
The Morning Watch Today

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The Morning Watch was first published by the Faculty of Education at Memorial in the fall of 1973, with Dr. William J. Gushue, Dr. Ishmael J. Baksh, and Dr. Amarjit Singh serving as editors. Gushue noted, "The birth of The Morning Watch is explained by the somewhat rapid awakening of the Newfoundland consciousness. Indeed, that fact is reflected in the title of the journal, in that it is the morning watch that precedes a new day -- a new and better era for Newfoundland and its people." (Society, Culture and Schooling, ed. Amarjit Singh and Ishmael Baksh)

The Morning Watch has a broad scope, addressing questions relating to such matters as curriculum, pedagogy, educational administration, equity, decolonization, Indigenous reconciliation, and educational reform. Contributions come from members of the Faculty of Education, faculty in other units of the university, and an increasing number of national and international sources. In time, The Morning Watch became an important medium for the discussion of educational and social issues and for the dissemination of the results of research conducted in the province.

From the Senior Editor regarding The Morning Watch Journal (MW): Educational and Social Analysis and 'Peer Review':

Since its first publication in 1973, the Morning Watch (MW) has had a long and distinguished history. For nearly 50 years we have strived to promote scholarship and research consistent with Memorial University's mission to support local research and development in education. As such, our focus is on being formative and informative as we support writing-scholarship linked to important issues in the scholarship of the educational community in this province and country, as well as internationally.

What does peer review mean? Merriam-Webster Learner's defines peer review as "a process by which a scholarly work (such as a paper or a research proposal) is checked by a group of experts in the same field to make sure it meets the necessary standards before it is published or accepted". Elsevier (2020) argues that the peer review process is essential to "uphold the quality and validity of individual articles and the journals that publish them". The most pertinent for MW purposes, taken from Wiley (2020), are outlined below:

Single Blind Review: In this type of peer review the author does not know who the reviewers are. This is a common form of peer review.

Double Blind Review: In this type of peer review neither the author nor the reviewers know the other's identity. This is also a common form of peer review.

Open peer review: The identity of the author and the reviewers are known by all participants. There is a growing minority of journals using this form of peer review, but popularity among reviewers is yet to be proven. *Collaborative review:* This covers a broad variety of approaches in which a team of people work together to undertake the review. One format is to have two or more reviewers work together to review the paper, discuss their opinions and submit a unified report. Another approach is to have one or more reviewers collaborate with the author to improve the paper until it reaches a publishable standard. Using these definitions, we are comfortable stating that this particular edition of the MW is an open and collaborative peer-review publication. Added to this discussion is the point that the MW is not the intellectual property of any institution or corporate entity, nor does it claim copyright (copyright remains with the contributor), commercial connection, or our cost for usage. It is an open-source journal. We will never state rejection rates as we do not see a link between rigor and high rejection rates. This way, we strive to support the highest quality and rigorous peer review dissemination research and scholarship through peer-to-peer engagement and support. It is peer-to-peer collaboration that drives quality, and that is our mission. Yours in scholarship, Kirk Anderson, PhD. Senior Editor- The Morning Watch

Works cited:

Merriam-Webster (2002). *Peer review*. In *Learner's dictionary*. Retrieved May 14, 2020, from <http://www.learnersdictionary.com/definition/peer%20review>
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From the Senior Editor - Opening comments from Dr. Kirk Anderson

One of the biggest challenges facing new scholars is getting their research published in a refereed journal. Oddly enough, another challenge for existing journals is finding funding, support, and contributions to reflect the purpose of the Journal. In this edition of the Morning Watch, we provide a platform for our present and recent graduate students to demonstrate their research and writing skills. We also feature some aspects of a growing interest in 'teacher leadership' in schools and wish to highlight the creation on a new international organization featuring teacher leadership in schools and indeed related scholarship here at internationally. I have the honour of serving as the current North American representative. See the Association for Teacher Leadership and Scholarship (ATLAS) at <https://atlas-tl.net/> for more information and indeed note our coming annual convention in October 2025.

Teacher leadership is a key theme reflected in this edition of the Morning Watch. The first article reflects the work of a group of Indigenous (and allied) educators demonstrating their

determination to foster Inuit culture and education, as they point out they *"...are de facto educational and cultural leaders, guiding the next generation with a profound commitment to celebrating and preserving Inuit cultural identity. They engage in self-directed and collaborative professional learning that builds their knowledge and skills in promoting Inuit education"* (Moore et al. This edition). The second submission, Paranavitana, is a reflection of the actions of a teacher and her close colleague as they worked to promote a culturally responsive focus on teaching preparing their students for the growing diversity in a smaller community. In our third article, Critch (Faculty member) and Sinclair (Reading specialist and graduate student of our reading program) discuss the growing influence of reading specialist teachers as they lead the a response to literacy concerns in this province. This is the first analysis of its kind on this initiative. The fourth submission, by Horne, is another reflection, from the president of the provincial small schools' special interest council, and what teacher leadership means to him. It is particularly nuance to small and rural school leadership. And in our last article, Bismark, focused on what motivates teachers in their work. All in all a good collection of ideas that cross a multitude of perspectives all focused on how teachers influence other teachers, or more aptly stated: teacher leadership. As such we see teacher encouraging a more holistic, practical and meaningful way of teaching that connects to Inuit ways of knowing and being rather than the rigidity of the colonial systems in which they were educated is at the core of these teachers' beliefs. both an organizational dynamic often fostered and sometimes inhibited by administrative leadership style. Teacher Leadership is rooted in teacher agency as the active to see results of their efforts and lived realities to the written articles. 50 Years and onward: This edition marks the end of the first 50 years of the Morning Watch and the beginning of the next 50 years. We hope to continue the legacy begun by Ismael, Amarjit, and Bill a half century ago.