



Daycare On Campus

*For
children of
students, faculty
and staff at
UNB and STU*

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For some time students, faculty and staff have been working together to establish a daycare facility on the Fredericton campus of the University of New Brunswick.

Daycares are found at most universities today because there are more mature students returning to university with families. Also large employers such as universities have recognized that such facilities are big drawing cards to attract and keep valuable employees. Although Fredericton does have daycare facilities close to campus they are not geared to the unique lifestyle and schedules of university life. Moreover, for those parents with infants, there are not enough daycare facilities close to campus.

Approximately three years ago a committee was formed at U.N.B. to try to put together a proposal to establish a daycare on the Fredericton campus. The committee commissioned a study to document the need for campus daycare and presented a very detailed proposal to the executive of the university. This proposal called for an "ideal" or "cadillac model" daycare which was determined to be too expensive for both the university and the users of its service. However, the university was committed to the idea, and based on this proposal agreed in principal to support the idea and has set aside \$225,000.00 for the capital costs of the project.

In the fall of 1991 the administration convened interested individuals and gave their commitment to establishing a daycare facility on campus by the fall of 1992 or 1993 with the proviso that the university was not responsible for the operations of the daycare. In April, 1992 Professor Margaret MacCallum of the Faculty of Law called together as many interested parties as she could find. This organizational group, the Day Care Working Committee, began to meet in May 1992

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and over the past year has worked with the administration in developing a workable plan for daycare which resulted in a detailed daycare proposal. The university also commissioned Architect's Design Group to conduct a site survey and to draw up a design for the daycare in consultation with a user group established by the Daycare Working Group. This design was incorporated into the daycare proposal. The daycare proposal was presented to the Board of Governors in April 1993 and the committee was de-

lighted to receive Board approval in May 1993.

In addition to the \$225,000 for capital costs which U.N.B. (Fredericton campus) has set aside the university has also agreed to maintain the building and grounds by providing janitorial service, lawn mowing, snow removal, etc. They will also be responsible for the basic utility costs such as heat, power, water and sewer.

St. Thomas University has been extended an invitation to participate and in exchange for 10% of the spaces they have agreed to contribute \$22,500 to the capital costs and 10% of the maintenance costs which U.N.B. will be bearing.

Those individuals who are most responsible for the proposal and the subsequent approval are: David Townsend and Rebecca Counts (faculty); Mardie Hancox (staff); and Jennie Robertson (student). Hats off to them and the others who have helped to bring this dream a little closer to reality. A further note of thanks must go to A.U.N.B.T. without whose enthusiastic lobbying and support it is doubtful that the daycare would have ever have seen the light of day.

The daycare plans to offer several unique features. The hours of operation are going to be set to meet the needs of the university community, opening at 7 - 7:30 and closing at 6 - 6:30. Further innovations are