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Say goodbye to our sister campus?



Jennifer McKenzie / The Brunswickan

A rally was held in Saint John on Monday with several hundred attendees protesting the potential closure of the UNB Saint John campus. The march went from King's Square in the central uptown area to the Water Street office of Hon. Dr. Ed Doherty, Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour. When given the chance to speak, the minister was booed away. Mullins and Graham of the UNB Fredericton SU had organized an impromptu bus trip over the weekend to bring Fredericton students to the rally, but had to cancel it after no students chose to attend.

by Josh O'Kane

Rumors were flying around New Brunswick all of last week over possible leaked information from the Commission on Post-Secondary Education New

Brunswick Report, with claims that the UNB Saint John campus would be converted into a polytechnic institution. Friday morning, the report was officially released and the claims turned out to be true.

Among other things, the Commission's report calls for UNB's Saint John campus as well as the Université de

Moncton campuses in Shippagan and Edmundston to be converted into separate and distinct polytechnic schools. As described in the report, polytechnic institutions blend "knowledge and theory as well as working skills." These schools would be fluid in their subject areas in that they could adapt to the needs of the times in their respective locations.

The conversion would also see the reconfiguration of the province's community college system to adapt with the polytechnic institutions' locations. NBCC Saint John would see a merger with UNBSJ, likely at UNBSJ's Tucker Park location. This would not only

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Ambulances: What you don't know could kill you

by Lauren Kennedy

Ambulance services in Fredericton are a critical service for all Frederictonians, but with only four ambulance trucks serving the Fredericton and Oromocto region during the day, it is questioned whether that is really enough coverage for these two growing areas.

A representative from the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital confirmed that there are four ambulance trucks during the day from 6:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. and three at night from 6:30 p.m. - 6:30 a.m.

Fredericton has a population of 50,535, according to the most recent update from City Hall, and the town of Oromocto has about 9,000, as per their website. When adding up these two figures, then dividing them by the ambulance trucks on duty, there is only one ambulance for every (approximate) 14,884 citizens. It is also important to note that the Fredericton population figure does not include student population during the school year. With these added citizens from both campuses, the population in Fredericton rises by over 12,000 more.

As it stands now, there is no standard response time for emergency calls and each service for different areas of New Brunswick falls under a different sector. Land ambulance service currently is delivered through various contracts and several different directors who operate under different protocols. To put it simply, each area of New Brunswick has ambulance services that are

operated differently. With this in mind, the Government of New Brunswick proposed a new initiative to be launched in mid-November called 'Ambulance New Brunswick'. The initiative's goal is to consolidate all ambulance operations under one act.

One of their main enhancements includes implementing standardized response times. To clarify, response time is defined as the elapsed time from the moment the call is received to the time of the arrival of the ambulance at the requested location.

The plan is to establish equal response times around the province for emergency calls to be within nine minutes (90% of the time) for urban areas and within 22 minutes (90% of the time) for rural areas.

In a news release from the Department of Health, Health Minister Michael Murphy explained that a paramedic is often the first caregiver people will see, so lives depend on how fast they can arrive and their level of skills training. He goes on to explain that in order for this to happen, it will require more resources such as more paramedics and more ambulances.

Frank Carroll has been a paramedic for over 20 years in New Brunswick and feels that no matter what, the well being of the citizens should come first.

"In all, it's not a bad system that Fredericton has, but you should always think of the people first. If you can't help the maximum number of people for the maximum number of times, you need more resources," he said. "When a patient is on the waiting end, two minutes seems like a long time."

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Rising up to the times

by Josh O'Kane

Chris Lorey has a \$25,000 USD iBOT wheelchair, compliments of UNB, because six years ago he was afflicted with an unknown virus and lost most of the use of his legs. The German professor's office was on the third floor of Carleton Hall, and continued to be until last June, when finally, construction began on an elevator in the primitive building.

"I think it's wonderful," says Lorey. "I can't wait for this to be done. It is going to be wonderful once the elevator is in. It's going to make such a difference for so many people."

The elevator in Carleton is to be placed in the former location of the

building's large central staircase, and construction should be completed in time for the next school year. A smaller staircase will be replaced beside the elevator. This initiative is part of a proposed ten-year accessibility plan helmed by UNB. One of the steps was last year's addition of an elevator to the previously inaccessible old Head Hall.

Diana Austin is a professor in the English Department at UNB, whose mobility has been diminished in recent years due to her battle with multiple sclerosis. She believes that this is an important step in making UNB a better school.

"Once this elevator is installed," says Austin, "everyone facing mobility obstacles - students, faculty, staff, visitors to campus, cleaners with heavy equipment - will be able to move around inside Carleton Hall with ease, for the first time ever, and UNB can then move its sights to the next necessary upgrading project elsewhere on campus."

The upgrade does come with its own short-term detriments, though. Classroom space in much of Carleton has been lost, and staff and faculty have been forced to shuffle office space to accommodate for the construction.

Because of the disruption, four departments from the faculty of Arts moved into the top two floors of Bridges House: English, Philosophy, Classics & Ancient History, and Culture & Language Studies.

Chris Lorey's department falls in with the latter of the group. Though his coworkers have settled in Bridges, his office is now in d'Avray Hall because the staircases are too narrow for his iBOT wheelchair to climb.

"I can't get into Bridges at all," says Lorey. "The iBOT can't go up those stairs in Bridges. I need extended railings, and the staircase is too narrow. The building is completely inaccessible."

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Andrew Meade / The Brunswickan

Carleton Hall construction has displaced many students, faculty and staff.

Atlantic university enrolment numbers going down: What does this mean for UNBF?

by Lauren Kennedy

The bulk of the growing enrolment is happening in universities in the Western parts of the country, like Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia, whereas in the Maritime provinces, the population growth is declining.

It is unsure right now what the enrolment rate is for UNBF, as it has to go through quite a process to figure out the exact numbers to get finalized.

UNB's enrolment reports reflect only formally registered students, meaning students who are registered and have paid tuition and all fees, and since it is still early, this is not yet clear.

David Hinton, the Registrar of UNB Fredericton, explains why the figures are skewed at the moment.

"At this time of the academic term, I am sure you can appreciate that

enrolment counts will change daily as students submit their fees or make final arrangements with their student loans," he said. "This daily change also makes it challenging to accurately project what full term enrolment counts will be."

Throughout the month of September, the enrolment count should stabilize and then they are studied in detail to determine the differences from years past and to note why they change. Once the details of enrolment have been revised with the Vice President and faculty Deans, UNBF then prepares and comments on a report concerning the enrolments statistics.

This report should be released around early October as should the enrolments reports for all other New Brunswick institutions.

Harvest Jazz & Blues



Jen Grant pauses between songs during her set at the Barracks Tent at the Harvest Jazz & Blues Festival this past Saturday. For more coverage see Arts page 9.

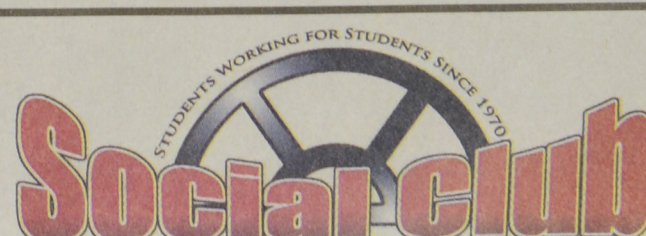


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