

The Marine Institute was honored with a visit from Memorial University's new chancellor, General Rick Hillier, when he toured the Ridge Road campus on August 28

During the tour, Gen. Hillier met with Glenn Blackwood, MI's executive director, s senior management and Lieutenant Commander Dwight Verge, detachment commander for the Canadian Forces Naval Engineering School (CFNES) St. John's, located on MI's campus.

"MI has had a very successful relationship with the Department of National Defense for over 15 years and trains about 150 naval trainees every year," said Mr. Blackwood. "It was great for Gen. Hillier to meet `LCDR. Verge and the staff of the military detachment. It gave him a chance to familiarize himself with the many units, faculty and staff, and issues facing the institute."

Gen. Hillier will be the sixth chancellor in Memorial's history. He succeeds Dr. John Crosbie who resigned from the position to become the province's lieutenant-governor earlier this year. He was installed as chancellor in October 1994.

Gen. Hillier graduated from Memorial in 1976 with a bachelor of science degree and has become one of its best known graduates.

He stepped down as Canada's chief of defence staff on July 2 after a distinguished career with the Armed Forces spanning more than three decades.

In 2003 he was presented with the Outstanding Professional Achievement Award at Memorial's Alumni Tribute Awards. Over the span of his military career, Gen. Hillier has commanded troops in Canada, Europe, Asia and the United States. He announced his retirement as chief of defence staff in July 2008.