

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

Canadian Federation of Students and
Canadian Federation of Students - Services
Wednesday, May 24 1995 to Tuesday May 30, 1995

Section 1

National Executive Composition

The membership of the National Executive has undergone several changes since the last National General Meeting. The following is a list of National Executive members:

Aboriginal Students' Representative

Heather Morin (November 1994 - March 1995)

Vacant (March 1995 - present)

Alberta Representative

David Huxtable (November 1994 - May 1995)

Zahra Habib (May 1995 - present)

British Columbia Representative

Marne Jensen

Constituency Group Commission Representative

Jennifer Metcalfe

National Chairperson

Guy Caron

National Deputy Chairperson

Mike Mancinelli

Francophone Students' Representative

Marie-Claude Poliquin

Graduate Students' Representative

Michael Temelini

Manitoba Representative

Réal Déquier

New Brunswick Representative

Sylvie Daigle

Newfoundland and Labrador Representative

Craig Adams (November 1994 - April 1995)

Keith Clarke (April 1995 - present)

Nova Scotia Representative

Kareem Robinson (November 1994 - May 1995)

Tasha Bollerup (May 1995 - present)

Ontario Representative

Lucy Watson

Prince Edward Island Representative

Patricia Embleton (November 1994 - April 1995)

Andrew MacPherson (April 1995 - present)

Québec Representative

Brad Lavigne

Saskatchewan Representative

Loretta Gerlach

National Treasurer

Cassandra Koenen

Women's Commissioner

Karen Eryou

Section 2

Membership

Since the last General Meeting, thirteen membership referenda have occurred. At the end of November, the **York University Graduate Student Association** students voted to join the Federation. In January and February, the **Ryerson Technical University Student Union**, the **Carleton University Student Association** and the **Acadia University Student Union** students voted in favour of remaining full members of the Federation. The same month, students of the **McMaster University Student Union** decided not to withdraw from the Federation as more than 20% of the voters abstained.

Unfortunately, the **Mount Allison University Student Union**, the **UNB-Fredericton Student Union**, the **UNB-St. John Student Representative Council**, the **St. Thomas University Student Union**, the **Students' Federation of the University of Ottawa** and the **University of Windsor Student Alliance** students all voted opposed to continued membership in the Federation in referenda held in March. Also in March, the **University College of Cape Breton Student Union** students voted, by a majority of 15 votes, not to join the Federation while the **St. Paul University Student Association** students voted to join the Federation.

It is worth noting that both the **Mount St. Vincent University Student Union** and the **UPEI Student Union** decided to withdraw their notice of referendum.

Three member locals have sent notice of referendum for next year. The **York Federation of Students**, the **Memorial University Council of the Students' Union** and the **Ryerson Technical University Student Union** have sent notice for a referendum of disaffiliation while the **Concordia University Student Union** will have a referendum to join the Federation.

On a positive note, the **Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Students** decided to become a provincial component of the Federation. All member locals of the **Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Students** have made the commitment to seek prospective membership in the Federation.

Local members of Nova Scotia have also decided to form a provincial component at a recent meeting. Thus since Nova Scotia joined, all provinces now have provincial components of the Federation, a goal that was sought, and only now achieved, since the creation of the Federation 15 years ago.

Section 3 Programmes

STUDENT WORK ABROAD PROGRAMME (SWAP)

Outgoing Programmes

The results of the fall/winter SWAP tour have been tabulated. The tour drew 850 students in the West, 422 in the East, and 500 in Ontario/Quebec. The response from CUTS offices to date indicates a stronger interest in the programme this year, a response to the reworked promotion materials and the success of the tour. Final participant numbers should be up this year.

Hosting

The summer hosting operations will operate again this year in Montreal, Vancouver, and Toronto. The centre in Toronto will operate out of space on the fourth floor at the Toronto office. The Federation will again receive a Jobs Opportunity grant to help staff the centre. It is planned to receive over 3,000 students in Canada this year. Canada is increasingly popular. Japan filled their quote of 3500 between January and March 31. The UK quota is now full.

Overseas Partners

The hosting arrangements are in place at our 11 overseas partners. The only area of concern is Australia where there has been a complete change of management in Student Services Australia - our partner. Unfortunately the staff were unhappy at this change and many have quit including the SWAP Director. The Federation may back them up with our staff to ensure the service to our participants.

Volunteer Abroad Programme

The Federation has been fortunate to get the services of a volunteer worker, Paul Jennings, on placement from our partner organisation in Wales. Paul is co-ordinating the Volunteer Abroad Programme - both the overseas aspects and the Canadian workcamp programmes. He has a great deal of experience running these programmes and has done similar volunteer placements around the world.

Over 1,500 inquiries have been received for information on the Programme (not including the 800 from the Student Saver/Federation Membership card mailback coupon). Of these, 250 have placed orders for the catalogue of volunteer projects that The Federation sell at \$15. The catalogue has now been produced; it is a compendium of volunteer work opportunities around the world. The book describes about 450 such projects that we will set up on behalf of the applicants. Seventy spots have been reserved for Canadians through bilateral arrangements negotiated at the European Alliance meeting of voluntary organisations in February.

The Alliance is an international co-ordinating organisation for volunteer programmes. Many

more Canadians can participate if the demand warrants. Paul and David Smith are currently trying to arrange more Canadian work camp sites to add to the existing five.

Japanese Programme

There are problems with the Japanese programme. The Japanese Government has notified the Federation of their intention to demand individual interviews with all applicants for the Working Holiday Visa, and to increase support funds requirements considerably. This would have the effect of killing the SWAP Japan programme. (It has been learned from our Japanese contacts that this is in response to ads that have run in Vancouver promising women hosting jobs that are really recruiting for the Japanese sex trade).

The Federation has met with the Japanese consular officials and the Foreign Affairs officials. The Feds are backing our demand for an exemption for SWAP and chances are good in achieving this.

New Programmes

The Dutch programme will not operate due to problems encountered last year with the Federation's partner. There is communication with the Netherlands Commission for Higher education in order to get a Dutch programme in place for 96. Talks are continuing for a programme with South Africa.

International Association of Work Exchange Programmes (IAWEP)

The International Student Travel Confederation (ISTC) has given a grant to IAWEP in order to fund a study on North-South work exchanges. The study will be conducted by one of the world's most respected authorities on international exchanges, a Canadian and former vice President of CIDA, and a founded/patron of a number of Canadian International Youth Programmes, Lais Perinbam.

The study will review the ethical and practical questions involved in work related exchange programmes between countries in the North and the South.

CANADIAN PROGRAMMING SERVICE (CPS)

The Canadian Programming Service has been nominated by the Canadian Organisation for Campus Activities (COCA) for the "agency of the year" award. David will showcase Thompson Highway and Sue Johanson/David Kelly at the COCA Meeting.

New Speakers

Sue Johanson, the top campus speaker last year, will team up with David Kelly the former head of People living With Aids. Their fall tour will deal with issues of sex, and sexuality, with

a theme of AIDS education.

Pierre Bourque, a Councillor in Ottawa and contributor to WIRED Magazine, will speak on the Internet.

Marian Botsford-Fraser, President of PEN Canada, a writers organisation, on promoting reading and advocating freedom of expression for authors.

Ken Dryden, author, on his new work and book dealing with education.

Paul Hoffert, Director of the Caltech Collaborative Research Centre, a not-for-profit info technology centre at York University. He is currently representing Canada at the G7 conference on Global Information Waves.

COMMUNICATION

Student Traveller

The latest edition of the Traveller was the largest, and by all reports, the best ever. In particular, there has been a good response to stutrav@io.org, the new internet id, for input, comment, and inquiry. About 150 inquiries have been received on this id to date.

CFSNET

More changes have been made to the CFSNET/INTERNET interface. The connection between the two networks is now seamless. Any internet user can communicate with a CFSnet user without any extra steps. This change has more than doubled the number of people that are registered for the Net and get access to CFS NEWS and the other Federation information boards, but unfortunately, they are finding nothing from the Federation on these.

The Federation has called Bell Canada "up on the carpet" over the rates they are charging for data transfer. They have agreed to look at cutting our rates, and we are waiting for their proposal.

The Federation has suggested a 50% reduction. At that cost, CFSNET will be cheaper than the phone or fax and, of course, much more effective for many uses.

National Student Association Directory

The information requests for the Directory are out. A deadline for May 1 was set to get all of the information in.

STUDENT SAVER CARD

Paula Haapanen will be the summer Student Saver coordinator. Paula has been a Travel CUTS campus representative at Lakehead University for a couple of years, speaks four languages, has been a SWAP participant, and has experience and knowledge of the

Federation, including working at the recent University of Ottawa referendum.

Solicitation of Discounts

A Student Saver Card manual for all campuses has been prepared. It is a clear and concise description of how to organise and promote a local discount programme.

All members have received an order form for their materials. When they respond to this they will receive a number of copies for an info kit for their reps. We will set a deadline of three weeks after the confirmation of their order to have the discounts submitted. As in the past couple of years, every campus will receive a draft copy of the card and must confirm its accuracy. Cards are scheduled to be on campus by the second week of August.

Production Costs

The cost of paper stock has risen 60% over last years. This is an issue that we will have to consider when budgeting for the 95 programme materials.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT IDENTITY CARD (ISIC)

The Canadian Travel Discount Guide was distributed to ISIC issuers in late January. Joanna Murphy-Ward is beginning to work on renewal and expansion of this discount network. This is the publication and concession network for which the ISIC Association provided us with the \$38,000 grant. Input on your area will assist the efforts to improve and expand the network discounts.

ISIC Association

The ISIC Association met in March at a special Meeting to consider a reworked constitution. This allows more commercial entities to participate in the association as full Issuing Authorities; a move called for to reflect the new realities of ownership in the student travel world. The revisions create and a Board of Trustees that will have new powers and a mandate to preserve the integrity of the card. The constitution was approved, though not without some opposition, mostly from Student Services Australia.

The joint GO25/Youth Card

As previously reported, Canada is among four countries in the world approached last year to participate in a pilot project on a joint youth card, an experiment of the European Youth Card Association (EYCA) and the Federation of International Youth Travel Organization (FIYTO). The Federation submitted a proposal for such a pilot in Canada and made a request for \$15,000 to fund the start-up. We have been awarded the right to participate in the pilot and the full grant.

Section 4 Other Reports

REPORT OF THE WOMEN'S COMMISSIONER

1. Introduction

I was elected Women's Commissioner at the November 1994 semi-annual general meeting. Since that time I have been involved in a number of activities focusing on issues such as women and post-secondary education. The Women's Constituency group Co-Commissioners, Stephannie Roy and Deena Bowie have been instrumental in a number of issues.

2. Issues Arising from the Women's Caucus of November 1994

There were some items of business that arose from the meeting of the caucus.

a) 1994-95 Women's Constituency Group Campaign

As most of you that attended the November meeting are aware, the Women's Constituency Group decided that the funds that were allotted to run a Women's Campaign should be re-directed towards the national Day of Action - January 25, 1995

b) Confidentiality at Women's Caucus

It was brought to my attention that there were a number of false allegations made about Women's Caucus from a delegate at the November 1994 meeting. In her report to her executive the delegate claimed that she was removed from the caucus. These allegations raised two concerns: (1) the allegations were not true; (2) the conduct of women's caucus is confidential. A letter was written by myself and the Women's Constituency Co-Commissioners to the executive for a clarification of this issue, to date there has been no response.

3. Work of the Women's Commissioner

a) National Consultation of Women's Groups for the Social Policy Review

In the beginning of December I attended this meeting which was organized by the National Action Committee on the Status of Women and sponsored by the Human Resources and Development Department. Over sixty equality seeking women's groups met to discuss the Green Book and prepare responses to present to a panel of government officials which included Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Human Resources and Development, and Paul Martin, Minister of Finance.

I participated in the plenary discussions and in the workshops on equity in education which focused on the issues of accessibility for education for women.

At this meeting NAC fully endorsed the National Day of Strike and Action. NAC also attempted to press for a women's consultation of the Federal Budget but this was refused by Minister

Martin. Please see me for more details as I have received verbatim minutes of the meeting.

Finally, this meeting provided a chance to make contact with other women's groups and promote the Federation.

b) National Day of Strike and Action

I was asked to give an interview for the Ryerson Radio Station on the issues surrounding women and post-secondary education, and the work of the Federation in this area. When giving this interview I was able to tie the issues discussed into the Day of Action.

On January 25th I made a presentation to the students at the Faculty of Education at the University of Toronto. The focus of the presentation was surrounding the issue of the inequity of an Income Contingent Loan Repayment Plan as proposed by the Liberal Government. John Godfrey, MP (Liberal) for Don Valley West also participated in this discussion.

Finally, I debated the importance of having a national Day of Action on "Face-Off" on CBC Newsworld.

4. Upcoming Events

a) National Consultation on Ending Violence Towards Women

As a result of the Federation participation in the NAC meeting in December I have been asked to attend this meeting on June 3-5, in Ottawa sponsored by the Department of Justice. The focus will be on violence towards women, particularly the "Drunkenness Defence". In addition, there will be discussions on a wide range of issues.

b) National Action Committee on the Status of Women Annual General Meeting, June 6-10, Ottawa, Ontario

The Federation is a full member of NAC and therefore sends a delegation with voting rights to its AGMs. A delegation has not yet been selected. This issue will be further discussed in Women's Caucus.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Eryou

Section 5 Campaigns

NATIONAL DAY OF STRIKE AND ACTION - JANUARY 25, 1995

Please consult the report of the National Strike Coordinator at the end of this Report.

Section 6 Staffing

STAFFING IN THE OTTAWA OFFICE

At the conclusion of the previous national general meeting, the staffing in the Ottawa office was as follows:

Finance Coordinator	Katherine Sproule
Internal Coordinator	Simone Saint-Pierre
Communications Coordinator	Vacant
Researchers	Caryn Duncan (on leave)
	Bernie Froese-Germain
	Carol-Lynn Prebinski
Translators	Monique Landa
	Jocelyn Charron
Government Relations Coordinator	

In January, Simone Saint-Pierre was hired as the new Communications Coordinator, through the internal hiring process.

In March, Financial Coordinator Katherine Sproule decided to take a six-month leave and the position was filled, in the interim, by Johanne Laurent. Johanne was the General Meeting coordinator last November.

Finally, in April, Caryn Duncan decided to resign from her position after a one-year leave of absence. She worked for the Federation for over four years.

The hiring process for the Internal Coordinator and the new Graduate Caucus Coordinator are both under way and should be completed by the end of June. The same applies for the two positions in the research department, which should be filled by the beginning of July.

STAFFING IN THE FIELD

At the conclusion of the previous national general meeting, the staffing in the field was as follows:

Alberta Fieldworker	Gapped
Manitoba/Sask. Fieldworker	Denise Doherty-Delorme (on a maternity leave)
	Kemlin Nemhard (interim)
New Brunswick/PEI Fieldworker	Vacant
NFLD/Nova Scotia Fieldworker	Michelle Brazil

Denise came back in January, but Kemlin's contract with the Federation has been extended for work during the referenda.

In February, Joseph Byrne was hired as New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Fieldworker. He will be based in Charlottetown.

The position of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia fieldworker was made vacant on April 30, 1995.

STAFFING IN THE TORONTO OFFICE

Since the November 1994 General Meeting, there have been a few staffing changes in the Toronto office.

Earlier this year, Michael Perry, Health Plan Administrator, resigned from his position to pursue other goals.

The position of Executive Director, previously filled by David Jones, became vacant this past month.

Lastly, Paula Haappanen was hired as the summer StudentSaver Coordinator. Paula worked this past year at Lakehead University as the campus representative for Travel CUTS.

Section 7

International Affairs

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS

The Federation is a full member of the International Union of Students, along with the national student unions from across the globe. The Union works internationally on behalf of all students, conducting research, advising the United Nations on student issues, coordinating international events and meetings, and being a partner in the distribution of the International Student Identity Card. There has been development on a number of issues since the Federation's last general meeting.

Sale of building

Firstly, the Union's financial situation has been quite poor for a while now, due mainly to the inability to sell its head office building in Prague, and uncollected fees from a number of member organizations. However, the prospect of resolving the situation around the building appears to have become a bit more promising. Negotiations with a company to lease the building for fifteen years, then sell it to the company, have been ongoing and an agreement may be signed within the next short while.

Council meeting

There is a real possibility that a Council meeting of the Union will be held this summer in South Africa. Preparations are being made, but because of the financial considerations, no commitments exist. If it does take place, the Federation will likely be represented. The main issues that have to be dealt with are structural and internal ones, including membership communication, finances, elections, and such.

Executive Secretariat position

For the past three and some years, the Federation has held the position of Women's Representative on the Executive Secretariat (Allison Lewis, former National Deputy Chairperson assuming this role). The Federation has been informed that Allison, within the coming weeks, will be resigning from the Union. Since the Secretariat positions are held by members unions, the Federation has the right to appoint another person to fill the vacancy. This should be done at this general meeting, and would take effect as soon as possible.

Section 8

Coalition Work

Since the last general meeting in November, the Federation has seen coalition work as increasingly essential. We have continued to work with our partners in the Action Canada Network, through our regular involvement in the decision making bodies such as the Network's Steering and Executive committees, at the table at various campaign meetings, and at its General Assembly in March. Within and outside the Network, coalition work was a key part of the Federation's National Day of Strike and Action, and continued with the federal government's budget legislation.

Action Canada Network

The Action Canada Network is a coalition of national organizations including the Federation, the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, the National Anti-Poverty Organization, the Canadian Auto Workers, and several other labour, community, church, and social justice organizations. Over the last several months, the Federation's commitment to coalition work within the Network has continued to be strong.

National Day of Strike and Action

Starting in November, Network member organizations began their efforts to support the Day of Strike and Action. Over the weeks leading up to January 25, a number of meetings were held to plan the coalition involvement for the event. Support came in many forms, from financial and material contributions, to letters of endorsement and participation in the events. The Network was instrumental in distributing the information, posters, and material about the Strike and getting it out to as many groups as possible.

Meetings

This past March, the Network held its General Assembly in Ottawa. The Network usually holds four or five Assemblies a year, varying the location across the country when possible. The main focus of this Assembly was the federal budget released in February. Member organizations shared information on the impact of the Canada Social Transfer and the cuts to transfer payments. All agreed that a national campaign against the budget was needed to inform all our members about the budget impacts, and to mobilize them to speak out against it. The result was the call for a National Day of Action against the Budget for May 1.

Other meetings of the Network were the usual Steering committee meetings, and meetings around the May 1 Day of Action. Also, as mentioned in the Deputy Chairperson's report, members of the Steering Committee, at one of its' meetings, decided to form an Executive

committee. This latter would have the mandate to be the decision making body in between Steering committee meetings, and would be accountable to it. The structure of the executive committee is such that it is representative of the two "movements" within ACN, labour and community/social action. The Deputy Chairperson of the Federation was nominated and elected to one of the seats of the Committee. There have been a number of short meetings of the Executive since it was formed, mainly to provide direction for the ongoing activities of the Network.

Other Coalition Work

There were a number of meetings with other organizations in the past few months. These were mainly around developing responses to the federal budget initiatives, and sharing ideas of common actions in the coming year around the Canada Social Transfer.

REPORT

of the National Strike Co-ordinator
April 27-30, 1995, National Executive Meeting

Introduction

January 25 was an historic day for the student movement in Canada. Students mobilized in 44 cities throughout the country, in Canada's largest student mobilization.

Strengths of the Mobilization

The January 25 mobilization was an excellent membership development and communications tool. Students from member and non-member locals mobilized. The Federation's profile was high where actions occurred, whether through Federation materials, through events and interviews leading up to January 25.

The grassroots coalition work that was put into motion was unprecedented. Links were established between the Federation and anti-poverty groups, organisations of the unemployed, senior citizens organizations, women's groups, trade unions, and other social justice organisations. In some cities demonstrations, non-student organizations groups together to organise solidarity rallies. Trade union offices provided free and unlimited photocopying. Interestingly, coalition partners in some cities took the initiative to approach non-Federation student associations about organising for January 25. Many people from outside the student milieu said that their participation in the January 25 action had reinvigorated their own movement.

It should also be noted that organisations from across Canada contributed more than \$5,000.00 in total to the national Strike Fund. More donations were made directly to local student associations or to the provincial budgets.

The materials produced on a local and provincial level were outstanding. Materials were informative, creative and greatly enhanced the profile of the Federation.

The mobilization created an opportunity for individual members of the Federation to mobilize in numbers and actually experience first hand, the concept of strength in numbers. The Federation thus became more relevant to the individual members who comprise the Federation.

Students from member and non-member campuses helped organise for January 25. This is due, in part to the fact that the Ottawa office did a massive mailing of campaign materials almost immediately. Not only did every student association in the country receive a package of materials but every student group within the student associations received a package. Materials were sent to every women's centre, every aboriginal student group, environmental group, social justice group etc. In that way, many, many students were informed about the Federation's action. (I would suggest that such a mailing be undertaken more regularly, to increase awareness of and participation in, Federation campaigns.)

Because so many non-member campuses were organising events on January 25, the action also produced greater membership recruitment opportunities. Students from non-member associations have requested information about membership in the Canadian Federation of Students. (St. Paul's University in Ottawa, for example, George Brown, in Toronto, Yukon College, Concordia Students' Union, as well as CEGEP's throughout Quebec, to name only a handful...)

It should also be noted that the January 25th action resonated to such an extent that some non-member student associations felt compelled to provide some level of activity on the day itself. For example, some

student associations organised food drives on the 25th. Given that student associations could have organised food drives at any time throughout the year, it seems too much of a coincidence that such activities were organised to coincide with the Federation's National Strike and Action.

Did Students Have an Impact?

YES! If the Government had it's way, the ICLRP would have been well underway by now. Instead, all government discussion about post-secondary education has been shelved.

Almost every daily newspaper in the country had an article about the Federation's Day of Strike and Action. Most articles did provide some coverage of the background to the issues surrounding the day of action. Moreover, while the media was forced to note that thousands participated in Victoria, Vancouver, Toronto, Guelph, Montreal, St. John's, and Halifax (a significant accomplishment in its own right) they usually went on to say that the action 'fizzled' elsewhere. Besides being untrue--whole campuses were effectively shut down in places like Salmon Arm, Winnipeg, Toronto (York), Thunder Bay, Montreal--it seemed like an awful lot of effort went into convincing the friends, relatives and acquaintances of the over 80,000 students who participated in the day that the day was a 'flop'. Usually an insignificant issue simply goes unreported and without comment. The day of action was significant enough for the Globe and Mail to devote an editorial to it on the 25th. It was also significant enough for the US Consulate to phone the Federation three times for details about how it had been organised and whether there was any likelihood that such action would 'spill-over south of the 49th parallel'. (Interestingly, on March 23, 10,000 students organized in New York city as part of an American Day of Action against cuts to post-secondary education funding and the Contract with America...)

In the aftermath, Universities like York placed full-page advertisements in newspapers proclaiming the fact that tuition would not be increasing in September 1995. (When was the last time that happened?)

Moreover, by rallying popular opinion (whether the media acknowledges it or not) most provincial governments have come out publicly opposed to ICLRP's. Very few governments take public positions on issues they believe are highly unpopular. Provincial governments declaring their opposition to ICLRP's: British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. In Quebec, the provincial government promised to freeze tuition and to support students in their fight against the government's plans to reduce access to post-secondary education.

Few (if any) in the Federal Cabinet are clear on the status of the Social Security Review. Moreover, prior to the budget, splits developed within the Liberal Caucus regarding the direction of the party as a whole. (In fact, Liberal MP George Baker sent a supportive statement to the Ottawa Office of the Federation to be read out at the rallies. He spoke at a Newfoundland demonstration.)

All this is not to suggest that the picture for post-secondary education is rosey. On the contrary. Students clearly bought a one year respite. To defeat the government's plans will require a strong, clear, visible, participatory campaign to keep the momentum going.

Areas for Improvement

While the effort across the country was tremendous, there are a few organisational details which might help Federation members organise even more effectively.

1. In some cities, while there were brilliant mechanisms used to inform people about the issues, the details for the January 25th action were not finalised until only a short time before the 25th. In the future, it might be useful to finalise the day's events first, and then, as the information is disseminated the action itself can also be promoted.
2. While most member locals were exemplary at pre-January 25th liaising with the Ottawa office, the post-January 25th liaising could definitely have been improved. Few locals submitted original copies of articles from their campus papers, or their local city papers. While some locals did send faxes, faxes rarely provide the quality necessary for photocopying. On the day itself, member locals did not phone in the results of their campus activity--consequently, we did not have accurate information available to immediately counter the misinformation of the media.

suggestion: each provincial representative act as a liaison between their member local association and the National Executive/Ottawa office before, during and after the implementation of a Federation campaign.

3. At the November meeting, delegates adopted a motion calling for progressive activity to begin after January 25. However, because the directive was less concrete than the call for a day of strike and action, member locals interested in follow-up activities were not confident that other actions would be organized at other locals. A suggestion then would be to ensure that a specific plan is in place for the ensuing period after a large action. As well, it makes it easier for the Ottawa office to provide resources if there is at least a general plan in place.
4. Two small comments interviews and media. First, always avoid a discussion about numbers on rallies. If you predict numbers that are too high, it will only provide an excuse for the media to criticise you. If you predict too few, the media will imply that your movement is weak. Numbers do have to be discussed internally (i.e. the sound system arranged for a rally might vary in accordance with the numbers expected) but keep them internal.

Think of every interview as an opportunity to say something you feel needs to be said. Try to avoid letting the media set the terrain. If the media asks a question about divisions within the student movement don't be defensive--use it as an opportunity to talk about the need for unity and then highlight the real issues that need to get out. However, do not be disappointed if your issues are not accurately reflected in the media. The tendency will be that the media will be co-operative until your issue or campaign threatens the status quo. The most important thing for any action is for the people who participate in the action to be well-informed and encouraged to maintain their level of participation.

Maintaining the Momentum

As explained above, January 25 represented numerous strengths which ought to be maintained and built upon in the upcoming months. Below are suggestions for the future:

1. Document your student association's participation on January 25th give it profile! (Posters, newsletters, handbook projects, etc.)

The Ottawa office has been trying to collect photos from across the country. The photos could be scanned and made available to student associations for their publications.

2. Review, assess and build on Federation campaign efforts at local general meetings.

3. Develop a concrete plan for the 1995/96 year, ie, possible day of action in the Fall semester and concrete plans for organizing around local Board of Governors' meetings in the Winter semester.
4. Encourage delegations at the May 1995 National General Meeting to bring January 25th materials, clippings, photos, etc. A display could be set up showcasing the actions from British Columbia to Newfoundland.

We Are Not Alone

The Canadian Federation of Students is not the only student organisation undertaking the initiative to organise serious, popular opposition to government austerity measures. In France, Australia, Britain and the United States, students are on the move. In France, a national student strike on February 7 resulted in a complete student victory. The Federal government backed down on its plans to reduce funding for post-secondary education in that country. In the United States, students have been mobilising around anti-racist issues, around funding issues and around the Contract with America. The March 23 rally in New York was attacked by police and demonstrators were tear gassed. That demonstration contained not only post-secondary education students but high school students as well. There was even a contingent of grade five students. We can learn from the experiences of others and they will learn from us. While it may seem like we are somewhat isolated in our efforts to fight for accessible post-secondary education, we aren't. Remember--January 25 was just the beginning.