

# **National Executive Report**

**Canadian Federation of Students**

**May 17 - November 23, 1996**

Through our work

many of our needs have been met.

**Introduction:**

**Dear Members,**

We are pleased to submit for your consideration the report of the National Executive for the period beginning May 17 and ending November 22, 1996. Under the Bylaws of the Federation, the National Executive is required to submit a report to each national general meeting accounting for its activities and the activities of the Federation since the previous general meeting.

You will notice that the report includes a significant amount of detail from the period prior to May 27. The National Executive felt it worthwhile to include the background on a variety of issues to ensure that the report will be clearly understood.

In the past two years, our partnership has achieved a significant amount in terms of public profile, which has lead to awareness and recognition in the eyes of the federal government both for the Federation and the issues it raises. Your active participation in the organizing and carrying out of demonstrations such as the *January 25, 1995 National Day of Strike and Action*, the *February 7, 1996 Day of Action*, the May 1996 "On to Ottawa Trek" and this October's *Pan-Canadian Week of Action* has made a tremendous difference.

As the Federation's National Executive, we have witnessed first hand the change in attitudes of the public, the media and the government towards the situation experienced by today's college and university students.

The following report details just some of the work and just some of the progress you have achieved in the past six months and the many years prior. We must not our predecessor organization has its beginning in the 1920's. Your work follows that of a long line a great activists in the effort to make the post-secondary education system in Canada accessible to all and of the highest quality.

**In Federation solidarity,**

**the National Executive**

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# **Campaigns & Government Relations**

*"Campaigns" is the term the Federation uses to describe the plans of action it adopts in the pursuit of its external goals. Either directly and indirectly, most of the Federation's resources are applied to its campaigns.*

## **Introduction**

For the past two years, access to post-secondary education has been under a massive assault by the federal government. In order to combat the massive cuts to post secondary education, the Federation has undertaken the most comprehensive campaign in its history.

The May, 1996 general meeting resolved that in 1996, the campaign would have three areas of focus; access to post-secondary education, national standards for post-secondary education, and tax relief for students.

## **Campaign for Access**

### **Background: Fall 1993-May 1995**

Many students were relieved when the Tories were ousted from power in the fall of 1993. After nine years of Tory cutbacks to post-secondary education transfer payments totaling \$9 billion in lost revenue, the Liberals were viewed as a welcome change.

Nevertheless, the Federation was only somewhat relieved. Clearly, a Liberal government of the 1990's would not be the same as a Liberal government of the late 1960's and the early 1970's, which had promised the eventual elimination of tuition fees and signed a United Nations covenant declaring user fees for a education as a violation of human rights.

How different the new Liberal government would be became abundantly clear in early February 1994, when it announced a "review" of Canada's social programs. It was immediately apparent that Lloyd Axworthy, then federal Minister of Human Resources Development, intended the review to be, amongst other things, an exercise in downloading a portion of government debt onto students.

Anticipating the worst from the review, the May 1994 general meeting of the Federation resolved that preparation for a "National Day of Strike & Action" be undertaken by the Federation's National Executive in the event that the federal government implementing "any further action which moves the education system towards further privatization of both post-secondary education funding and student aid."

By late summer 1994, the federal government's intentions were well known. One of its internal documents, outlining its intention to gut the Canadian Social Safety Net and to implement an "income contingent loan repayment scheme" was leaked to the press. Under the scheme, tuition fees would increase massively and, in order to pay the huge tuition fees, students would have access to much larger student loans with more "flexible" repayment schedules.

At the November 1994 general meeting, final plans were adopted for a "National Day of Strike & Action," to take place on January 25 1995. For the ten weeks following, all efforts were focused on attempting to mobilize as many students as possible for the day. Wednesday, January 25, turned out to be the largest student mobilization in Canadian history. More than 100,000 students participated in demonstrations, walkouts and class boycotts.

Clearly, the Federation's efforts had made an impact. Within a few weeks, the federal government announced that it had abandoned plans to implement an income contingent loan repayment scheme.

Unfortunately, not all the news was good. In the March 1995 federal budget, the government repealed the Established Programs Financing, which provided funding for health care and post-secondary education, and the Canada Assistance Plan Act, which provided funding for social assistance. They were replaced by the new Canada Health and Social Transfer, a single block transfer which was more than a billion dollars smaller.

### **Keeping Up The Pressure: May 1995-May 1996**

With the first wave of cuts looming, the Federation's May 1995 general meeting resolved to maintain visible public opposition to them. Plans were adopted for a series of actions: mobilizations in the fall in conjunction with the National Students' Day; another "National Day of Action" prior to the federal budget in February 1996; and a trek in which students would descend on Parliament Hill from around the country.

Included in the overall federal funding cuts to post-secondary education was a cut to funding for Aboriginal funding for post-secondary education. As a result, First Nation bands, the recipients of the funding, were facing a reduction in the number of students they would be able to fund.

On February 16, members of Federation's Aboriginal Caucus began a hunger strike at the University of Victoria. The strikers demanded restoration of the funding.

Early in the protest the hunger strikers received minimal media coverage. However, as it progressed, coverage grew significantly. Two weeks into the strike, they took their protest to Vancouver, demonstrating at the convention of the BC wing of the federal Liberal Party. While in Vancouver, they were joined by Ovide Mercredi, Grand Chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

In all, the hunger strike lasted twenty days before the strikers, weary and weak, ended the protest. Despite their efforts, the strikers' demands were ignored. Ron Irwin, Minister of Indian Affairs, refused to acknowledge and/or act on the situation. No increase in funding to bands for post-secondary education was contained in the 1996-97 federal budget.

### **Effectiveness of Efforts**

When the federal budget was released in March 1996, it still included the cuts already slated for the 1996-97 year. However, at the same time, federal Finance Minister Paul Martin announced a five year moratorium on additional cuts to transfer payments to the provinces. Furthermore he announced that cash transfers to the provinces would be increased in the year 2001, rather than decreasing to zero as had been legislated in 1995.

While the Federation's campaign had been national in scope, provincial governments, especially those about to enter an election, were forced to pay attention to the Federation's demands. In British Columbia, Premier Glen Clark announced a tuition fee freeze immediately following the May 1996 general meeting. As well, the BC government announced an overall increase in college and university operating budgets and increased the maximum yearly loan limit under the BC Student Assistance plan by \$850. If a student qualifies for loan remission, the \$850 will be in the form of a non-repayable grant. Throughout their election campaign, Clark and the NDP made

commitments to protecting health care and education from the federal governments slashing of social spending

The government also announced the re-establishment of the Standing Committee on Student Financial Assistance. The Committee previously existed during the late 1980's and early 1990's, but was dissolved when the government conducted a review of barriers to access in the early 1992. While the review of barriers to access was a much more comprehensive process, none of its recommendations were acted upon. Since then, the Federation has regularly called for the Committee to be re-established.

Under the Committee's new structure, there will be seats for one high-school student, two undergraduate students and one graduate student. The Federation will select the two undergraduate representatives and the graduate representative. Additionally, the BC and Yukon Chairperson or designate will be an ex-officio member of the Committee.

### **Pan-Canadian Week of Action**

Building on the success of the January 25 1995 National Day of Strike and Action, the February 7, 1996 National Day of Action and the "On to Ottawa Trek in May, the Federation held a Pan-Canadian Week of Action from October 21 - 25, to highlight the effect of federal and provincial government cuts to post-secondary education.

#### **The Prairies October 22**

In Winnipeg, students began the day with a teach-in at the University of Winnipeg cafeteria about the Conservative government's proposed changes to education, labour law, health care, social assistance and the provincial telephone system. Organizers gathered more than 300 signatures on postcards outlining students' concerns with the legislative changes.

After the teach-in, a delegation of students presented the postcards personally to Minister of Education Linda McIntosh at the provincial legislature. Dozens of students sat in the legislature gallery to hear New Democratic MLAs ask questions about access to post-secondary education, improvements to the student loan system, and the Federation's proposed cap on tuition fee increases. Students unfurled a banner from the gallery, listing their concerns with Bill 32, which outlines the government's proposed Council on Post-Secondary Education. Federation members will also present their concerns this evening at government hearings into Bill 32.

In Regina, hundreds of people rallied at the Provincial Legislature. During the "

In Prince Edward Island, a vocal crowd of demonstrators had a straightforward question for all three major parties – would they implement a tuition fee freeze if elected. The Liberal Minister of Higher Education and the leader of the Progressive Conservative party would not commit to a freeze, while the New Democratic Party promised a freeze if elected.

In Nova Scotia, over 500 demonstrators delivered a strong message at a rally in downtown Halifax, calling for an immediate freeze on tuition fees and increased funding for post-secondary education. Chanting protesters marched to Province House, where they left banners and placards on the fence of the legislature, as a reminder of the students' demands.

#### **British Columbia October 23**

Students at colleges and universities across British Columbia expressed their concern about federal cuts to post-secondary education through forums, information tables and flyers, classroom speaking, a soup kitchen, rallies, popular theater, a mechanical corporate pig race and a Monopoly game designed for students.

Organizers also announced the *British Columbia Task Force on Barriers to Access to Post-Secondary Education*. The task force is a year-long project studying the impact that underfunding of colleges and universities has had on British Columbians, including the impact of rising education costs and increasing student debt loads.

#### **Quebec October 24**

More than 2,000 students rallied in Montréal today to oppose a proposed \$700 million cut to education.

#### **Ontario October 25**

On Friday, Oct. 25, Lakehead University students stayed away from classes, in solidarity with the education rally being held in Toronto. The students' action was supported by a motion of the Lakehead University Senate, which guaranteed students wouldn't be penalized academically for missing classes, assignments or exams on the day. Lakehead students also held a forum on Thursday, Oct. 24 to discuss the impact of funding cuts to post-secondary education.

Members of the Windsor Committee on University Funding, including the University of Windsor Graduate Students' Society, organized a "Carnival for Action" on Thursday, Oct. 24. The carnival was designed to educate people from all areas of the campus and community about the adverse effects of funding cutbacks to post-secondary education, and to involve people in projects opposing the cuts. Activities included trivia games, blackjack and other casino games, a petition and a speakers' corner.

A busload of students left Laurentian University for Toronto the evening of Thursday, Oct. 24, after a forum called "The Changing Face of Post-Secondary Education." Algoma University students also organized a forum about post-secondary education on Oct. 24.

Busloads of students arrived in Toronto starting Thursday night, to participate in the community- and labour-organized Metro Days of Action. Students and their supporters picketed Ryerson University, York University and University of Toronto on Friday, shutting the campuses down and informing students about the education rally. About 20,000 students, teachers, faculty, support staff, and other supporters of education attended the rally, held outside the Ministry of Education office. Students were also a

strong contingent in Saturday's march and rally at Queen's Park, including the Federation's Ontario Chairperson, Vicky Smallman, who was one of the mainstage speakers at the Queen's Park rally.

### **Opposition to Income Contingent Student Loan Repayment Schemes (ICSLRS)**

In its ongoing fight against the introduction of an income contingent loans repayment, the Federation has been raising its opposition with representatives from the government and the media. The Federation was invited to write an article explaining the regressive funding formula in the August edition of Canadian Dimension magazine.

### **Aboriginal Grants**

Through its ongoing work with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs the Federation secured a seat on the department's Advisory Panel. The seat was filled by Aboriginal National Executive Penny Kerrigan. In October, the department announced a new series of grants for First nations Students.

As a member of the First Nations Aboriginal Scholarship Fund steering committee the Aboriginal National Executive Representative, will help to set up the criteria for receiving these scholarships.

A total of \$1 million has been allocated for these scholarships. The Ministry of Natural Resources kicked in \$75,000, Health Canada \$25,000, Human Resources and Development \$25,000 and the Ministry of Agriculture \$25,000.

The fund will build and grants will be allocated from the the interest. The Native Arts Foundation will manage the money. The Federation was able to act in an advising capacity on the needs of aboriginal students. At the Minister's request the Federation was invited to be presented on the national press release and requested a quote from the Aboriginal National Executive Representative.

### **Support for Striking CEGEP and university students in Quebec**

Since early November students at many colleges in Quebec have been on strike, in order to demonstrate their opposition to the changes to post-secondary education being discussed by the Quebec government. On November 19, the Minister of Education, Pauline Marois announced that tuition fees for out-of-province students and international student differential tuition fees would be increased to the Canadian average. In addition, a new 'failure tax' would be introduced charging students each hour of class-time.

The Federation has sent letters of support to the Mouvement pour le droit de l'éducation as well as \$250.00 to help off-set the financial costs of conducting the strike. Representatives from the MDE will be making a presentation a review to the membership during Opening Plenary.

### **Campaign for Higher Education Agreement**

With the introduction of the Canada Health and Social Transfer, the federal government did two things; first, it cut billions in transfers to the provinces for post-secondary education, health and social assistance; and two, it lumped the three expenditure envelopes into one block grant, with no guidelines as to how the transfers are to be spent. Money for these have been lumped together under one single block, with no guidelines as to how the new transfers are to be spent.

The principals of a higher education agreement among provinces would include the following;



## **Public Administration**

Post-secondary education institutions must be governed on a not-for-profit basis and must be publicly administered. Public post-secondary institutions must be funded by tax dollars and public funds must not be used to support private institutions.

## **Portability**

All credits, certificates, diplomas and degrees acquired at a public institution must be recognized and transferable between all public institutions in the country.

## **Comprehensive**

The public system must be as comprehensive as possible and provide students with a complete range of services including but not limited to; university education, community colleges, vocational training, professional training, adult education and distance education.

## **Accessibility**

Post-secondary institutions must be free from all entrance barriers. All tuition fees and ancillary fees must be abolished. Student aid needed to maintain a guaranteed minimum level of income must be provided through grants.

The Federation discussed the concept of national or pan-Canadian standards at the Council of Ministers of Education (Canada) in May. The idea was endorsed by the following organisations from the post-secondary education field:

- Canadian Association of University Teachers
- Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada
- Association of Community Colleges of Canada
- Fédération étudiante des universités du Québec
- Fédération étudiante des collèges du Québec
- Canadian Union of Public Employees
- National Union of Public and General Employees

The idea is to foster discussion with the provinces first. Eventually the debate would be transferred to the federal arena. The ultimate goal remains the implementation of a Higher Education Act, if it ever becomes politically feasible.

In addition to efforts at the national level, the Nova Scotia Component has met with members of all provincial parties as well as the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission.

## **Campaign for Tax Relief for Students**

The Federation has a long-standing commitment to a tax system that is progressive and that favors Canada's disadvantaged. To achieve such a system, the Federation works in coalition with other groups with the same goal. In particular, the Federation participates in the Alternative Federal Budget, which outlines specifically the design of a progressive taxation system.

In May, the membership identified as a short-term goal progressive changes to the Income Tax Act, that would bring about much needed financial relief. Specifically the

campaign calls for; increase to the allowable deduction from total income for grants, scholarships and fellowships, include ancillary fees and students' union and Federation membership dues as tax credits, and elimination of the Goods and Services Tax from books.

The campaign for tax relief for students has, along with the expansion of the national grants program, been the primary focus of the Federation's lobbying efforts since May.

Members of Parliament which were identified as key players for meetings included: Peter Adams, Chairperson of the Liberal Higher Education Caucus; Jon Gerard, Secretary of State for Research & Technology; Jim Peterson, Chairperson of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance; Send Robins, New Democratic Party Critic for Human Resources & Development; and Chris Axworthy, New Democratic Critic for Industry Canada.

To give greater profile to the campaign among Members of Parliament, Senators and high ranking civil servants, the Federation purchased a one-half page advertisement in the weekly parliamentary newspaper, The Hill Times. The ad ran in the Monday, October 21, edition, coinciding with the federal Liberal Party convention, later that week.

As every year, the Federation was extended an invitation to present our proposals to the Standing Committee on Finance on Thursday, October 31, which was also aired a number of times on the parliamentary channel, CPAC.

More meetings with members are being organised before the House of Commons recesses in December, including ongoing work with the Chairperson of the Liberal Higher Education Caucus, Peter Adams.

#### **Ministerial Task Force into Youth Unemployment**

The Federation is the leader in Canada of tracking youth & student unemployment trends. This summer was no exception. The Federal Government had a number of initiatives to try to address the problem of high unemployment among youth in Canada. One of these efforts included a Conference organised by Human Resources Development of Canada. The Federation's Researcher participated in this meeting.

The conferences main theme was "Taking Responsibility in the New Economy". The questions to be answered were:

- What am I, or my organization, currently doing to help youth in the new economy;
- What could we be doing better in the future; and
- What do we need and who do we need to partner with to do a better job.

Delegates to the conference unanimously agreed that there is an critical need for post-secondary education. While job prospects for youth are limited, those with post-secondary education do better than those without. Yet a major current of the conference, was that the federal government was not prepared to invest anymore money into education, training or job creation. The *Responsibility* was to that of the individual. On this issue the Federation continues to lobby for change and for greater federal involvement in post-secondary education.

The participants were divided between four stakeholder groups. Learning and Government, Labour and Business, Youth Serving Organizations and Youth. Provincial Ministers of Education, Québec student movement representatives, academics and as well as the Canadian Teachers Federation, the Action Canada Network Association of

Universities and Colleges Canada, and the Association of Canadian Community Colleges were participated in the Learning and Government group.

### **National Graduate Registry**

In August the Federation was approached by the representative of Industry Canada in charge of the federal government's new National Graduate Registry. The Registry basically brings together recent graduates from graduate studies with employers looking to hire people with graduate degrees. This is all done through the internet. A program has been developed by Industry Canada. At this point, neither graduates nor employers have to pay fees to access the system. In expanding and developing the system, the government is looking at charging fees to the employers.

Industry Canada wished to enter into a partnership with the Federation to promote the Registry. The Federation agreed, with the terms that no user fees would be charged to graduates who wanted to use the system.

The system is now on line. Their web page can be viewed at [www.xxxx.ca](http://www.xxxx.ca). Their advertising's will include the fact that the Federation has endorsed the registry.

### **Calls For Solidarity**

Continuing on from London, Hamilton and Kitchener-Waterloo, the Federation participated in the Peterborough general strike. The Ontario Component, in a show of solidarity, held their Semi-annual General Meeting in Peterborough, immediately following the strike action. The delegates attending the general meeting, along with students from across the province, ensured that the presence and support of the Federation was evident at the rally.

The Day without Hate campaign is scheduled to take place during the second semester. The Federation will begin work on this campaign after the holiday break.

A letter has been sent to the Red Cross outlining the Federation's position on the donor information questionnaire. Copies of the petition will be distributed at this General Meeting for distribution on member local campuses.

Contained in the 1996-97 Students' Association Directory is a listing of queer collectives, and other Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual student organisations. Work on the information kit and the list of companies has not yet begun.

### **Council of Ministers of Education Canada**

Following the dialogue begun by the Federation's delegation to the CMEC Conference in May, work on this directive is on-going.

# ***Communications & Media Relations***

## **World Wide Web Page- [www.cfs-fcee.ca](http://www.cfs-fcee.ca)**

Over the summer, the Federation registered a domain name, to be used as the address for its world wide web site. The domain name is: [www.cfs-fcee.ca](http://www.cfs-fcee.ca). In early September, the bilingual web site was launched, with sections for campaigns, research and information about Federation programmes.

During the Pan-Canadian Week of Action, daily updates were posted on the web site. The site also includes a place to send feedback or information requests to the Communications Coordinator. In the coming weeks, a full list of all 1996-97 Studentsaver discounts will be posted, as will full contact lists for all Federation staff, national executive and components. Further expansion is planned and will include constituency group information.

The National Executive is encouraging all member locals with web sites to include a link on their site to the Federation's home page, and a section on the Federation's home page will soon include links to member local home pages.

To date, design and document mark-up for the web site has been done by a contractor based in Toronto. Plans are in progress to have the contractor to train members of the Ottawa office staff in posting documents to the web site, with the eventual goal of the Ottawa office being self-sufficient in maintaining the site.

## **Website**

The May 1996 national general meeting resolved (GM-96/05:08) that "a portion of the Federation web site be devoted to Students of Colour issues and that this page include but not be limited to:

- the constituency group;
- statistics on Students of Colour in post-secondary education;
- listings of provincial and national organisation and resources; and
- articles pertaining to issues relevant to Students of Colour).

The web page is still under construction. Up until now, work involved around the web page included getting the basics up and running properly. Now, the priority is getting in-house training to modify and improve the web page and getting constituency group, member local and caucus information on the web page.

## **Federation "Listserves"**

To maintain daily communications among segments of the membership, the Federation operates internet listserves. To-date there are four such lists, including a national executive and staff listserve, a national graduate caucus list serve, a students of colour list serve and a women's list serve. The purpose of the listserves is to provide a forum for information sharing and a vehicle for updates on Federation activities.

The national graduate caucus listserve was established in 1994 and currently has 60 subscribers. It is currently being managed the Local 84. Traffic since the May meeting has been steady.

The women's listserve was established in the winter of 1996, there are currently 25 members on the listserve. The Women's National Executive Representative will be circulating a sign-up sheet for women delegates who are interested in subscribing to the listserve.

The students of colour listserve was established in the Spring of 1996, there are currently 12 members on the listserve. The Students of Colour national executive Representative will be circulating a sign-up sheet for students of colour delegates who are interested in subscribing.

## **Students' Association Directory**

### **Improvements for 1996-97**

The 1996-97 Students' Association Directory has been redesigned. Some of the additions to this year's edition include: spiral binding, a coloured photo cover, a 'frequently called numbers' section on the inside front cover, and a better usage of the overall space within the book. As well the "What We're All About" section has been re-written, removing information that can be found elsewhere in Federation material.

This year's edition is being made available a few weeks later than last year's edition. The reason for this has been because many college students' association, particularly in Newfoundland, do not hold elections until late September. As well, pressure on the resources of the Ottawa office have been experienced during the fall semester due to the Federation's Pan-Canadian Week of Action being held in October, rather than in the winter as been the case in the last two years.

The 1996-97 Directory should be arriving at member local offices within two weeks.

In May 1996, the national general meeting resolved that the Federation Directory's "survey include categories for: services offered, membership fee structure, student union building ownership/occupancy arrangements, arrangements for student representation in institutional governance, local research available, recent campaign successes (GM-96/05:52)."

At the time that the motion was passed it was explained that the Directory information packages had already been distributed to every known student association in the country and, therefore, the directives could not be implemented until the publishing 1997-98 edition.

### **Price Differential for the Directory**

The May 1996 national general meeting also resolved that "the price of the Student Association Directory be one and one-half times as much as much for non-members as it is for members. (96/05:52)."

At the time that the motion was passed it was explained that the Directory information packages had already been distributed to every campus in the country, therefore the directives would not be implemented. For the 1997-98 edition, the directive will be implemented.

## **Federation Coverage in the Media**

At the national level, the Federation has enjoyed, with a few exceptions, positive coverage in its media coverage since May. Through the Ottawa office alone, there has been over 150 interviews or information requests solicited from campus and mainstream media.

This fall the Federation has also been the focus of two, one hour shows on CPAC, the Canadian Parliamentary Channel. In August, the Federation was approached by the producers of *New Voices*, a new program dedicated to issues of students and youth in Canada. The National Chairperson, was the guest on the first show, which focused on the goals of the Federation and the student movement in Canada. The response that the National Office received from individuals, student and non-student, from across the country was outstanding. Since its first airing, the show has been replayed several times.

At the beginning of November, the Federation was approached once again by CPAC. The Federation was again the focus. *Profile*, a call in program, was broadcast live on November 14. Some of the questions that the National Chairperson fielded were about the Federation's Tax Campaign strategy, and the Federation's position on Income Contingent Loan Repayment Plans.

## **Organising Manual**

In May, the national general meeting resolved that “a resource kit for students of colour on

# **Directive to Include the Federation's Logo on Member Local Information**

At the May national general meeting, the membership resolved that "member locals be encouraged to put the Federation name and/or logo along with their "Local #" on any student card, service or information that they offer."(96/05/12:54) In order to assist the member locals ability to implement this directive, the National Executive will be sending camera-ready art work for the Federation's logo with the 1997-98 Members's Handbook Kit

# ***Coalition Report***

*In order to achieve its goals, the Federation works in coalition with other groups and organisations which share the Federation's objectives. The 'strength in numbers' which a students' union realizes by working in a Federation with other students' unions is realised to an even greater extent when the Federation works in coalition with other groups and organisations.*

## **Coalition Roster**

The following groups and organisations are those with which the Federation works. The asterisk denotes those organisations of which the Federation is a member.

### **General**

- Coalition for Post-Secondary Education \*
- Canadian Association of University Teachers

### **Funding and Employment**

- Action Canada Network \*
- Canadian Union of Public Employees
- National Union of Public and General Employees
- Public Service Alliance of Canada
- Canadian Auto Workers
- Canadian Labour Congress
- Council of Canadians
- Canadian Union of Postal Workers
- National Anti-Poverty Organisation

### **Health Care**

- Canadian Health Coalition \*
- National Federation of Nurses Union

### **Research**

- Canadian Council on Social Development \*
- National Consortium on Research \*

### **Alternatives**

- Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives
- Alternative Federal Budget \*

### **Taxation**

- Don't Tax Reading Coalition \*
- Canadian Bookpublishers Association

### **Women Students' Rights**

- National Action Committee on the Status of Women \*

### **Lesbian & Gay Students' Rights**

- Equality for Lesbians and Gays Everywhere \*

### **Aboriginal Students' Rights**

- Assembly of First Nations

### **Child Care**

- Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada \*

## **Coalition for Post-Secondary Education**

### **Coalition Membership and Purposes**

The following organisations currently belong to the coalition:



- Canadian Federation of Students
- Canadian Association of University Teachers
- Canadian Union of Public Employees
- National Union of Public and General Employees

### **Work of the Coalition**

In October the Coalition put out an organising manual entitled . It includes sample letters to Members of Parliament, Op Ed pieces, a list of all federal and provincial ridings which have a post-secondary institution. The Coalition works on issues of common ground throughout the year, including funding for teaching and research as well as accessibility to post-secondary education.

### **Federation's involvement in the Coalition**

The Coalition employs one staff person. The staff person used to work out of the Canadian Association of University Teachers' National Office. This year, as part of the Federation's contribution to the Coalition, the staff person is working out of the Ottawa National Office.

### **Action Canada Network**

The Action Canada Network was formed as the Pro-Canada Network in 1987 to oppose the Free-Trade Agreement which was then being negotiated between Canada and the United States. They managed to bring the Free Trade debate to the public forum and even made it an election issue in the 1988 Federal Elections. They then opposed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and made NAFTA an election issue in the 1993 Federal Elections. It has since evolved to be a place where progressive social justice groups, labour unions and local coalitions can come together and figure out a common strategy against the cuts. They also act as a support group for organisations who are organising major events. Recently, the Network has helped the Federation with the January 25 Day of Strike and Action. They helped the National Action Committee on the Status of Women and the Canadian Labour Congress organise the Ottawa stretch of the Women's March. They helped the National Anti-Poverty Organisation (NAPO) with their events around the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP). The Federation has been a member of the Network since 1989.

Today, the Network has over 50 member organisations, which are quite diverse in representation. The Network works with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives to make popular materials surrounding the Alternative Federal Budget.

The Federation continues to work as a member of the Network. The National Deputy Chairperson is a member of the Executive of the Network and we are always present at Steering Committee and National Assembly Meetings.

The Network's campaign for this year is basically preparing for the fact that this will probably be a federal election year. The campaign will make obvious the cuts that have been made to social programs and the lack of job strategy from the current government, as well as expose who's benefiting from the cutbacks. The possibility of using a similar strategy as the one that was used against the Conservative government and its proposals for Free Trade Agreements is being discussed.

Membership for the Federation in the Network is relatively cheap. For a mere \$500, we get all the services described above. As well, the Network publishes a newsletter, the

*Action Bulletin*, on a bi-weekly basis. The Federation also offers in kind donations from time to time, such as translation, photocopying and offering a spokesperson at events.

#### **Alternatives Presentation**

A presentation was made on behalf of the Action Canada Network and the Federation by the Federation's Deputy Chairperson. This presentation was made to people from Québec who were interested in finding out how the rest of Canada was fighting against the cuts to social programs.

#### **Alternative Federal Budget**

This year, as in the past, the Federation has been an active participant in the Alternative Federal Budget process. The Alternative Federal Budget was an idea which was developed by the CHO!CES coalition from Winnipeg and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. This process takes a different approach to economics than the federal government does; it assumes from the beginning that government can have an influence on the marketplace.

It assesses the needs of the population and budgets accordingly. In it, debt reduction is a priority, as are social programs, the CBC, as well as full employment within the Canadian population. The process brings together people who want to be active participants in the budget process, not passive spectators. The Federation is a member of the Alternative Federal Budget's Steering Committee and we participate in the Alternative Federal Budget's policy groups. The Federation also does some of the translation work for the Alternative Federal Budget, translating part of the main document and some of the popular materials.

The Alternative Federal Budget Forum, which is held in January of each year, is just previous to the Federation's Post-Secondary Education Forum. The intent is to have as many people as possible participate in both.

#### **National Action Committee on the Status of Women**

The Federation attended the general meeting of the Committee. The Women's Commissioner, Women's National Executive Representative and the former National Graduate Council Chairperson attended the meeting on behalf of the Federation. The "business part" of the meeting was greatly shortened due to the arrival and finally rally of the national anti-poverty march co-organised by NAC and the Canadian Labour Congress. A call for "grants-not loans" was chosen as one of the march demands. A motion that was served by the Federation condemning tuition fee increases, deregulation of fees and the outmoded loans program was passed unanimously by the delegates at the meeting. The members of NAC also approved the undertaking of a "campaign for equality and democracy" which focuses on the upcoming federal election. The Women's Representative on the National Executive spoke on behalf of the Federation at the anti-poverty rally on Parliament Hill.

#### **CHO!CES' "Project Loophole"**

On May 7, 1996, the Auditor General of Canada reported that Revenue Canada, at the insistence of the Department of Finance, had provided an advance tax ruling to a large family trust to transfer its assets to the United States without paying Canadian taxes.

The Auditor General concurred with Revenue Canada's original position that this movement of \$2.2 billion was for the purpose of avoiding taxes. His report details the pressure brought to bear on Revenue Canada.

Subsequently the *Globe and Mail* reported that it was a Family Trust belonging to the Bronfman family which had benefited from the advance tax ruling. Estimates of the federal and provincial taxes legally avoided are as high as \$750 million.

This advance tax ruling took place in 1991. The present Liberal government has consistently supported the ruling.

This tax case perfectly showcases the reality of the deficit in terms we can all relate to. Massive amounts of revenue are not being collected. The CHOICES group in Winnipeg, a coalition for social justice has put forward a court challenge against Revenue Canada's ruling in this case.

The premise is simple; average Canadians have to pay taxes, the wealthy should do the same. CHOICES has been seeking endorsements for this campaign. The Federation was approached by the group and the National Executive endorsed fully this case. Legal Aid of Manitoba is covering legal costs for this case.

### **Council of Canadians**

The Federation was asked to speak at an event organised by the Council of Canadians. The Council's campaign this year focuses on the cuts to the Canada Pension Plan. The Finance Ministers from each province were meeting with the Federal Finance Minister. The Council was delivering thousands petitions as well as having a press conference. The Deputy Chairperson spoke on behalf of the youth of the country, stating that we wanted the government to come up with a legitimate job strategy to keep the CPP funds coming. The conference received positive press coverage.

### **Florida Boycott Coalition**

Following the adoption by the United States Congress of the Helms-Burton Law, which would penalize individuals or companies who deal with Cuba, Oxfam called on social justice groups to participate in a coalition to boycott travel to Florida. The boycott would essentially put pressure on the President of the United States to repeal the law. There were a few reasons why Florida was chosen, including the fact that a lot of Canadians travel there, so it would hurt them more than boycotting travel to North Carolina, for example. There is also a lot of anti-Castro sentiment in this region, especially from political leaders from this region. The Federation is participating in this coalition on two fronts; we are encouraging our members to boycott travel to Florida and Travel CUTS, the travel company owned and operated by the Federation, is not promoting travel to Florida.

### **Canada Health Coalition**

The Federation is an active member in the Coalition. The Federation became a member of the Coalition's Board of Directors in September of 1996. We plan to be active when the Coalition launches its campaign to review the Drug Patent Act in 1997, which might have a major impact on the Federation's National Student Health Network. As well, the Coalition is actively engaged in the debate surrounding the introduction of a two-tiered

system of Medicare. The Coalition is obviously documenting the impact of the Canada Health and Social Transfer which is a major concern to all the members of the Coalition.

### **Other Issues Pursued**

#### **Support for Sole-Support Parents Assistance**

The May 1996 national general meeting resolved that "the Ontario provincial government be condemned for having made cuts to sole-support parents assistance as this will act as a discriminatory barrier to sole-support parents pursuing post-secondary education; and the Ontario provincial government be called upon to take immediate steps to ensure adequate assistance to sole-support parents GM-96/05:04."

#### **Support for the Services International Employees Union Local 28**

At the May 1996 national general meeting, a presentation was made explaining that the members of the Services International Employees Union Local 28 (employees of the Ontario Jockey Club) has been locked out for over eleven weeks and that as soon as their strike had become effective, the Ontario Jockey Club obtained an injunction to prevent locked out employees from effectively picketing their workplace. It was explained at the time that such injunctions are increasingly being used undermined trade unions' right to strike and by extension students' right to strike.

In response, the general meeting resolved that "member locals be encouraged to actively support Services International Employees Union Local 28 in its efforts (96/05:06)."

#### **National Consortium of Scientific and Pedagogical Societies**

At its June meeting, the National Executive resolved that the Federation apply for membership in the National Consortium of Scientific and Pedagogical Societies. The Federation has been pushing for members of the Consortium to endorse a national infrastructure program that would rebuild our universities' research facilities. The Federation did a presentation to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance with the members of the Consortium.

The Consortium is organising meetings with politicians scheduled throughout late November and December. The Federation will be participating in these meetings.

# ***International Work***

## **International Union of Students**

The Federation received a letter, by fax, on August 14 requesting our presence at a meeting in Prague on August 25 and 26. This was obviously a little too short notice for us and the Federation did not send a representative. Since then the National Deputy Chairperson has sent a letter to the IUS asking them to improve their communications strategy. The IUS has since sent a response apologizing for the poor communications and expressing a desire to improve communications with the Federation.

## **European Students International Bureau**

ESIB has invited the Federation to the United Nations' Educational Working Group Conference which will be taking place in Vienna, Austria on November 25 to 29 of this year. The Federation could not commit to sending someone because of budget and time constraints since their meeting dates were too close to the dates of our Annual General Meeting.

## **Contact with Other Nation-wide Organisations**

### **South African Students' Congress**

The Federation received an invitation to the South African Students' Congress 5th National Congress which will take place at the University of North-West in Mmabatho on the 30 November through to the 5th of December. Due to budget and time constraints, the Federation will not send a delegation to this meeting.

### **Vereniging Van Vlaamse Studenten (Association of Flemish Students)**

The Federation received an invitation to the European Students' International Bureau's autumn meeting (seminar and board meeting) which will be hosted by the Vereniging Van Vlaamse Studenten (Association of Flemish Students) and will take place in Brussels, Belgium from the 19 to the 24 of November. Prior to the meeting, there was to be a North-South meeting from the 16th to the 19, where two delegates from each continent were invited. The Federation would have been the "North American delegate." Due to budget and time constraints, the Federation will not send a delegation to this meeting. The documentation from the meeting will be kept in the office. They will be discussing "Lifelong Learning."

### **National Union of Students -United Kingdom**

While in attendance at the World Youth and Student Travel Congress in October, the Federation's National Treasurer met with the National Treasurer of NUS-UK, Shelley Wright. Although the meeting was brief, the two were able to discuss the structures and scopes of both organizations. Currently, the British Government is undergoing a review of funding to post-secondary education and student aid structures. NUS-UK is currently gathering information on both of these subjects from other countries, in an attempt to provide some alternatives to the Government. The Federation will be putting together a package for NUS on these topics. An invitation was extended to the Union to attend our Annual General Meeting in May.

NUS-UK currently represents 98% of post-secondary students in the United Kingdom, has a staff complement of approximately 50 individuals, and five full time elected representatives.

**Österreichische Hochschüler Innenschaft Austrian National Union of Students**

In August of this year, the Federation got a request from the Österreichische Hochschüler Innenschaft (Austrian National Union of Students). They had heard that the Federation had run a campaign a few years ago against date rape. They are planning an anti-rape campaign in Europe and wanted some of the materials that the Federation used in our campaign. We sent them what we had in the office. Since then, the contact has allowed us to come in contact with the European Students International Bureau (ESIB) or the National Unions of Students in Europe.

**World Festival of Youth and Students**

The World Festival of Youth and Students began in 1947, after World War II, as a way to bring together youth and students from all over the world to send a strong message of international peace, friendship, and anti-imperialism.

Now, in 1996, Canadian youth and students are preparing for the 14<sup>th</sup> World Festival of Youth and Students (WFYS), to take place in late July/early August in Havana, Cuba.

With a view to organizing a strong contingent to attend the WFYS and organize follow-up back home, a Canadian Preparatory Committee is underway. The Federation endorsed the WFYS and is participating in the National Preparatory Committee. Regional, provincial and Aboriginal Preparatory Committees are underway in Manitoba, Alberta, Ontario, Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and possibly other provinces.

The theme of the 1997 14<sup>th</sup> World Festival of Youth and Students has yet to be announced.

The Federation has had strong involvement with the WFYS in the past, and looks forward to making an important contribution this time as well. The Federation's main objectives in participating include building international solidarity, skills, strategies for progressive change and student networks.

# ***Membership Development***

## **Applications for Prospective Membership**

In November, 1996 the executive of **Labrador College Students' Association** voted unanimously to apply for prospective membership in the Federation. The association meets the requirements for membership in the Federation, in that it is legally incorporated and is democratically controlled. In accordance with the bylaws of the Federation, the association must hold a full membership vote by May, 1997.

On Tuesday, November 19, 1996, the council of **Cabot College Students' Association** voted unanimously to apply for prospective membership in the Federation. The Association meets the requirements for membership in the Federation, in that it is legally incorporated and is democratically controlled. In accordance with the bylaws of the Federation, the Association must

## **Skills development workshops in provincial components**

The Federation, at its May 1996 General Meeting, adopted a motion which requested that the National Executive develop consistent skills development modules, with speaking notes and handouts, for topics including but not limited to:

- How Autonomous Student Unions Were (and Are) Organised;
- Post-Secondary Education Funding Formulas and Structures;
- Student Aid and Employment Programs;
- Skills Training Programs;
- Human Rights, Harassment and Systemic Discrimination;
- Analysing Budgets;
- Achievements of the Student Movement

The motion also requested that the National Executive provide a historical context and a geographic context using national and province specific information as part of these workshops, that training be sought for workshop facilitators and that a list of facilitators and their workshops be made available to provincial offices. Work on this directive is on-going. The National Executive is hoping to have this information ready by the time spring elections come up at some member locals.



# ***Programmes***

## **The National Student Health Network**

### **Members Currently with the National Student Health Network**

Local 9	SUNSCAD
Local 79	McGill Post-Graduate Students' Society
Local 54	Guelph Central Students' Association
Local 62	Guelph Graduate Students' Association
Local 68	York Federation of Students
Local 84	York Graduate Students' Association
Local 23	Simon Fraser Student Society
Local 44	University of Victoria Students' Society

### **Users' group meeting**

On August 10-11 the Federation held a Users Group Meeting for members of the National Student Health Network. As well as orienting new administrators to the Network, the following issues were discussed:

- the new National Formulary and drug cards
- plan promotion
- provincial legislation on health plans
- improving communication with and within the Network
- ways to improve the plan
- a comparison of problems at members of the Network

### **Referenda**

York University - Atkinson College	November 26, 27, 28
Westviking College of A.A.T. and Continuing Education	To Be Announced
Camosun College Students' Association	To Be Announced
Central Newfoundland Regional College Student Association	To Be Announced

The Federation continues to work towards bringing more unions on to the Network. There are a number of schools that are currently looking at the Network and may have referenda in the Winter semester.

### **Changes to the plan**

The Federation's Broker, the Canadian Actuarial and Consulting Group, has negotiated an exclusive arrangement with the Canadian Dental Hygienists' Association. As an alternative to a complete dental care package, the CDHA is interested in providing preventative care at a reasonable cost.

The coverage would allow for one visit per semester and would address the needs of students in the majority of cases, in that it would cover a "basic" check-up. Included would be x-rays, cleaning, scaling, etc. If a dentist was required for further work, one could be recommended. This service could be offered for approximately \$35/year. The Federation is excited about offering this innovative service to our members.

The National Student Health Network is also investigating the possibility of developing student packages for tenants' and auto insurance. CACGI is currently preparing details on packages that would offer individual students tenants and/or auto insurance at reasonable rates.

At the Federation's May 1996 General Meeting, a directive was adopted requesting that the possibility of instituting partial health plan coverage for students with disabilities, who already have partial health care coverage through other plans, either Worker's Compensation or some other plan, be investigated. Work on this directive is on-going.

## **International Student Identity Card**

### **VIA Rail deal and VIA Voucher**

As reported at the November 1995 General Meeting, VIA Rail entered into an agreement with the Federation to offer 40% of VIA travel to students with the ISIC. At that time students who booked five days in advance, still received 50% off travel without an ISIC. At the beginning of the summer, VIA Rail announced that all students discounts applied only to holders of the Card. This deal allows full time students with an ISIC to book an economy seat on VIA at 40% off the ticket price. There are no blackout periods or advance purchase requirements. If a student purchases the ticket five days in advance, there is an additional 10% off.

In conjunction with this deal, VIA Rail has launched a limited time offer to students who purchase or receive an ISIC. Upon receipt of the Card students will receive a voucher worth \$15.00 off a VIA Rail student ticket. These vouchers are redeemable at all Travel CUTS/Voyages Campus outlets, VIA stations, and any travel agencies which issue VIA products.

### **ISIC Distribution**

The National Office is now directly involved in the distribution and promotion of the ISIC. Members and non-members in B.C and the Yukon now receive their information relating to the Card from the component office.

In conjunction with the promotional materials produced by the ISIC Association, a division of the International Student Travel Confederation, the National Office will be working with Travel CUTS on the profile and promotion of the ISIC in Canada. If members have any questions regarding the International Student Identity Card, please contact the National Student Discount Coordinator, Lucy Watson at the National Office. At the Federation's May 1996 General Meeting, a directive was adopted that requested that the possibility of extending International Student Identity Card membership to the children (18 years and under) of members be investigated.

The International Student Identity Card (ISIC) is an international student travel document. The ISIC is a product of the International Student Travel Confederation-ISTC. In Canada, the Federation is the sole distribution agent of Card. All rules and regulations for the Card are set by the members of the ISIC Association, a division of the ISTC. As the distribution agent for the card in Canada, the Federation has a vote at the annual general meeting of the ISIC Association where all policies for the Card are set. The ISIC is used as a tool by student travel agencies across the world to secure student

priced tickets. Because each person who is issued an ISIC is required to provide proof of full-time student status, student travel agencies, like Travel CUTS, are able to reassure airlines that the student tickets will only be distributed to that particular niche market. By attempting to expand the issuing of the card to children of students would dilute that niche market and devalue the benefit of student tickets to the airlines. Further, the Federation's representative, who attended the most recent general meeting of the ISIC Association, recognised that the will of the membership at the ISIC Association general meeting would not be willing to expand the eligibility of the Card to the children of students.

In an effort to fulfill the intent of this directive the National Executive would propose directing the Travel CUTS Board to investigate the possibility of lobbying the airlines to include companion travel, at the student ticket price, for children under 14 years.

Currently, high school students can obtain an ISIC, and qualify for the student ticket.

## **Studentsaver Discount Programme**

### **History of the Card**

Since 1978 the Federation and its predecessor, the Association of Student Councils (AOSC), has been providing students with discounts for a wide range of services and products through the International Student Identity Card and the Studentsaver Programme.

In 1981, the founding year of the Federation, members received an International Student Identity Card (ISIC) which also served as the Federation membership card. Combining the membership and discount card addressed retailers' concerns that there was not enough participation in the discount programme. As a result of the combination, the discount programme under the ISIC experienced a growth spurt.

This new scheme proved too costly for the Federation so the membership/discount card was redesigned in 1982 as the "Youth Saver Card". While members still received, and continue to receive, the card at no cost, the new program was only available to members. Non-members are unable to buy the card as is the case with the ISIC.

Under the new "Youth Saver" program, the membership became actively involved in soliciting discounts in their respective communities. The new format also allowed for a wider distribution among the membership, as it did not require photo id.

In 1983 the program was renamed the "Student Saver" in response to membership concerns that the name "Youth Saver" was ageist. The actual look of the card has undergone many changes over the past 15 years, and has grown to over 6000 discounts across Canada.

1981-82	ISIC was issued to all members as a discount/membership card
1982-83	The Youth Saver programme was introduced with a separate card
1983-84 Federation	The discount/membership card and programme were renamed Student Saver

- |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1987-88   | Card resembled a plastic credit card and discount books were issued to the east and west with Winnipeg as the dividing line.                                                                                                                             |
| 1988-90   | Card now distributed in an envelope which included coupons and regional discount books.                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 1990-92   | Card continued to be distributed in an envelope. Laminated cardboard replaced the plastic card.                                                                                                                                                          |
| 1992-93   | Responding to concerns in the membership that the envelope was environmental unfriendly the card became a tear out at the back of the regional discount guide.                                                                                           |
| 1993-94   | Local discounts were printed on the card for the first time. The card was packaged as a tear out portion of an enclosure. The printing of regional discount booklets was discontinued due to the expense of printing it.                                 |
| 1994-96   | The card was separate from the enclosure. The enclosure included a mail back portion. Due to the overwhelming success of this, it was repeated in 1995.                                                                                                  |
| 1996-1997 | The card is now distributed with a general information guide which orients members and non-members to the Federation. The card is made of lighter weight card stock which allows people to fold it into wallets. The mail back section was discontinued. |

#### **Promotion**

In the past there has been some confusion surrounding the idea that the card can and should be used nationally. We have attempted to address this problem by posting all Studentsaver discounts on the Web page.

In addition, we organized the card slightly differently. All member locals in one area were included on one card thus expanding the number of discounts on each card and reducing the number of different cards. This approach has worked effectively in serving as a reminder to locals and businesses that the card can be used regionally and nationally.

We are currently working on designing a more attractive, dynamic promotions package for potential national clients and use on campus.

With the increase of discount programmes vying for the student market we are now investigating the various offers which are available to students. If you are aware of any offers please forward the information to the national office.

#### **Solicitation**

This year marked a substantial improvement in local discount solicitation. Every member local participated in the programme and more local discounts were gathered this year than in recent years.

National discounts are currently being sought for the 1997-1998 year. We are attempting to secure discounts which have direct value to the users and do not contradict our policies.

Solicitation for local discounts will begin earlier this year to avoid last minute changes and errors. Packages will be sent to member locals in early May to ensure the deadlines are honoured.

At the May 1996 General Meeting, in an effort to better represent the locally obtained discounts on a national level and to make the national discounts more beneficial to members, the Federation adopted a motion requesting that the National Executive investigate the option of reinstating the production of a Studentsaver discounts guide and that a solicitation for better national discounts be undertaken.

In reviewing the history of the Studentsaver Programme, the National Executive evaluated the reasons behind discontinuing the national guidebook. While the guidebook served as a reminder that the Studentsaver programme is a national programme, the actual production of the book was expensive to print, ship to member locals and time consuming. The usefulness of the book was also unclear.

As an alternative, the Federation has included a complete listing of all discounts solicited on the Federation's Web Site. For the 1996-97 year, the website address will be included on the card as a location to look for more discounts.

## **Student Owned Credit Unions**

At the Federation's May 1996 General Meeting, in an effort to investigate the possibility of reducing the cost of living for students, the membership adopted a motion requesting that information on that which would be involved in forming a student-owned credit union be obtained.

The investigation essentially gave us the following information: credit unions are non-profit, membership-driven, democratically-run financial institutions that can perform many of the same functions as banks. The prospect of student credit unions is promising because it would allow students more control over the financing of their education.

Even though, currently, there are no credit unions in Canada owned or run primarily by post-secondary students, there is at least one high school student-run satellite branch of a credit union in Winnipeg. Also, many limited-membership credit unions exist to serve particular professions or communities (teachers, public service employees, small towns, et cetera).

In assessing the possibilities of the Federation starting up student credit unions in Canada, we can also look to the United States National College Student Credit Union Council. The NCSCUC serves as an umbrella group for over 25 college student credit unions in about 20 different states and would certainly have some advice to offer the Federation.

More details on student credit unions can be found in a report available from the National Office.

## Research Directives

At the Federation's May 1996 General Meeting, the membership adopted seven research initiatives. The subjects of these research pieces would include:

- 1) the status of educational funding for students with disabilities;  
an investigation of the effect of the CHST on current funding structures for students with disabilities.(96/05/15:10)
- 2) information on enrollment statistics for post secondary students by age, gender and course of study which is available from the provincial ministries of post secondary education be collected and compiled for the purpose of illustrating the changing demographics of post secondary students in Canada.(96/05/16:54)
- 3) the demographics of aboriginal students including, but not limited to, gender, age, family status and number of dependents.(96/05/12:38)
- 4) the accessibility of the Post-Secondary Student Support Program comparing funding levels and costs to the individual students.(96/05/12:40)
- 5) a determination if the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs' Indian Student Support Program and provincial funding envelopes for aboriginal education are meeting the needs of existing and developing aboriginal post-secondary programs.(96/05/12:42)
- 6) an initiation of research for future policy development regarding private post-secondary education institutions and a research document focusing on the numbers of institutions, rates of expansion/failure, tuition fees, rates of profit, amount of financial support from government, amount of policy support from government." (96/05/12:44)
- 7) the demographic of students of colour in post-secondary education, including, but not be limited to, age, family and personal income, program of study, gender and first language.(96/05/16:65)

The National Executive, at the June National Executive Meeting, prioritised the long list of research directives, from the May General Meeting, as well as research already in progress. In assess the needs of the membership, the National Executive felt that *Strategy For Change* had to be the priority for the Federation's Researcher. The National Executive is fully expecting that *Strategy For Change* will be in the hands of the membership before the Christmas break. In making this decision, the National Executive recognized that the rest of the research directives would have to be delayed.

Another difficulty in fulfilling some of these directives is that the statistics that the membership has requested simply do not exist. Universities and Colleges do not require that students identify whether or not they are a student of colour or their family status, number of children etc. The membership should reevaluate these directives to determine whether or not it is possible to find the necessary information.

It is important for the membership to be cognisant of the fact that human resources in the National Office are limited. While all of the research requests are important for the work of the Federation, it is not possible for one researcher to fulfill all of the research requests. At this general meeting, the membership should review all requests for research and evaluate which are possible and the priority of those remaining.

## ***Internal***

The National Executive is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Federation. The following is a list of the composition of the National Executive since the previous general meeting.

<b>Aboriginal Students Representative</b> May 17 to Present	Penny Kerrigan
<b>British Columbia &amp; Yukon Representative</b> May 17 to Present	Joey Hansen
<b>Chairperson</b> May 17 to Present	Brad Lavigne
<b>Deputy Chairperson</b> May 17 to Present	Réal Dequier
<b>Francophone Representative</b> May 17 to Present	Vacant
<b>Graduate Students Representative</b> May 17 to Present	Tracy Henry
<b>Manitoba Representative</b> May 17 to Present	Elizabeth Carlyle
<b>Newfoundland and Labrador Representative</b> May 17 to Present	Dale Kirby
<b>Nova Scotia Representative</b> May 17 to September 21 September 21 to Present	Vacant Jessica Squires
<b>Ontario Representative</b> May 17 to Present	Jason Stevens
<b>Prince Edward Island Representative</b> May 17 to Sept 21 Sept 21 to Present	Vacant Amber Allin
<b>Quebec Representative</b> May 17 to Present	Michael Temelini
<b>Saskatchewan Representative</b> May 17 to Present	Pam Kapoor
<b>Students of Colour Representative</b> May 17 to Present	Lance Morgan
<b>Treasurer</b> May 17 to Present	Cassandra Koenen
<b>Women's Representative</b> May 17 to Present	Jennifer Story

Naturally, the positions representing the inactive provinces, New Brunswick and Alberta, have been vacant since the previous general meeting.



## *Staffing*

The Federation currently has thirteen regular employees: a Communications Coordinators, a Financial Coordinator, a Government Relations Coordinator, a Graduate Caucus Coordinator, a Health Plan Coordinator, an Internal Coordinator, a Manitoba Fieldworker, a Maritime Fieldworker, a Researcher, a Student Discount Coordinator, and two Translators.

Karin Jordan, Interim Communications Coordinator, has been with the Federation since March 1996. Simone Saint-Pierre is currently on maternity leave and will return on April 1, 1997.

Johanne Laurent, Financial Coordinator, was first employed by the Federation as General Meeting Coordinator November 1994. She returned in March 1995, to fill the position of interim Financial Coordinator for a six month term. Johanne became a permanent employee in the fall of 1995.

Jocelyn Charron, Government Relations Coordinator joined the Federation in the Spring of 1991 as the Communications Coordinator. He internally transferred to the position of Researcher in the Winter of 1994. He has held his current position since the fall of 1994.

Derrick Deans, Graduate Caucus Coordinator joined the Federation during the fall of 1995.

Pam Frache, Internal Coordinator, was first employed by the Federation as the January 25 Coordinator. She then was hired as the May General Meeting Coordinator in 1995, and hired permanently in June 1995. Since the end of September 1996 Pam has been relocated temporarily to Toronto to help with the work of the Health Plan Office.

Denise Doherty-Delorme joined the Federation in 1990 as the Manitoba/Saskatchewan Fieldworker. Denise relocated to the National Office in the Spring of 1996 to take over the vacant researcher position.

The newest staff member of the Federation is Lucy Watson, Student Discount Coordinator. Lucy was first employed by the Federation as the November General Meeting Coordinator in 1995. She was then hired on contract as the On to Ottawa Trek Coordinator. Lucy was hired permanently in June of 1996.

Carol-Lynn Prebinski, Translator the longest serving member of the staff, has been with the Federation since the fall of 1988.

Monique Landa, Translator has been with the Federation since December of 1993.

Todd Battenham, Health Plan Coordinator has been with the Federation since the fall of 1995. Todd currently works out of the Health Plan Office in Toronto.

most limited

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Joe Byrne, Maritime Fieldworker, has been with the Federation since the winter of 1994. With the current political climate of New Brunswick being what it is, Joe currently works in the provinces of Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia.

Kemlin Nembhard, Manitoba Fieldworker, was originally hired by the Federation to fill the maternity leave of the Manitoba and Saskatchewan Fieldworker. Kemlin has been in the position permanently since the spring of 1996.

Due to the financial constraints of the Federation, there are currently several positions not filled. They are the Saskatchewan Fieldworker, the second Researcher, the Alberta Fieldworker, and the Nova Scotia/Newfoundland Fieldworker. As well at the May general meeting, the National Executive was directed to negotiate with the union to create three new positions: an Aboriginal Caucus Coordinator, a Campaigns Coordinator, a second Health Plan position and a Student Discount Coordinator. The Student Discount Coordinator was considered the priority, and as such was completed first. The negotiations for the Aboriginal Caucus Coordinator and the Campaigns Coordinator have recently finished and are currently scheduled to be filled next, finances permitting. The negotiations for the second Health plan position have just begun and as such should take some time to complete.

From time to time the National Executive, after negotiations with the union will decide to hire contract workers for specific tasks. Shirley Ann Off was hired as the general meeting Coordinator and Andrea Smith was hired to take on the task of laying out the Student Association Directory.

### **Staff Relations Officer**

Under the provision of the collective agreement with the employees and the by-laws of the Federation one of the At-large Officers serves as the Staff Relations Officer, the employer representative in all official employer-employee relations. The task of Staff Relations Officer was taken on by Cassandra Koenen, National Treasurer.

### **Directive On Staff Bilingualism**

The Federation has had a long history of ensuring that a high level of bilingualism in the national Office. In the current job descriptions of Federation staff, the Government Relations Coordinator, the New Brunswick and PEI Fieldworker, one Research position, the Graduate Caucus Coordinator and the Communications Coordinator all must have a certain level of bilingualism. At the May national general meeting, the membership resolved that "the National Executive discuss the issue of staff bilingualism in conjunction with CUPE 1281; and that the National Executive report back to the Organisational Development Committee at the November 1996 National General Meeting." (96/05/16:60). The National Executive has been in negotiations with the sub-local since the last general meeting. Currently, the union is reviewing a memorandum of agreement between the National Executive and CUPE 1281. Discussions are ongoing.

### **Directive On New Staff Position**

At the May national general meeting, the plenary resolved that "negotiations with CUPE 1281 be undertaken to add an Aboriginal Caucus Coordinator to the national staff complement." (96/05/12:34). In conjunction with the Aboriginal Caucus Executive, the National Executive presented a job description to the sub-local in early August. The

Labour Management Committee has reached an agreement on the job description for the position in late September. Due to cash flow problems, the position has not been advertised.

## **National Office**

### **Office Move**

Since the May General Meeting the Federation has relocated to the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor of 170 Metcalfe Street, Ottawa, ON. The Health Plan has also relocated from 243 College Street, Toronto ON to 720 Spadina Avenue. A significant part of the Amalgamation of the Canadian Federation of Students and the Canadian Federation of Students-Services was the bringing together of the two offices. The Canadian Federation of Students office space was not large enough to accommodate the increased personnel. In January of 1996, the National Executive began to investigate other space available in downtown Ottawa. It was eventually decided that the fifth floor of the existing premises made the most sense both financially and practically. The new office space includes a large meeting room suitable for the National Executive Meetings, as well the National Executive has made the board room available for our coalition partners to use. Another feature of the new office is a library of research that has been collected over the years.

The increased space has also allowed use offer the use of one of our offices to the staff member working for the Coalition for Post-Secondary Education. By providing this space, the Federation is able to met its commitments to the Coalition with an in-kind donation.

### **Office Equipment**

It is the practice of the Federation to depreciate its equipment over a three year period. Therefore, the Federation reflects an expense of only one-third of the purchase price of any equipment in the year in which it is purchased. The remaining two-thirds of the purchase is expensed equally in the subsequent two years.

### **New Equipment Purchased**

A result of the office move was the inevitable purchase of new office equipment and office furniture. Where it was possible furniture from the old office was transferred to the new office, however much of the old office was unsuitable for continued use. The bulk of furniture bought were chair that had adequate support, some new desks, shelving and filing cabinets and tables and chairs for the Board Room. An extensive search was made in order to keep the costs down.

The Toronto Office had little equipment of its own, most was owned by Travel CUTS. The few computers that the Federation did own we "sold" to Travel CUTS and purchased new computers in Ottawa. Since May, the Federation has purchased three new computers and a printer for the Ottawa Office and a fax machine for the Health Plan Office.

It should also be noted that the Federation upgraded the phone system in order to have a fully bilingual voice mail system.

### **Future Needs**

The most immediate need for the National Office is to network the computers to the printers. The current system not only inconveniences the individual whose computer is

the printing station, but also is not efficient time management. The cost is minimal and should be done by Christmas. In addition, as we fill the remaining positions, computers, desks and chairs will need to be purchased for these new staff members.

## ***Federation Finances***

The annual budget constitutes the monetary targets of the Federation for the fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). The budget for the 1995-96 fiscal year (July 1 1995 - June 30 1996). At the May general meeting each year, a budget for the next fiscal year is adopted. The budget is then reviewed and, if necessary, revised at the November general meeting. The National executive is responsible for ensuring that, as closely as possible, the budgetary targets are met.

### **1995-1996 Budget Management**

The Federation operates nationally with an annual budget of approximately \$2 million. For the most recently completed fiscal year, 1995-96, the membership adopted a budget which projected a surplus of with a share purchase in Travel CUTS of \$250,509.00 and which designated that virtually all of the surplus - \$250,000.00 - would be invested in travel CUTS through the purchase of additional shares of the company.

The audits of the Canadian Federation of Students and the Canadian Federation of Student-Services have now been completed. They confirm that the Federation incurred a combined loss of \$43 389.00

\$100,000 in shares were purchased in Travel CUTS. In 1981 the Canadian Federation of Students-Services and Travel CUTS entered into an agreement, with the approval of Taxation Canada, which stipulates that the travel company pay its owner, the Federation, one percent of gross sales to students as a "finder's fee" on the basis that the not-for-profit parent organisation "refers" business to the company.

The difference between the projected surplus and the actual result can be attributed to several factors: program revenues were lower than projected; spending on professional fees was higher than expected; a GST review of the National Student Health Network; and expenses in the former Toronto office were higher than anticipated.

The 1995-96 budget projected a net surplus of \$30 000 in the Student Work Abroad Program (SWAP). Instead of producing a surplus, the Program actually incurred a small loss for the year. Projected revenues for the National Student Health Plan were also lower than budgeted, as more students opted out of the plan at the participating institution than had been anticipated. The Federation also incurred unexpected costs of approximately \$15 000, for the Canadian Programming Service, which had carried over from the previous fiscal year.

Though the Budget Committee in November of 1995 increased the allocation for professional fees, the amount was not sufficient to cover the cost of legal and auditor services which were required to complete the amalgamation of the two national Federations. Though the amalgamation was somewhat costly in the short-term, significant savings will be realised in this and future fiscal years as a result of the streamlining of the Federation's bureaucracy.

In addition to the costs associated with the amalgamation, the National Executive decided over the course of the past year to actively pursue, through legal means, the recovery of membership dues owed to the Federation. (This does not mean that the Federation is suing its members; rather, it means that former member local associations, which legally de-federated, will not be able to misappropriate those fees they collected on behalf of the Federation, but failed to remit, during the fiscal year in which they de-federated.). The dues owed to the Federation amount to approximately \$100 000. The expense of the Federation's legal counsel, while contributing to the deficit this year, will be more than covered once these fees are recovered.

As well the National Executive has decided to pursue legal action for breach of contract against the insurance broker formerly used by the National Student Health Network. Once again, while the cost of legal counsel was incurred this year, costs should be recovered at a later date. This particular litigation could take sometime to be resolved, however the National Executive is confident that the benefit to the Federation in the long run will be lucrative.

With regards to the expenses of the Toronto Office, the Federation had made commitments to Travel CUTS, with whom the Federation shared the office. Though the Federation wound down operations in the Toronto office over the course of the year, it was obligated to pay its share of the office rent and related costs. While rent was altered for the latter half of the fiscal year, those expenses significantly altered the budget.

### **1995-96 Membership Fee Collection**

Over half of the Federation's national budget is derived from membership fees. Timely collection of those fees owed is essential for the operations of the Federation.

In general, timely remittance of fees last year was not great. Though some member locals, such as those in British Columbia and some in Ontario, were fairly diligent about remitting their fees on a timely basis, the bulk of member locals did not remit Federation membership fees until late in the winter or later. This created significant problems for the Federation. The Federation has fixed costs per month, of approximately \$80 000 which must be met. When member locals are tardy with the remittance of membership fees, it puts constraints on the work of the Federation. For instance, while it was budgeted to hire the Campaigns Coordinator over the summer, cash flow simply did not permit any extra expenditures over those months.

It should also be noted that for the first time, with the exception of member locals in British Colombia, membership fees are to be remitted to the National Office in Ottawa, not Toronto.

#### **Collection of Previous Year's Membership Fees**

As noted about, the Federation is now actively pursuing outstanding membership fees through legal means from delinquent former member associations. Recently, through the efforts its lawyers, the Federation recovered \$13,884 in membership fees collected on the Federation's behalf during the 1994-95 fiscal year by the Mount Allison University Student association. The following is a list of the fees still being pursued:

- The Cariboo Student Society owes the Federation for Membership dues owed for the fiscal year 1995-96 for the amount of \$30265.00 to the national budget and \$ 30265.00 to the provincial budget.
- The St. Thomas Students' Union owes the Federation for Membership dues owed for the fiscal year 1994 -95 for the amount of \$ 10680.00.
- The University of New Brunswick - Saint John Students' Union owes the Federation for Membership dues owed for the fiscal year 1994 -95 for the amount of \$ 16600.00
- The Saint Louis Maillet Student Association owes the Federation for Membership dues owed for the fiscal year 1994 -95 and 1995-96 for the amount of \$ 14793.68.
- The Shippagan Student Association owes the Federation for Membership dues owed for the fiscal year 1995-96 for the amount of \$ 2898.68
- The Acadia Student Union owes the Federation for Membership dues owed for the fiscal year 1995-96 for the amount of \$ 32612.00. As well the plenary at the last General Meeting did not recognise the invalid referendum held at Acadia last year, which make them liable for this years fees as well.

#### **Implementation of the Membership Fee Increase**

After eleven years of having the same national membership, the voting members at the May 1992 national general meeting, the Federation fee was increased from \$4.00 to \$6.00 per year per

individual member. At the same time it was resolved that the fee would be increased annually by the rate of increase in the Canadian Consumer Price Index. At this point, approximately 80 percent of member locals have implemented the increase to the base fee. To date, the National Executive has not discussed in any depth what should be done about those member locals who to-date have yet to implement the higher fee and, therefore, has not prepared any recommendation on the issue.

This past spring, member locals were notified that the Consumer Price Index increase would bring the fee to \$6.11. Realising that many member locals could not notify their institutions in time to implement the collection of the higher fee, the National Executive will endeavour to notify member locals of this year's increase in a more timely manner.

### **Annual Auditing of the Federation's Financial Records.**

For the past fifteen years the Federation has had its books audited by the firm of Arthur Andersen. While the managing partners within the firms, both in Toronto and Ottawa, have changed over the years, the history and understanding of the Federation have continued within the firm. Over the past year Arthur Andersen Toronto and Ottawa have been extremely helpful in helping the Federation through the amalgamation process. In particular, the manager of the Federation's account in Ottawa has been extremely helpful in assisting the Financial Coordinator and the National Treasurer reorganise the Federation's accounting system to provide more accurate and relevant financial information.

The National Executive recommends the re-appointment Arthur Andersen as the Federation's auditors for the 1996-97 year.

### **Directive to Assess the System used for Allocating Constituency Group Funding**

Prior to the November 1992 national general meeting, constituency group members would pursue funding by making funding requests to the Budget Committee at national general meetings. Often, initial constituency groups would be reduced to almost nothing by the end of the budgeting process.

At the November 1992 national general meeting, policy was adopted guaranteeing that 1.5% of the operating budget would be allocated to constituency groups and extending authority to the groups to decide amongst themselves how to allocate the funds amongst the money.

At the May 1996 national general meeting, it was resolved that "the process followed by the Budget Committee regarding funding allocation be assessed in order to adequately address constituency group concerns." (GM-96/05:14) At its meeting in June, the National Executive undertook an assessment of the existing system and concluded that the existing system had served the needs of constituency groups fairly well over the preceding four years. However, the National Executive encourages member local which feel that the existing system is inadequate to propose alternatives.

### **Directive to Further Define the "Miscellaneous" in the National Budget**

The May 1996 national general meeting resolved that "the line item called "miscellaneous" for the November 1996 National General Meeting Budget Committee." (GM-96/05/15:07). In the draft 1996-97 Revised Budget, prepared for this general meeting, the "miscellaneous" expenditures have been further defined.

# Miscellaneous Directives

## Directives for Member Locals

At the May national general meeting the membership resolved that "the member locals be encouraged to send aboriginal delegates to national general meetings"(96/05/16:29)

At the May national general meeting the membership resolved that "member locals be encouraged to send letters to the organization, BC Foundation for Individual Rights, denouncing its opposition to inherent aboriginal rights and titles to the land."  
(96/05/16:26)

At the May national general meeting the membership resolved that "member locals be encouraged to develop policies and directives on life-long learning, the relationship between the private sector and post-secondary education, the use of new technology, and the role of post-secondary education in society."(96/05/16:82)

At the May national general meeting the membership resolved that "the members locals be encouraged to develop a volunteer human rights liaison position to report on and help further Federation policies relating; but not limited to, human rights, international issues and peace issues at member locals."(96/05/16:83)

## Directives Dealing With General Meetings

At the May national general meeting the membership resolved that "an investigation of the creation of safe spaces or resource rooms at national general meetings be conducted; and that an investigation as to the possibility of a space in a common area for a wall of shame at national general meetings be conducted."(96/05/16:15)

Over the past several years the Federation has actively worked towards ensuring that National General Meetings are a safe space for all delegates. Since May of 1993 the Federation has had at least one Harassment Advisor on site for the entire general meeting to deal with incidents of harassment and conflict. Since the November 1995 General Meeting, the National Executive has ensured that there are two harassment advisors on site during the General Meetings. As well delegates groups are allocated time and space on the agenda to meet and discuss issues in a safe and closed environment. At this general meeting, the National Executive has also allocated space for a mediation room that is away from the rest of the meeting. This room is available to delegates as a quiet space, provided it is not otherwise in use.

The National Executive is unclear as to the intent of the Wall of Shame and required additional information from the membership.

At the May national general meeting the membership resolved that "an investigation of alternatives to overlapping time slots for constituency groups at general meetings be conducted, in conjunction with the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Constituency Co-commissioners."( 96/05/16:16) The National Executive has nothing to report to date.

As per the Federation policy manual, the consumption of alcohol is prohibited at official



consume alcohol at any committee, caucus or constituency group meeting or during plenary. As well, delegates who are intoxicated are not permitted to participate at the aforementioned meetings and would be asked to remove themselves. At the May national general meeting the membership resolved that "the relationship between alcohol consumption and disruption of Federation business at national general meetings be investigated." (96/05/16:25)

The National Executive does not feel that it is within their purview to monitor what delegates choose to do on their own time, provided that it is not disruptive to other delegates. If this does not satisfy the intent of the motion, the National Executive will require further direction.

At the May national general meeting, the membership resolved that, "along with notice of motions, a short description of committee responsibilities and short statement encouraging members to develop campaign ideas be included in the General Meeting mailout." (96/05/16:112) This issue is on the Organisational and Development Committee Agenda for review.

As per the resolution passed at the May national general meeting, "the feasibility of providing simultaneous translation in budget committee, as per existing policy, be investigated." (96/05/16:113) The Federation investigated the possibility of having simultaneous interpretation for Budget Committee. The total cost, provided the committee did not meet outside the hours assigned to it by the block agenda for this meeting, would be just under \$4000. The Federation must recognize the importance of having a bilingual meeting, it must also balance this issue with financial cost.

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