excellence, leadership and community service learning are central to our approach to a 21st-century education.

This month we launched two videos co-created with each institution's athletic department where student-athletes across the Maple League share how being a student-athlete shaped their university experience for the better.

To view Part 1 of the video series click [here](#). To view Part 2 of the video series click [here](#).



Maple League supports innovative Spring/Summer Courses

The Maple League of Universities is jointly promoting the individual institutions' Spring/Summer course offerings. Students across the Maple League are able to take Spring/Summer courses through a letter of permission (LOP) as they would any course at any other institution than their home institution and pay course tuition to the respective host institution. For more information visit [our website](#).

One of the courses being featured this Spring includes Dr. K.A. (Sandy) MacIver's course Leadership Through Relationships. To learn more about this course read a Feature Interview with Sandy [here](#) and watch this [video](#).

Jonathan Ferguson:

"Leadership through Relationships was the single most impactful course of my degree.

...

If you approach this course with passion, commitment, and an open mind, it will change your life. Take this course – you won't regret it."

President | Mount Allison Students' Union

For faculty offering Spring/Summer courses, if you would like your course featured on Maple League social media channels, please contact director@mapleleague.ca and lboulbee15@ubishops.ca.

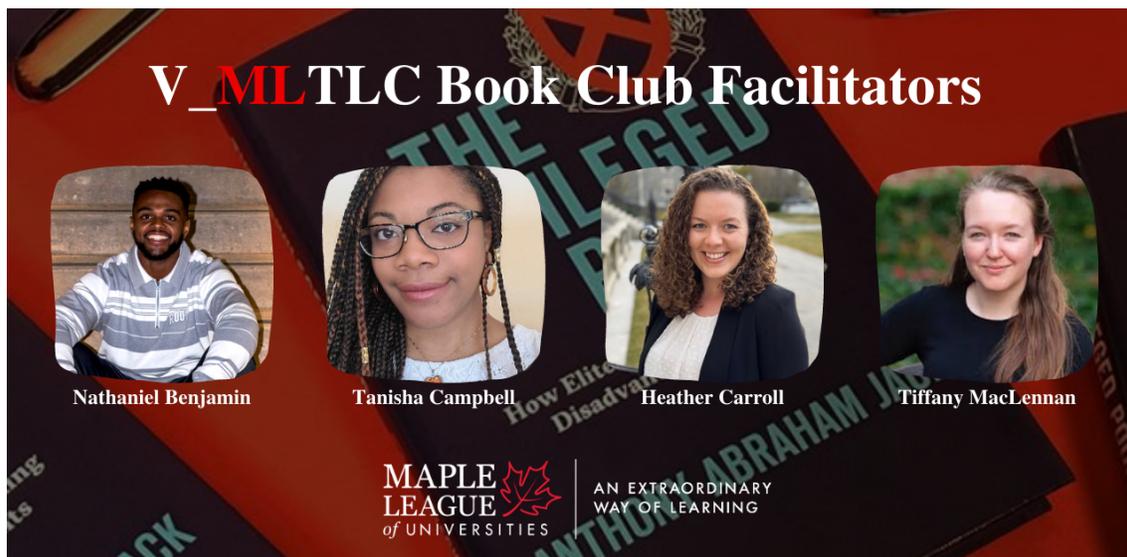
II. Faculty and Staff Engagement

Wrapping up the Winter Semester Maple League Book Club: *The Privileged Poor*

This term Maple League Student Fellows have co-facilitated this semester's Book Club, reading *The Privileged Poor* by Anthony Abraham Jack. Over 70 participants attended to examine issues of class, race, access and inclusion in higher education. In addition to students, staff, faculty and administrators across the Maple League, there are participants from Dalhousie University, Mount Saint Vincent University, Memorial University, Arizona State University, and Texas Southmost College.

These discussions were co-facilitated by Nathaniel Benjamin (Mount Allison), Tanisha Campbell (Bishop's), Tiffany MacLennan (StFX Alumna, Maple League) and Heather Carroll (Maple League). The discussions in March focused on student and faculty relationships and institutional policies that foster exclusion.

The facilitators of the Book Club are exploring opportunities for co-creating undergraduate research together and sharing their experiences with the larger Maple League communities.



Better Together: Maple League Teaching Support

In April, we hosted two Better Together: Maple League Teaching Support sessions. This series has connected students, staff, and faculty across the Maple League to share ideas and successes related to teaching and learning. To view highlights from this series, click [here](#).

Thursday, April 1: Talking to Students about Mental Health.



While the ongoing pandemic has seen an increase in students in crisis, student struggles with mental health existed long before the rise in COVID-19 and will continue long after. While it can feel daunting to address issues of mental health directly, speaking straightforwardly to students about their emotional wellbeing is one of the most powerful ways that we can ensure our students thrive — during their studies and after graduation.

Presented by Jordi Hepburn (Community Engagement Counsellor and Mental Health Educator at Bishop's University) and Neil Silcox (Crake Drama Fellow at

Mount Allison University), this workshop offered tools and strategies to tackle these most important conversations.

Thursday April 15, 2021: Using Facilitation Practices to Encourage Equitable Student Participation.

Heather Carroll (Past Director, V_MLTLC), Sufia Langevin (Student, Bishop's University), Josh Read (Student, StFX University) and Abby Fraser (Student, StFX University) facilitated a conversation about teaching practices that encourage equitable student participation, and how facilitation practices such as norms and protocols can create brave spaces where all students are empowered to participate.



Two Maple League Professors Awarded Highest Educational Leadership Honour in PSE Through the 3M National Teaching Fellowship

Two Maple League professors have been recognized for their contribution to higher education in Canada as 3M National teaching Fellows, the highest recognition for teaching excellence and educational leadership in Canada in higher education.

Dr. Martin-Brûlé, from Bishop's University's Department of Politics and International Studies, works closely with students in concrete research and experiential learning opportunities, notably through initiating the annual Quebec Undergraduate Security Conference (QUSC).



“What an honour to receive the 3M National Teaching Fellowship and to join this community of inspiring professors! I am most grateful for the support of the Jarislowsky Chair and Maple League in stewarding this process,” notes Dr. Martin-Brûlé.

Dr. Andrew Wilson, Associate Professor of [Religious Studies](#) at Mount Allison University has also been named a 3M National Teaching Fellow. The award, created by the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STHLE) in 1986, recognizes exceptional teachers in higher education across the country. Ten recipients are named each year.

“I’m honoured and humbled to be named as a 3M Teaching Fellow and join this exciting national network,” says Wilson. *“I believe education is at its best when grounded within the community. It is from here that learning can most effectively provide deeply rooted, authentic and long-lasting change.”*

We would like to thank members of the 3M Faculty Mentors program, led by Dr. Jessica Riddell with the support of the Maple League Teaching and Learning Committee (MLTLC), who helped to steward a number of faculty through various stages of the application and submission process.

Read more about Dr. Martin-Brule [here](#).

Read more about Dr. Andrew Wilson [here](#).

Maple League Highlights Research with a Series of Canadian Research Chair (CRC) Profiles

Research is a foundational element of a quality undergraduate education. The Maple League benefits from many brilliant researchers who have been awarded Canadian Research Chair positions. The Canada Research Chairs (CRC) Program is a part of the Government of Canada's National Strategy to make Canada one of the world's top countries in research and development. In order to attract and retain the country's best researchers the Government of Canada commits approximately three million dollars a year to ensure that post-secondary institutions across Canada have diverse academic researchers and training excellence. This month we've created a spotlight series on the CRCs across the Maple League. We will share this series with our communities via our website blog in the coming weeks. To read the profiles in advance of the series launch visit [Appendix B](#) of this report.

High Impact Practices Report Released

As four primarily undergraduate liberal arts institutions, teaching across the Maple League is one of our greatest strengths. However, teaching is fundamentally a scholarly endeavour supported by research, theoretical design principles, and evidence-based approaches. High Impact Practices (HIPs) represents a huge body of research about transformative learning. In a recent research project steered by Dr. Jessica Riddell, two Maple League Student Fellows, Tiffany and Tanisha, completed a year-long research project on High Impact Practices across the Maple League, interviewing dozens of faculty members on their perspectives on innovative teaching experiences. Through these conversations, we heard exciting and inspiring stories of teaching HIPs at the Maple League – stories that should be shared and celebrated. The High-Impact Practice Visibility Project was created to share what teaching at the Maple League looks like to celebrate and mobilize our teaching practices and inspire others to integrate HIPs into their classrooms. The spotlight series has been rolling out all term, and the launch of the report offers an expansive and inspiring document that yields rich insights into what makes the four universities in the Maple League leaders in quality undergraduate education in Canada and beyond.

III. External Engagement

MAPLE Business Council Seeks Cross-Border Collaboration with the Maple League

On April 26, Dr. Jessica Riddell (Executive Director) and Lauren Boulton (Post-Graduate Fellow, Advancement and Communications) met with Stephen Armstrong (Co-Founder and President, MAPLE Business Council) and John Costanzo (New York Executive Director, MAPLE Business Council) to discuss potential opportunities for future collaboration. The MAPLE Business Council is an organization committed to growing the economic ties between Canada and the United States. They also believe we can accomplish more together than we can apart as their team of executives, investors, entrepreneurs, service providers, academics, government and professionals works to increase cross-border conversations, networking, content, news and storytelling. They are interested in expanding their academic and east-coast partnerships specifically around extraordinary learning experiences, technology, and storytelling. We are looking forward to future discussions with the MAPLE Business Council team.

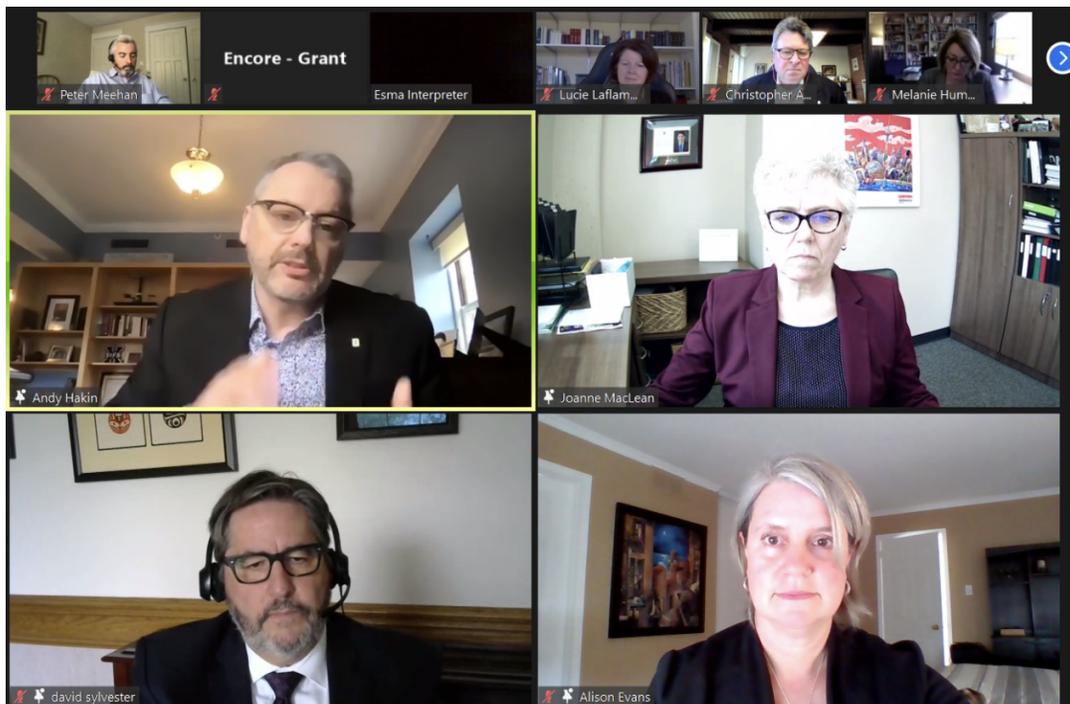


**Market | Access | Promote | Lead |
Enable**

President Andrew Hakin Promotes Quality Undergraduate Education

On April 28 at the annual 2021 Universities Canada Meeting, President Andrew Hakin sat on a panel of university leaders, including David Sylvester (President, University of St. Michael's College), Joanne MacLean (President, University of Fraser Valley), to discuss the future of undergraduate education in a post-COVID world.

Program description: "Now is the time for universities to ensure they are well prepared to seize the intensified need for rich and robust undergraduate courses, programs and experiences that prepare people for the future of work and complex social, political, and economic realities. Canada's economic shutdown is having devastating effects on entire sectors of the economy and has resulted in significant unemployment and under-employment. Canada's universities have a critical role to play in driving the country's social and economic recovery by ensuring that the enduring value of an undergraduate education is well understood to provide people with the knowledge, skills and tools they need to be resilient in an ever-evolving labour market and world."



BHER Gives the Maple League \$170,000 to Expand the OLTC program Across Four Campuses

Business + Higher Education Roundtable (BHER) has committed \$170,000 to the Maple League to scale the OLTC (Online Learning and Technology Consultants) program across the four Maple League campuses. Since signing with BHER we have made significant strides on the program design and delivery, including:

- Drafting a press release with a corresponding social media campaign;
- Informing all key stakeholders and communities of practice across the Maple League about the program;
- Initiating conversations about how to embed these programs on the other three campuses with the proven “tripod” model (that engages a faculty member, a IT staff, and a student in co-design);
- Confirming data analytic requirements;
- Hiring a Program Manager;
- Posting a job opening for a Program Coordinator on our website and social media channels;
- Receiving funding and approval for a capstone course;
- Confirming Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) positions for Bishop’s University, Mount Allison University and St. FX University totaling \$31,470.
- Initiating conversations for micro-WIL funding with Co-operative Education and Work-Integrated Learning (CEWIL) Canada around curricular programming, micro-certificates, and applied research opportunities

OLTCs in the Media

Georges-Philippe Gadoury-Sansfaçon was awarded the 3M National Student Fellow Award for his role as an original Program Coordinator of the Online Learning and Technology Consultants (OLTC) program. This has garnered significant media attention over the last week. Thus far Georges-Philippe and the OLTC program have been featured in [laTribune](#), [EstriePlus](#), and is scheduled to do an interview with CBC Quebec AM.

We could not be more proud of the work Georges-Philippe has done building communities of learners and leaders who more fully grasp the ambiguity of advocacy through his guidance and

facilitation. He has transformed not just Bishop's University but also higher education in Canada through his national and international engagement.

Students as Partners Interview

In an interview titled *Designing for Transformative Learning in COVID and Beyond Through Student Partnerships*, Dr. Jessica Riddell (in her role as Jarislowky Chair of Undergraduate Teaching Excellence at Bishop's University) and Sufia Langevin (Joan Stadelman Student Success Fellow at Bishop's University) explored how working with students as partners helps transform not just students but faculty, staff, and institutions through messy, process-driven and co-designed experiences.

Read about the rich, transformative process that is Student as Partners work [here](#).



Organized Academic Interview

Dr. Jessica Riddell was also featured on The Organized Academic this month in an interview with Dr. Elizabeth Wells (Mount Allison University). In the interview Jessica speaks about holistic alignment, the importance of challenging “productivity” in the neoliberal narratives in favour of a more generative approach, the importance of adaptive organizational systems, balancing work and family, and a final piece of advice for those starting or struggling to find balance in an unbalanced world. Read (or watch) the interview [here](#).



IV. ML Team

The Maple League Student Fellows are finishing their term on April 30th and starting to think about wrapping up their fellowships for the year. For the Fellows, this will include finishing or writing transition documents for their projects, along with the submission of a year-end impact report, as well as an exit interview. The fellows have contributed in many ways to both their campus communities as well as the Maple League throughout this academic year. Their final impact report will be published, along with a spotlight series, soon. Below are a snapshot of the testimonials:

Working with the Maple League has been an absolutely wonderful experience! The opportunity to make connections and collaborate with like-minded individuals across four institutions is so valuable, and an experience entirely unique to this organization.

~ Addy Strickland, St. FX University

This has been one of the most unique, and exciting job opportunities I have had to date. ... I recommend anyone who has the chance to work for the Maple League to do so, you will not regret your decision and you will learn valuable life lessons along the way to making the student experience a better one at post secondary institutions.

~ Nathaniel Benjamin, Mount Allison University

The opportunities I've had through my fellowship and the Maple League were central to my development as a leader, which ultimately led to the honor of being awarded the 3M National Student Fellowship in my last year. Being involved with the Maple League was most certainly one of the highlights of my undergraduate education!

*~ Georges-Philippe
Gadoury-Sansfaçon,
Bishop's University*



Appendix A: Social Media Update

Some key communications metrics this month include growth of our Twitter account with emphasis on the extraordinary student experiences offered at the Maple League. Loomly also continues to be a valuable asset for the Maple League allowing us to post consistently and recognize important national days.

Twitter:

Top media Tweet earned 4,257 impressions

The 3M NSF honours 10 exemplary student leaders annually who make outstanding contributions to their campuses & communities. We're so proud of Leah Creaser @AcadiaU, @georgesphilgs @UBishops & Devon Parris @stfxuniversity for enhancing the student experience across the ML! 🌟
pic.twitter.com/eAXYAGmYuR



9 replies 39 likes

View Tweet activity

View all Tweet activity

28 day summary with change over previous period

Tweets

19 ↑18.8%



Tweet impressions

69.4K ↑82.5%



Profile visits

1,096 ↑50.5%



Mentions

42 ↑68.0%



Followers

1,394 ↑19



Appendix B: Maple League Canadian Research Chairs (CRC) Profiles

Dr. Lesley Frank, Acadia University

Tier 2 – CRC in Food, Health and Social Justice

An estimated 821 million people in the world today suffer from hunger. In Canada, an estimated one in eight households - more than four million Canadians - is food insecure. Seventy years after the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and despite Canada being a wealthy nation, 4 million people are food insecure, of which 1.1 million are children. This negatively affects their physical, mental, and social health, and costs our health care system considerably. The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the magnitude of food insecurity in families with children. Yet there is little research on the experiences of food insecurity in childhood throughout developmental stages, or on varying geographic and socially specific family dynamics. Dr. Lesley Frank is working to address key knowledge and measurement gaps on the global problem of family and childhood food insecurity while advancing food justice and health equity in Canada. They are developing an innovative survey tool to address measurement gaps in food insecurity surveillance on early childhood, and analyzing the causes and social impacts of food insecurity on vulnerable families with children of various ages. They are also collaborating with other academics and community stakeholders in the hopes of tracking, and making publicly available, the evidence to support policies that will strengthen the well-being of all Canadians.



Dr. Mark Mallory, Acadia University

Tier 1 - Coastal Ecosystem Resilience and Connectivity

Coastal habitats provide a link between terrestrial and marine environments. Increasingly, we are recognizing the connectivity between land and sea, which is mediated by wildlife moving between these habitats, particularly marine birds. But changes caused by humans to all these habitats could alter this balance, with



potentially harmful environmental effects. What are the greatest threats to coastal environments? Can we predict the indirect effects humans could have on these habitats and the wildlife they support? Dr. Mark Mallory is trying to answer these and other questions—and help protect and preserve coastal areas in the process. Mallory, his students, and many collaborators are using avian tracking technology, trace element and pollutant analyses, wetland sediment archives, and modern ecological approaches to determine how the health of coastal ecosystems varies naturally and is affected by environmental changes. The focal areas of his lab’s studies lie in the beaches, cliffs, and rocky shorelines of Atlantic and Arctic Canada. Mallory’s research will provide better tools to assess the health of coastal ecosystems and identify the factors that influence their long-term sustainability. His findings will ultimately be used to conserve and restore healthy, sustainable coastal regions, as well as wildlife populations. They will also provide guidelines for future human activities in these habitats.

Dr. Heather Lawford, Bishop’s University
Tier 2 – CRC in Youth Development

What steers one young person to a life of beneficiary service to a community and another to engage in terrorism, presumably to defend a set of beliefs? Societally, we know very little about the developmental course of generativity before midlife. Dr. Heather Lawford examines the developmental roots of generativity in the first youth-centered study of its kind. Her research will contribute to an overall knowledge base of how youth express and deepen their commitment to generativity, enhance our capacity to understand generativity across the lifespan, and inform our efforts to facilitate generative development. Dr. Lawford’s research to date suggests that generativity plays a significant role in the development of youth purpose and overall thriving. As a community, we benefit by supporting youth in their generative development. Thus, implications of this research range from improving individual well-being to informing local and national organizations in terms of program and policy recommendations.



Dr. Matthew Peros, Bishop's University
Tier 2 – CRC in Climate and Environmental Change

Heat waves, droughts and hurricanes all seem to be occurring with increasing frequency. These events disproportionately affect the world's most vulnerable people. But are these events really occurring more often than they did in the past? And if so, are human activities to blame or are these changes just part of a natural cycle? Dr. Matthew Peros is studying natural climate variability and its causes using such geological evidence as lake sediments. Peros is learning much about the past from clues contained in fossils and physical and chemical indicators from the archives of past climates and environments. By doing so, he can place the changes seen over the last half century into a long-term context.



Dr. Jason F. Rowe, Bishop's University
Tier 2 - Exoplanet Astrophysics

When it comes to the study of space, one of the big remaining questions is whether we are alone in the Universe. Dr. Jason Rowe's research will take us one step closer to answering that question by discovering and characterizing extrasolar planets to learn if there may be other planets similar to Earth. Rowe and his research team use observations from advanced astronomical observatories - such as JWST, the Canadian NEOSat Mission, and NASA's TESS mission - to obtain and interpret measurements of mass, radius, atmosphere, incident flux, composition and evolution for a large sample of planets spanning the Earth to Neptune regime. This work is advancing Canada's knowledge in the field of exoplanets—planets outside our solar system. His team is spearheading development of a new Canadian space telescope dedicated to the characterization and discovery of exoplanets with a targeted launch date of early 2026. Determining how exoplanets are similar to or different from planets within our solar system, such as Earth, is critical for understanding the evolution of our solar system. It will also provide direction that will support future Canada-led missions and technologies towards understanding extrasolar planets and life in the Universe.



***Dr. Lauren Beck, Mount Allison University
Tier 2 - Intercultural Encounter***

Much scholarship about the early centuries of contact between the Americas and Europe fails to include Indigenous perspectives, knowledge, and experiences, and also those of women and other marginalized groups. Dr. Lauren Beck's approach to this problem lies in identifying new points of access (and old ones that have been ignored) to the experiences and perspectives of Indigenous people, women, and other marginalized groups during the early modern period. She examines their presence found in settler-European written accounts, Indigenous and European cartography and place histories, the visual culture of the early modern period, languages from both sides of the Atlantic, as well as the place names that emerged during this time. Her research will also lead scholars toward a paradigm shift in their work through which European knowledge and experiences will no longer frame the way they do early modern scholarship. She is leading an interdisciplinary group of scholars, *The Canon and Its Discontents*, seeking to challenge the normativity of the western literary and visual canons and to find ways of better including marginalized voices, particularly from Indigenous groups. Her next book, *Canada's Place Names and How to Change Them*, offers the first critical study of this country's place nomenclature through the lens of race, gender, and marginalization while bathing light on the richness and complexity of Indigenous names and providing pathways along which our toponyms can be revised. She also explores how early modern and contemporary metadata functions as a powerful instrument that furthers imperializing and colonial discourses, including racism and sexism, and attempts to find ways of addressing structural issues with our visual culture today.



Dr. Douglas A. Campbell, Mount Allison University
Tier 1 – Phytoplankton Ecophysiology

D.A. Campbell is a Canada Research Chair in Phytoplankton Ecophysiology at Mount Allison University. currently funded by the Leverhulme Trust, German DFG, NSERC Discovery and the European Union. Campbell collaborates with AgriSera AB and Environmental Proteomics to develop and validate protein quantitation systems widely used for field and laboratory studies of phytoplankton. Phytoplankton are the tiny, invisible plants of the ocean. As they float, they capture light, which drives their ability to assimilate nutrients. As they use light energy, they take up carbon dioxide, support marine productivity and release oxygen. Every second breath you take consumes oxygen released by phytoplankton. But too much light, or light for the wrong amount of time, can inhibit this photosynthesis of phytoplankton. There are thousands of phytoplankton species. Some are good food for humans, others are toxic, and some are too small to be captured by consumers. The Campbell lab hosts advanced systems for high-throughput analyses of phytoplankton physiology, with a particular emphasis on biooptics. The lab collaborates to study phytoplankton and algae around the world, and trains many students to apply data science approaches to environmental issues.



Dr. Stephen A. Westcott, Mount Allison University
Tier 1 - Green Boron Chemistry

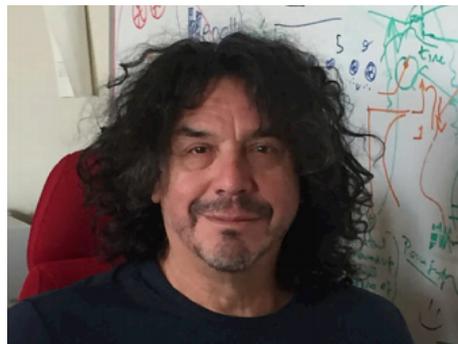
Steve Westcott was born in the sixties somewhere around Tecumseh and received his PhD from the University of Waterloo under the joint supervision of Drs Todd B. Marder (now at Universität Würzburg) and R. Tom Baker (now at the University of Ottawa) working on metal-catalyzed hydroborations. He was an NSERC PDF, where he spent one year at Emory University in Atlanta with Dr. Lanny Liebeskind, and more than one year working with Dr. Maurice Brookhart at the University of North Carolina at



Chapel Hill, NC. He has been at Mount Allison University since August 1995 and is currently a Canada Research Chair in Boron Chemistry. He is also a Fellow of the Chemical Institute of Canada and the Royal Society of Chemistry (UK). His research interests include boron chemistry, catalysis, and the synthesis and development of biologically active small molecules. His research group is called the 'Wild Toads' and it is best not to ask why. With his group, Westcott has published 167 papers with 167 different undergraduate authors as of March 2020 and helped send 123 students to graduate school in chemistry and biochemistry.

***Dr. Hugo Beltrami, St. Francis Xavier University
Tier 1 – CRC in Climate Dynamics***

Dr. Hugo Beltrami is a Professor and Canada Research Chair in Climate Dynamics at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia. He holds a BSc in Physics from the University of Winnipeg, a MSc in Theoretical Astrophysics from Queen's University in Kingston, and a PhD in Environmental Sciences from the Université du Québec à Montréal. Dr. Hugo Beltrami research is focused on fundamental scientific challenges related to the overall characterization of the energy exchange between the atmosphere and the shallow part of the Earth's continental crust, a region extremely important for life on our planet. Through theoretical and field-based projects, Beltrami and his interdisciplinary research team attempt to improve the land-surface model components (tools that represent energy and water flux exchanges between land and the atmosphere) of Earth System Models. The research has potential implications on areas as varied as permafrost stability, soil biogeochemical processes, extreme events and public health, and food security planning. Beltrami is also interested in enhancing the communications among scientists, the public, and policy-makers for identifying pathways for guiding the building of resilient communities in response to future climate change.



Dr. Laura Estill, St. Francis Xavier University
Tier 2 – Digital Humanities

Laura Estill is a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Digital Humanities and Associate Professor of English at St. Francis Xavier University, where she leads the [Digital Humanities Centre](#). Her areas of expertise are digital humanities, book history, and early modern English drama. Estill's research investigates how we read and understand early modern drama from its initial manuscript circulation to digital representations today. Her monograph, *Watching, Reading, Changing Plays* explores what early readers took from plays by Shakespeare and his contemporaries, literally and figuratively; the complementary digital project, [DEX: A Database of Dramatic Extracts](#) offers transcriptions of the parts from plays that early readers copied, offering important evidence for reception studies. Her recent open-access publications include articles in [Digital Humanities Quarterly](#), [Humanities](#), and [The Seventeenth Century](#), as well as a chapter in [Shakespeare's Theatrical Documents](#).



As part of her CRC, Estill is spearheading [Digital Humanities Summer Institute – East](#) (DHSI-East), which, in April 2021, will be offering a four-day workshop for non-experts to learn how to create databases. Estill is also co-organizing an online DHSI-aligned conference in June on [Open/Social/Digital Humanities Pedagogy, Training, and Mentorship](#) (registration is free). She is co-editor of [Early Modern Digital Review](#). Estill currently serves on the Researcher Council for NDRIO (the New Digital Research Infrastructure Organization); the Research Directorate of ACENET; the Maple League Research Committee; and on the Canadian Society for Digital Humanities executive.

***Dr. Jacob Levman, St. Francis Xavier University
Tier 2 – CRC in Bioinformatics***

Dr. Levman's research involves the intersection of computational technologies, statistical learning technologies, medical imaging technologies (MRI) and neuroscience. This includes large-scale studies that examine neuroimaging of large clinical populations and developing new technologies to assist in diagnosis and characterization of pathological conditions to improve patient care and to help elucidate understanding of a variety of neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism.

