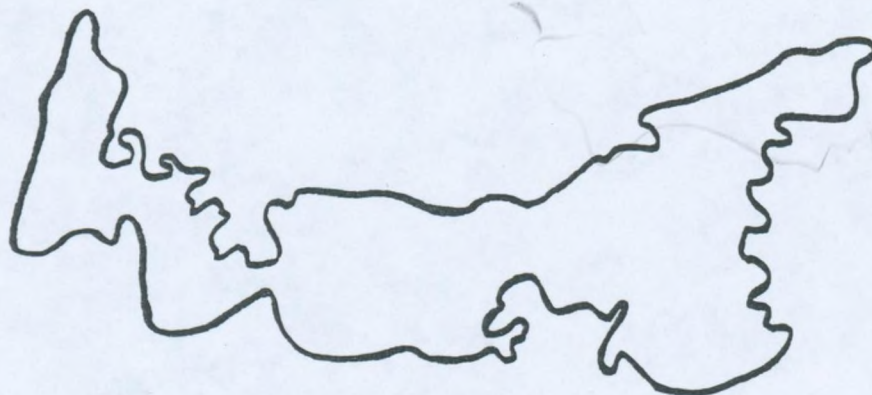


Proposal  
for  
INSTITUTE OF ISLAND STUDIES



October 29, 1982

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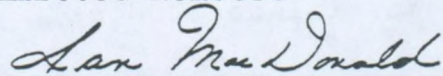
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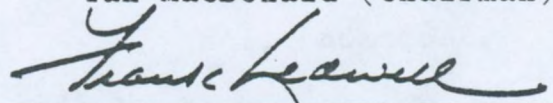
Proposal for an Institute of Island Studies:

Submitted to Dr. Peter Meincke, President of the  
University of Prince Edward Island.

Committee Members



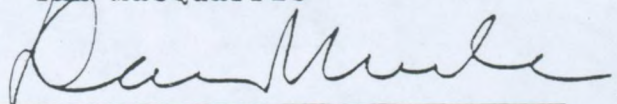
Ian MacDonald (Chairman)



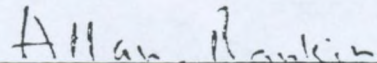
Frank Ledwell



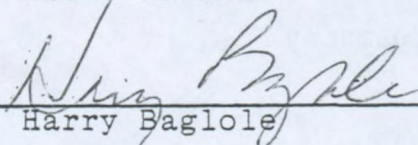
Ian MacQuarrie



David Weale



Allan Rankin



Harry Baglole

October 29, 1982



## Introduction

In March of this year, Dr. Peter Meincke asked me to bring together a committee to investigate the future direction of Island Studies at the University of Prince Edward Island. With the help of a few highly visionary and enthusiastic individuals from within and outside the University, I have prepared the following Proposal.

Now that these initial meetings are over and the thoughts of the committee committed to paper, we have to wonder why the essence of this Proposal did not constitute a central theme from the very beginning of the University's existence. Perhaps it has taken the University, as it has taken each of us, a few years to realize who we are and where we are going.

The concept of an Island Studies program is not original to the mandate of our committee. In 1978 President Meincke initiated the development of a proposal on "Integrated Island Studies." The resulting report, which recommended an interdisciplinary program of studies oriented to research about Prince Edward Island, may have



been slightly ahead of its time and was not acted upon.

In 1980 Dr. Leslie Harris of Memorial University in Newfoundland was invited to undertake an evaluation of our University's first ten years. In his report, Dr. Harris urged the University to recognize its unique role and responsibility to its Island constituency:

In short, we envisage the kind of university that is true to the university ideal and hence is a full participant in the international enterprise that seeks to discover truth and to advance knowledge; but that is at the same time in and of the particular community it serves. Such a university, with its roots deep in the cultural soil of this province, will address itself to the particular needs and aspirations of Islanders but will, at the same time, eschew insularity. (Ten Years Later, p. 66.)

Further impetus to the initiation of an Island Studies program has come recently from the provincial Department of Community Affairs. The provision of financial and human resources to our committee has been of immense importance in the development of this Proposal. To the leadership of the Minister and his staff, we are deeply grateful.

We are also thankful to the many others across the province and throughout the region who have assisted us in developing this Proposal. We are particularly indebted to the Hon. David MacDonald, Dr. John Maloney, and the



Directors of the Regional Services Centres in Summerside, Montague, and Souris. Your help has been invaluable.

An Institute of Island Studies is still a dream; but given the opportunity, it could be a vital link, a bridge, between the University and its community.

Ian MacDonald



## Why Island Studies?

The central question will be posed at the outset: "Should the University of Prince Edward Island establish a special institutional focal point for the promotion and co-ordination of 'Island Studies'?" Three principal reasons may be suggested for an unequivocal, "Yes."

To begin, the study of Prince Edward Island is an important activity in its own right; perhaps no further justification is required. As one of our Committee members has expressed it, "There is nothing parochial about studying a fundamental particle, and the Island is just that." We dwell in a unique natural and human habitat, with its own distinctive combination of flora, fauna, and folklore. On first impression, our Island may appear identical to someplace else; closer examination will always reveal a slant of difference, a sacred nuance. For those of us who belong here, caring for this distinctive patrimony remains a fundamental duty: for this we are responsible to the rest of humankind. And since care is a function of knowledge, and knowledge of study, it follows that our Island University



should be in the vanguard of Island Studies activities.

Many will regard the foregoing as self-evident, yet question the necessity of setting up a special institutional entity within the University. The study of Island subject matter, they will argue, has long been a priority of many University faculty members and a good deal of first-rate work has been done. Why change things?

While not disputing the significance and quality of what has been accomplished, we maintain that there have been serious omissions of scholarly activity. Two examples may suffice. Prince Edward Island is the only province without a provincial museum, a matter of concern for our local historians and natural scientists; and we are far behind our sister islands of Newfoundland and Cape Breton in the preservation, promotion, and celebration of our local folklore. In the absence of other Island institutions willing or able to provide leadership in these areas, the University would seem to bear a special responsibility. An Island Studies locus could do much to identify and address such opportunities.

What we are suggesting is by no means novel. Many Maritime universities now have special institutions, centres, or programs which give particular emphasis to local or regional study. Overall, we are lagging well behind in such initiatives. A useful model may be the Beaton Institute of



Cape Breton Studies at the College/University of Cape Breton. They have a full-time staff of six, including specialists in folklore, Cape Breton music, and Gaelic. Our proposed Island Studies program is modest by comparison.

A third compelling reason for a strong Island Studies initiative is bound up with what many perceive as a nagging uncertainty about the University's role in the wider community. Ours is a young university, the result of a forced marriage between two older institutions. The growing pains are still with us. Yet there is located here by far the largest repository of scholarly knowledge and research capacity in the province. This makes possible, perhaps even necessary, a more direct university involvement in public affairs. Island Studies could provide a vital meeting place for University, government, and communities.

To reiterate the argument so far, we are advocating the creation of a special Island Studies entity for these reasons: 1) the study of Prince Edward Island is an important activity in its own right; 2) a separate institutional focal point would give greater impetus to such study within the University; 3) Island Studies - both as activity and as entity - could do much to provide context and direction for University involvement with the Island at large.



## Recommendation

We recommend that an Institute of Island Studies be established within the Department of Extension, the University of Prince Edward Island.

The Institute of Island Studies will have the following goals and objectives:

1. To meet, in a direct way, the goals of the University of Prince Edward Island: "To place at the service of the local community, wherever feasible and appropriate, the knowledge skills, research capabilities and other resources of the University...." and "To reflect the University's special relationship to the Island in its teaching, learning, and research."
2. To reflect the provincial governmental and popular concern for the appropriate social and economic development of the Island, and to develop a holistic approach to preservation and development.
3. To integrate, as much as possible, the socio-cultural, entrepreneurial, and natural-scientific aspects of Island life through academic courses, research and development projects, community activities, establishment of museums and Island collections, and through various celebrations, conferences, colloquia, and other observances.



4. To serve as an identifiable rallying point to attract excellent and enthusiastic people from the University and the community to apply interdisciplinary and group approaches to Island Studies projects.
5. To provide an umbrella organization for the identification and co-ordination of academic, cultural, and research projects.



## Activities

The activities suggested below represent a central definition of "Island Studies." The categories are somewhat arbitrary and there is a fair amount of overlap. The arenas of involvement will change with time; they are a function of the mandate of the organization, the pressing issues of the day, and the particular interests of those individuals most actively involved. There will be an emphasis on initiating rather than possessing; on giving birth to special projects and activities, then putting them out for adoption.

In all its activities, the Institute of Island Studies will respect and help to preserve the ethnic diversity of Islanders. There will be a particular effort to make services available in the French language to Francophone Islanders. To this end, a good working partnership will be established with provincial Acadian organizations such as the Société Saint-Thomas d'Aquin, the Société historique acadienne de l'Ile-du-Prince-Edouard, and the Association du Musée Acadien.



## 1. Academic Courses

An essential aspect of Island Studies will be the academic courses offered through the University of Prince Edward Island. New courses in subject areas such as the folklore, political economy, or natural history of Prince Edward Island may be added to the Island Studies offerings already on the University calendar. There will be an increased emphasis on active student involvement in community life. This can be done through the co-ordination of academic courses, research projects, and summer employment opportunities. In time, there may evolve an integrated work/study degree program at the majors, honours, or masters level.

The Institute of Island Studies will also work with the Department of Education to enhance Island Studies offerings in the schools of our province.

## 2. Continuing Education

In the broadest sense, the campus for Island Studies is the Province, and all our people are the students. Thus a central function of Island Studies is to teach and to inform in communities from North Cape to East Point. This can be done through non-credit courses, conferences, workshops, and media programs. The curriculum will include the human and natural history of Prince Edward Island.



But more than that, our people can also be teachers, and an equally essential responsibility of Island Studies is to listen and to learn. This implies activities such as facilitating debate on public issues, and collecting and preserving our Island folk culture.

### 3. Research and Public Policy

It will be a priority of Island Studies to enhance the University's contribution to the public life of the Province. To this end, Island Studies will work to encourage more Island-related research by University faculty members; will initiate and co-ordinate research projects on behalf of the Island Government and other public institutions; and will contribute well-considered position papers to an ongoing debate on government policy.

Informing all such research will be a dedication to the long-view of Island social and economic development, and a respect for policy and technology which are appropriate to Island traditions and resources.

### 4. Island Culture

Island Studies will encourage the study, articulation, and performance of that human experience which is native and particular to Prince Edward Island.

A first priority will be the establishment of a folklore program and archives at the University of Prince Edward



Island. Island Studies will also initiate special events and observances - for example, the Prince Edward Island Folk Festival, planned for West Prince in the fall of 1982; or the Festival of the Islands (Newfoundland, Cape Breton, Prince Edward) tentatively scheduled for June 1983.

A close working partnership will be established with Island Community Theatre - also housed at the Department of Extension - as well as with local arts councils and the Cultural Affairs branch of the provincial government.

#### 5. Community Development

The social and economic vitality of Island communities will be a continuing concern of Island Studies.

A central objective of the academic program will be the education of a new generation of committed community leaders. The continuing education program will complement this initiative. Assistance will be given to local organizations involved in community development - for example, municipal governments, community improvement committees, historical societies, and local museums.

Essential for these purposes will be a constructive rapport with organizations such as Regional Services Centres, the Association of Community Schools, and the Charlottetown office of the federal Department of Secretary of State.



## 6. Museums and Collections

After some impressive advances in the 1970s, museum development in the Province has now slowed considerably. Yet much remains to be done: there is no provincial natural sciences collection, and museum programs for schools and local communities are quite limited.

Island Studies would seek to involve the University, government, communities, and existing museum institutions in planning new initiatives, possibly culminating in a Prince Edward Island Museum of Man and Nature. (Steps have already been taken in this direction with the Barry Lord Provincial Museum Study, due for release this October; and with the Kathy Martin inventory of Prince Edward Island natural sciences collections.)

## 7. Publishing

A small but dynamic publishing program would be an excellent means of sharing the results of Island Studies scholarship with the general public.

For a tiny market like Prince Edward Island, it is all but impossible for a commercial publisher to afford the production of quality scholarly books. Island Studies would have the important advantage that overhead and salaries of permanent staff would not have to be paid from publishing profits. An initial publishing fund would be set up; thereafter, new titles would be financed from ongoing book sales.



Since production (typesetting, design, printing, binding) can be farmed out to local printers, no capital outlay would be required for new equipment or facilities.

Over the long-term, it may be desirable to work out joint publishing ventures and distribution arrangements with a local firm such as Ragweed Press.



## Structure

The Institute of Island Studies will be located within the Department of Extension. The staff will consist of a Director, with at least one full-time assistant to help with secretarial and general administrative responsibilities. The Director of Island Studies will be accountable to the President of the University through the Director of Extension.

The Director of Island Studies will be assisted by an Advisory Committee, comprising up to ten individuals drawn from the University, government, and community-at-large. Appointments to the Advisory Committee will be made by the Board of Governors of the University on the recommendation of the President.

The contribution of the Advisory Committee is vital to the success of the Institute of Island Studies; it is therefore essential that the members be carefully chosen. In the selection procedure, due consideration will be given to factors such as ethnic, geographic, and institutional representation. At the same time, care must be taken that

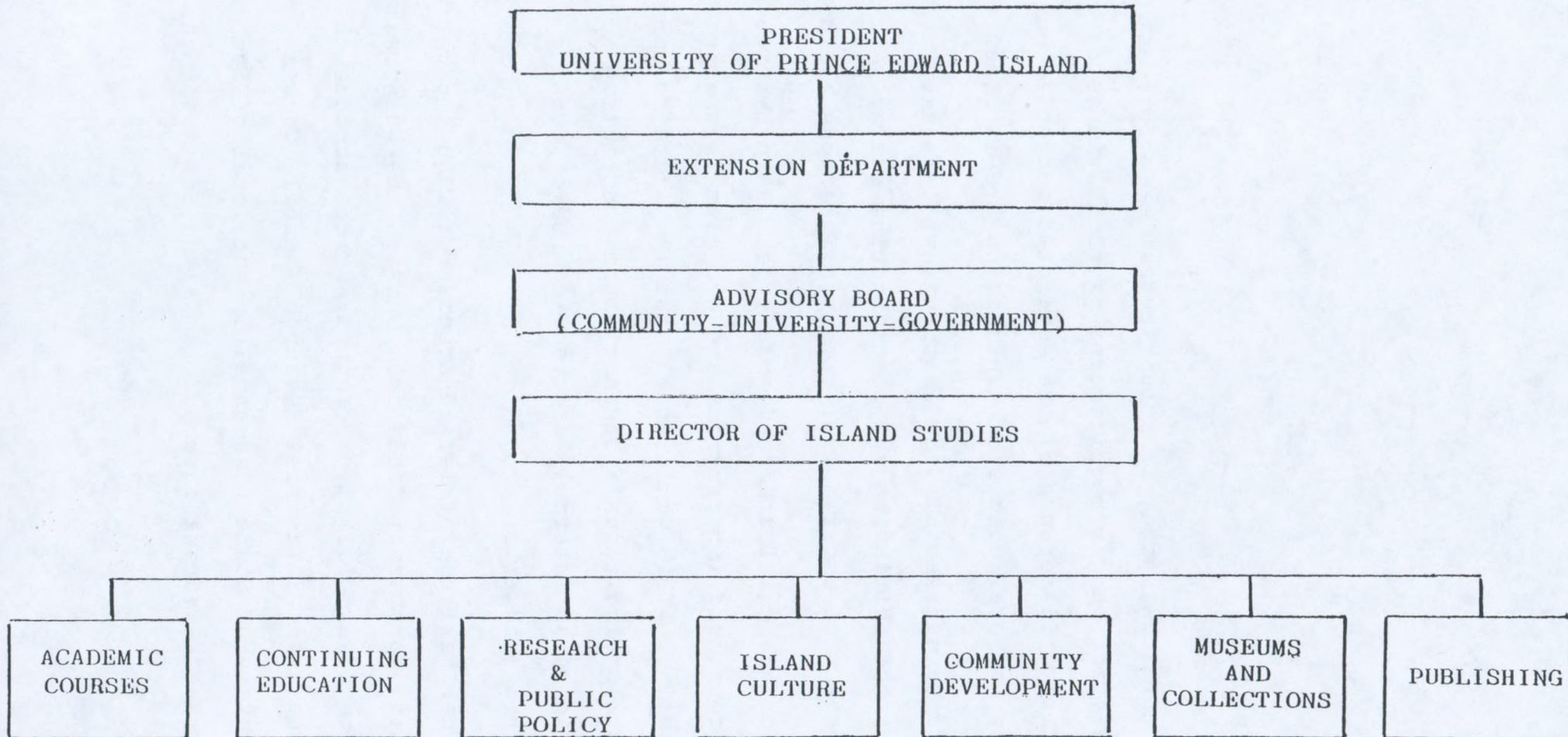


individuals invited to serve have a strong personal interest in Island Studies and are willing to make a commitment of work.

One suggestion for the functioning of the Advisory Committee is to have seven of its members chair sub-committees arranged around the seven Activities outlined earlier in this Report. For example, Dr. Elizabeth Hall, Head of the Research and Development Office at the University, could chair the Research and Public Policy sub-committee of the Institute of Island Studies. She would then draw on the University, government, and community for the best individuals to assist her. In this way, the number of people actively contributing to the programs of the Institute of Island Studies would be greatly increased.



# INSTITUTE OF ISLAND STUDIES





## Finances

At this stage, it is not possible to forecast precisely the budget requirements of an Institute of Island Studies. In defense of the estimated budget as outlined below, several points of explanation are in order.

1. To be successful, the Institute will require an immense amount of initiating and co-ordinating energy. Thus we believe at least two full-time staff persons are necessary.
2. For an organization of this type, the provision of a generous fund for programs and projects is absolutely essential. This would enable the Institute to hire some excellent individuals on short-term contracts - as well as providing an internal (assured) source of funding for new programs and pilot projects.
3. The Institute of Island Studies will be a powerful magnet to attract funds from outside the University of Prince Edward Island. Possible sources include the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Canada Council, Secretary of State (personnel in the local office have expressed a strong interest in Island Studies), the



Government of Prince Edward Island (Planning and Priorities Board, Department of Community Affairs, etc.), and private foundations. Already this year - and operating only on an informal basis - our Island Studies Committee has generated \$9,200 from the Policy and Priorities Board, \$5,500 from the Department of Community Affairs (Cultural Branch), and \$2,500 from Secretary of State. These funds have been used primarily for the Barry Lord and Kathy Martin Reports and the Island Folk Festival (upcoming at Westisle Composite High School, November 6th).

#### Estimated Budget

##### Salaries

Director	\$ 30,000
Administrative Secretary	15,000
Benefits (16%)	7,200
Program and Project Fund	25,000
Publishing Fund (each year)	5,000
Office Equipment (first year only)	1,500
Office Supplies	1,000
Telephone	1,000
Printing	1,500
Advertising	1,000
Travel	3,000
Miscellaneous	2,000
	<hr/>
	\$ 93,200



## Summary

We are recommending the creation within the Department of Extension of an administrative unit to be called the Institute of Island Studies. The staff of this unit will consist of two persons, including a Director. The Director of Island Studies will be assisted by an Advisory Committee, comprising up to ten individuals drawn from the University, government, and community-at-large.

Initially, the program of the Institute of Island Studies will include activities under the following categories: academic courses, continuing education, research and public policy, Island culture, community development, museums and collections, and publishing.

The purpose of the Institute of Island Studies is to encourage a deeper knowledge, understanding, and expression of Prince Edward Island.