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Anthrax scare spreads to UNB

Post office takes precautionary measures

by Chris Wilson-Smith

The UNB Post office is taking extra precautions when dealing with packages in light of the anthrax scare in the United States.

On October 17th, Steve Ball, Manager of Administrative Services for the Physical Plant at UNB, and Reg Jerrett, Director of Security and Traffic, met with officials from the City Police, Fire Department, and NB Supply and Services to discuss recent media coverage of anthrax.

Authorities at the meeting advised the UNB administrators that the level of threat in Fredericton is small, but precautions need to be taken to appease the general public. To date, no cases of anthrax exposure have been reported in Canada. Officials have not been able to find evidence that there is a link between the anthrax scare and the terrorist attacks on the United States.

Anthrax, which can be deadly if not treated by antibiotics within the first few days, is spread by skin contact or by inhalation.

Employees at the UNB Post office have been informed of procedures to follow when dealing with suspicious packages. This includes wrapping the package in plastic and calling 911. Gloves and plastic bags have been made available to staff by the RCMP.

"We have informed the staff that we are doing this strictly as a precaution," said Ball.

Staff members were also informed of things to look for in identifying suspicious packages. To this point, the packages found to be laced with anthrax have either had no return address, or insufficient or excessive postage.



Kevin Forneris/The Brunswickan

Due to the contamination of US mail, UNB postal workers were given evidence bags and plastic gloves by the RCMP (above) to deal w...ith any suspicious packages.

Other giveaways include unfamiliar senders, and excessive securing material such as masking tape.

Mail received from Canada Post Corporation has already been

screened before reaching the UNB campus. Through educating staff of the UNB Post Office, another level of security is created to protect the students.

Recently, many Canadian

officials have debated over the issue of dealing with the threat. Canada's Health minister Allan Rock has faced heat over his department's handling of the purchase of antibodies.

Doucet appointed ADM of the Post-Secondary Education division

by Joseph FitzPatrick

After months of vacancy, the New Brunswick government has filled the position of top bureaucrat for post-secondary education.

Roger Doucet was appointed last Friday to the position of assistant deputy minister (ADM) of the Post-Secondary Education Division, Department of Education.

He will be responsible for the operation of post-secondary branches including, student aid, university affairs, adult literacy and a variety of other programs. Doucet will also be responsible for the operation of TeleEducation NB, which promotes the growth and use of distance education, and Connect NB Branché, operator of the provincial community access centres.

Doucet moves to the

Department of Education from the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs, where he has served as ADM, Co-operation Division, since 2000. Previously, he was with the Department of Education distance learning division, TeleEducation NB, for seven years.

During his tenure, he was instrumental in establishing distance learning in universities, public schools and the private sector.

Before joining the public service, Doucet spent more than a decade with the Université de Moncton as a professor, director of continuing education and research and development officer in distance education.

The position has been vacant since Jolène LeBlanc joined the Executive Council Office in early summer. The ADM of Administration and Finance, Liz Abraham, had been acting ADM.

University enrolment increases

UNB's undergrad population jumps for 2001-2002

by Joseph FitzPatrick

By most measures, UNB's enrolment is up this year, and so is enrolment at many institutions in Atlantic Canada.

Overall, between UNB and UNBSJ, the full-time undergraduate population jumped 240 (2.8 percent), full-time graduate enrolment rose 41 students (6.6 percent), part-time enrolment was up 173 (14.7 percent) and Visa student enrolment surged by 186 students (29.4 percent).

Meanwhile, at St. Thomas, enrolment grew by 136 full-time

students (5.6 percent), 22 part-time students (9.2 percent) and 8 Visa students (17 percent). St. Thomas does not have a graduate studies program.

Saint Mary's University in Halifax led the region with a 6.9 percent growth in full-time undergraduate enrolment, while Atlantic Canada's second largest university, Dalhousie, posted an impressive 6.7 percent growth (575 students). Dalhousie also led the region's big institutions in graduate enrollment growth, posting a gain of 201 students (10 percent).

By contrast, the trends across Atlantic Canada are: up 2.9% full-time undergraduate, up 7.4 percent full-time graduate, no change in part-time, and up 13.3% visa students.

Faculty contract negotiations

AUNBT seeking salary increases for UNB faculty

by Ben Conoley

The Association of University of New Brunswick Teachers (AUNBT) is currently holding contract negotiation talks with the school.

The Brunswickan has received a report from a reliable source concerning the development of negotiations. Thus far, there have been three sessions with a Conciliation Officer. The first, held Sept. 27th, involved both sides going over their view of the situation. The following day AUNBT presented its proposals.

In addition to salary increases, AUNBT also wishes that any changes in the academic mix of the university be subject to collegial decision making. The new four-year salary offer presented by AUNBT would see the University spending more than \$500 million.

AUNBT has said that the UNB negotiation team has also avoided addressing "serious" recruitment and retention issues. They have also been told that the University can not afford to give teachers the pay being requested. AUNBT says the university will save \$2 million over four years. UNB also has unfilled vacancies this

year which amount to \$620 000, and a \$1.5 million fringe benefit surplus. Amongst other funds AUNBT says are available, it is reported that UNB has an extra \$6.5 million that could fund the \$1.5 million difference being requested.

UNB has also said that it does not believe it has to pay as much as other schools because New Brunswick offers more affordable housing. AINBT has responded with a Royal LePage survey which says out of 13 cities across Canada, Fredericton is the 7th most expensive to live in, and they fall twelfth in the salary ranking list.

UNB has also stated that it has "overly competitive" benefits and pension which make up for a lower salary. However, AUNBT has replied saying that must not be true because the school is having such a hard time recruiting teachers, and that benefit/pension packages are difficult to compare.

Finally, UNB has said that although the school appears to fall behind in salary averages, it is because early retirement has taken people out of the higher paying positions. Once again, AUNBT has argued with the school, stating that, "The result of applying the age-rank structure of the group was to widen the amount we are behind from \$4254 to \$4554."

Counter offers from the school are still pending, with sessions to follow in the coming week. Be sure to check back with The Brunswickan for updates.



Cindy Brown/The Brunswickan

These two lovely employees of Chartwell's, Lesley and Linda, were brave enough to allow our undercover genius, Chris Wilson-Smith to learn the ropes of pizza-making Tuesday. For more on this enchanting story, see Page 3.

The Brunswickan quote of the week:

"A witty saying proves nothing."

- Voltaire (1694-1778)



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