

# UNBSU offers warm welcome back

HILARY PAIGE SMITH  
THE BRUNSWICKAN

Students can expect to see a lot more of their Student Union starting today.

Inspired by the open real estate of the former Travel Cuts location, the UNB Student Union developed an idea for a Welcome Center. The Student Union Welcome Center moved into the open space neighbouring the SUB store.

Frustrations with the former Student Union spot arose with its obscure location and limited access for disabled students.

Student Union VP External Jon O'Kane says, "The Welcome Center was designed to have all of the Student Union's resources in one easily accessible and visible location.

"Plus we wanted to make it so there was a central location somewhere in the Student Union Building that was a lot more visible. So now when you walk

into the front doors and you're trying to find the Union office you won't have to go to the SUB office and ask them how to find the Student Union. You'll walk in and clearly see the Student Union."

The new location for the Student Union office offers students the opportunity to walk into a central location and ask for information that pertains to their needs, like questions about health and dental plans and the New Brunswick Student Alliance, says O'Kane.

The Paper Trail and Canada Post outlet closed on Dec. 19. Students wishing to purchase stamps, pick up concert tickets or find out about bus passes will still be able to at the Welcome Center. The only resource lost in the Welcome Center renovations is the ability to ship packages.

Lisa Solte, the Union's VP Finance and Operations, feels that the Welcome Center will be "a great opportunity for the SU to connect more with the students."

She also noted that the SU no longer needs to employ a manager for the Paper Trail and no longer has to pay

the expenses associated with the Post Office.

O'Kane also assures students that the costs to renovate the former Travel Cuts location were minimal and were mainly covered by Physical Plant.

The grand opening of the SU Welcome Center is on Wednesday, Jan. 14 and the opening ceremony begins at noon. SU President Bethany Vail and Tony Secco, the VP Academic of the University, will be speaking. Students are welcome to witness the cutting of the ribbon and cake and coffee will be available to visitors throughout the day.

Vail reveals the key reason behind the Welcome Center, "We don't currently have any particular spot on campus to welcome people here. I really think it's a great initiative from the Student Union this year to be taking this on because it's not only for students to come get the information that they need.

"It's also a place for visitors and prospective students to come check out and if they need help, this is a place that they can go."

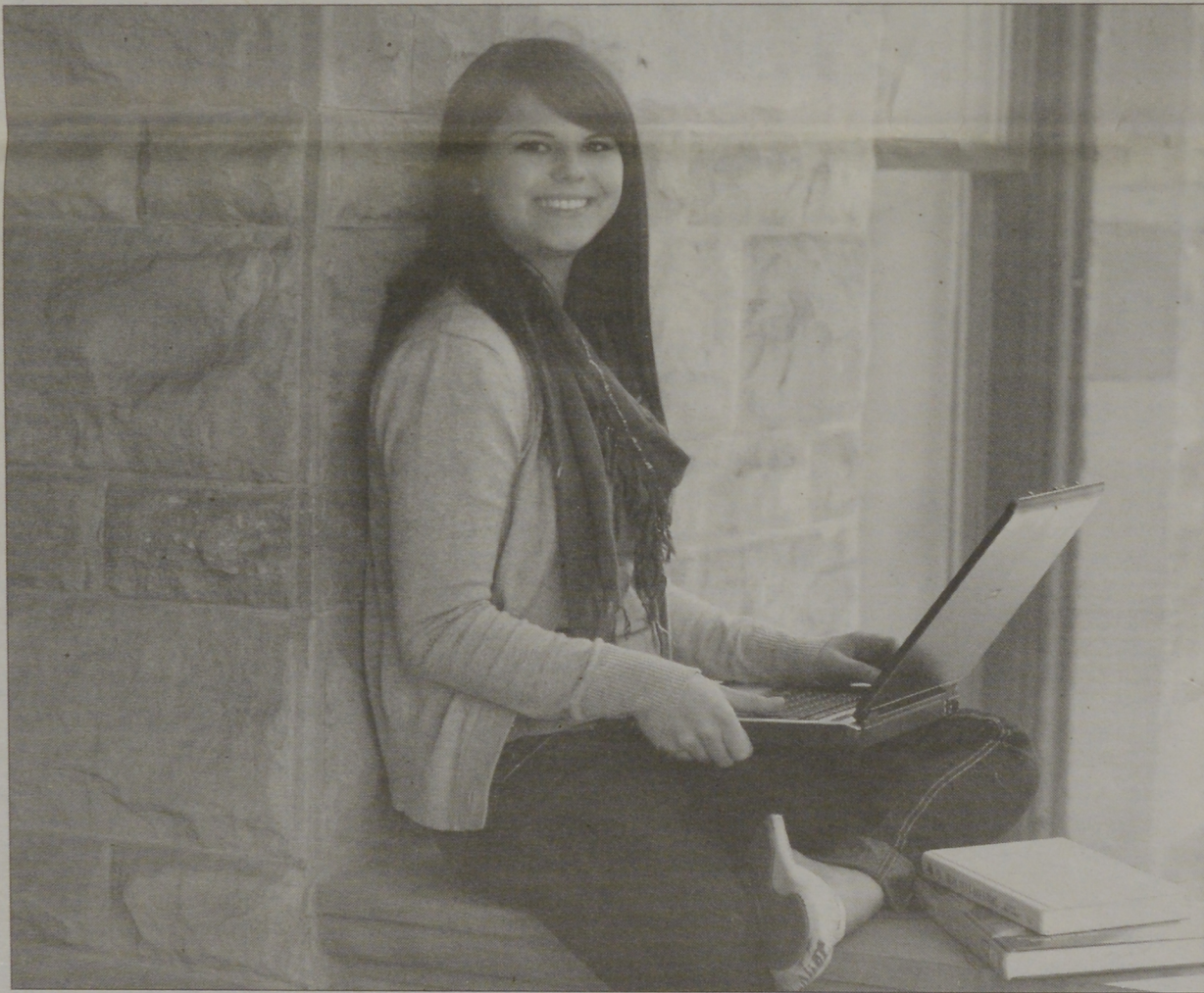


Andrew Meade / The Brunswickan

UNBSU VP Academic Greg Melanson and VP Finance & Operations Lisa Solte inside the SUB's new Welcome Center, which will host resources for students.

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
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## News in brief

### Mother of assaulted child believes sentencing was not enough

60-year-old Saint John man Lester Gordon Lethbridge has been sentenced to eight months in jail for the sexual assault of an 11-year-old girl. The girl was walking past Drake Steakhouse when she was offered a bag of cheesies by a cook. A few days later, Lethbridge offered her a glass of juice and a tour of the kitchen, and that, according to the victim, is when he put his hands down her pants. He gave her \$5 and told her to come back the next day in order to touch him. Alfred Brein, the judge of the case, also placed Lethbridge on probation for three years. The sexual predator has also been ordered to abstain from contact with any person under 16 years of age unless under the supervision of another adult. Lethbridge pleaded not guilty.

### Nurses reach tentative deal

New Brunswick's 5500 nurses have reached a tentative deal with the province in order to prevent a strike. Specifics of the contract will not be shared with the public until a ratification vote is held. The vote is expected within the next three weeks. Marilyn Quinn, president of the Nurses' Union, says that the end results of negotiation were achieved by 40 hours of discussion with a mediator. She believes that the negotiating committee understood the concerns of nurses, and the results of the committee will help to recruit and then retain nurses.

### Century-old human remains discovered in Fredericton

Bone fragments were found at a construction site in Fredericton last fall. Archaeologists have recently concluded that the bones belonged to a human male. The bones were discovered Oct. 21. Bone experts from Jacques Whitford Ltd. then examined the findings, along with Moira McLaughlin, STU forensic anthropologist. It appears as though the bones date back to the late 19th or early 20th century. A clear explanation as to how the bones came to be at the site has not been found. The City has ruled out the possibility of a graveyard at the site because the amount of bones found only constituted approximately 2.5 per cent of a skeleton. Research into the years surrounding the man's death has yielded no evidence of how he may have died. Other artifacts were also uncovered at the site, including bottle, glass and dinnerware pieces.