

## Centre for Canadian Studies

### Word from the Director

*Mount Allison University's Centre for Canadian Studies acknowledges, honours, and pays respect to the traditional owners and custodians (from all four directions) of the ancestral lands of the Mi'kmaw and Wolastoquiyik (Maliseet) peoples on which Mount Allison University is built. As we share our knowledge, teaching, learning, and research practices within the University, may we also pay respect to the knowledge embedded forever within the Aboriginal custodianship of this country.*

Mount Allison University's Centre for Canadian Studies saw another lively and successful year in 2017-2018. For this, I wish to extend heartfelt thanks to the students and colleagues who participate in and contribute to the Centre's activities; to the University for its ongoing support through the offices of the President, the Provost, and the Deans; and to the Harold Crabtree Foundation most especially for its unparalleled and deeply appreciated commitment to Canadian Studies.

The year was off to a jump-start with an unforgettable visit by Anishinaabe scholar and activist Dr. Niigaan Sinclair. Dr. Sinclair delivered the 2017-2018 Edgar and Dorothy Davidson Lecture in Canadian Studies on Sept. 25, 2017. His lecture was also the first in the 2017-2018 President's Speakers Series for the Year of Indigenous Action. The Centre for Canadian Studies is proud of its commitment to and record in bringing greater awareness and knowledge of Indigenous experience in Canada. Since 2010, the Centre has hosted — among other Indigenous scholars — writers, artists, and activists, Kateri Ackiwenzie-Damm, Marie Battiste, Joseph Boyden, Liz Howard, Thomas King, Lee Maracle, Daniel David Moses, Yvette Nolan, Candy Palmater, Pamela Palmater, Armand Garnet Ruffo, Drew Hayden Taylor, Rebecca Thomas, and Richard Wagamese. The Centre also actively supports and promotes the University's Indigenous gathering space — Mawita'mkw — and its various initiatives.

Following Dr. Sinclair's visit, the Centre for Canadian Studies hosted Patti LaBoucane-Benson and Kelly Mellings, author and illustrator of the graphic novel *The Outside Circle*, the story of two Indigenous brothers who deal with poverty, violence, drug addiction, and the struggles of foster care. *The Outside Circle* won the 2016 Burt Award for First Nation, Inuit, and Métis Literature. Fall semester included other literary readings, notably by New Brunswick poets and short story writers Kerry Lee Powell and Katie Geitzler.

Plans to attend the annual Symons Lecture at Charlottetown's Confederation Centre for the Arts in November were thwarted by high winds that closed the Confederation Bridge on the morning of the lecture — to the great disappointment of the busload of Mount Allison students who were all set to meet and ask questions of this year's speaker: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Winter semester 2018 featured the annual George F. G. Stanley Lecture in Canadian Studies, which was given by Mount Allison Professor Dr. Rosemary Polegato on Jan. 22, 2018. Dr. Polegato's lecture, "Canadian Public Art: Our Space, Our Stories," explored the importance, meaning, and experience of public art in Canada.

As in previous years, the Centre for Canadian Studies contributed to the recognition of Canada's Africadian history by co-hosting Dr. Sylvia Hamilton, Roger's Chair in Communication at the University of King's College, in Halifax on Feb. 12, 2018.

In March, the Centre was excited to welcome to Mount Allison Giller Prize winning author of *Infinite Citizen of the Shaking Tent*, Euro-Anishinaabekwe poet Liz Howard.

The month of April was busier than ever for the Centre, with an action-packed student field trip to Ottawa and an international conference on the Mount Allison campus. The visit to Ottawa in April was a replacement for the yearly trip to the annual Vickers-Verduyn



Dr. Christl Verduyn, Director

Lecture at Carleton University, which was postponed due to labour action at Carleton.

The lecture, which was to be given by Sto:lo artist and scholar, Dr. Dylan Robinson, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Arts at Queen's University, on the topic of Indigenous art in public spaces, has been re-scheduled to Oct. 11, 2018.

Following the field trip to Ottawa, the Centre for Canadian Studies was busy with the international conference *Resurfacing/ Refaire Surface*, a uniquely intergenerational conference to reconsider and re-contextualize the work and accomplishments of women who were writing across Canada from the end of the 1960s and into the early 1980s. An equally unique collaboration between Mount Allison and the Université de Moncton, the conference featured presentations in both English and French by participants from Canada, the United States, Europe, and the United Kingdom.

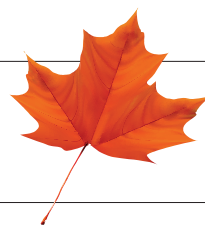
As this brief overview of activities indicates, Mount Allison's Centre for Canadian Studies continued to serve as a hub of intellectual engagement on campus and in the Sackville community during 2017-2018.

In closing, and in submitting my last report as director of Mount Allison's Centre for Canadian Studies, I would like to thank all the colleagues, students, and staff who contribute to the activities and life of the Centre. It has been an honour and privilege to serve as the Centre's director from 2010 to 2018. *Mille mercis* — a thousand thanks — to all! 🍁

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# MAJOR ANNUAL EVENTS

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*Mount Allison's Centre for Canadian Studies offers two major public lectures each year that have become highlights on the intellectual landscape at Mount Allison University.*

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## THE EDGAR & DOROTHY DAVIDSON LECTURE IN CANADIAN STUDIES 2017-2018

*Sept. 25, 2017*

***Indigenous Immemorial:  
Our Worlds post #Canada150***

**Dr. Niigaan Sinclair, Professor of  
Native Studies, University of Manitoba**

The annual Davidson Lecture brings a distinguished Canadianist to campus to speak on a topic of interest and importance to Canadians. The 2017-2018 Davidson lecturer was Dr. Niigaan Sinclair. A distinguished academic, activist, and a vital voice in Canada today, Dr. Sinclair is Anishinaabe from the St. Peter's/Little Peguis First Nation community in Manitoba, home to members of the Saulteaux (Anishinaabe) and Cree First Nations. He is a member of the Department of Native Studies at the University of Manitoba and Graduate Program Director. Professor Sinclair holds a PhD in First Nations and American Literatures from the University of British Columbia and he teaches and publishes in the areas of Indigenous literature, graphic novels, and masculinities. A regular commentator on CTV, CBC, APTN, on radio, and in newspapers, he helped organize Idle No More events in Winnipeg and testified at hearings of the Clean Environment Commission of Manitoba on the Keeyask Generating Station and Bipole III transmission line. Dr. Sinclair inspired a packed Mount Allison lecture hall with his discussion and analysis of critiques of Canada's 150 celebrations.



Dr. Niigaan Sinclair, 2017-2018 Davidson Lecturer in Canadian Studies

## THE GEORGE F.G. STANLEY LECTURE IN CANADIAN STUDIES 2017-2018

*Jan. 22, 2018*

***Canadian Public Art: Our Space,  
Our Stories***

***Dr. Rosemary Polegato***

The annual Stanley Lecture is given each year by a distinguished Mount Allison Canadianist. This lecture was established in honour of the first director (from 1969-1975) of the Centre for Canadian Studies, Dr. George F.G. Stanley (1907-2002). Well known for his role in the design of the Canadian flag and for his distinction as lieutenant governor of New Brunswick from 1982-1987, Dr. Stanley was also an accomplished academic, a Rhodes Scholar, a member of the Royal Society, and the author or editor of some 18 books.

In 2017-2018, the Stanley Lecture in Canadian Studies was delivered by Dr. Rosemary Polegato. Dr. Polegato is a member of Mount Allison's Commerce department, where she teaches courses in arts and culture management and marketing, consumer behaviour, international marketing, and current challenges in marketing and management. A 3M National Teaching Fellow, Dr. Polegato is also Mount Allison's Purdy Crawford Professor of Teaching and Learning. In her lecture, she engaged the audience in an exploration of public art in Canada and more specifically in local public art.




Dr. Rosemary Polegato, 2017-2018 Stanley Lecturer in Canadian Studies

# EVENTS 2017-2018



*In addition to its signature public lectures — the annual Davidson and Stanley lectures — and as part of its commitment to outreach and research dissemination, the Centre for Canadian Studies organizes numerous speaker events and other special activities, and regularly co-sponsors and co-hosts these with different departments and organizations, both at the University and community levels, as well as on the wider national level.*

**Fall 2017 Events**  
The Centre and Program  
for Canadian Studies  
Mount Allison University

25 September 2017 Crabtree Auditorium 7:00 p.m.	Dr. Niigaan Sinclair, Native Studies, University of Manitoba The 2017-2018 Davidson Lecture in Canadian Studies "Indigenous Immemorial: Our Worlds post #Canada150"
27 September 2017 Owens Art Gallery 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.	Patti LaBoucane-Benson and Kelly Mellings Author and illustrator, <i>The Outside Circle</i> , a graphic novel Canada Council Reading
17 October 2017 MTA Bell Library 7:00 p.m.	Canada Before Confederation An Exhibition of Maps, presented by Lauren Beck, Dan Duda, Chet van Duzer
18 October 2017 MTA Bell Library 4:30 p.m.	Kerry Lee Powell and Katja Geitzler Poets and short story writers Canada Council Reading
23 November 2017 Charlottetown, PEI 8:30 - 5:30 p.m.	The 2017 Symons Lecture Prime Minister Justin Trudeau The State of Confederation 2017

Watch for individual posters with more information about these events.  
All events are free and everyone is welcome!

Dr. Christi Overduyn, Director, Centre for Canadian Studies at overduyn@mta.ca

## SEPTEMBER 2017

### Canada Council Reading — *The Outside Circle*, Patti LaBoucane-Benson and Kelly Mellings — Sept. 27, 2018

As part of Mount Allison's Year of Indigenous Action and with the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, the Centre hosted a wonderful reading and discussion of the graphic novel *The Outside Circle* with author Patti LaBoucane-Benson, director of research and evaluation at the Native Counseling Services of Alberta, and Kelly Mellings, Edmonton-based illustrator. A story that sheds light on Indigenous experience in Canada, *The Outside Circle* is included in several Canadian Studies courses at Mount Allison. The novel received the Burt Award for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Literature.

## OCTOBER 2017

### Canada before Confederation: Early Maps and Explorations — Oct. 17, 2017

The Centre for Canadian Studies was pleased to support an exhibition of maps, presented by Dr. Lauren Beck (Mount Allison), Dan Duda (Memorial), and Chet van Duzer (Library of Congress) and on display at Mount Allison's library to mid-December 2017. The exhibition looked at early Canada and Indigenous knowledge and place names and was the basis of a research assistantship for Canadian Studies student Gabrielle Killoran de Ste-Croix.



Early maps of Canada on view in the Mount Allison library foyer as part of the Canada Before Confederation exhibition



## Centre for Canadian Studies

Mount Allison University  
Canada Council Reading

### Kerry-Lee Powell & Kayla Geitzler

New Brunswick writers read from their work.



Kerry-Lee Powell's 2016 short story collection *Willem de Kooning's Paintbrush* was nominated for Giller Prize, the Rogers Writers' Trust Prize, and the Governor General's Award. Previous works include the collections of poetry *Inheritance* (2014) and *The Wreckage* (2015).

Kayla Geitzler poetry and fiction have appeared in *Fiddlehead* and forthcoming in *Galleon* and her poetry collection *That Light Feeling Under Your Feet* will be published by NeWest in 2018. She lives in Moncton.

4:30 pm Wednesday, October 18

Library Film Theatre (316)

Everyone Welcome

Free to attend

Centre for Canadian Studies  
Mount Allison University & Canada Council for the Arts / Conseil des arts du Canada

## OCTOBER 2017

### Canada Council Reading —

#### Kerry Lee Powell and Katja Geitzler — Oct. 18, 2017

The Centre was delighted to host New Brunswick writers Kerry-Lee Powell and Kayla Geitzler. Powell's 2016 short story collection *Willem de Kooning's Paintbrush* was nominated for the Giller Prize, the Rogers Writers' Trust Prize, and the Governor General's Award. Geitzler is the author of the poetry collection *That Light Feeling Under Your Feet* (2018).

## NOVEMBER 2017

### The annual Symons Lecture on the State of Confederation, Charlottetown — Nov. 23, 2017

This annual lecture is a unique experience and opportunity for Mount Allison students to hear a notable Canadian address a topic of relevance to the country. The Centre for Canadian Studies' commitment to the lecture has earned it the generous support of Charlottetown's Confederation Centre, which provides bus transportation to and from Charlottetown, lunch upon arrival, and the chance for Mount Allison students to meet with the lecturer for a fireside chat following the public lecture. The annual trip to Charlottetown for the Symons Lecture has become an event to which Mount Allison students look forward

each year. Excitement was never greater than this year when the lecturer was none other than Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Mount Allison students, among them many members of the Indigenous Student Support Group, were eager for the chance to put questions directly to the Prime Minister. Disappointment was equally great, then, when wind conditions on the morning of the lecture forced the closure of Confederation Bridge.

## JANUARY 2018

### Public Lecture — "Canada's Jews: The National Mosaic of a Global people," Dr. Erin Corber, Inaugural Simon and Riva Spatz Visiting Chair of Jewish Studies, Dalhousie University — Jan. 15, 2018

Dr. Corber illustrated the vibrancy of Jewish contributions to Canadian culture by drawing on family books, including her grandmother's cookbook, a part of her lecture that had particular resonance for many members of the audience. Professor Corber's lecture accompanied a two-week exhibition of photographs and panels about Jewish Canada, hosted by Mount Allison's library and co-sponsored by the Centre for Canadian Studies.



Dr. Erin Corber discusses Jewish Canadian history and culture on campus

## Centre for Canadian Studies

Mount Allison University

### 2018 Winter Events



15 January 2018  
MTA Bell Library  
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Dr. Erin Corber - Inaugural Simon & Riva Spatz  
Visiting Chair of Jewish Studies, Dalhousie University  
*Canada's Jews: The National Mosaic of a Global People*

22 January 2018  
Owens Art Gallery  
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Rosemary Polegato - MTA Purdy Crawford  
Professor in Teaching and Learning,  
2017-2018 Stanley Lecture in Canadian Studies  
*Canadian Public Art: Our Space, Our Stories*

12 February 2018  
Owens Art Gallery  
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Sylvia Hamilton - Roger's Chair in Communications,  
University of King's College  
*An evening of Poetry & Images*. Black History Month  
In collaboration MTA Centre for International Studies (CIS)

14 March 2018  
Owens Art Gallery  
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Liz Howard - poet and author  
*Infinite Citizen of the Shaking Tent*  
A Canada Council Reading

26 - 28 April 2018  
Various Times, Locations  
Mount Allison University  
& Université de Moncton

*Resurfacing/Refaire Surface: Women Writing  
in 1970s Canada: écrivaines canadiennes des  
années 1970*. For details visit  
<http://www.mta.ca/resurfacing2018/>

Watch for individual posters with more information about these events  
and other Centre for Canadian Studies events or contact Director Christl Verduyn

All events are free and open to the public. Everyone welcome!

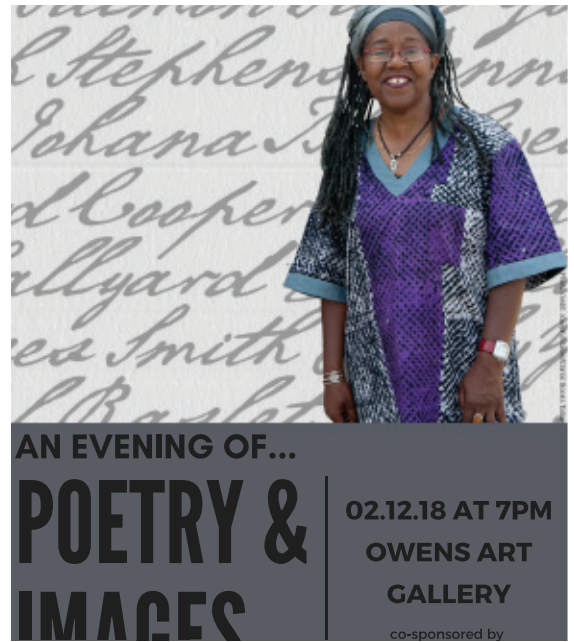
Poster Design and Photo by Elaine Symons



## FEBRUARY 2018

### Public Lecture — “Memory Work,” Dr. Sylvia Hamilton, Roger’s Chair in Communications, University of King’s College, Halifax, NS — Feb. 12, 2018

Noted Canadian filmmaker, poet, scholar, and professor, Dr. Hamilton spoke about her recent work, a multi-media installation entitled *Excavation: Memory Work*. Drawing on texts, objects, and artifacts to explore place, history, and memory, Dr. Hamilton tells the story of Black settlement in the location of the installation. For example, the installation at UNB’s art gallery explored the location of King’s Landing, NB. A part of the installation was also on exhibit at Toronto’s Royal Ontario Museum (ROM).



Dr. Sylvia Hamilton

## MARCH 2018

### Canada Council Reading, Liz Howard — March 14, 2018

Hailing from the territory of Treaty 9 in Northern Ontario, Euro-Anishinaabekwe poet Liz Howard is the youngest winner of the prestigious, internationally-recognized Griffin Poetry Prize for her debut collection *Infinite Citizen of the Shaking Tent* (2015). Born in Timmins, and raised in Chapleau, ON, Howard completed an honours Bachelor of Science with high distinction at the University of Toronto and a master’s degree in creative writing at the University of Guelph. As the Griffin Prize judges’ citation stated of Howard’s award-winning collection, “*Infinite Citizen of the Shaking Tent* confronts its legacies with vivid imagery and crackling language, and introduces us to a bold, original poetic voice.” The Centre for Canadian Studies was delighted to bring that voice to the Mount Allison and Sackville community.



Liz Howard at the Owens Art Gallery

## APRIL 2018

### Canadian Studies student-faculty get together, Hammond House — April 5, 2018

Celebrating another year of Canadian Studies events and activities, members of the Centre and Canadian Studies program gathered at Hammond House for a reception and social. The enterprising members of the Canadian Studies Student Club Executive distributed the Canadian Studies shirts that they had promoted for purchase by students and faculty alike. Graduating students were extended best wishes and Dr. Christl Verduyn was thanked for her directorship of the Centre for Canadian Studies (2010-2018).



Members of the Centre and Canadian Studies program at Hammond House

## Student Field Trip, Ottawa — April 17-19, 2018

Mount Allison students Sabrina Daigle, Mikaila Shaw, and Bryenton Innes travelled to Ottawa with Centre for Canadian Studies Director Dr. Verduyn for a series of activities organized in lieu of the annual Vickers-Verduyn Lecture at Carleton University, which had been postponed to Fall 2018. The Mount Allison group visited the Institute for Canadian and Indigenous Studies at the University of Ottawa and spent an afternoon at the Canadian Museum of History, where a former Mount Allison Centre for Canadian Studies postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Jenny Ellison, now curator for the museum's sport and leisure division, was a "personal guide" for the visit. The group also had the opportunity to attend the *Walrus Talks* "The Indigenous City" at the Museum of History and to see the film version of Richard Wagamese's novel *Indian Horse*, which is on various Canadian Studies course reading lists. The Ottawa visit included a meeting with Senator David Adams Richards, well-known as a New Brunswick novelist, and a tour of Parliament, with a special tour of the East Block guided by former Mount Allison student Jean-Sébastien Comeau, who opened some of the historically preserved rooms, such as the original Privy Council Board Room and various offices of notables like John A. MacDonald; and a drop-in to question period in the House of Commons. About the latter and the trip in general, student Bryenton Innes wrote:

*"What a show! I even got to see the MP from my home riding (Scott Brison, Kings-Hants, President of the Treasury Board) and the MP from Beauséjour (Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard) get involved in some of the topics and debates ... On the flight home I was seated next to Vince McNeil, the chief of staff for Dominic LeBlanc! They were on their way out east for a Liberal conference and some Fisheries meetings, and such. We chatted for the entire flight, talking about my military history and education, where I'm looking to go, and a bit about what he did and how he made his way into politics, and how it's a sort of bug you catch and get involved with. I may have caught the bug after watching question period and speaking with him. I'm meeting with him when I go back to Ottawa in May and also with my friend Dane Lloyd, Conservative MP from Sturgeon River-Parkland Alberta."*

Last but not least, the Mount Allison group had the opportunity to have lunch with Mr. Bradbrooke Smith, thanks to whose generous support the annual trip to Ottawa is possible.



Mr. Bradbrooke Smith (seated) meets with Mount Allison Canadian Studies students in Ottawa. (L-R): Mikaila Shaw, Sabrina Daigle, Dr. Verduyn, Bryenton Innes



**International conference — Resurfacing: women writing across Canada in the 1970s/ Refaire surface : écrivaines canadiennes des années 1970 — April 26-28, 2018**

Mount Allison's Centre for Canadian Studies invited the collaboration of the Université de Moncton in sponsoring this international conference revisiting the work of women writers in Canada during the 1970s. The conference brought together new and established scholars in two languages for a critical return to and reconsideration of Canadian women's writing of the 1970s. The program featured over 60 speakers from English- and French-speaking Canada and four international countries (France, England, the Netherlands, the United States) at all three levels of the professoriate (assistant, associate, full) as well as three postdoctoral fellows, eight doctoral students, two masters students, and five undergraduate students, collectively representing 34 universities. Keynote round table participants included Marie Carrière, Louise Forsyth, Carole Gerson, Sherrill Grace, Karen Gould, Mary Jean Green, Linda Hutcheon, Jane Koustas, Lucie Lequin, Jane Moss, Arun Mukherjee, Joseph Pivato, Patricia Smart, Conny Steenman Marcusse, and Aritha Van Herk. As part of the conference, participants attended the Northrop Frye Festival's literary evening. The conference was supported by a successful application to SSHRC's Connections Grant Program. A publication coming out of the conference is in planning.



Delegates at Resurfacing/Refaire Surface listen to Dr. Jane Moss at Mount Allison's Owens Art Gallery



Conference roundtable speakers (L-R): Dr. Arun Mukherjee, Dr. Patricia Smart, Dr. Linda Hutchison



Dr. Christl Verduyn welcomes conference delegates

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## COLLABORATION AND OUTREACH – AT MOUNT ALLISON AND BEYOND

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*The Centre for Canadian Studies organizes and hosts many events on campus and at the local, regional, national, and international levels. The Centre also helps support, co-organize, co-sponsor, and co-host initiatives and projects with other departments and programs at Mount Allison, and with organizations and groups across the province and country and abroad. As mentioned, for example, the Centre collaborated with Université de Moncton in hosting the international conference Resurfacing/Refaire surface. It also again supported Mount Allison's Feminist Leadership student conference (March 2018) and various events of Mawita'mkw and the Indigenous Student Support Group, such as Mount Allison's first ever powwow, held on March 22, 2018.*



Mount Allison's Centre for Canadian Studies is an institutional member of this new national academic Canadian Studies organization, which was established in November 2010 at the "Two Days of Canada" conference at Brock University.

#### International Council for Canadian Studies (ICCS)

Mount Allison's Centre for Canadian Studies maintains connection with this international organization for Canadian Studies through its institutional membership in the CSN-REC, which holds full member status in the ICCS. This connection helps foster links between Mount Allison's Centre for Canadian Studies and the many international Canadian Studies members of the ICCS.



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## PEOPLE, PLACES, & APPRECIATION

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#### **Members of the Centre for Canadian Studies Advisory Committee:**

colleagues **Andrea Beverley** (Canadian Studies and English), **Kevin Morse** (Music), **Andrew Nurse** (Canadian Studies), and **Rosemary Polegato** (Commerce).

Centre for Canadian Studies interns for 2017-2018, **Gabrielle de Ste-Croix** and **Louis Sobol**.

**Brittany Jones**, secretary for Canadian Studies, History, and Women's and Gender Studies, and **Elaine Simpson**, Department of English secretary, who together provide Canadian Studies with much-appreciated office support.

**To all** who come along to Centre for Canadian Studies events and activities. Your presence helps make these occasions a success!

*Thank you*

*Merci*

*Welálioq*

**MountAllison**  
UNIVERSITY