



THE LEONARD AND KATHLEEN O'BRIEN HUMANITARIAN TRUST

ALUMNI EXCITING NEWS

FEBRUARY, 2015

Wade MacLauchlan (1982) to be named Premier of Prince Edward Island
Jennifer Wadsworth (1992) makes generous donation accompanied by Matching Grant
Van Burdon (1976) honored by donations made by his father

H. WADE MACLAUCHLAN, C.M. (1982)



H. Wade MacLauchlan, is set to become the next Premier of Prince Edward Island.

Wade declared his candidacy for the Liberal Leadership in November, shortly after Robert Ghiz announced he was stepping down as Premier. Ghiz has served in the position since 2007. When the nomination period closed, Wade was the sole contender.

"This is a big milestone to be one step closer to becoming premier," Wade said in a statement. "Islanders believe that it is time to do politics differently: they want us to move beyond small differences, they want us to respect one another and work together for the betterment of the province."

He will be acclaimed leader at a party convention scheduled for February 20-21, 2015 at the Prince Edward Island Convention Centre in Charlottetown. He will then become premier-designate.

H. Wade MacLauchlan, C.M. is President Emeritus of the University of Prince Edward Island, where he served as President from 1999 to 2011. Previous positions include Dean of Law at the University of New Brunswick, and professor of law at Dalhousie University. He received an O'Brien Foundation Scholarship in 1982, to pursue an LL.M. at Yale Law School, focusing on administrative and constitutional law.

Wade was named a Member of the Order of Canada in 2008, and received the IPAC Lieutenant-Governor's Medal for Public Service Leadership in 2010. He is a Trudeau Foundation Mentor, and is an elected member of the North Shore Community Council in his home district of Stanhope-Covehead PEI. Wade is a director of Medavie Inc. and partner in Anne China Inc., whose new Mandarin translation of *Anne of Green Gables* was short-listed as the "Most Influential" book (novel) published in China in 2012. He is writing a book on the premiership of Alex B. Campbell, Prince Edward Island's longest-serving Premier (1966-78), and is co-Chair of the 2013 Georgetown Conference *Rural Redefined*.

DR. JENNIFER WADSWORTH (1992)



Photograph taken in 1992 shows how Jennifer spent her O'Brien Foundation Fellowship doing field work in the Spanish Pyrenees, with her faithful dog Gamma as her field assistant.

Dr. Jennifer Wadsworth has been a geologist for over 25 years, with experience both in industry and academia. She currently works as a petroleum geologist for BP America, based in Houston. Prior to that, she worked at Woodside Energy, Baker Hughes, the University of Newcastle (in Australia), and at Imperial Oil (Calgary). She obtained her PhD (Liverpool), MSc (McMaster) and BSc (Western) in Geology, and also did a post-doc at the University of Western Ontario. Jennifer was born in Moncton, New Brunswick but grew up in Campbellton. She has also served as President of the WA Petroleum Exploration Society of Australia from 2010-2012. She is deeply grateful for her 1992 O'Brien Scholarship which provided critical funding for the final stages of her PhD fieldwork on sea level changes and their effects on Eocene deltas in the Spanish Pyrenees. Jennifer is married and has two sons.

Jennifer gave a generous donation of \$3,000.00 and made application to BP America for a Matching Grant. The Matching Grant has just been received. It is a wonderful expression of support for the O'Brien Foundation. Jen is planning to do this again this year.

VAN BURDON (1976)



Van Burdon with his mother Joan at the Alumni Reception Government House in Fredericton 2011.

Van's mother, Joan has regretfully passed away. Needless to say, it was an honour to have met this wonderful lady. Her husband, Fred has made a substantial donation to the O'Brien Foundation in honour of his son. In actual fact, he has done this on more than one occasion.

In a recent letter addressed to Fred I stated the following:

It is wonderful, that as a parent, you make this donation in honour of your son Van. We are so proud of Van and of his receiving an O'Brien Fellowship in 1976. (38 years ago) You may remember that it was for Cello Studies as he was going to attend the Guildhall School of Music in London, England.

As you may know we now have a new Lieutenant Governor. Her Honour Jocelyn Roy-Vienneau has agreed to be our Honourary President. This means that she will be the hostess at our Annual Reception in the summer. It would be so good Fred if you could attend this reception.

It would be an honour to meet you. Please know your generous donation will be applied in a most responsible and caring manner. I am delighted to learn that although you have had medical procedures during this past year that you continue to do well. Sincere best wishes to you for a healthy and happy Christmas Season and New Year. You have brought much joy to us in the O'Brien Foundation and to me personally as Executive Director.

In concluding this brief report, I respectfully ask that you might consider making a charitable donation especially as we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the O'Brien Foundation.

I certainly enjoy the interaction of alumni members. Please check out our website and don't forget to send me your news. The O'Brien Foundation is located here in Fredericton, the O'Brien Foundation Nation is everywhere.

All the best for a healthy and joy-filled 2015.