

Report of the National Executive
Canadian Federation of Students
Canadian Federation of Students-Services

General Meeting
Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Ontario
May 13-18, 1994

Government Relations

The Federal Election

Overview

The work on the 1993 federal election actually began way back in May, 1992 when the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee struck an Election Readiness Committee, and set out the broad parameters of an election strategy for the Federation. The idea back then was to ensure that the Federation, and its members across the country, were fully active in the campaign, pushing the issues of college and university students on to the national agenda.

Over the next several months, and into 1993, the federation continued to make plans to be ready for the election call. The work on this campaign intensified over the summer months, and with the election call in early September, our work went into full swing.

The theme of our campaign was "Make Your Mark ... Vote Education". Our slogan hit upon many of our themes. It sought to address the importance of taking action; of harnessing the anger, the cynicism, the frustration, and in many cases the hopelessness many of our members felt, and transforming it into a positive force for change in the election. It also spoke to the need for students to get out and vote, and to have their voices heard.

Materials from the National Office

To help members across the country plan and execute an effective election campaign on their campuses and in their communities, the federation developed a comprehensive array of materials, including the following:

- professionally produced television and radio ads
- camera ready art work for ads in both campus and commercial papers
- multi-use placard shells
- vote education cards
- handbills outlining specific post-secondary and access issues
- regular election updates to the national executive and election readiness committee
- election organizing manual

These materials, developed centrally, in the national office, were supplemented by various efforts at local students' associations, and provincial offices across the country.

National Conference on Student Issues in the Election

On September 26, 27, & 28, 1993, the Federation held a national conference in Toronto to bring students from across the country together, to make final plans for the campaign, already underpay, and to draw media attention to our issues.

Despite short notice, and other factors, a large number of delegates participated. The conference consisted of workshops and skills development sessions. The meeting concluded with a concert and rally in downtown Toronto, pushing the importance of education in the federal election. The event attracted coverage on Prime Time News, Much Music, YTV, and smaller stations in Ontario.

Research and Analysis of Party Promises and Platforms

A key component of our election strategy was to keep our membership up-to-date on what each of the parties were saying when it came to college and university issues. As such the federation participated in an election questionnaire through the Coalition for Post-Secondary Education, and provided coverage and analysis of each of the party's pronouncements on post-secondary education, and distributed this information through our channels of communication.

Conclusion

The "Make Your Mark" campaign was a great success. We succeeded in getting our members fully involved in the election, and we were successful at drawing greater attention to our issues.

The announcements this spring by the federal government to increase the weekly loan limits on Canada Student Loans, the initiation of a more comprehensive part-time student loans program, the twenty percent increase in the federal government's summer employment program are all indications of our success of getting our message through, and a tribute to the fine work of students working together across the country.

A special thank you to the New Brunswick Component for all their hard work during the election campaign.

Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP)

The issue of federal support in the area of student financial assistance, and in particular the Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP) has dominated the government relations portfolio throughout most of the past year.

At the beginning of the summer of 1993, the federal government's long list of changes to CSLP, often referred to as the "Lending for Learning" proposals were on the table. These changes included proposals on eligibility criteria such as a move from 60% to 80% course load, related aid to successful completion of studies, and limiting the total amount of borrowing weeks, removing the six month post-graduate interest free subsidy, and the initiation of a new financing structure, which would see the federal government abandon its long-standing guarantee on student loans, and give banks some power in determining who gets financial assistance.

Throughout the summer of 1993, the Federation was heavily involved with meetings with officials from the department, pressing our case with regard to the reforms. We spent much energy outlining the disastrous ramifications of moving ahead quickly with the new financing structure in the absence of any assessment study of the possible impact on those who rely most on the programme. We actively pushed our concerns on the whole issue of credit, as it relates to their proposals, our desire to see the 3% tax on loans removed immediately, and to move quickly and unconditionally on much-needed increases to the maximum weekly loan limits.

At the same time, the Federation was busy meeting with key Liberal M.P.'s and party officials in anticipation of the election and our expectation that the Liberals would soon form the government, to further discuss with them our concerns with these reforms and other areas of the student assistance programme.

Toward the close of the summer, the former government, under the new leadership of Kim Campbell, announced further details on CSLP changes, promising specific initiatives including increases to the weekly loan limits to \$160 per week, a limited system of targeting grants, and the intention to move forward with the new financing structure. Campbell also announced the cancellation, effective immediately, of the 3% tax, as called for by the Federation.

With the election of Liberal majority government in October, the Federation went immediately to work building on earlier meetings pressing our concerns.

On April 15, 1994, the new Liberal government announced its slate of changes to the Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP). Many of these changes are the same or similar to those proposed by the former Conservative Government under "Lending for Learning". These changes include the following:

- increasing loan limits for full-time students to \$165 per week from \$105 beginning in 1994-95
- raising the ceiling on part-time student loans to \$4,000 from \$2500 and allowing students to defer principal during study
- introducing special opportunity grants for students with disabilities
- changes to needs assessment (not fully released)

- establishment of national program of deferred grants for high need students to maintain their debt loads at reasonable levels
- linking student aid to the successful completion of studies
- continuation of negotiations to implement a new financing structure

Many changes to the C.S.L. program in 1993-94 by both the Conservative and Liberal Government's represent major victories for the Federation, and for students across the country. Increases to loan limits for full and part time students, the elimination of the 3% tax, the establishment of special grants for students with disabilities, some movement on dealing with debt-load, are all examples of the work that we have done, by working together. In addition, the delay in moving forward on changes to the financing structure can certainly be credited to the fine work of the Federation in pushing our case. Although the contract with the banks is still being negotiated, we have been successful in ensuring that the credit issue is dealt with much more comprehensively than would have been the case without our interventions.

Despite these changes and reforms, this program, and more generally the very role of the federal government in the provision of student financial assistance, is an area in transition. These reforms have gone forward, not as a final answer, but interim initiatives to deal with the concerns at this moment. The real reform will come with the conclusion of the social policy review, and the unveiling of much greater change in this area by the federal government.

Social Policy Review

Overview

On January 31, the federal government announced its intention to conduct a major review of Canada's social policy, including both the Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP) and the post-secondary education component of E.P.F. (transfers to provinces).

The purpose of this review as set out by the Hon. Lloyd Axworthy, Minister for Human Resources Development is "not to slash and trash" but to "renew and revitalize" and "to build a better system". However, many other developments, such as the announcement by the Minister of Finance that the total transfer of money for post-secondary education from the federal government to the provinces can be no greater after reform than it is right now in 1993-94, lead us to believe otherwise. For all the talk of rebuilding and revitalizing, it is clear that the purpose of this review is indeed to find ways to save money and deliver Canada's massive social programmes more cost effectively.

The process of review itself, is moving at a very fast pace. Consultations with key sectors of society to define issues, concerns and priorities, took place in February and

March. The Committee tabled its interim report on March 25, 1994. From this report, the federal government, with the help of a task force of specialists, is developing an Action Plan, to be released in mid-to-late May, setting out proposals for change and presenting options and choices. This Action Plan will form the basis of wide consultations over the summer and into September, and possibly October.

While these consultations are proceeding, negotiations are quietly underway with the provinces to hammer out areas of consensus, and to push forward with suggested changes.

Because, the review has the potential to fundamentally alter the federal government's role in post-secondary education, the Federation has made this issue a major priority of its work in the spring of 1994.

Presentation to the Standing Committee

On March 10, 1994, the Federation presented a brief to the Standing Committee of Human Resources Development studying the reforms. Our presentation focused on three specific issues: student assistance, federal funding to support colleges and universities, and youth unemployment. Questions from committee members focused on the administration of universities, access, vouchers, and income contingent loan repayment plans. Some of the content of our report was included in the Committee's interim report to the House of Commons.

A copy of our brief to the Committee was sent to member students' associations in April. Additional copies are available upon request.

Meetings with the Minister of Human Resources Development and other Key Officials

On March 29, 1994, the Federation met with Lloyd Axworthy, the Minister for Human Resources Development, to further discuss the social policy review and the concerns of Canada's post-secondary students. At this meeting, we discussed federal funding, changes to the CSLP, and ICLRP. The Minister confirmed that he will introduce legislation which will allow for provinces, if they so choose, to set up pilot projects, to test ICLPR. He also indicated that he is interested in finding ways of getting more money available to students, and expressed interest in some type of a system of vouchers, having more of the funding to colleges and universities go directly through the students as opposed to the province.

In addition to meeting with the Minister, the Federation has had a number of meetings with other key players in this review including Ethel Blondin-Andrew, the Secretary of State for Training and Youth, Maurizio Bevilacqua, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Human Resources Development and a member of the Standing Committee, Ian Green, the Assistant Deputy Minister for Social Development and

Education, Mary Meloshe, the Director-General of Student Financial Assistance, and many others. In addition, throughout this process, we have developed some key contacts with both political staff and other officials in the bureaucracy.

Youth and Learning Task Force Consultations

On April 12, the Federation participated in an informal consultation with the Youth and Learning Task Team of HRD to discuss the social policy review as it pertains to youth who are headed for post-secondary education, funding for colleges and universities, student assistance, and the accountability of systems. Participants included Judith Maxwell, former head of the Economic Council of Canada, David Stager, a key proponent of ICLRP, Lorna Marsden, President and Vice Chancellor of Wilfred Laurier University, and a former Senator. The session developed no clear consensus on the direction to proceed, but was a useful opportunity for the Federation to put its views across. A follow-up session was planned, although nothing has happened as yet.

Conclusion

Despite the rather uncomfortable rumours which surround this review process, and the knowledge that there are many out there who will use this opportunity to put forward approaches and policies with which we do not agree, this process, nevertheless, affords us an incredible opportunity to articulate what we believe should be done. We must work to fully involve students in the consultations which will unfold over the summer and into the fall, and we must be active and vigilant as legislation is tabled in the House of Commons later this year.

Budget, 1994

The first budget of the new Liberal Government came down on February 22, 1994. There were a few important areas of interest for our membership. On the transfer payment front, the federal government announced that there would be no new restraint measures imposed on the EPF transfers for the next two years, meaning that the grants to the provinces will increase by 1.3% in 1994-95 and 1.4% in 1995-96. This is however, in real terms, a continuation of the freeze first imposed by the Conservative government in 1985-86. On the student assistance issue, the government has made no changes on the student loan limits. Both federal funding to support colleges and universities and student assistance are being thoroughly reviewed through the social policy review process.

There are a few good pieces of news in the budget to report. The federal government has kept their commitment, outlined in the famous red book, to make available \$20 million in each of the next three years to help the back log of aboriginal students who were denied student assistance by the capping, in 1987, of funding for aboriginal education. Monies promised for the Canadian Youth Services Corps and the

Apprenticeship programmes have been put in place. Finally with regard to research and development, there are a couple of things to report. Additional resources will be provided in 1994-95 to allow the National research Council to continue to achieve its mandate. The federal granting councils have been excluded from budget cuts and their budgets will increase at 1.5% a year, after next year.

Federation Campaigns

Each year at the May General Meeting, the membership of the Federation decide to develop and commit to implement a number of campaigns over the year. This year has been a particularly busy year with nine campaigns, excluding our campaign for the federal election and provincial and local campaigns.

In the Fall term, five campaigns were developed and run at campuses across Canada: CFS Awareness Week, Year of Indigenous People, National Student Day, and Week of Reflection. In addition, the now famous "No Means No" anti-date rape posters were reproduced, thanks to the Ontario component, and made available to member associations.

In the Winter term, an additional four campaigns were available to member students associations: International Women's Week, If You Love Education Day, Pink Triangle Day, and a campaign on Tax Reform.

Feedback from members across the country was mixed. Many members received some of the material late, while others felt there were simply too many campaigns to implement to do any of them effectively. The membership should look at these issues at this general meeting and suggest ways to confront these problems.

Federation Research

This was a busy year for the Federation's research department. Much of our efforts this year were focused on developing and updating numerous fact sheets, monitoring and analyzing various statistics released by the federal government, and responding to government initiatives.

Over the past year, the research department was called upon to prepare briefs for the following committees:

- the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples;
- the Standing Committee on Human Resources Development studying ways to reform Canada's social security system;

- the Standing Committee on Finance studying ways to replace the Goods and Services Tax

In addition, our research department played a leading role in the debate surrounding the issue of income contingent loan repayment plans, preparing and presenting arguments against this financing model to the Government of New Brunswick, the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies (CAGS), and conferences organized at Ryerson, McGill and McMaster universities.

Membership Issues

Membership Development and Maintenance

This has been a busy year in the area of membership development and maintenance. In total, there have been ten membership referenda scheduled during 1993-94. the results of these referenda are as follows:

Mount Allison	November	88% in favour
Waterloo Grads	November	84% opposed
McMaster	Nov. & Dec.	No Quorum
Mount Royal College	January	75% in favour
Cariboo College	January	Cancelled
Langara College	February	50.3% opposed
Université de Moncton	March	58% opposed
Mt. St. Vincent U	March	No Quorum
Algoma University	March	70% in favour
Western Grads	March	No Quorum

As the above outlines, only six referenda led to a decisive conclusion. We lost members at the Université de Moncton, Langara College, and at University of Waterloo. On the flip side, students at Mount Allison gave the federation an overwhelming indorsement, and students at Mount Royal College and Algoma University became our newest full members, each with strong margins of support.

Also in the area of membership growth, I am most pleased to report that the Council at the University College of Cape Breton Students' Union, has voted unanimously to apply for prospective membership in the Federation. A referendum on full membership will take place in the fall.

Finally, there is some solid work taking place in the recruitment of new members to the Federation. I am hopeful that this work will bear fruit before the General Meeting.

Fee Increase Implementation

At the May, 1992 General Meeting in Edmunston, New Brunswick, the membership voted in favour of increasing the membership fee for the Canadian Federation of Students from \$3.00 to \$4.50 per year and the fee for the Canadian Federation of Students-Services from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per year. The membership was requested at that time to review the progress of the fee increase implementation at the May, 1994, General Meeting.

In all, by my estimation, 31 schools are on line for 1994-95, as of May, 1994. This means that 48.5 % of our total membership will be on line as of September. Over 52 % of those members which are currently remitting fees, will have signed on at the new fee structure by September.

On the next few pages, you will find some charts which examine our success to date, and look at where we still have work to do.

By examining these charts, it is clear that there is much work to do in Ontario, Nova Scotia, and in parts of British Columbia. These charts also tell us that both New Brunswick and British Columbia have had much success using the local Councils to ratify the increase.

An important thing to note, is that where we have tried to put forward the fee increase we have been extremely successful. This may be explained in large measure by the simple fact that we have moved quickly to implement the increase at those schools which were most receptive. We must put lots of effort into informing the remaining schools of the value they receive for the costs of their membership in the Federation.

Over the past year, there has been some movement on the fee increase ratification process. There will be eight new schools coming on line for September through referenda or council votes, held this year (Guelph GSA, Guelph CSA, Trent, Mount Royal College, University of Lethbridge, Sir Wilfred Grenfell, Mount Allison, and Memorial University). In addition, we have lost three fee referenda (Acadia University, Marine Institute, and the University of Ottawa).

Finally, there have been two referenda in the late fall, 1993, which essentially produced the status quo. At Carleton Students' Association, in Ottawa, we won the referendum, but a constitutional board later threw it out, citing mistakes by the Chief Electoral Officer. At McMaster University in Hamilton, the referendum didn't reach quorum, and the Council put it off for another year.

	Fee 94-95	Referendum	Council
British Columbia			
Camosun			
Capilano	X		X
Cariboo	X		X
City Centre	X		X
Emily Carr			
King Edward	X		X
Malaspina			
North Island	X		X
Northwest	X		X
Simon Fraser			
U Victoria			
Native Education Cntr			
Selkirk			
Douglas			
Kwantlen			
Alberta			
Augustana	X		X
Lethbridge	X		X
Mount Royal	X	X	
Saskatchewan			
University of Regina			

	Fee 94-95	Referendum	Council
Manitoba			
Brandon			X
St. Boniface	X		X
University of Winnipeg	X		X
Ontario			
Algoma University			
Carleton USA		X	
Carleton Grads	X	X	
Guelph CSA	X	X	
Guelph GSA	X	X	
Lakehead University	X		X
Laurentian			
McMaster		X	
Nippising			
O.C.A.			
U of Ottawa		X	
Ryerson			
U of Toronto GSU	X	X	
Trent University	X	X	
Western SOGS			
Windsor SAC			
Windsor GSS			
Wilfred Laurier Grads			
York University FS	X		X
Queen's Grads			
U of Waterloo UG			

	Fee 94-95	Referendum	Council
Québec			
McGill PGSS	X	X	
New Brunswick			
St. Louis Maillet	X		X
Shippagan	X		X
Mount Allison	X		X
St. Andrews	X		X
St. Thomas	X		X
UNB Fredericton	X		X
UNB St. John	X		X
Nova Scotia			
Acadia		X	
Dalhousie			
Mt. St. Vincent U		X	
N.S.C.A.D.	X		X
St. Anne			
King's	X		X
Prince Edward Island			
UPEI SU	X		X
UPEI Grads			
Holland College			
Newfoundland & Lab.			
Marine Institute		X	
Memorial University	X	X	
Wilfred Grenfell	X	X	

	Fee 94-95	Ref	Cnl	Win	Loss	%
Provincial Totals						
British Columbia (15)	6	0	6	6	0	100
Alberta (3)	3	1	2	3	0	100
Saskatchewan (1)	0	0	0	-	-	-
Manitoba (3)	2	0	3	2	0	66
Ontario (21)	7	8	2	7	1	88
Québec (1)	1	1	0	1	1	100
New Brunswick (7)	7	0	7	7	7	100
Nova Scotia (6)	2	2	2	2	2	50
Prince Edward Is. (3)	1	0	1	1	0	100
Newfoundland (3)	2	3	0	2	1	66
Totals (64)	31	15	23	31	3	91

National Graduate Council

General Meeting of the Council

The National Graduate Council held their general meeting in Montreal from February 11-13, 1994. Thirty-five delegates from across the country participated at the meeting, hosted by the McGill Post Graduate Students' Society. The meeting concluded with a innovative roundtable discussion with graduate students from student associations at Laval, Universite de Montreal, Ecole Polytechnique, Université de Québec a Montreal, Université de Québec a Rimouski, Université de Sherbrooke, and Concordia University.

The roundtable was organized as part of a joint effort between the Federation and the Regroupement des associations des cycles superieurs du Québec and the Conseil nationale des cycles superieurs. The session began with an overview of the various student organizations and their structures, as well as a number of more specific topics such as intellectual property rights, taxation policies and practices of graduate scholarships and bursaries, and a thorough explanation of Quebec's "student accreditation laws", Bill 32 and Bill 40.

New Officers for 1994-95

Elections for the position of Chairperson and Secretary-Treasurer of the Council took place in February. Stephen Johnson from the University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union was elected Chairperson, and Kelly Hawkins from Wilfred Laurier University Graduate Students' Association was elected Secretary-Treasurer. The representative to the National Executive will be chosen in May, at the Annual General Meeting of the Federation.

Government Relations

Representatives from the National Graduate Council represent the Federation on a number of government committees and advisory groups. NGC representatives have participated in meetings of both the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) over the past year. Reports are available through the N.G.C.

Communications

Above and beyond the Federation's regular avenues of communication, the National Graduate Council produces and distributes a newsletter expressly for graduate students. An edition of the newsletter was produced this year and is available through the national office in Ottawa.

Canadian Programming Service

During the past 12 months, Canadian Programming Service continued its 13 year tradition of promoting alternative programming on campuses, as well as representing some of Canada's top talents (i.e. Pamela Wallin, Elijah Harper, Dr. Henry Morgentaler, Ellen Gabriel, Lillian Allen, Stephen Lewis, Tomson Highway, Daniel Richler, Sue Johanson) to corporations, associations, and educators.

Staffed by a Director (campus market and the development of new speakers and programmes) and a Head of Corporate Division (off-campus markets), CPS organized over 300 engagements with an average audience size of 250 during the past year. CPS and its speakers touch the lives of more than 75,000 Canadians annually.

Every year, competition increases as new speaker agencies emerge and existing agencies become more aggressive. In response, CPS has been bold in its promotion and the expansion of its roster. Since September, Canadian campuses have seen Michael Kaufman, Dave Broadfoot, Robert Hunter, Captain Paul Watson, Mary Simon, Mike Duffy, Tomson Highway, Wendy Mesley, Lillian Allen, Three Dead Trolls in a Baggie, Dr. Timothy Leary, Maureen McTeer, Daniel Richler, Charlie McKenzie, Victor Moche, Ellen Gabriel, Dr. Henry Morgentaler, Gary Farmer, and Sue Johanson-- all through CPS!

The most significant success on campuses was Sue Johanson. With sponsorship from Johnson & Johnson, Sue spoke on more than 40 campuses, delivering a frank and honest talk about safer sex. Without a doubt, she has become the most successful speaker in history on Canadian campuses.

Additionally, CPS facilitated a western Canada tour for Dr. Timothy Leary, addressing over 4,000 students. His talk, HOW TO OPERATE YOUR BRAIN, was an eclectic blend of philosophy, politics, technology, and pop culture.

This fall, Canadian campuses will see the return of Sue Johanson; a new lecture from Michael Kaufman targeted at men; Reuben "Hurricane" Carter on racism and social justice; and FRANK Magazine on tour. Michael Bate, publisher and editor of the magazine will be addressing the need for "honest, biting journalism" that exposes the hypocrisy and elitism present in governments, corporate Canada, and the media.

Off-campus, CPS has devoted time developing a strategy to address the many requests for individuals who can speak with authority on the future of the Canadian economy. While competitors continue to woo our speakers, CPS continues to fight back with more integrity and attention to today's relevant issues. CPS has recently signed John Crow, former Governor of the Bank of Canada, and CPS has participated in the development and marketing of a grassroots, educational series on entrepreneurship, innovation, and enterprise. This work should mean increased

financial stability for CPS.

New speakers to the CPS roster include Der Hoi Yin (CBC Prime Time News business correspondent from Hong Kong), John Gray (Moscow correspondent for the Globe & Mail), and Cynthia Good (Publisher, Penguin Canada).

CPS was acknowledged last year in Winnipeg for ten years of continuous participation in COCA (Canadian Organization of Campus Activities), and continues to deliver workshops at these conferences on lecture programming. CPS will be present in Halifax at this year's conference which is being hosted by Mount St. Vincent University.

With an aggressive approach, CPS has managed to turn in sales that will show a greater than 35% increase over last year. CPS anticipates a similar increase in the coming year. Much of this has been due to responding to market demands, improving communication, and much more focused approaches to each sector of our very diverse client base. In addition, CPS should see particular growth in the number of engagements on campus as we build on the momentum from 1993-94.

David Doze, CPS Director, will be at the GM to talk to delegates who would like more information about Canadian Programming Service. Should you have any policy questions or political concerns regarding Canadian Programming Service, please refer them to Jaimie McEvoy, Deputy Chairperson.

CFSnet

Background

The Federation introduced CFSnet in 1989 to increase and facilitate communication between Canada's student associations.

When CFSnet was first introduced, there was a great deal of interest in the network. In December 1989, there were over 50 users on the network, including National Executive members and student associations at the University of Guelph, Douglas College, Brandon University, University of Victoria, Mount Allison, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, CFS Pacific, St. Louis Maillet, Students' Union of Nova Scotia, University of Calgary, St. Francis Xavier, University of Winnipeg, and Queens University. (When CFSnet was first introduced, non-member student associations were eligible to use CFSnet. It became a member only network in practice in 1991-92.)

At the November 1991 General Meeting, there was an evaluation of CFSnet, in terms of its role as an internal communications link for the Federation, and in terms of its costs, structure, and administrative set-up.

At this meeting a motion was passed by plenary, directing the National Executive to investigate a new form of electronic communications network that would accommodate the needs of all Federation members.

In May 1992 an evaluation of iNet, Internet, CoSy, Web, and Solinet was presented to the National Executive. The networks were evaluated on the following criteria: cost to administer; cost to the users; ability to customize software; availability of French software and network service; network functions; and the availability of IBM and Macintosh software and network service.

Based on this evaluation and discussions during the Programmes Committee, the Membership Development and Communications Committee, and plenary, a motion was passed at the November 1992 General Meeting of the CFS(-S) to re-implement the CFSnet system, using iNet as the host carrier.

During the summer of 1993, the Federation released a new version of software, CFSnet PLUS. Both the software and manuals are available in both french and english.

As of March 1994, there are 35 users on the network, mostly National Executive members and staff. There are six student associations on-line.

CFSnet Today

CFSnet meets most of the criteria set by the membership over the years, and more. The following are some CFSnet facts.

- CFSnet is dedicated to student issues.
- CFSnet software, manuals, and network service are available in french and english.
- Users have access to a 1-800 help line, where they may receive assistance in french or english.
- The network is incredibly easy to use. Users may check for messages by pressing one key.
- CFSnet functions include electronic mail, binary file transfer, bulletin boards, and notice-boards.
- CFSnet messages are posted within minutes of being sent.
- The average CFSnet bill is \$20-\$40 a month. Users should find their bills for long distance telephone calls and fax charges to be less. On-line charges are reduced by 25% after 6 pm and on weekends.
- Student associations with a budget of less than \$50,000 are eligible to receive free software. Student associations with a budget of less than \$20,000 are also eligible for a \$50 credit towards on-line time.

- The cost of the CFSnet PLUS software is \$175 for first time users. The upgrade rate (for student associations who used the first version of software) is \$100. When the PLUS software was released, there was no increase in cost.
- All costs for customizing the software and third party billing have been paid by the Federation. There are no more costs for the Federation to incur except for usage time and the free software distributed to National Executive members and student associations with a budget of less than \$50,000.

CFSnet Macintosh Software and Access to CFSnet

While CFSnet Macintosh software does not exist, to-date, Macintosh users can access the CFSnet network. Macintosh users (and any IBM compatible users who don't want to purchase the software) may access CFSnet with other types of communications software.

The only difference is that other communication software packages have not been customized for automated functions. However, most communication software packages are capable of automating basic functions such as connecting to Datapac, composing, and reading messages off-line.

The process for a Macintosh user to access CFSnet in this fashion, would be no more difficult than the process involved with accessing other networks such as Internet.

Discussions with Bell Canada, on February 24, 1994 indicated that a Macintosh version of their iNet PLUS software, and an IBM Windows version of the iNet PLUS software, would be available this spring.

Internet and CFSnet

This January, Bell Canada announced that Internet and iNet (CFSnet) users can now send electronic mail to one another. This is a very important development for CFSnet. A number of Federation members have free access to Internet, and as a result are hesitant to join CFSnet. These users can now communicate with CFSnet users (and vice versa).

While some Federation members have raised the issue of Internet versus CFSnet, there are a number of points to consider:

- The working languages of the Federation are french and english, and the Federation is committed to bilingualism. Federation francophone members want french software and network service, and rightly so. CFSnet can offer this. Internet cannot, and will not, in the foreseeable future.
- Federation members want user-friendly software. While many of our Federation

members are computer literate, many are not. Many of the users phoning the CFS-S office for help are still dealing with basic computer questions. Routine questions fielded include how to get into CFSnet through DOS; what the root directory is; how to save files on to a floppy disk; what a Datapac number is; how to hook up a modem; and the fact that you need a modem to connect to the Datapac. These people will have a very difficult time trying to use Internet.

- Not all universities, colleges, and student associations have free access to Internet. Without CFSnet, these institutions will be denied access to affordable and efficient communications.
- Many members have expressed concern about non-members being able to access Federation research etc. via communications networks. With CFSnet it isn't possible for non-members to access these documents. Documents stored on an Internet system can be accessed by anyone.
- We shouldn't think of CFSnet and Internet as competing networks. Instead, we should be thinking of ways to promote communication between the two types of users. Now that Internet and CFSnet users can communicate with one another it means that every Federation member has access to a communications network (whether it be CFSnet or Internet) and the potential to communicate with every Federation member.

Member Usage of CFSnet

With the release of the new CFSnet software last summer, the Federation has a top notch communications network. However, the number of Federation members taking advantage of the network's capabilities is low. The National Executive would like to see more members on the network and creative discussion on ways we can achieve better member participation on the network.

Ann Klug, Communications and Special Projects Officer for CFS-S, will be at the GM to talk to delegates interested in more information about CFSnet. Should you have any policy questions or political concerns regarding CFSnet, please refer them to Jaimie McEvoy, Deputy Chairperson.

Discount Programmes

CFS Membership/Student Saver Card

Student Saver is the discount programme of the Canadian Federation of Students. Since it was established, the Student Saver Card has evolved into the largest national student discount programme in Canada.

Over 300,000 Federation members receive a CFS Membership/Student Saver Card. The card provides information about the Federation and reminds individual students of the value of being a Federation member through access to hundreds of discounts across Canada.

Over the years, the CFS Membership/Student Saver Card has taken a number of formats. Through this evolution of formats, improvements have been achieved regarding the cost of production, the enviro-friendliness, and user-friendliness of the card.

At the March 1993 National Executive meeting, members of the executive approved a new cheaper and more user-friendly format for the card. In September of 1993, the new format was released.

The new format is a fold-out pamphlet with the card perforating from the main piece. The local discount listings, the local students' association name and phone number, and Federation information are printed on the card.

Overall, the format met its financial objectives and provided students with valuable discounts from national and local merchants.

The 1994-95 CFS Membership/Student Saver Card

The 1994-95 CFS Membership/Student Saver Card will be similar to last years. However, based on comments received from members, several improvements will be made. Members' comments indicate that some students found the card's design too youthful and the Coca Cola advertising too prominent in relation to the Federation profile. The instructions on how to perforate and use the card were also not clear enough. These comments will greatly help in re-working the design of this year's card.

The planning for the 1994-95 programme has already begun and members should be aware of their responsibilities to the programme:

Local Discount Organisation: Members have the months of May and June to organise discounts for their local programme. To assist members with this process, CFS-Services will provide, upon request, the materials required to approach businesses and up to \$100 per student association to partially fund the work. For more information about the organisation of discounts, members are encouraged to talk to the Director of Discount Programmes, Chris Gibbs, at this General Meeting. He can also be reached through the CFSnet user id, CFS.SERVICES, or by phone at (416) 977-3703.

Distribution: The CFS Membership/Student Saver Cards will be shipped to member campuses in the middle of August. Members need to distribute the cards on a one per student basis at the beginning of the school year.

Promotion: CFS-Services will provide members with posters and art work to promote the card to students. Members are encouraged to print discounts in their student handbook or campus paper.

Theatre Discounts

During 1993-94, CFS-Services worked with Live Entertainment Corporation to develop a 50% discount for students to see the Phantom of the Opera in Toronto. The program was immensely successful and over 25,000 students benefitted from the discount. Live Entertainment would like to continue the programme again, and staff are looking at ways to expand the program to make it more accessible to students across Canada.

ISIC Development and Marketing

The International Student Identity Card (ISIC) was introduced by the International Student Travel Confederation (ISTC) and the International Union of Students (IUS) to provide student travellers with one uniform document, accepted around the world as proof of full-time student status. Today, the ISIC is used by over 2.5 million students in 77 countries around the world, and is recognized as the worldwide student identity card.

This winter, CFS-Services received a \$35,000 grant from the ISTC to develop a network of travel related discounts for ISIC holders. The grant will be used to develop discounts at museums, art galleries, theatres, local attractions, and recreational activities in 15 major gateway cities across Canada. This project will be completed and available to students in September of 1994.

The Student Handbook Buyers' Group

1993 was the first year of operation for the Student Handbook Buyers' Group, a national, collective handbook production service.

While the Buyers' Group produced over 100,000 handbooks at 21 campuses (10 member schools, 11 non-member schools), the programme was not as successful as had been originally hoped. There are a number of reasons that account for the low participation rate:

- a very competitive printing market;
- little loyalty to the Buyers' Group from Federation members;

- the concept of a predesigned book did not appeal to all, particularly the larger institutions that had more experience in handbook production and a handbook editor; and
- many student association had already contracted local printers for their handbook by the time the project was started.

At the March 1994 National Executive meeting, executive members decided to put the Student Handbook Buyers' Group on hold for the 1994-95 academic year. Over the next six months the project will be assessed to see how it can better serve the members. A paper discussing the Student Handbook Buyers' Group will be available at the GM.

Chris Gibbs, Director of Discount Programmes, will be at the GM to talk to delegates interested in more information about discount programmes. Should you have any policy questions or political concerns regarding discount programmes, please refer them to Jaimie McEvoy, Deputy Chairperson.

The National Student Health Network

In 1993-94, The National Student Health Network consists of 22 extended health plans and two Managed Dental Care plans serving over 120,000 students. This fall, new plans were implemented at Mount Royal College, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, and the Technical University of Nova Scotia. The student health plan at St. Thomas University also became part of The Network. In addition, after a one year interruption in coverage, the Glendon College student health plan was reinstated.

Rising Costs and Managed Drug Formulary

One of the most significant challenges facing The Network is the rising cost of health care and the resulting increases in student health plan premiums. As the price of student health plans rise, the risk of failing to receive approval in referenda on health plan fee changes becomes greater. Over the past three years, The Network has seen four well-established student health plans go down to defeat in renewal referenda, leaving students on those campuses without extended health coverage for a year or longer.

The Network is working to provide some relief to the rising costs associated with student health plans through an innovative form of cost control called managed drug formulary. The goal of a managed drug formulary is to provide quality health care in the most cost-effective way possible. This involves focusing the prescription drug benefit on the most cost-effective medications and restricting expensive brand-name drugs when lower cost generic or therapeutic alternatives are available. In this way, the overall dollars claimed on the drug benefit (and, in turn, the premiums paid) are

reduced by reducing the average cost per claim. The Network has been working with pharmacists, campus health centre physicians, insurance companies, and others to develop a managed drug formulary that is specifically tailored to meet the special need of the student population. A number of Network plans will be using the new Student Managed Drug Formulary in 1994-95.

Health Insurance for International Students

Currently, only half of the provinces in Canada allow international students to register for provincial medicare. In the remainder, international students must find suitable replacement insurance in the commercial insurance marketplace.

Recently Ontario announced that it would no longer provide health insurance (OHIP) to international students. This will effect over 14,000 students. Saskatchewan is also considering discontinuing coverage to its international students.

In response, The Network has been developing a package of health insurance for international students which will provide a basic medicare replacement for injuries and illnesses which avoids many of the major limitations currently enforced by commercial agents. These plans will begin to be implemented in the fall of 1994.

Administrative Support

The administrative support for the student health plans continues to be strengthened. The Plan Administration Software tested on a trial basis last year was put into general use in 1993-94. This custom software package assists local plan administrators to maintain enrolment lists with the insurance companies and centralizes the production of premium refund cheques for students who have other health insurance.

Network Challenges

In addition to continuing to work on the issues discussed above, The Network will be focusing on another on-going issue in the year to come. While The Network has been experiencing growth in establishing new student health plans where none existed before, it has not been so successful in attracting the participation of a number of existing student health plans that are currently operated independently by student associations using commercial agents.

Another challenge of the upcoming year will be to examine why this is happening, determine what steps can be taken to resolve any barriers that may be perceived to exist, and to better communicate the advantages of pooling the collective resources and buying power of students in the insurance marketplace to these student associations.

Hugh Leighton, Director, and Michael Perry, National Administrator, will be at the GM to talk to delegates who would like more information about The National Student Health Network.

Should you have any policy questions or political concerns regarding The National Student Health Network, please refer them to Jaimie McEvoy, Deputy Chairperson.

Student Work Abroad Programme (SWAP)

The Student Work Abroad Programme (SWAP) was first established with a programme to New Zealand in 1975. The aim of SWAP is to allow students access to legitimate employment opportunities overseas as a way and means of subsidizing their medium to long term stays in the country of choice. With the recent Federal Government's approval of SWAP Jamaica and SWAP Netherlands, eleven countries now participate on the programme.

Following please find a brief outline on each country, noting any changes respecting services or programme operations:

Britain

Britain is the largest SWAP destination with 650 to 700 participants expected in 1994. Participants will receive a 12 month membership at the International Student House in Central London rather than the 3 month membership at the University of London Union (ULU). They will be able to use the ULU pool and gym facilities with the ISH Card. The job scene is still rather jolly in Jolly Old!

Ireland

Recently Foreign Affairs Canada drastically cut back the allocation of in-bound Irish students from 275 in 1993 to 100 in 1994. SWAP, the Canadian Embassy in Dublin, and other elements within that department are opposing this decision. There is an excellent chance that they will agree to 200 in the very near future.

France

There is a lot of demand and interest in SWAP France for the upcoming season, with no major changes respecting SWAP France in 1994. Approximately 200 Canadian students will go to France through SWAP this year.

Finland

The 1994 Trainee Programme has been "downsized" (from 20 to 10 students) to account for a very bad job market in Finland. The Family Programme remains at its

usual level of participation at approximately 30 students.

Germany

Participation is slightly up from 1993 but the programme has not proven to be as popular as originally thought. SWAP's German partner organization has had an American programme for some years and fewer American students have been going to Germany for the past three years. The German organizers believe it is a combination of the world-wide recession and the bad press about social problems in the North American media.

Australia

SWAP Australia has two departure periods, spring and fall. The programme is enjoying a slight increase in numbers this spring. The fall departures are more popular, so this slight increase in participants is very hopeful.

New Zealand

There is no noticeable increase in participation over 1993. However, the governments of Canada and New Zealand have signed a Working Holiday Accord so SWAP no longer enjoys a monopoly in New Zealand work visas. Officials in both countries are considering providing SWAP with better visa provisions so the programme would not be hurt in either country. There may be "late breaking news" on this by the time of the General Meeting...or there may not.

Japan

The numbers of participants to Japan have reached a plateau over the past couple of years which is probably just as well, given the recession in Japan. Because of financial restraints felt by the person in the street, enrolment in ESL (English as a Second Language) schools is down somewhat. Therefore, there are less jobs in the area of English language instruction.

USA

Interest in SWAP USA is up considerably and the allocation of 200 places will doubtless fill up this year. SWAP does not expect an increase in this allocation until more American students come to Canada. Last year, 185 Canadians and 65 Americans came north. By 1995, it may well be in SWAP's interests to actively promote the American's Council of International Educational Exchange's Work in Canada programme through direct mail outs to Placement Centres on US campuses.

Netherlands

Starting in 1994, SWAP can send up to 25 students to the Netherlands. The host organization in Delft has offered our students three job options as follows:

- a) They will place our students;
- b) They will help our people conduct their own job search or;
- c) They will secure the necessary authorization for any employment a Canadian student can arrange through friends or family.

Jamaica

The Federal Government has agreed that five students from each country can participate in the new Canada-Jamaica SWAP. Both the British and American "SWAP" organizations have been experiencing various difficulties in Jamaica in the past two years, so it is best that the programme start small. Canadian students will be recruited for the "summer programme" offered by the host organization. This is a recommendation from SWAP's UK and US partners, both of whom have had a range of difficulties with their Jamaican programmes. Also, both the British and American organizations are allowing SWAP to use the information packages that they have developed over the years which will be most helpful to our students.

Central Europe

There will be no SWAP programmes in Central Europe for Canadian students in 1994 as a result of considerable problems last year. However, in order to keep the doors open with the four countries, Poland, Hungary and the Czech and Slovak Republics, SWAP has sought federal approval to sponsor up to five students from each country. There are no federal funds for this activity in 1994.

General SWAP News

The big news with SWAP in 1994 is SABRE. With this new reservations system being used by Travel CUTS/Voyages Campus, the level and quality of information being sent electronically is nothing short of amazing. Each morning, SWAP staff can sign into the system and get considerable information on each student who applied from St. John's to Victoria the day before. The system can alert staff to book accommodation in London and to issue work permits for people going to Ireland. In time, as SWAP staff and Travel CUTS/Voyages Campus counsellors become used to the system, staff may be able to develop a largely "paper free" administration. Staff can revert to manual systems in the unlikely event of technical problems with SABRE. Also, staff can put the Operations Manual for SWAP on SABRE for easier access for the counsellors, as well as information packages on each country in order to improve the service at SWAP's front lines, the Travel CUTS/Voyages Campus offices.

SWAP staff conducted campus tours in various parts of the country this fall and winter. At some schools, there were reasonably sized crowds, but on other campuses there was a surprising lack of interest. Staff have pretty much abandoned the idea of setting up booths at summer job fairs at various campuses. Students that attend these job fairs are generally not in a financial position to consider SWAP in the summer in question. For example, staff went to a combined University of Ottawa, Carleton, and Algonquin job fair, passed out 600 brochures, and told everyone about a one hour SWAP presentation the next day at Carleton. Four students showed up.

Staff would be most interested in any feedback respecting the value of these on-campus presentations. SWAP has encouraged Travel CUTS/Voyages Campus staff to do more presentations locally but many of the counsellors are quite nervous about public speaking. There is a SWAP video for such talks and SWAP will actively encourage offices to give presentations.

The hosting of foreign SWAP students went well during 1993 with welcoming centres located year round in Toronto and Vancouver and a summer only operation in Montreal. Close to 50% of the foreign students had arranged jobs by correspondence from home and many others had interviews lined up. There were surprisingly few difficulties given the state of the casual job market in Canada last year. It is important to note that these foreign job searchers are quite flexible and not locked in to any particular town or city in Canada. Those finding it difficult to get work in Toronto were more than ready to head west to Banff or Vancouver. The students from Central Europe presented some particular problems for SWAP staff, but in the end, all worked.

Feedback from Canadian students abroad was generally positive. There were problems with Central Europe in that the host organizations were not very effective in assisting our participants. Staff are discussing this whole question with Canadian diplomatic officials in those countries and will firm up these services before more Canadian students would go there in 1995. Also, there were a few problems with regard to readily available employment outside of Paris for SWAP France participants. The host organization is well aware of this and will urge more of the Canadian students to stay in Paris where they can be more closely assisted.

Volunteer Abroad

At this writing, all is going well with Volunteer Abroad. To date, there is a definite project in Smith Falls, Ontario, where volunteers will work with mentally challenged young people at the Rideau Regional Centre. There is also an excellent chance that there will be two projects with Habitat for Living (the group identified with Jimmy Carter) who will be building low income housing in Red Deer and in Halifax.

There are close to 70 applicants for overseas placement and there is an excellent chance that 50 to 60 applicants will be placed. Many of the cooperating agencies in

Europe have agreed to accept more Canadians than originally anticipated in order to help the development of the programme. This programme has amazing potential in that there appears to be large numbers of young Canadians who are interested in combining international travel with voluntarism.

IAEWEP

The International Association of Educational and Work Exchange Programmes (IAEWEP) is the member association of the International Student Travel Conference (ISTC) for those national student travel bureaux who operate or are interested in such activities. The SWAP Director sits on the Standing Committee of IAEWEP and acts as Treasurer. Essentially, IAEWEP is evolving into an excellent forum for programme operators to discuss all aspects of these programmes and to consider how services can be improved. Through IAEWEP, programme operators have a way and means within the ISTC to encourage other national student travel bureaux to become involved with such exchanges.

The South African Student Travel Service (SASTS) proposed last year to IAEWEP that it sponsor an exploratory delegation to go to that country to determine if the rapid political changes going on down there have created a climate conducive to either academic or work exchanges or both. After considerable discussion, IAEWEP has agreed to sponsor such a delegation. It was agreed that this project would be quickly dropped if there was still considerable violence in that country in the early summer. An invitation from IAEWEP to the President of Travel CUTS/Voyages Campus has been sent to the National Executive for consideration. The Federation has long participated in the boycott on South Africa but at the urging of the African National Congress, this boycott has been lifted.

The Ship for World Youth

Each year the Government of Japan funds a four month educational cruise of the Pacific Rim with 175 Japanese and a similar number of foreign participants. For 1995, Canada will be offered thirteen places in the seventh annual Ship for World Youth. These participants will be flown to Tokyo for a two week orientation session. In late January, the Nihon Maru sails from Yokohama to Brisbane, Australia. Other ports of call include Suva in Fiji, Tahiti, Hawaii, Ecuador, Columbia, and Mexico. The Canadian and American delegations are flown home after a second stop in Honolulu.

Foreign Affairs Canada nominated the SWAP Director as the Canadian delegate to an introductory session in Tokyo in early March. All costs were covered by the Government of Japan. In the spring, the Japanese Embassy will send an official invitation for thirteen young Canadian delegates to Foreign Affairs. Foreign Affairs will in all likelihood ask the Federation to publicize the Ship and to do the participant selection. Federal funds would be available for this task. Foreign Affairs is aware that

any such request must be considered and approved by the National Executive.

Should you have any policy questions or political concerns regarding the Student Work Abroad Programme, please refer them to Jaimie McEvoy, Deputy Chairperson.

