

## Local NBCC campus sets \$300K goal



Peter McGill, principal of the Saint John campus of the New Brunswick Community College, speaks at a press conference Wednesday announcing the campus' goal to raise \$300,000 for the NBCC Foundation. Jeff Ducharme/Telegraph-Journal

By Khalid Malik  
*Telegraph-Journal*

The Saint John campus of the New Brunswick Community College officially launched Wednesday its part of a provincewide campaign to raise \$2.5 million over five years for the newly created NBCC Foundation.

The foundation is an independent non-profit organization that will provide scholarships and bursaries to the community college system's needy students.

All 11 NBCC campuses in the province are lending a hand in raising the funds, and the Saint John campus is committing to raising \$300,000.

The Saint John campus staff is donating \$60,000 and its students representative council is donating \$55,000 over a five-year period, but principal Peter McGill said this money would be over and above the \$300,000 goal set by the college. The staff and students are giving out of their own free will and were not asked to contribute, he said.

Student council president Jason Cosman said the college students pay a \$90 fee that goes to the council and the council decided to donate \$10 on behalf of each student to the foundation.

Saint John Energy announced a contribution of \$25,000 at Wednesday's kickoff ceremony and the Greater Saint John Community Foundation presented a cheque of \$25,000.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. McGill said J.D. Irving Ltd. told the college in 2003 it would provide \$650,000 in student bursaries and to date \$190,000 of that money has been disbursed.

"This is the kind of thing we are going to do with this foundation," he said.

"The need is so great I think it is going to be a very successful program," regional campaign chairman Bruce Dowd told the gathering.

There is a great need for qualified workers all over North America. The refining industry in the United States is looking for 75,000 workers and New Brunswick needs to replace 25,000 to 30,000 workers whose average age is between 45 and 50 years, the Saint John businessman said.

"There are job fairs going on everywhere, Alberta, France," to recruit for the private sector, he said.

Mr. Dowd said the committee hopes to wrap up its campaign by November and he was sure it will be able

to achieve its goal of \$300,000.

He said all the money raised locally will be spent locally, even though the foundation will manage all the funds through an independent board of directors. The fund will award scholarships to students or give bursaries covering up to 100 per cent of tuition fees for one year. For students enrolled in two-year programs, the assistance could be renewed for the second year as well, Mr. McGill said.

The province is contributing 50 cents for every dollar raised, and at the provincial launch of the campaign in Fredericton Tuesday the province announced its share of \$1.25 million. This will make the foundation's total endowment fund \$3.75 million.

The foundation will start giving out bursaries as soon as the fund starts generating income, said Linda Hache, provincial director of the campaign, in an interview from Fredericton.

"The year 2007 could be the first year (for awarding bursaries) though the amount would be minimal," she said.

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