

**THE SHELDON MACLEOD SHOW**  
**JANUARY 30, 2017 - 2 p.m.**

**PARTICIPANTS:** SHELDON MACLEOD  
DR. LINDA CAMPBELL  
ASHLEY CAMPBELL



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DR. LINDA CAMPBELL: And it did start actually last year. And it was really myself and sitting down with a colleague and a friend, Betty MacDonald, who is instrumental in the deaf community from Cape Breton, and very much a part of Halifax now and has been here for quite some time and an expert on our local sign names and asking her place names of where things were. And that's really what got this project started. And seeing that rich heritage and not really being able to remember everything in the five minutes that it took me to sit down with her. And noting this down was not that easy so the idea of this online map came about and instantly she said yes.

SHELDON MACLEOD: It ...

DR. LINDA CAMPBELL: And that's got the ball rolling.

SHELDON MACLEOD: And the ball is rolling.

Congratulations on this big announcement today. With this in place do you know advertise to the community that this is available to them on YouTube?

DR. LINDA CAMPBELL: Yes. Well, the deaf community is very connected across the globe actually. You know the word will get out very quickly just by going through the community. And we have connections with social media, Facebook, and so forth. And for the community there's been a lot of interest in this project and we're hoping that, you know, talking with people like yourself now will get the word out and really

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sharing this important resource that is now available.

**SHELDON MACLEOD:** In our studio we have two guests this afternoon, project lead, Dr. Linda Campbell, and interpreter, Ashley Campbell, here in our studio speaking with us this afternoon. The radio ... the announcing community, we can tell when someone's new to the province with some of the pronunciations, like, Tatamagouche or even Pictou. American Sign Language, how do you account for dialects ... real dialects and name ... place names that are in other languages?

**DR. LINDA CAMPBELL:** No, that's a great question. Here we actually have two distinct languages. We have Maritime Sign Language and we also have American Sign Language. And both are used.

Maritime Sign Language is a heritage language over 100 years old. And the roots of Maritime Sign Language come from England, Scotland, and Ireland, their sign languages. People that brought that language here and then it evolved into its own language in the Maritime provinces.

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And so when I moved here ... I'm from Alberta originally and I moved to Halifax and I'm seeing people sign Maritime Sign Language and it threw me off and I still ... I'm still in Canada and I couldn't quite figure it out. And it's wonderful though, it's beautiful, this old heritage that is here in our languages and in these names. So we're hoping that by demonstrating these names more broadly in MSL, the Maritime Sign Language, that that heritage of our place names will be represented and conver- ... and con- ... preserved.

SHELDON MACLEOD: It sounds like there's a maritime accent ...

DR. LINDA CAMPBELL: Yes. Yes.

SHELDON MACLEOD: ... with signing.

DR. LINDA CAMPBELL: For sure. It's lovely.

SHELDON MACLEOD: We have, as mentioned, been exploring this new announcement, this brand new project that was announced today, a YouTube map and a travel tool for the deaf. And it was launched at Saint Mary's University on Monday. Where to from here? As you say, to help others know that it's available is important. I'm wondering where to from this point?

DR. LINDA CAMPBELL: We're hoping people will use the resource and go ... it's free, it's on-line. Use it. And it is wonderful because we collaborated with a group in New

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Brunswick. And New Brunswick also has two languages, the Maritime Sign Language and American Sign Language, but they have their own accent of MSL. So we had a group of three in each Nova Scotia and New Brunswick that worked together in