

A word from the dean of education, Memorial University of Newfoundland

Dr. Clar Doyle

Once again last summer, *Sharing the Voices: The Phenomenon of Singing* was held in Newfoundland and Labrador. These voices bounced off hallowed halls, echoed down crowded streets and rang through peoples' imaginations. This Phenomenon settled over our cities and towns bringing wonder and appreciation. As before, the people gathered in clusters of quiet listening that often erupted into spontaneous applause. The memory of those sounds stay with us. Along with those sound memories are the greetings and smiles of the people who came to visit. Those greetings and smiles linger well after the good-byes. However, we are left with much more.

Music and singing springs naturally from us in times of happiness and grief. It is, in a sense, our souls crying out. In this province we have been blessed with, as Leonard Cohen would say, "the gift of a golden voice". It certainly is a gift. However when we polish that gift, and hold it up in the sun, we can see it shine. We are also blessed with the vision, skill and work of those who dedicate themselves to music. They have polished that gift of voice. Furthermore they have seen the value in sharing the voices, and realizing that if others come and sing to and with us, we all grow. This is what has happened.

At the Faculty of Education we are very proud of this event and the academic work that comes out of it. We support that work. We are certainly proud of our colleagues who help make all this happen. We support them.