

Dr. Robert Campbell

President

Mount Allison University

Re: The Memorial Library

I am writing at the request of the Regimental Advisory Council of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment to express our concern about the proposed demolition of the Memorial Library.

The Memorial Library was built to honour Alumni who died in the First World War, many of whom had no known grave. Included are a number of Newfoundlanders, including Rupert Wilfred Bartlett and Gordon Gear from the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, Gordon Valentine Boone, from the Canadian Field Artillery, Donald Mark Trapnell from the Canadian Infantry, Arthur Windsor and William Arthur Windsor. There also a number of Alumni who died in the Second World War.

The First World War is of great significance to Newfoundland and Labrador and we, in partnership with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, are starting to plan for the commemoration of the War, including the great losses suffered by the Regiment on Jul 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 at Beaumont Hamel during the first day of the Battle of the Somme.

One of our objectives is to preserve the memory of those who served, including such places as War Memorials, which are located in most communities throughout the Province, and which are looked after by those communities.

It would be a great shame as we approach the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the commencement of the First World War to have such an important Memorial demolished and we urge you to reconsider your decision. We recognize that this will impose additional costs on the University but Memorials are special places and deserve protection and preservation.

We have noticed the considerable interest in this matter and you might wish to consider a public appeal for contributions to preserve the Memorial Library which we would certainly support, given the connection to the Regiment and the Province. We note that the original construction of the Memorial Library was supported through a public appeal for funds.

Ronald G. Penney

Chair