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General News

JANUARY 28, 1972 BRUNSWICKAN - 3

Kids get land but ... no building

By JEFF DAVIES

All is not well at the UNB Day Care Centre. The lease given on the present building by the administration of Colin B. McKay will expire on July 1 of this year and a new building must be provided if this service is to continue. The Board of Governors, however, cannot afford either to supply a building or to back a mortgage for one at the present time. Nevertheless, nineteen thousand square feet of land along Windsor St., has been made available for use by the Centre.

The question naturally arises as to what conceivable use this

will be without a building. Mrs. Donna Poh, who is in charge of the Centre, suggested in an interview with the BRUNSWICKAN that they might be able to pitch a tent on the land. This, of course, was a tongue in cheek remark, but there appears to be little alternative at the present.

The Centre has presented briefs to municipal and other authorities in an effort to gain the financial support necessary to construct another building but so far the only positive reply has been from the Fredericton Kinsmen Club. The Club is willing to back a forty thousand dollar pre-cut struc-

ture but this would not provide a very elaborate facility.

The present state of the centre is not the "most desirable" according to Mrs. Poh. When they took over the building, those operating the centre had to renovate it themselves. It was necessary to install toilet facilities, furnaces, tiling, and fire alarms, as well as to redecorate the interior of the building. The biggest disadvantage, however, is the fact that it is necessary to charge fairly high fees to parents whose children use the facilities since this is the only source of income for the centre. Those who have the greatest need of the centre cannot afford to take advantage of it.

Mrs. Poh expressed an interest in seeing a "headstart" program initiated at the centre. This would consist of preparatory training for underprivileged youngsters prior to their starting school. These children, she explained, are socially as well as economically deprived. Their command of the language

is not adequate and they tend to express themselves in violent ways. This program would be possible with the assistance over the summer months of a few students.

Any financial aid from the students is greatly appreciated by the Centre. Recently, a dishwasher was financed by Neill House while the Student's Representative Council provided table top toys. The University takes care of basic services only. These include garbage disposal, cleaning and electricity.

Although the University has been reluctant to help the Centre, it has not been at all hesitant to take advantage of it. Mrs. Poh told the BRUNSWICKAN that the Centre has been used as a sort of "laboratory nursery", with research and observation being carried out there by the departments of Nursing and Psychology at UNB as well as by STU and Teacher's College.

When the present centre commenced operations in 1968, it was given a three year lease

with the understanding that if the facilities "proved themselves viable", a new structure would be erected to house the Centre at the end of the period. In 1971, the lease was extended for one more year. Although Mrs. Poh insists that the Centre has proven its worth, the University has not provided the new structure on the grounds that Academic construction has priority.



UIC Extra benefits

By STEVE BELDING

The New Unemployment Insurance Commission Act came into effect June 27, 1971. More benefits are available. Some of the highlights of the act are:

- under certain conditions an interruption of earnings caused by sickness or maternity can be covered.

- services have been expanded to include a "Claimant Assistance Program".

- removal of the salary ceiling has brought in about 1.2 million people who were not formerly covered.

- the scale of benefits have been greatly increased.

Latest developments concern Income Tax. As of Jan. 1, 1972, the Department of National Revenue will be responsible for the collection of Unemployment Insurance Premiums. Premiums will be an allowable deduction for income purposes, however, benefits will count as taxable income.

Also, from the first pay period after Jan. 1, the inform-

ation that a claimant will need to establish a claim for unemployment insurance benefits will be shown on a Separation Certificate. It is essential that employers provide employees with their Separation Certificate at the time of separation from employment. For anyone who files a claim for unemployment insurance benefits, the Separation Certificate will become the only record of insured employment and the only proof of an interruption of earnings.

UIC Officials expressed that interested people should consult their local offices to prevent misinterpretation of the details concerning new policies, when contacted by the BRUNS last week. It is felt that more public education will avoid holdups in the receiving of benefits.

For those who wish to know more about the act, slide presentations are available on request. The only stipulation is that there be a group chairman to control the discussion of issues. To arrange a presentation contact the Fredericton local UIC officer-in-Charge Gordon MacQueen.



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