SOME NOTABLE

MacLEODS IN CANADA
NOTABLE MacLEODS IN CANADA

“Throughout the centuries MacLeods have been known for their devotion to their chief, the tenacity with which they have maintained the ancient Dunvegan castle, their appreciation of music and Gaelic lore, their outstanding record in the professions, and their loyalty to one another.”

(external link) [Also, end: #16. Dr. Annie L. MacLeod]

In terms of “outstanding records in their professions” and “loyalty to one another” and their communities, there have been many outstanding notable MacLeods in Canada. Here are 15 of them:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>FIELD</th>
<th>ACCOMPLISHMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Dr. Colin Munro MacLeod</td>
<td>Medical researcher, medical and science advisor to Presidents Kennedy &amp; Johnson</td>
<td>Co-discoverer of DNA, Nobel Prize Nominee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Col. James Farquharson Macleod</td>
<td>Lawyer, Police (NWMP) Commissioner, Judge</td>
<td>Made peace with Blackfoot, 2nd NWMP Commissioner, saved west from USA expansion, 1st judge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Dr. John James Richard Macleod</td>
<td>Professor at U. of T., Medical researcher, author</td>
<td>Co-discoverer of insulin, with Dr. Banting, Co-winner of Nobel Prize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. 2nd Lt. Alan Arnett McLeod</td>
<td>World War I Flying Ace</td>
<td>Victoria Cross winner for bravery in air battle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ORDER OF CANADA – OFFICERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>FIELD</th>
<th>ACCOMPLISHMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5. Dr. Alistair MacLeod</td>
<td>Author, Professor of English</td>
<td>Awards for novel, “No Great Mischief”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Innis G. MacLeod</td>
<td>Lawyer, Civil Servant, Constitutional Law Expert</td>
<td>Constitutional Advisor to 5 N.S. Premiers (1950 to 1980s), (top) Senior Civil Servant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. J. Ronald MacLeod</td>
<td>Director (ret’d) of Department of Fisheries and Oceans</td>
<td>Commitment to management of Pacific/Aboriginal fisheries, launch of Scottish Studies at SFU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Dr. J. Wendell MacLeod</td>
<td>Medical doctor, Professor, 1st Dean at U. of Sask Med. School (1952-62), Exec. Dir of Assoc. of Can. Medical Colleges</td>
<td>Architect of medical education in Canada, pioneer in “social principals of healthcare”, worked with Tommy Douglas in setting up medicare</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ORDER OF CANADA – MEMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>FIELD</th>
<th>ACCOMPLISHMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9. Dr. Gregory Jerome MacLeod</td>
<td>Professor of Philosophy and Director of Tompkins Inst. for Human Values &amp; Technology, Univ. College of Cape Breton</td>
<td>Rural community development (“New Dawn Enterprises”) in Canada and abroad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Jean Achmatowicz MacLeod</td>
<td>Governor of Oshawa General Hospital</td>
<td>Health care &amp; mental health advocacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Joanne E. McLeod</td>
<td>Lawyer</td>
<td>1st paraplegic to graduate from UNB, advocate for the disabled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
12. Margaret L. McLeod  

Advocate for the physically disabled, founder of the Cheshire Homes in Canada, inductee in Terry Fox Hall of Fame

13. Dr. Norman William McLeod  

Chemical Engineer  
Built Sask’s 1st paved roads, & many others around the world, using innovative asphalt & pavement engineering technology

14. Robert Graham MacLeod  

Lawyer  
Community organizer and volunteer

15. Thomas “Tommy” Hector MacDonald McLeod  

Lawyer, Professor, Dean of Commerce at U. Sask.  
1st person hired by Premier Tommy Douglas in 1944, vital role in start of medicare

The above only includes the MacLeods that I have identified to date, namely the first four above plus the 11 Order of Canada recipients. The Order of Canada was only established in 1967, so doesn’t include earlier outstanding Canadians. There are undoubtedly many other outstanding MacLeods in other fields (writers, volunteers, business, etc) that should also be included. A couple of notes:

**Education:** Given the importance of education in Scottish history, the above are standouts (the following covers all but 4 of the 15 above):

- 5 Lawyers  
  - James F (#2), Innis (#6), Joanne (#11), Robert (#14) & Thomas (#15)
- 3 MDs  
  - Colin (#1), J.J.R. (#3) & J. Wendell (#8)
- 5 Professors  
  - J.J.R. (#3), Alistair (#5), J. Wendell (#8), Gregory (#9) & Thomas (15)
- 1 Chemical Engineer: Norman (#13)

**Health Care:** In particular, several have made huge contributions in the medical field:

- Medicare: Dr. J. Wendell #8 & Thomas (#15) – associated with Premier Tommy Douglas
- Insulin: Dr. J.J.R. (#3) – shared Nobel Prize for discovery of insulin
- DNA: Dr. Colin (#1) – co-nominee for Nobel Prize for discovery of DNA
- Advocates for disabled: Jean (#10), Joanne (#11) & Margaret (#12)

**Note:** At least 3 – Innis (#6), Ron (#7) and Greg (#9) - have been very active with local Clan MacLeod societies: in Canada, and Dr Alistair (#5) spoke at NAG 2004 in Chicago

---

**ORDER OF CANADA RECIPIENTS**

“The Order of Canada([www.gg.ca/honours/nat-ord/oc/](http://www.gg.ca/honours/nat-ord/oc/)) is the centrepiece of Canada’s honours system and recognizes a lifetime of outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation.” It was established as of July 1, 1967. There are 3 levels, namely (highest 1st):

**Companion (“C.C.”):** Up to 15 are appointed each year, with limit of 165 living Companions at any given time

**Officer (“O.C.”):** up to 64 are appointed each year, with no limit to how many may be living at one time. As of September 29, 2005, there were 1,006 living Officers.

**Member (“C.M.”):** Up to 136 are appointed each year, with no limit to how many may be living at one time. As of September 29, 2005, there were 1,964 living members.¹

Since 1967, eleven (11) MacLeods / McLeods have been honoured with the Award – 4 Officers and 7 Members (descriptions below in quotations have been copied directly from the above web site):
NOTABLE MacLEODS IN CANADA

DOCTOR / NOBEL PRIZE NOMINEE

CO-DISCOVERER (WITH DRS OSWALD AVERY & MACLYN McCARTY) OF DNA

1. Dr. Colin Munro MacLeod, MD (January 28, 1909 — February 11, 1972), the fourth of eight children, was born in Port Hastings, Nova Scotia, to John Charles MacLeod, a Scottish Presbyterian minister, and Lillian Munro MacLeod, a schoolteacher. He was raised in Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan and Quebec.

Dr. MacLeod was one of the most important medical researchers of the 20th Century, and the co-discoverer of DNA as the building block of genetics. He graduated from McGill Medical School at 23.

Together with fellow Nova Scotian, Dr. Oswald Avery, and American, Dr. Maclyn McCarty, while doing research at the Rockefeller Institute in New York, they provided the first experimental evidence that the genetic material of living cells is composed of DNA. In Feb 1944, they published the first of their scientific papers on their findings.

They were nominated for a Nobel Prize, but none ever won one. As to the failure to receive a Nobel Prize, Nobelist and former president of Rockefeller University, Dr. Joshua Lederberg, said “Nobel Prize nominations are complicated, but everybody including the Nobel Committee will acknowledge that this was their most significant failure.” He added, “There must be 20 to 25 prizes that have been awarded for work that depends on the team's seminal paper.”

He also said "There is no question that the 1944 paper was the turning point in the concept that the chemistry of genes was DNA," said. "It was the pivotal discovery of 20th-century biology."

Nobelist Sir Peter Medawar called the the team's isolation of genes in pure chemical form "the most interesting and portentous biological experiment of the 20th century."

Retired U.S. Senator Daniel P. Moynihan stated "The medical research work by Avery, McCarty and MacLeod conducted at Rockefeller University during World War II changed the course of the world, reduced suffering and contributed immeasurably to the quality of life as we know it."

This is heady stuff, especially given our modern day interest of Clan MacLeod in DNA studies.

In 1961, MacLeod became the chairman of the Life Sciences Panel of President John F. Kennedy’s Science Advisory Committee. In 1963, Kennedy appointed MacLeod as Deputy Director of the Office of Science and Technology (OST), Executive Office of the President (now the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy). MacLeod was the first person to hold the position of deputy director of OST and remained there until 1966, serving as an advisor to President Lyndon B. Johnson after Kennedy's assassination.
NOTABLE MacLEODS IN CANADA

LAWYER / JUDGE / POLICEMAN

FORESTALLED INDIAN WARS SEEN IN THE USA / BROUGHT PEACE TO THE CANADIAN WEST / 2nd FULL TIME COMMISSIONER OF NWMP (NOW RCMP)

2. Col. James Farquharson Macleod (small “l”) was born to Martin Donald Macleod and Jane Fry on the Isle of Skye, Scotland on Sept 25, 1836. They moved to Richmond Hill, Upper Canada (now Ontario) in 1845.

He earned a B.A. in classics and philosophy from Queen’s University in 1854 and a law degree from Osgood Hall in 1860. He was active in the local militia in Ontario.

He was visiting in Scotland when he was personally recruited by Canada’s Prime Minister, Sir John A. MacDonald, to head unit to bring order to the Canadian west. He helped suppress the 1870 Red River Rebellion. He was a skilled in organizer and diplomat. The plague of the American whisky trade was suppressed and friendly relations were established with the Blackfoot tribes.

In 1873, he was an original member of the new North West Mounted Police (now RCMP). From 1876 to 1880, Col Macleod was the second full time Commissioner of the NWMP.

As Commissioner he successfully negotiated Treaty 7 with the Blackfoot tribes, in 1877. The chiefs signed primarily because of their trust in him. Col. Macleod had to deal with Sitting Bull’s refugee Sioux, who had fled to Canada after the defeat of General Custer. The skill and integrity of Col. Macleod was probably the primary reason why Alberta did not have the Indian wars experience just south of the USA border.

Macleod’s efforts predated the opening of the CPR railroad by about 9 years. His efforts helped ensure that Alberta became part of Canada rather that being swamped by the American settlers.

In 1887, Macleod was appointed to the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories, which then included what is now known as Alberta and Saskatchewan. He held this position until his death on September 4, 1894. At the time, there were only 5 judges serving the whole territory. He is buried in Union Cemetery in Calgary

Fort Macleod and Macleod Trail, a major Calgary, Alberta, thoroughfare, are named after him. Calgary was named by him, after Calgary House, a castle on the Isle of Mull, his wife’s home. The University of Calgary logo incorporates the Macleod logo.

As stated by historian Rod Macleod, “James Farquharson Macleod exercised a decisive influence on the early development of western Canada. More than any other single individual, he was responsible for establishing the policies followed by the NWMP in their dealings with the Indians, and for setting the tone of Canadian Indian policy in the NWT. His vision of the region was of a place where newcomers and the native population might live together in peace, and where disputes could be settled by reason.”

Prepared by Ian C. MacLeod, President, Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada (2004-2008) for NAG Ottawa, July 2008
3. **Dr. John James Richard Macleod**, MD (September 6, 1876 – March 16, 1935) was a Scottish physician, physiologist, and recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (1923) and an Order of the British Empire.

He was born at Cluny, near Dunkeld, Perthshire, Scotland. He was the son of the Rev. Robert Macleod. When later the family moved to Aberdeen, Macleod went to the Grammar School there and later entered the Marischal College of the University of Aberdeen to study medicine.

In 1898 he took his medical degree with honours and was awarded the Anderson Travelling Fellowship, which enabled him to work for a year at the Institute for Physiology at the University of Leipzig.

In 1898 he received his medical degree from University of Aberdeen and went to work for a year at the University of Leipzig. In 1899 he was appointed Demonstrator of Physiology at the London Hospital Medical School and in 1902 he was appointed Lecturer in Biochemistry at the school. In 1903 he was appointed Professor of Physiology at the Western Reserve University at Cleveland, Ohio. In 1918 he was elected Professor of Physiology at the University of Toronto, Canada.

It was while he was at the University of Toronto that he, and his team, made the seminal discoveries involving insulin.

Macleod's main work was on carbohydrate metabolism and his efforts with Frederick Banting and Charles Best in the discovery of insulin used to treat diabetes. For this Banting and Macleod were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1923. Macleod was awarded half of the Nobel Prize for the discovery of insulin, in spite of the fact that many people (including Banting) publicly insisted that Macleod's involvement was minimal and Best's work had been essential. However, it was Macleod's research plan and his suggestion to inject intravenous degenerated pancreas into depancreatinized dog sugar that ultimately led to the successful isolation of insulin.

There is currently a controversy regarding the role of Banting and Best in attempting to 'write out' Macleod and his colleague J.P. Collip from the history books. Macleod's receiving the Nobel Prize over Best was controversial at the time.

He wrote eleven books, including Recent Advances in Physiology (1905); Diabetes: its Pathological Physiology (1925); and Carbohydrate Metabolism and Insulin. (1926)
NOTABLE MacLEODS IN CANADA

AIR FORCE PILOT / VICTORIA CROSS RECIPIENT FOR BRAVERY

4. 2nd Lt. Alan Arnett McLeod: The Victoria Cross is the British Commonwealth’s highest award for bravery in battle. Alan McLeod was the youngest Canadian (of 94, since 1856), and one of only 3 World War I fliers, to earn the honour (the other 2 fliers were Lt-Col Billy Bishop and Lt-Col Billy Baker).

Alan Arnett “Babe” MacLeod was born on April 20, 1899 in Stonewall, Manitoba, a small town 20 miles from Winnipeg. He was one of three children born to Dr. Alex N. MacLeod and Margaret Lillian (Arnett) MacLeod (an award winning author). His father was the medical doctor.

He was only 14 he enrolled in the army in 1913, but as it was peacetime, he was kept on. He was sent home when World War I started in August, 1914. He tried several times, unsuccessfully, to re-enlist. When he turned 18, in April 1917, he did reenlist. He was signed up as a pilot-in-training, and turned out to be a natural at it. He soloed on his fifth day of in-flight instruction, with only 3 hours of flight experience, and graduated with fewer than 50 hours. On August 20, 1917 he was shipped off to France.

He earned his Victoria Cross on March 27, 1918, when he was only 18 years old. Here is the description of his valour from his citation:

"His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to award the Victoria Cross to the undermentioned officer of the Royal Air Force, for services displaying outstanding bravery:

2nd Lieutenant Alan Arnett McLeod, Royal Air Force.

While flying with his observer, Lieutenant A. W. Hammond, M.C., attacking hostile formations by bombs and machine gun fire, he was assailed at a height of 5,000 feet by eight enemy triplanes which dived at him from all directions, firing from their front guns. By skilful manoeuvring he enabled his observer to fire bursts at each machine in turn, shooting three of them down out of control. By this time Lieutenant McLeod had received five wounds, and while continuing the engagement a bullet penetrated his petrol tank and set the machine on fire.

He then climbed out on to the left bottom plane, controlling his machine from the side of the fusilage, and by sideslipping steeply kept the flames to one side, thus enabling the observer to continue firing until the ground was reached.

The observer had been wounded six times when the machine crashed in "No Man's Land" and 2nd Lieutenant McLeod, notwithstanding his own wounds, dragged him away from the burning wreckage at great personal risk from heavy machine-gun fire from the enemy’s lines. This very gallant pilot was again wounded by a bomb whilst engaged in this act of rescue, but he persevered until he had placed Lieutenant Hammond in comparative safety, before falling himself from exhaustion and loss of blood."

He was presented with the Victoria Cross by King George V, on September 4, 1918. He returned to Manitoba but caught influenza (the 1918 flu pandemic) while recovering from his wounds. He died November 6, 1918. He was only 19. He is buried in the Winnipeg (Old Kildonan) Presbyterian cemetery. In 1973, he was inducted into the Canadian Aviation Hall of Fame.

Prepared by Ian C. MacLeod, President, Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada (2004-2008) for NAG Ottawa, July 2008
NOTABLE MacLEODS IN CANADA

ORDER OF CANADA - OFFICERS

5. Alistair MacLeod, O.C., PhD
Windsor, Ont
Appointment: May 3, 2007
Officer

Born: 1936, North Battleford, Sask – moved to Alberta
Raised in Cape Breton from age 10
Professor of English & Creative Writing, Univ. of
Waterloo

Note: Spoke at Clan MacLeod North American
Gathering in Chicago in 2004

“Alistair MacLeod has been called "Cape Breton's ambassador of fiction." A retired professor at
the University of Windsor, he grew up in Nova Scotia and the landscape of his fiction, as he calls
it, is the province and its proud and spirited people. These come alive in his celebrated short
stories and in his novel No Great Mischief, which, among many other awards, earned the richest
prize in fiction, the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. Deeply committed to Canadian
literature, he volunteered for decades as the fiction editor of the Windsor Review and is
renowned for his generosity and for his influence on other writers.”

6. Innis G. MacLeod, O.C., Q.C.
Dartmouth, NS
Appointment: June 25, 1971
Officer

Born: February 13, 1911, Sydney, NS
Died: May 10, 1989, Halifax, NS
Lawyer in Sydney, then with NS Government in Halifax

Note:  ● Long time active member of Halifax
         Clan MacLeod Society
         ● Husband of Dr. Gladys Enid (Johnson)
          MacLeod, recipient of CMSC
         “Outstanding Clansperson Award”, 1992
         ● Uncle of Ian C. MacLeod, President of
           Clan MacLeod Societies of Can. (2004-08)

“Deputy Attorney General for Nova Scotia. For his contributions to that province as a public
servant.”
NOTABLE MacLEODS IN CANADA

ORDER OF CANADA – OFFICERS (con’d)

7.  J. Ronald MacLeod, O.C.
Surrey, BC
Appointment: October 18, 2001
Officer

Parents were Gaelic speaking immigrants from Raasay
Retired Director General of the Pacific & Freshwater
Fisheries

Note: Long time active member with Clan MacLeod
Society (Greater Vancouver)

“He has devoted a lifetime to the Pacific fishing industry and to supporting those who earn their living from it. With the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, he developed innovative programs known as much for their focus on local people as on the management of fish stocks. In particular, he has been an ardent supporter of Native fishers and continues in his retirement to work with them on conservation and economic development issues. He is also involved in numerous community organizations and with Simon Fraser University. There, he played a key role in launching a Scottish studies program and has been a long time supporter of the University's world-famous pipe band.”

8.  J. Wendell MacLeod, O.C., O.B.E., M.D.,
F.R.C.P.(C)
Montréal, Quebec
June 23, 1980
Officer

Born: March 2, 1905, Kingsbury, Ont
Died: June 10, 2001
1st Dean of Medicine, Univ of Saskatchewan
(Saskatchewan’s “Red Dean”), 1952-1962

Medicare began in Saskatchewan in 1962
Referred to as:
Pioneer of “social principals of health care”.
“Architect of medical education in Canada”

“Former Executive Director of the Association of Canadian Medical Colleges, Ottawa. Known and loved for his half-century of devotion to health care and education in Canada and in a number of widely diverse countries including Haiti, New Zealand, Columbia and India.”

Prepared by Ian C. MacLeod, President, Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada (2004-2008) for NAG Ottawa, July 2008
NOTABLE MacLEODS IN CANADA

ORDER OF CANADA – MEMBERS

9. Gregory Jerome MacLeod, C.M., Ph.D., LL.D.
Sydney, NS
Appointment: Oct 18, 2001
Member

Ordained Catholic Priest, 1961

Note: Past President, Clan MacLeod Society of Cape Breton

“Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Tompkins Institute for Human Values and Technology at the University College of Cape Breton, he is an authority on rural community development. Translating ethical principles into concrete actions, he founded a number of not-for-profit organizations at the vanguard of community development. New Dawn Enterprises, the leading institution in Canada in this field, establishes and operates locally-based ventures that contribute to the creation of a self-supporting community. His innovative business methods have become models for rural development in other parts of the country and abroad.”

10. Jean Achmatowicz MacLeod, C.M.
Asburn, Ontario
October 18, 2001
Member

“For four decades she has been a strong voice for equal access to quality health care. As a Governor of Oshawa General Hospital, she showed responsive and consistent leadership during a period of unprecedented change. Also a champion of the right to dignity for Canadians living with mental illness, she is adept at finding solutions to difficult issues and has led the drive to implement progressive mental health reforms. Her appointment as Chair of the Mental Health Implementation Task Force for Central East Ontario is a testament to her commitment to patients requiring institutional care.”
NOTABLE MacLEODS IN CANADA
ORDER OF CANADA – MEMBERS (con’d)

Fredericton, New Brunswick
June 23, 1986
Member

“The first paraplegic to graduate from the University of New Brunswick, she has long been aware of the great need for government programmes and consumer services for the disabled and she is currently Legal Counsel to the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission in Fredericton.”

12. Margaret L. McLeod, C.M.
Toronto, Ontario
June 25, 1979
Member
Deceased

Inducted into Terry Fox Hall of Fame

“In recognition of her extensive work in Toronto on behalf of the physically handicapped, notably as founder of the Cheshire Homes in Canada - for disabled adults - and similar organizations.”

Etobicoke, Ontario
October, 23, 1989
Member
Deceased

- Chemical Engineer
- Built 1st paved roads in Saskatchewan
- Built roads and airstrips all over world, in many difficult environments

“Vice-President of McAsphalt Engineering Services and Adjunct Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Waterloo, he is an authority on the design and construction of asphalt pavement. Recognized by the major engineering bodies, he is highly regarded as a professional whose contributions to roadway and airport paving have substantially advanced pavement engineering technology.”
NOTABLE MacLEODS IN CANADA

ORDER OF CANADA – MEMBERS (con’d)

14. Robert Graham MacLeod, C.M., LL.B., Q.C.
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
December 23, 1985
Member

Born: December 10, 1925
Died: Nov 2, 1989
“This Charlottetown lawyer has devoted his considerable energies to numerous community, provincial and national-level charitable organizations ranging from the local Hospital Services Commission to the Atlantic Provinces Research Council and the National Museums of Canada. To him goes much of the credit for revitalizing the Confederation Centre of the Arts.”

15. Thomas (“Tommy”) Hector MacDonald McLeod, C.M., Ph.D., LL.D.
Victoria, British Columbia
October 10, 2002
Member

Born: August 11, 1918, Weyburn, Sask.
Died: January 1, 2008

- Phd in Economics from Harvard
- Author: “Tommy Douglas, Road to Jerusalem”, 1987
- 1st person hired by Premier Tommy Douglas on CCF coming to power in 1944

“An innovator, he has helped to steer public policy and broaden post-secondary education in his home province of Saskatchewan. A public servant and advisor during the mandate of the CCF government, he played a vital role in many of the reforms carried out by that administration, including the birth of the hospital insurance system. Later on, he became a professor at the University of Saskatchewan and enhanced its curriculum through his roles as dean of the College of Commerce and as vice-principal and dean of Arts and Science at the Regina Campus. In addition, he has been involved internationally in a number of economic and educational programs.”
Annie Louise MacLeod – First woman PhD from McGill University (1910); Professor at Vassar; Dean of the College of Home Economics at Syracuse University, NY

Annie Louise MacLeod was born in Economy, Nova Scotia in February, 1883, to parents Malcolm Charles MacLeod, physician, and Margaret Adelaide (MacKeen) MacLeod, teacher. Dr. MacLeod was a son of Charles and Ann MacLeod who had come to Cape Breton, Nova Scotia from the Isle of Raasay, Scotland in the early 1800's.

In early 1886, Dr. MacLeod died followed by an infant son (in March of the same year). Mrs. MacLeod moved back to Cape Breton and became a housekeeper for the Presbyterian minister in Glace Bay, Rev. James Forbes. Annie Louise was home schooled by her mother until her senior year and she maintained that that was the reason why science so fascinated her. She had time to roam through the countryside discovering plants and investigating natural phenomena. Her mother later married Rev. Forbes and in the 1901 census, Anne Louise is listed as his daughter.

Annie Louise went on to study at McGill University in Montreal. She received a BA in 1904, a M.Sc. In 1905 and was the first recipient of a PhD in Chemistry from that venerable institution which she received in 1910. Annie Louise also has the distinction as the first woman to graduate from McGill with a PhD. Most of her work to complete the requirements of the PhD was done at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania.

After completing her PhD, Dr. Annie Louise went on to become a professor of Chemistry and director of euthenics at Vassar for 14 years. While at Vassar, she published a textbook of “Chemistry for Nurses”, was a consultant editor of the “McGraw-Hill Euthenics Series” of textbooks in Home Economics and collaborated with C. Ellis in “Vital Factors of Foods”.

In 1928, Dr. Annie L. MacLeod was appointed as Dean of the College of Home Economics at Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York. The only college of the university devoted exclusively to the education of women, the College of Home Economics under Dean MacLeod's direction, expanded to include the subjects of applied arts, child development, foods and nutrition, euthenics, and home economics in business. Enrolment more than doubled in 15 years and included 500 students.

Dean MacLeod was a member of the American Home Economics Association, the American Association of University Women, the American Association of University Professors, and the American Academy of Political and Social Science. She was honorary vice-president of the American Humane Society. She retired from her position at Syracuse university in 1949 and went to live in Sarasota, Florida, where she died in 1971.