**In Brief...**

Acadian Linx's application to abandon some of its bus routes highlights the need for Premier Shawn Graham to deliver on his commitments to establish a public transportation system, according to the Conservation Council. Ella Henry, VP Education and incoming president of the St. Thomas University Students' Union, said Acadian Linx officials at the New Brunswick Energy and Utilities Board hearings on March 17 that the route cuts would limit the ability of students from rural New Brunswick to come to university and have a good connection home.

New Brunswick MLAs who do not serve the required eight years to qualify for a pension are set to benefit from an enhanced severance package that provides unrestrained support from MLAs in a 2006 vote. New Brunswick MLAs who served only 4 years and didn't win the election will receive a $28,000 severance pay plus an extra $12,000 increase. MLAs with 5 years in the legislature will receive a $42,500 severance — a $16,500 increase.

The youth of Esgenoôpetitj First Nation are working to create a youth centre in honour of Hillary Bonnely. Their aim is to provide a centre that will provide a safe space for youth in communities, training opportunities, a crisis centre and more. Photo by Jeannie Barttigue.

The youth of Esgenoôpetitj First Nation (Buntn Church) are planning a project in her honour that will create something positive for young people in the community. They're calling it the Hillary House Project, a project that will provide safe spaces for social activities, training opportunities, a crisis centre and more. They have not yet raised the funds they need to begin construction.

By JULIE MICHAUD

The youth of Esgenoôpetitj First Nation (Buntn Church) are planning a project in her honour that will create something positive for young people in the community. They're calling it the Hillary House Project, a project that will provide safe spaces for social activities, training opportunities, a crisis centre and more. They have not yet raised the funds they need to begin construction.

During their planning they contacted long time youth advocate Kimmy Robert. Barttigue's social background and passion for youth has made her a invaluable ally for over 20 years. So much so that she is a mentor for young people there refer to her as 'auntie' or 'mom'. "I believe in them and I don't judge them because I know that living in isolation that's hard," Barttigue said.

Barttigue says that the combination of drugs, alcohol, few social activities within the community, and barriers to higher education makes it difficult for young people to get off the streets.

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Community Calendar

Just a sampling of upcoming events! For a complete listing, please visit us at rimbediacoop.org.

*Inka Milowski on links between pollution and cancer in Dathouse - Environment invites the public to a talk about the link between pollution and cancer in Dathouse. The talk takes place on April 7th at 7pm at the town hall.

*Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) Workshop - A two and a half day workshop to learn about non-violence and conflict resolution. The workshop takes place on April 11th and 12th at the New Brunswick Community College.

*Energy Efficiency Workshop - Join Fails Brook Centre and Efficiency NB for an energy efficiency workshop on Saturdays, April 10th from 9am to 12pm at the River Arts Alliance's Artist Cooperative Building, 702 Main St, Woodstock.

*Spring into Action Auction with comedian Kathleen Button - Join the Conservation Council for an evening of entertainment and bidding. The auction takes place on April 18th at 7pm at the N.B. Convention Centre in Fredericton. Tickets are $35.

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*Spiritual Care Awareness Day - The Fredericton Mental Health and Addictions Foundation will hold a day to raise awareness about spiritual care in healthcare. The event takes place on April 19th at the Fredericton Memorial Hospital. Tickets are $15.

*Grapevine Awards - The Fredericton Chamber of Commerce will hold an awards ceremony on April 20th at 6pm at the Fredericton Memorial Hotel. Tickets are $20.

*Eyes on the Prize - The Fredericton Public Library will hold an event to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington. The event takes place on April 21st at 7pm at the Fredericton Public Library. Tickets are $10.

*Supporting independent media today! - The NB Media Co-op helps the financial support of non-profits in New Brunswick. To learn more, visit their website at nbmedia.coop.