



Fredericton Campus Plan

University of New Brunswick

Brook McIlroy Inc.
planning + urban design

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank the various people who participated in the campus planning process at the University of New Brunswick Fredericton by offering their insights, participation and ideas. Their enthusiasm points to a momentum that, we believe, has the capacity to bring this plan to fruition.

The Campus Plan was prepared under the overall guidance and direction of the Properties Committee and its Chair, Wayne Squibb. In addition, the Board of Governors invited the planning team to provide on-going updates, and offered refinements as the concept was developed. This invaluable advice has shaped the direction of this plan.

Recognizing the value of a Campus Plan for clearly articulating the direction of future growth as well as strategic use of existing expansion lands, the Properties Committee embraced a planning process that acknowledged the diverse interests of the university community by striking a Steering Committee to guide the process. This committee met at key intervals and provided invaluable interpretations and clarifications. Additional consideration goes to Mike Ryan, Associate Vice-President (Campus Services and Planning), who chaired the Steering Committee and to Mike Baldwin, Property Manager, who provided valued assistance throughout the project. Special acknowledgments are due to Susan Montague, whose research on the history of the University contained in her book [A Pictorial History of the University of New Brunswick](#) was an invaluable resource.

Steering Committee Members

Mike Ryan, Associate Vice-President (Campus Services and Planning)
Mike Baldwin, Property Manager
Georges Roy, Properties Committee Member
Susan Montague, Director of Development and Donor Relations
Mike Carter, Director of Physical Plant
Mike Ircha, Acting Vice-President (Academic)
Kate Whitfield, Student Union Representative
Ed Reid, Residence Facilities Manager
Frank Flanagan, Director, Development Services, City of Fredericton
Larry Durling, Vice-President Finance and Administration, St. Thomas University

The Campus Plan for the University of New Brunswick Fredericton has been prepared by Brook McIlroy Planning & Urban Design with input from ADI Consulting Ltd.

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Message from the President

“We mould our buildings, and then our buildings mould us.” Winston Churchill

Dear Friends,

The future of the University of New Brunswick holds extraordinary promise. We are poised, as we were at the end of the Second World War, to once again elevate and expand the educational, economic, cultural and social well-being of our Province and our region. Our undergraduate and graduate enrolments have increased, we are carrying out eighty percent of the research conducted in our Province’s universities, and our faculty have been recognized as national leaders in both teaching and research. Our students’ accomplishments routinely meet and exceed Canadian benchmarks. Our connections to the communities in which we are located are strong and growing.

To be truly successful in all we do and seek to do, UNB must offer to students, faculty, staff and all others who use our campuses an environment that inspires and reinforces the values we espouse: truth, excellence, beauty, quality. Our Fredericton campus, for which the first of these master plans has been developed, is one of Canada’s oldest. Since Sir Howard Douglas Hall was completed 175 years ago in 1829, the campus has been developed with care. Its site, overlooking the St. John River, is spectacular. These are the elements with which we have to work as we now strive to make this campus a place that is not merely a backdrop for academic pursuits but an integral component of scholarly life.

In 1966, architect and UNB alumnus Stig Harvor (BScCE ‘52), was engaged by President Colin B. Mackay to do some planning work on our campuses. In a letter to Dr. Mackay, he aptly wrote, “The educational value of a University goes beyond what is taught inside its buildings... A University can make a significant cultural difference to its own life and that of the surrounding community by the type of environment it creates for itself on its campus.”

Thanks are due to the Properties Committee of the Board of Governors, particularly its Chair, Wayne Squibb, for providing guidance and leadership to the complex process of developing a campus plan. I also commend Mike Ryan, Associate Vice-President for Campus Services and Planning; Mike Baldwin, Property Manager with the Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management; members of the Steering Committee; and all those from the University community and the City of Fredericton who participated in the consultations that led to this important document. To Calvin Brook and his team at Brook McIlroy Inc., along with ADI Consulting, a sincere thank-you for a job well done.

This plan will form the basis of all the decisions we make about beautification, construction and facilities enhancement. I am committed to its implementation and to the realization of an aesthetic campus in keeping with all we are and all we aspire to be.

John McLaughlin
President & Vice-Chancellor

Fall 2003

Preface

In 2001, the University of New Brunswick embarked on a high-level strategic planning process where all its land holdings throughout the province were evaluated. Through this process, the need for campus plans for both Fredericton and Saint John quickly became apparent. With respect to Fredericton, an understanding of the land capacity for long-term growth of the University for academic, research and core uses was critical in framing decisions impacting other lands — principally those to the south of today's campus — that were being held as expansion lands.

Concurrently, the National Research Council building, built in 2001, in the centre of campus, raised questions about core campus functions, the siting of buildings and architectural guidelines. The strong sentiments associated with the development of this site indicated a campus community interested in discussing future development options. The value of a plan became apparent. The Properties Committee and the Administration initiated a process to ensure a comprehensive outcome based on consultation and respectful of diverse needs and perspectives.

In January of 2003, a series of meetings was held with the UNB Fredericton community in order to collect ideas, identify needs and clarify concerns. Over eighty people representing a variety of interests, including a broad range of people from the academic and student body, the UNB Fredericton administration, City of Fredericton staff, as well as neighbouring residents, detailed their experience of the Fredericton campus and highlighted its treasured aspects. Their thoughtful suggestions, often derived from many years of careful thinking about a campus they love, have shaped the direction of this plan. As well, a Steering Committee comprised of an expansive group of university representatives was engaged to closely guide this process by refining ideas and providing feedback as the plan evolved. Functioning as a touchstone on a broad range of issues, from the commitment of the institution to a sustainability mandate to the implication of design suggestions for the Physical Plant Department, this Steering Committee provided leadership on implementation matters.

In February and June 2003, Open Houses were held to solicit further ideas and participation on the design of the Plan. Preliminary campus planning directions, an analysis of the existing context, preliminary guiding principles, and opportunities to be explored in the context of the campus plan were presented at the first Open House. As a result of the comments received at that time, in addition to feedback collected from the Campus Plan website, Guiding Principles were refined and subsequently used to shape decision-making throughout the development of this Plan. The Draft Plan was presented at the second Open House. Attendees asked questions regarding the proposed concept, and the overall direction for the plan was affirmed.

All comments received, whether from interviews, Open Houses, through the website, or via e-mail, have been compiled, catalogued, and considered. In the ideal, university campuses are environments characterized by dialogue, debate, critique and conversation, as well as the testing of emerging ideas. This planning process has sought, in practice, to embody this ideal. The intended outcome is a campus environment that is conducive to informal interaction, inspiration, beauty, and academic excellence.

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