

A Wider Circle of Connection

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There was a time when the question of who belonged to the Icelandic community felt simpler. In Western Canada, the term Icelandic Canadian carried a clear meaning—families whose ancestors crossed the Atlantic in the late nineteenth century and built communities in places like Gimli, Riverton, and Winnipeg. Their language, traditions, and stories formed the foundation of a vibrant cultural legacy that continues to shape our communities today.

But cultures are never static. They grow, adapt, and travel in ways that earlier generations could hardly have imagined. Over time, the meaning of connection to Iceland has expanded beyond ancestry alone. Today, people find their way to Icelandic culture through many paths: through scholarship and research, through literature and translation, through music, art, and storytelling, or simply through a fascination with the land, language, and history of Iceland.

This evolving sense of belonging is reflected in the name of this publication. When the magazine transitioned from *The Icelandic Canadian* to *Icelandic Connection*, it signaled something important. The change acknowledged that the community surrounding Icelandic culture is wider and more diverse than it once was. Our readers and contributors now include people across Canada, across North America, and around the world—some with Icelandic ancestry, others drawn to Iceland through curiosity, scholarship, or imagination.

The pages of *Icelandic Connection* reflect this diversity. In every issue, readers encounter a range of voices and perspectives. Scholars share research that deepens our understanding of Icelandic literature, history, language, and culture. Emerging writers contribute short stories that carry forward the storytelling tradition that has long defined Icelandic culture, echoing in small ways the spirit of the sagas that preserved Iceland's history and imagination for centuries. Translators bring historical articles and

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forgotten texts back into conversation, making them accessible to new audiences and ensuring that valuable knowledge does not remain hidden behind language barriers.

These translations are especially meaningful for readers in what have long been called Western Icelandic communities. Yet the ways people connect with Iceland today extend far beyond geography or genealogy. Some people inherit that connection through family and community traditions. Others discover Iceland through study, travel, literature, genealogy, folklore, Norse mythology, or a fascination with the island's remarkable landscapes and history. What unites us is not how that connection began, but a shared curiosity and appreciation for Iceland and the culture that continues to inspire people around the world.

Icelandic culture has always been sustained by storytelling, learning, and community. The purpose of Icelandic Connection is to provide a space where those traditions continue to grow and evolve—where scholarship, creativity, and personal discovery meet.

As the first article published in the 2026 issue, this editorial also marks a moment of renewal. Each year brings new research, new voices, and new ways of understanding the past and present. We are grateful to the scholars who share their work, to the writers who trust us with their stories, and to the readers who continue to support and engage with this publication.

Most of all, we welcome everyone who feels drawn to Iceland in some way—whether through heritage, scholarship, creativity, or simple fascination. Your curiosity, your questions, and your contributions help keep this living cultural conversation alive.

We invite you to read, to write, to explore, and to share.

Join us in keeping the legacy alive.

Katrín Níelsdóttir
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