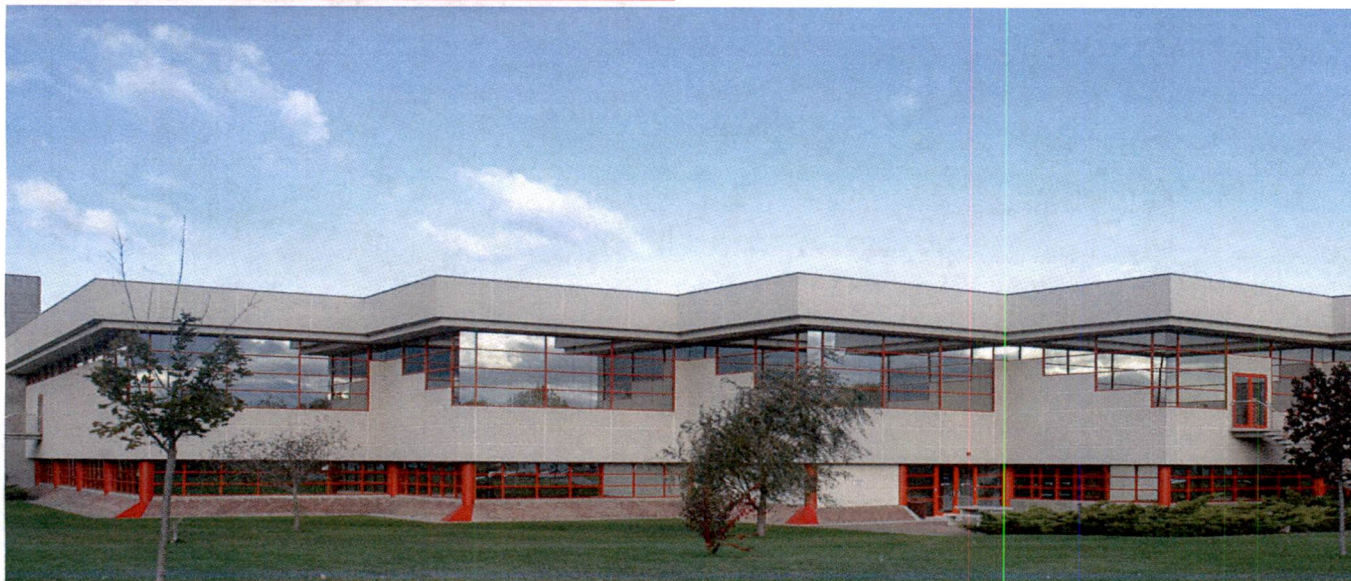


Let's Talk Budget

by Madison Buckner



In 2015, The College of New Caledonia (CNC) faced severe budget cuts. Many felt the consequences of the institution losing \$2.8 million; entire programs were dissolved, which resulted in 21 instructors and 17 operational staff losing their positions. The community of students at CNC also felt the impact of this decision. In addition to having to adjust to a smaller selection of courses, students faced minimal counselling services, fewer grants and risked losing daycare services altogether. The impending stress of having to balance an educational career, as well as the inevitable burdens of life, is an issue The College of New Caledonia Students Union (CNCSU) wanted to address immediately.

Over the last three years, reverberations from the budget cuts have been fought in an uphill battle. While steps have been taken towards repairing the damages, CNCSU says further improvements are still needed. On April 20th, the CNCSU presented their budget requests to the board for the 2018/19 year. There are five key areas Harman Dandiwal (organizer of CNCSU) benchmarked for additional funding: course offerings, campus accessibility, campus events,

mental health services, and consent culture training.

The first issue presented was a significant lack of seating within high demand programs such as information technology, human resource management, and business management. Students apply to CNC from all over the world. A document handed out to board members alongside CNCSU's presentation states "lack of course availability is a key factor in determining the speed with which students complete their studies". With an increase in waitlist lengths in the past year, paired with a shortage of seats, program completion is becoming more challenging. If students are unable to find seats within CNC, they look for education elsewhere—essentially undermining enrolment and guaranteeing the undesired result: budget cuts.

Campus accessibility, or lack thereof, is the next suggestion in CNCSU's docket. For many students, a campus is the most effective place to study. However, CNC satellite campuses (such as Quesnel) face challenges