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Three locations under consideration UNB gets NRC Centre

Joseph W.J. FitzPatrick III
The Brunswickan

Three sites on campus are being considered for the National Research Centre e-commerce research institute in New Brunswick.

UNB-Fredericton was announced this week as the successful location for the project, which is estimated to include a 45,000-55,000 square foot building on a 5-acre lot.

The estimated budget for the program is \$37 million over the next five years, which will be followed by an operating budget of \$7.8 million per year.

"It's a very special day for UNB and the province of New Brunswick," said UNB President Dr. Elizabeth Parr-Johnston at the official announcement held earlier this week. "This will add a new dimension to UNB."

"After an extensive review, it was the unanimous recommendation of the committee," explained John Manley, Canada's then Minister of Industry who has since moved to Foreign Affairs in a cabinet shuffle one day after he appeared at UNB.

Commenting on reports which leaked the committee's recommendation several weeks ago, Manley defended the decision as "independent." He also emphasized the strength of the Fredericton proposal, noting the existing research base and access to graduate students were "critical aspects in its favour."

Some \$25 million for the project comes out of the \$700 million Atlantic Investment Partnership announced in June by the federal government. An additional \$12 million is a joint contribution from the provincial government (\$3.6 million) and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency through the New Brunswick Regional Economic Development Agreement, which will allow NRC to put in place an expanded program.

Some of the funding will go towards three smaller centres at

UNB-Saint John, Moncton, and Miramichi, but the lion's share will come to UNB-Fredericton.

Plans for construction of the facility, which is set to open sometime next year, are already underway, according to Michael Ryan, UNB Associate Vice-President Campus Services and Planning. A location has yet to be chosen, but three are under active consideration.

One proposal, which has several advantages, is a section of the Aitken Centre parking lot near the Wu Conference Centre. This site has the advantage of being close to both the Wu Centre and the Eaton Multimedia Centre, home to some of UNB's newest computer facilities.

"It's an attractive site," Ryan noted.

A second proposal would see a facility built in the woods above the SUB.

A third concept would place the new building where the now derelict tennis courts are located

between Chapman field and the Lady Dunn/Kidd/Tibbits Residence.

Ryan told The Brunswickan one site has been ruled out: lower Windsor Street next to the new Computer Science Information Technology Building, which finished construction this summer.

"The NRC was looking for a 5 acre lot," explained Ryan. Given the space available between the new IT building and the privately-owned apartment building it would be a very tight fit.

Not lost on Ryan, however, was the impact the construction of yet another building on Lower Windsor Street would have on an already highly contentious parking situation in that area. The new building, in effect, would have eliminated nearly all of the parking, more than 150 spaces.

"I'm sure I'd get a few calls about that," commented Ryan.

There is still a small chance the

facility could be located off-campus, but that would be a last resort.

"We know they looked at the Knowledge Park, but their real preference is to be on campus," he said.

Ryan hopes to sit down with designers from the NRC within a week to develop site criteria and analyze the three proposed locations.

Once that is done, a public tender process will begin and construction will have to begin early in the new year according to Ryan.

"If the NRC wants to occupy a building of this size by the end of 2001, we've really got to get moving," he concluded.

The institute will house some 40 full-time NRC employees, including researchers, technical officers and support staff. In addition, the facility hopes to attract 30 to 40 guest workers, visiting scientists, students and industrial researchers.



Mike Cormier / The Brunswickan

Upwards of a thousand marched on the NB Legislature. See Feature Page 5.

Repercussions of NRC decision Call for UNBSJ autonomy

Gordon Loane

The Brunswickan

The Chair of Enterprise Saint John, Stephen MacMackin, is calling for a re-evaluation of the relationship between UNB Fredericton and UNB Saint John.

His comments come in the wake of this week's decision by the National Research Council (NRC) to select Fredericton as the location for its e-Commerce Centre over competing bids from Moncton, Saint John, and Miramichi.

MacMackin said it's important to create a world-class business school in New Brunswick; a one-stop e-commerce centre that could earn an international reputation.

He believes it will be nearly impossible for UNB to do that when the resources are divided between two campuses. "Our concern is that we get a diluted product at the end of the day and no one gets a good education," said MacMackin.

"The resources are split and neither campus has enough to make it a world class business school."

With UNB's administration centered in

Fredericton, he is also of the view that the will may not be there to promote Saint John at Fredericton's expense.

While MacMackin leans toward a re-evaluation of the relationship between the two UNB campuses, there are other community leaders in Saint John who are taking a stronger view.

Pat Darrah, President of the Saint John Construction Association, told the *New Brunswick Telegraph-Journal* this week that it's time to take a serious look at the Saint John campus being independent from Fredericton. "The idea was floated many years ago, but has been dormant until the NRC project," he said.

Meanwhile, UNB Saint John Vice-President, Rick Miner, told the *Telegraph-Journal* Saint John's campus could still thrive within its e-commerce expertise.

He said the NRC chose the Fredericton campus because of its focus on creating technology as opposed to the focus at UNB Saint John, which is on the application of that technology.

While the NRC chose Fredericton, Miner said Saint John can still play a vital part in the overall project.

At least half a million short STU building plans thrown a curve

Gordon Loane

The Brunswickan

St. Thomas University officials have run into a \$500,000 to \$600,000 budgetary snag in their attempts to begin construction of a new Professional Services Building to house academic programs in Social Work, Gerontology, Criminology, Education and Journalism.

When public tenders were opened last week, Diamond Construction Limited of Fredericton submitted the lowest of four bids for \$5,542,000, some \$500,000 to \$600,000 over original budgetary estimates.

University officials hope to resolve the problem within the next week or two by undertaking a number of cost-cutting decisions.

"We are pursuing it with the project's architects and the low bidder with a view to defining where the differences are, with a view of also attempting to bring the construction costs into line with our

original estimates," said Lawrence Durling, STU Vice-President Finance and Administration.

"We are anxious to have this happen as quickly as possible in order to allow

construction project within the original cost estimates, Durling said a report on the latest developments will certainly be presented when the Board meets again on Saturday, October 28th.

The four storey, 36,500 square foot Professional Services Building will be located near the outdoor hard surface basketball court between Holy Cross House and George Martin Hall on the STU campus.

The new facility is expected to house at least 14 new classrooms and provide office space for 25 faculty and support staff with the capacity to accommodate nine more if necessary.

The new building will be about 10 percent smaller in terms of total square footage than the Sir James Dunn Building on the STU campus.

Financing for the project is expected to come from a variety of sources in both the private and public sectors, through a fundraising campaign that STU has currently underway.

Company	Bid
Diamond Construction	\$5,542,000
Maricon Construction	\$5,776,000
Simpson Bldg. Contractors	\$5,877,000
Maxim Construction	\$5,897,000

construction to get underway," he said.

"The goal is still to complete construction of the new building in time for the beginning of classes in September 2001," Durling continued. "We are in urgent need of academic space."

While the STU Board of Governors has already given its approval for the

Students charged

Dan Malone

The Brunswickan

A total of forty six members of the UNB Ironmen's Rugby will be charged with offences under the Student Disciplinary Code. These charges are the result of the Ironmen's activities at a "rookie party" held on September 23rd of this year.

After an investigation the 46 members in question will be charged with possession and consumption of alcohol in a public place, speaking or acting in a manner which harms or threatens to harm persons or property as well as the misuse of university property.

The case will be heard by the seven member Student Disciplinary Committee. This committee will be chaired by Senior Law Student Kerry Hatfield as well as Vice-Chair Rebecca Pitts. Other members include Student Union Representative Joe Allen (VP University Affairs), three undergraduate students representatives, Steven Shepard, Lori Rand and Cliff Arnold and graduate student representative Ja'net Barchard.

It date for these proceedings, according to Allan, has not been decided. As well, it has not been decided whether these proceedings will be left open to the public or will be closed.

It is within the authority of the SDG to both recommend and impose penalties which could include fines, restrictions of social privileges, letters of apology and suspensions.

As a result of the incident last month, the Ironmen Rugby Club was suspended for one week and is still under a two year probation period for improper use of alcohol, unsportsmen like conduct and rookie initiations.

Great turnout – CRO

Joseph W.J. FitzPatrick III
The Brunswickan

Paul Csazar, Chief Returning Officer for the UNB Student Union was impressed by the turnout for Wednesday's advance polls.

"Based on how voting went [on Wednesday] I would expect turnout of 15 to 20 percent," he said. "Which I understand is fairly decent for UNB."

While turnout appears to be up substantially, problems remain in the by-election.

There were no candidates who came forward for any of the three positions advertised for the Grad Class 2001 Executive. However, one student, submitted papers for the position of project coordinator.

While the position isn't traditionally on the Grad Class Executive, the position did appear on the nomination papers which

were handed out to candidates. It seems nobody caught the discrepancy, and as a result Christine Hawboldt appears on the ballot as a candidate for Project Coordinator.

It remains to be seen how or even if there will be additional members of the Grad Class Executive.

"She'll probably end up doing everything," said Csazar.

In previous years, the UNBSU Council has, on occasion, appointed the Executive of the Grad Class, but this year there doesn't seem to be any interested students.

Regular election polls opened on October 19th and continued October 20th from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the SUB and from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at other polls located throughout the UNB Fredericton campus.

Come & celebrate

Alexander Keith's 205 Birthday

TONIGHT @

+ 50¢ RUM

Bacardi's Finest (with paid cover, restrictions apply)

10pm - Midnite

Tyson Vs Golata