

# Celebrating 165 Years of Grace and Gratitude

## Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception

### Saint John, NB

by Monica Plante, SCIC and Lex Stephenson

The SCIC Archives played an important part in celebrating the 165<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception during the Festival of Thanksgiving, Oct. 17-20, 2019.

An historical exhibition entitled *Moments of Grace* was set up at Ruth Ross Residence by Assistant Archivist Lex Stephenson. It focused on four pivotal moments in the congregation's history: Foundation in 1854 in Saint



SCIC Assistant Archivist Lex Stephenson and Archivist Sr. Monica Plante

John, NB; Expansion into Western Canada with the opening of a mission in Prince Albert, SK in 1906; Separation of the Acadian members in 1924; and Revitalization following Vatican II.



Additionally, the exhibition included a collection of photos and stories describing smaller, more personal moments in the history of the congregation.



In the morning of Friday, October 18, Lex gave a PowerPoint presentation on the SCIC's 41 missions in Western and Northern Canada. Included in the presentation was a time-lapse



map showing the locations of the missions through time. This was followed by a short PowerPoint by Sr. Anne Collins, showing photographs from the current Western and Northern missions. In the afternoon, Lex gave a second historical presentation on SCIC Missions in Eastern Canada and Peru. The section on Peru was interwoven with a Peruvian ritual led by Sisters Rita Coumont and Muriel Buckley, both of whom were missioned in Peru.

SCIC Missions in Western and Northern Canada

Lex Stephenson started as our Assistant Archivist in April, 2018. Lex has a Master of Arts in Museum

Studies from University College London. Lex has digitized a collection of 500 obituaries of deceased Sisters and other documents in the Archives, researched and written several historical accounts ("Embers from the Archives"), contributed to the Great Canadian Catholic Hospital History Project's *Foundations* newsletter, and done other day-to-day activities in the Archives.