

Dr. Robert Campbell
President and Vice-Chancellor
Mount Allison University
Centennial Hall, 2nd Floor
65 York Street
Sackville NB E4L 1E4

Re: Mount Allison Memorial Library

Dear Dr. Campbell and Board of Regents:

I write to you on behalf of the Museums of South Eastern New Brunswick group that includes sixteen museums that are a vibrant and indispensable part of the heritage and culture of this exceptional part of New Brunswick.

We are gravely concerned about the fate of the Memorial Library building on the Mount Allison University Campus. The thought that such an important and meaningful structure could be discarded is very disturbing to us as representatives of the heritage community.

The Memorial Library was dedicated to those Allisonians who lost their lives in World War One. Such a dedication carries great responsibility to carry forward the lessons learned and freedoms gained from the lives lost by those that made the supreme sacrifice for the benefit of all Canadians. Losing such a building in Sackville would be the equivalent of the destruction of "The Response of Canada" (the National War Memorial) at Confederation Square in Ottawa. The thought would never cross anyone's mind.

Your own message on the Mount Allison University website states "... the University has engaged in a brand positioning project that will help us to define and articulate that which differentiates us from our peers and our competitors. For this exercise to be a success, it must reflect the true heart, soul, and reality of Mount Allison through the engagement of all those who comprise our community and its experiences." We implore you to follow your own advice and differentiate the University from your peers by recognizing the importance that heritage buildings have in the overall health of the community. It is time, and forgive the expression, to put the money where the mouth is. The community experiences were echoed in the construction of the Memorial Library in the first place and the building reflects the true heart, soul, and reality of Mount Allison University with its façade of locally quarried stone. This treasure cannot be lost.

As guardians of the expansive heritage that south eastern New Brunswick holds, we eagerly look forward to hearing from you with the plan to revitalize the Memorial Library building.

Yours in History,
Donald Alward
Zone Coordinator, Museums of South Eastern New Brunswick
C/O Albert County Museum
3940 Route 114
Hopewell Cape NB E4H 3J8

Cc. Hon. Trevor Holder, Minister of Wellness, Culture and Sport, New Brunswick