

For Immediate Release

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Land Purchase Announced for Saint John Transit Operations Centre

City staff help secure location on east side

SAINT JOHN - Officials with the Saint John Transit Commission announced today that land for the new \$19.5 million transit facility has been purchased. Approximately seven acres, located on the corner of MacDonald Street and Loch Lomond Road on the city's east side, were purchased from Irving Oil.

"This location is perfect for us. We've got easier access to all of our routes and the land is large enough for future growth," said Mike Hunter, Chair, Saint John Transit Commission.

City officials approached Irving Oil about purchasing the MacDonald Street property. Irving Oil agreed to sell the property to the Transit Commission to support this important initiative.

Although plans have not been finalized, the operations centre will be the first transit facility in North America to be built to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System) standard. The centre will also house between 65-85 buses and will be built for a 50-year lifespan.

Construction of the new facility is expected to begin in late spring 2008.

"This also frees up the land at our current location for development on the west side," said Councillor Chris Titus, former chair of the Transit Commission.

An information session will be held at the Simonds Lions Auditorium, Loch Lomond Villa, 185 Loch Lomond Road, Tuesday, December 4 from 5-7:30pm.

About Saint John Transit

The Saint John Transit Commission was created in 1979 to operate scheduled transit service within the City of Saint John. Saint John Transit is the largest public transit system in New Brunswick in terms of both mileage and passengers. Scheduled weekday passenger service is provided on 21 separate routes and covers about 350 kilometres of city streets. Ridership on the service is about 2.5 million passengers per year and growing.

In September 2007, Saint John Transit launched Comex, a commuter bus service servicing Grand Bay-Westfield, Rothesay, Quispamsis and Hampton.
