

National Executive Report

Canadian Federation of Students

May 17 - November 23, 1996

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 led 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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Through the help of the Campaign Clerk and the NDP made

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 rally, a delegation of three students was invited in to meet with the deputy minister of education. The remaining demonstrators staged a sit-in in the lobby of the legislature building, awaiting news from the students. The three reported a favorable meeting with the deputy minister, ending the sit-in.

Atlantic October 22

More than 2,500 students rallied in St. John's, Newfoundland, delivering a coffin marking the death of quality public education to the provincial House of Assembly.

The demonstration was part of the Atlantic region's contribution to the Federation's Pan-Canadian Week of Action. Newfoundland and Labrador students also brought Education Minister Roger Grimes out of the House of Assembly and presented him with a list of demands. Demonstrators then blocked one of the busiest intersections in St. John's for about half an hour, drawing public attention to the plight of education in the province.

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. 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

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. 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 "Listserve"

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 campuses be developed and that the kit include, but not be limited to:

- statistics on people of colour in post-secondary education
- listings of provincial and national resource guides
- guide sheets on both consensus decision making styles and formalized rules of order
- mock constitutions to be used as guides for students wishing to organise
- suggestions and advice for campaigns, including but not limited to poster ideas, slogans, themes and approximate cost (GM-96/05:07).

An effort was made to complete this directive by the this general meeting; unfortunately, it was not possible. Work is continuing and the kit should be available by the May 1997 national general meeting

Directive for Student Artists Information Gathering

At the May national general meeting, the membership resolved that "a file of materials of interest to Student Artists and a schedule of activities of Student Artist groups be compiled; and that an information survey be distributed to all member locals in order to compile this information; and that member locals be encouraged to submit such information upon request." (96/05/16:53). The National Executive requires more clarification from the membership in order to complete this directive.

Member Local Handbook Kits

Directive to Encourage Member Locals to Include Racism Information in Handbooks

At the May national general meeting, the membership resolved that "member locals be encouraged to include a section regarding racism and issues specific to People of Colour in their member handbooks."

(96/05/16:09) The National Executive feels that this motion would be better implemented by including this information in the Federation's Handbook kit.

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 14th 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 14th 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 hold a full membership vote by June 30, 1997.

On Thursday, November, 7 the council of **College of New Caledonia 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 June 30, 1997.

Provincial Development-Newfoundland-Labrador

The Newfoundland and Labrador Component of the Federation had its' annual General Meeting in Stephenville from October 24 to October 27. At this meeting, the component passed a few motions which were basically fulfilling a component agreement which had been signed in March of 1994. The component changed its name to the Newfoundland and Labrador Component of the Canadian Federation of Students, they included the National Executive Representative as a full voting member on the provincial executive, and encouraged all of its members to become full members of the national organization, basically striving to achieve full congruency between the provincial component and the national organization. As a result, all members of the component are now either full or prospective members of the national organisation.

Progress of Ongoing Efforts to Solicit Aboriginal Institution Students' Associations

In an effort to encourage more students' associations at aboriginal institutes to become members of the Federation had adopted a directive at the previous general meeting which requested that a list be compiled of aboriginal institutions for the purposes of membership drives. The information required to fulfill this directive had begun prior to the May General Meeting. The information that was solicited is in the process of being compiled into a cohesive document. Work on this directive will continue.

Defederation referendum

There was one defederation referendum this semester. It was held at Local 69, l'Association générale des étudiant(e)s de l'Université Sainte-Anne, in Pointe-de-l'Église, in Nova Scotia. The Regulations, as set out in By Law I were followed and all back fees were paid (approximately \$4300). The voting occurred on Thursday, November 21. The results were 36% in favour, 62% opposed, with 2% abstaining.

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

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| 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.

Because credit unions are legislated provincially, any efforts would have to stem from at least this level, if not a more grassroots level closer to the prospective credit union membership.

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.

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

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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 Nemhard, 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 5th 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.

several national memberships but being members at the May 1957

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 Columbia, 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 business meetings of the Federation. This means that delegates are not permitted to

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.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE REPORT

**Canadian Federation of Students
Fédération canadienne des étudiantes et étudiants**
for the period beginning May 17, 1996 and ending November 22, 1996

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.

Over the past two years, our partnership has achieved a significant amount in terms of public profile. This has led to a greater recognition for the Federation and the issues it raises. Your active participation in the organising 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.

The level of activism at the campus and community level illustrates to the public and governments the broad-based support for the Federation's issues. The activism at the local level supports the lobbying at the national level.

1996-97 marks the Federation's fifteenth anniversary and the seventieth year of students working together at the national level. Over the years students have built an impressive organisation. The 1996 edition of the university textbook, Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, identifies our Federation as one of Canada's "largest and most influential" interest groups.

The following report details just some of the work at the national level and progress that you have achieved in the last six months and in the years prior. Your work follows that of a great line of 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.

For the past two years, access to post-secondary education has been under 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 membership at the May 1996 General Meeting developed the 'Campaigns Strategy 1996-97', comprised of three components: access to post-secondary education, the establishment of national standards for post-secondary education through a Higher Education Agreement, and tax relief for students.

CAMPAIGNS STRATEGY 1996-97
COMPONENT #1

Campaign for Access to Post-Secondary Education

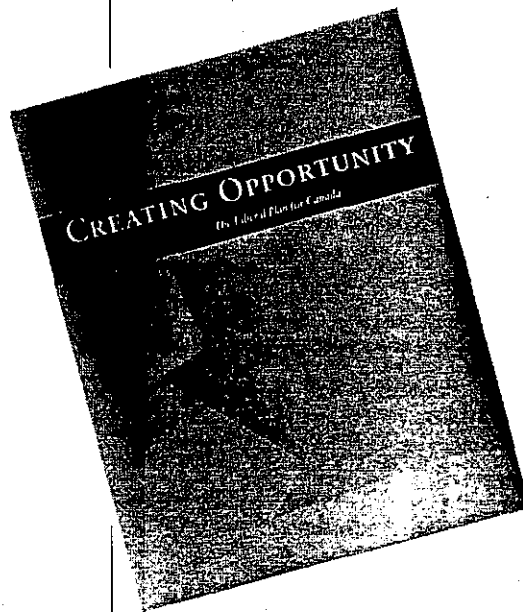
Background: Fall 1993 - May 1995

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 totalling \$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 an 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 and individual Canadians.

Anticipating the worst from the review, the membership at 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 implemented "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. The effect that the Federation had on shaping the debate during the Social Security Review is well documented in Anthony Wilson-Smith and Edward Greenspon's book *Double Vision: The Inside Story of the Liberals in Power.*

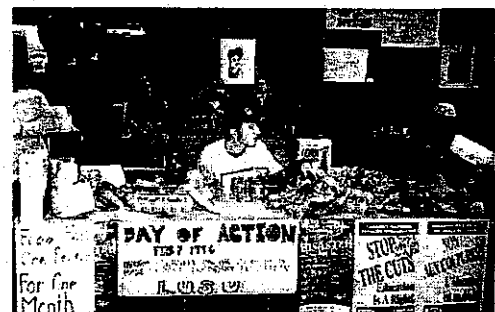
Unfortunately, not all the news was good. In the March 1995 federal budget, the government repealed the Established Programs Financing Act, which provided the federal funding transfer to the provinces for health care and post-secondary education, and the Canada Assistance Plan Act, which provided the federal funding transfer to the provinces 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 and had no guidelines as to how the money was to be allocated.

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



January 25, 1995, Victoria, B.C.
100,000 students across Canada participate



Lakehead students organising for
February 7 National Day of Action

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 targeted specifically for Aboriginal students. As a result, First Nation bands, the recipients of the funding, faced 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



Ovide Mercredi,
Grand Chief of the Assembly of First Nations

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 and demonstrated at the convention of the British Columbia 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 and

Northern Affairs, refused to acknowledge these students' actions. The federal government did not outline any increase in its funding to bands for post-secondary education 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 B.C. government announced an overall increase in college and university operating budgets and increased the maximum yearly loan limit under the B.C. Student Assistance plan by \$850; according to this plan, if a student qualifies for loan remission, the \$850 will be in the form of a non-repayable grant.

The British Columbia 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 early 1992. While the review of barriers to access was a much more comprehensive process, none of its recom-

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 B.C. and Yukon Chairperson or designate will be an ex-officio member of the Committee.

Pan-Canadian Week of Action October 21-25, 1996



Federation representative presents the Manitoba Minister with the membership's post-cards

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 21

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



Regina students demonstrate on Prairies' Day of Action

system. Organizers gathered more than 300 signatures on postcards outlining students' concerns with the legislative changes.

After the teach-in, a delegation of students from the University of Winnipeg and Brandon University 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 proposal to establish the *Council on Post-Secondary Education*. Federation members also presented their concerns that evening at government hearings about Bill 32.

In Regina, hundreds of people rallied at the provincial legislature. During the rally, a delegation of three students was invited to meet with the deputy minister of education. The remaining demonstrators staged a sit-in in the lobby of the legislature building, awaiting news from the students. The three reported a favourable meeting with the deputy minister, ending the sit-in.

Atlantic - October 22

More than 2,500 students rallied in St. John's, Newfoundland, delivering a coffin marking the death of quality public education to the provincial House of Assembly.

Newfoundland and Labrador students also brought Education Minister Roger Grimes out of the House of Assembly and presented him with a list of demands. Demonstrators then blocked one of the busiest intersections in St. John's

for about half an hour, drawing public attention to the deteriorating state of education in the province.

In Cornerbrook, approximately 250 students walked out of their classes to demonstrate at the town's provincial government building and then on to the federal building.

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, infor-

mation tables, classroom speaking, soup kitchens, rallies, popular theatre, 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 which will study the impact that underfunding of colleges and universities has had on British Columbians, including the effects of rising education costs and increasing student debt loads.

Québec - October 24

More than 2,000 students rallied in Montréal to oppose a proposed \$700 million cut to education by the Québec government. The demonstration also highlighted students' opposition to increasing tuition fees at universities and the possible introduction of tuition fees at Collèges d'enseignement général et professionnel (CEGEPs). The day's events brought members of the Federation together with members of the *Mouvement pour le droit à l'éducation*.

Ontario - October 25

In Ontario, October 25 was chosen as the day of action to coincide with the Ontario Federation of Labour rotating days of action in Toronto.

In a lead-up to the Ontario day of action, members of the Windsor Committee on University Funding, including the University of Windsor Graduate Students' Society, organized a "Carnival for Action" on Thursday, October 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,



Toronto Metro Day of Action, Saturday, October 26, 250,000 fight against the cuts.

blackjack and other casino games, a petition and a speakers' corner.

Also on Thursday, October 24, Lakehead students held a forum to discuss the impact of funding cuts to post-secondary education. Students at Laurentian University in Sudbury held a forum called "The Changing Face of Post-Secondary Education." On that same day, Algoma University students also organized a forum on the regressive changes being made to post-secondary education and their effects on students in northern Ontario.

On Friday, October 25, Lakehead University students stayed away from classes, in solidarity with those in attendance at the education rally being held in Toronto. The students' action was supported by a motion of the Lakehead University Senate, which guaranteed that students would not be penalized academically for missing classes, assignments or exams on that day.

Bus loads of students from across Ontario arrived in Toronto on Thursday night to participate in the Federation's demonstration the following day, as well as the Saturday rally organised by community and labour groups. During the morning of Friday, October 25, students and their supporters picketed Ryerson University, York University and the University of Toronto, shutting the campuses down and informing students about the education rally that afternoon. About 20,000 students, teachers, faculty, support staff, and other supporters of education attended the rally, held outside the Ministry of Education office. National Chairperson, Brad Lavigne spoke to the crowd, along with representatives from the faculty associations, secondary education teachers, support staff unions and high school students.

Students were also a very strong contingent in Saturday's labour and community march and rally at Queen's Park. It is estimated that over 250,000 people from Metro Toronto and across Ontario participated. Ontario Chairperson Victoria Smallman spoke on behalf of the Federation during the largest demonstration in the city's history.

Opposition to Income Contingent Loan Repayment Schemes (ICLRS)

Since the May 1996 General Meeting, the Federation has kept up its opposition to income contingent loan repayment schemes as a funding/student assistance policy option.

While the Federation was successful in forcing the federal government to halt plans to introduce the scheme at the federal level during the 1994-95 Social Policy Review, the Ontario government is seriously discussing implementing the regressive measure at the provincial level.

In lobby sessions with Members of Parliament and Canada Student Loan officials, the Federation has been articulating the compelling arguments against ICLRS. The Federation has received favourable media coverage in its opposition and was invited to write an article explaining the regressive funding formula in the August edition of *Canadian Dimension* magazine.



Development of Grants for Aboriginal Students

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 Representative 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 set up the criteria for receiving these scholarships.

A total of \$1 million has been allocated for these scholarships. The bulk of the funding sources include the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Human Resources and Development and the Ministry of Agriculture.

The grants will be allocated from the interest accrued from the fund. 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 included in the national press release which contained a quotation from the Aboriginal National Executive Representative.

Support for Striking CEGEP and University Students in Quebec

In November, students at many CEGEPs in Québec went on strike in opposition to proposed changes to post-secondary education being

discussed by the Québec government.

On November 19, Minister of Education Pauline Marois announced that tuition fees for out-of-province students and differential tuition fees for international students would be increased to the

'Canadian average' level. In addition, a new 'failure tax' was proposed, charging students each hour of class-time if they fail a



Striking CEGEP students demonstrating outside of legislature in Québec City

course. The Federation has sent letters of support to the Mouvement pour le droit à l'éducation (MDE) as well as \$250.00 to help offset the financial

costs of conducting the strike. Representatives from the MDE will be making a



presentation to the membership during Opening Plenary at this general meeting.

Campaign for Increased Funding for Granting Councils

In the Campaigns Strategy 1996-97, the membership identified the need to reactivate the Federation's efforts to secure increased funding for the Social Science & Humanities Research Council, the Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council and the Medical Research Council.

These federal councils provide graduate students with funding to pursue masters and doctoral studies.

UPDATE: In the Standing Committee's Report to the Finance Minister, the Committee recommended "that priority be given to increasing the funding for the granting councils."

Between 1994-95 and 1997-98 the granting councils will have been cut by \$89 million.

In its October 31, 1996 presentation to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance and its meetings with Members of Parliament, the Federation called on the federal government to increase its commitment to graduate students and restore some of the funding that has been cut.

Opposition to Differential Tuition Fees Charged for International Students

As the latest round of federal funding cuts to post-secondary education begin to take hold on university campuses, more and more administrations are increasing differential tuition fees charged to international students at Canadian universities. In addition, schools of graduate studies have embarked on publicity campaigns to solicit students from other countries to study in Canada; it is argued that international students, who pay the differential tuition fee, bring in more revenue for the institution.

The membership identified this disturbing trend and, as a result, reactivated its opposition to differential tuition fees charged to international students in the Campaigns Strategy 1996-97.

At the October meeting of the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies, the Federation convinced the deans of schools of graduate studies to join in its opposition to differential tuition fees charged at Canadian universities for international students. The following motion was adopted by the Association: *"The Canadian Association for Graduate Studies opposes differential fees for international graduate students."*

Student Employment

Ministerial Task Force into Youth Unemployment

In an attempt to address the chronic high unemployment rate among students and youth, the Ministry of Human Resources Development of Canada launched a Ministerial Task Force. The task force was announced in the spring and made its recommendations in June.

A major component of the task force was the conference bringing together effected groups, including the Federation. The title of the conference was *"Taking Responsibility in the New Economy"* and addressed such questions as "What am I, or what is my organization, currently doing to help youth in the new economy?"

Naturally the Federation was uncomfortable with the tone of the conference which clearly illustrated the federal government's abandonment of its traditional role in using its resources to create employment for youth and students.

While the task force did recognise that the youth and student unemployment rates was a major problem, its recommendations were limited to the encouragement of the individual and the private sector to alleviate the problem.

National Graduate Registry

In August, the Federation was approached by Industry Canada to participate in a joint effort to promote the ministry's *National Graduate Registry*. The Registry is a database linking recent college and university graduates with potential employers. Recent graduates place their curriculum vitae in the database and registered private and public sector employers simply browse through the database to match those with the

required qualifications to available positions and notify the individuals of the position.

The Registry is user-fee free. The Federation will sit on the Registry's advisory panel along with employer groups to provide Industry Canada with advice and direction for the program.



Logo of the NGR

The promotion of the Registry will be multifaceted. Advertisements, in which the Federation logo will appear, will be placed in campus newspapers. Promotional material will also appear at campus career and employment centres.

The Federation will also provide a link to the Registry's world wide web page from its home page while a reciprocal link will be made to the Federation home page from the Registry's world wide web page.

The Registry can be found at <http://www.schoolnet.ca/NGR>.

'Infrastructure for Innovation' Program

Working with the Association of Universities Canada and the Canadian Association of University Teachers, the Federation has been intimately involved in the *Infrastructure for Innovation Program*. The Program calls on the federal government to earmark a significant portion of the Canada Infrastructure Works Program for the modernisation of Canada's university research infrastructure.

UPDATE: The *Infrastructure for Innovation Program* was included in the House of Commons' Standing Committee recommendation report to the Finance Minister.

The idea has been well received by federal cabinet ministers and Members of Parliament. Federation representatives have, along with other members of the Consortium, met with a number of officials to shore up support for the initiative. Meetings have been held with David Dingwall, Minister of Health; Hedy Frey, Secretary of State for Multiculturalism; Jon Gerrard, Secretary of State for Research and Technology; Martha Nixon, Director General for Learning and Literacy-Ministry of Human Resources Development; and civil servants from the Ministry of Finance.

CAMPAIGNS STRATEGY 1996-97 COMPONENT #2

Campaign to Create 'Higher Education Agreement'

In addition to cutting billions of dollars from transfer payments to the provinces for post-secondary education, health and social assistance, the Canada Health and Social Transfer eliminated any guidelines on how future transfers are to be spent by the provinces.

In the area of health, Canadians are protected by the Canada Health Act. The Act contains seven principles which all provincial governments must respect in order to receive transfers from the federal government. Currently, no such guidelines exist for post-secondary education.

Within the current political climate, it is unlikely that the federal government would unilaterally enact such an agreement through federal legislation. The Federation, therefore, is calling on the provinces, through the Council of Ministers of Education-Canada, to adopt the principals through an interprovincial Higher Education

PRINCIPLES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AGREEMENT

As adopted by the membership,
May 1996.

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 recognised 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.

Agreement.

The Federation brought forward the idea of the Agreement to the Council of Ministers of Education-Canada Consultation Conference in May 1996. The principal of an agreement was well received and

was endorsed by the following organisations in attendance:



Canadian Association of University Teachers, Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, Association of Community Colleges of Canada, Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec, Fédération étudiante collégiale du Québec, Canadian Union of Public Employees, National Union of Provincial and General Employees

Follow-up work has been done with Council staff members. At the provincial level, Federation representatives in Nova Scotia have met to discuss the Agreement with members of each of the provincial parties as well as the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission.

much needed financial relief for many students. Specifically, the campaign calls for increases to the allowable deduction from total income for grants, scholarships and fellowships, including ancillary fees and student union and Federation membership dues as tax credits and the elimination of the Goods and Services Tax on 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 figures 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; Svend Robinson, New Democratic Party Critic for the Ministry of Human Resources Development; and Chris Axworthy, New Democratic Party Critic for the Ministry of Industry.

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 aired a number of times on the Canadian Public Access Channel, CPAC.

"Young people are looking for tax relief in the education system. I appeal to the government to listen carefully to the Canadian Federation of Students' request for tax relief..."

MP for Burnaby-Kingsway and New Democratic Party Critic for Human Resources Development Ministry, Svend Robinson in the House of Commons
Tuesday, November 26, 1996.

CAMPAIGNS STRATEGY 1996-97 COMPONENT #3

Campaign for Tax Relief for Students

The Federation has a long-standing commitment to a tax system that is progressive and that favours 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, which would bring about

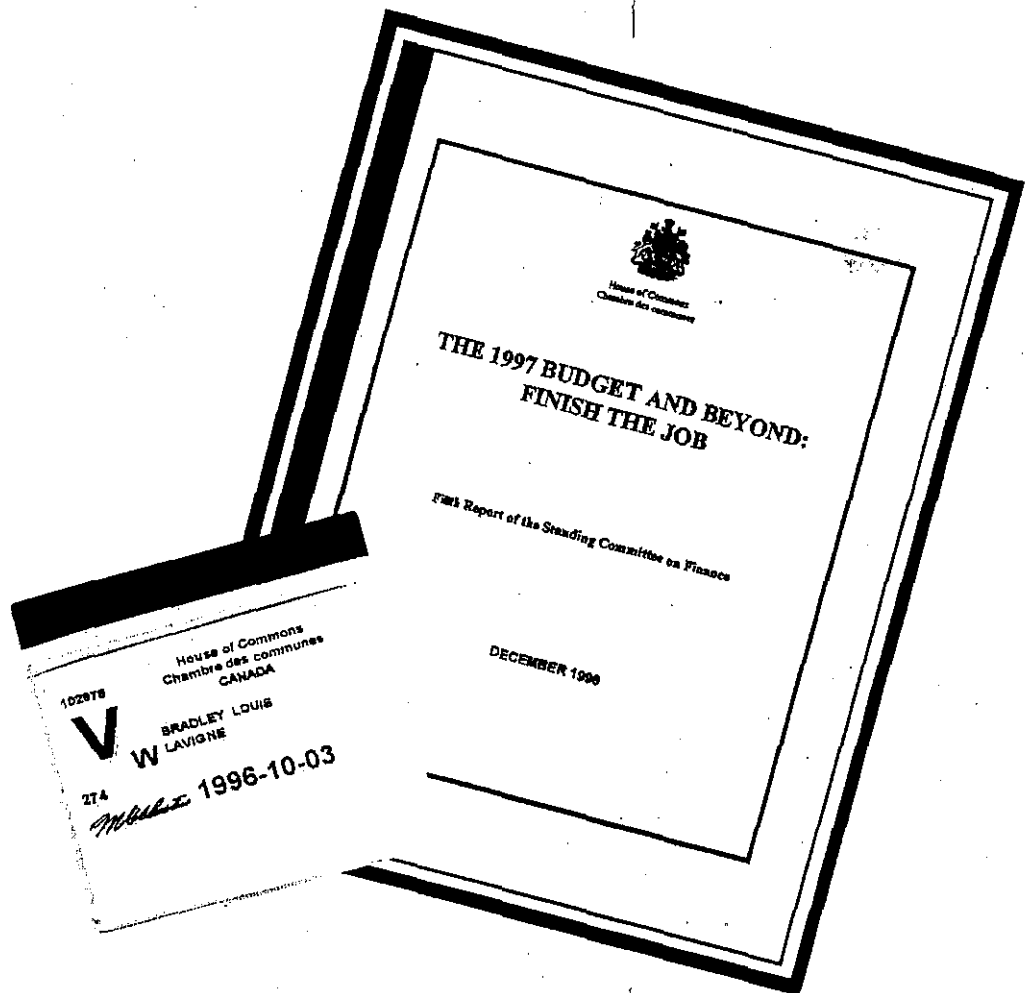
UPDATE: In its report to the Finance Minister, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance recommended every one of the Federation's proposals. The report states:

"Students across country are facing higher education costs. The Canadian Federation of Students estimates that the level of debt of graduating students [will] rise from \$8,700.00 in 1990 to \$25,000.00 in 1998..."

"The Committee... recommends that ancillary fees receive the same tax treatment as tuition fees, and that the \$500 exemption for scholarship, fellowship and bursary income be doubled..."

"...the committee recommends that special opportunity grants be provided for students with parental responsibilities and that these grants be modelled on the existing grants for students with disabilities and for women in non-traditional fields."

The Federation will continue to place pressure on the Finance Minister to insure that the recommendations are included in the 1997 Federal Budget.



COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA RELATIONS

World Wide Web Page

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

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, members of the national executive as well as component staff and executive members.

Further expansion of the site is planned for January and will include constituency group information, fulfilling directive GM-96/05:08 to include information on students of colour and the students of colour constituency group.

The National Executive is encouraging all member locals with web sites to include a link from their site to the Federation's home page. 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 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.

Federation Listserve

To maintain daily communications among members, the Federation operates internet listserves. To date, there are four such lists, including a national executive and staff listserve, a National Graduate Caucus listserve, a Students Of Colour listserve and a Women's listserve. 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 being managed by officials at Local 84. Traffic since the May meeting has been steady. The Women's listserve was established in the Winter of 1996 and currently has 25 subscribers. It is being managed by Local 54.

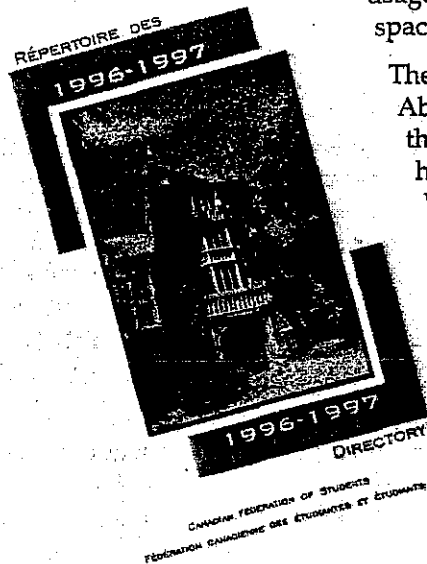
The Students Of Colour listserve was established in the Spring of 1996, and currently has 12 subscribers. It is also being managed by Local 54.

During the winter semester the Federation plans to launch a general listserve that will enable all members of the Federation to interact and discuss the work of the Federation. It will also provide an opportunity for member locals to exchange ideas on campaigns and other work at the local level.

Within the next few months, the management of all Federation listserves will be done by the National Office.

Students' Association Directory 1996-97

To celebrate the 15th Anniversary of the Federation, the 1996-97 Students' Association Directory has been redesigned. Some of the changes made 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.



The "What We're All About" section in the front of the book has been updated. With the creation of the world wide web page and the production of the hand-book kit and the organising manual, which have already been distributed to the membership, this

section has been rewritten to take up less space and to eliminate the duplication of information.

The arrival date of the Directory on campus will unfortunately be later than anticipated. One of the reasons for this is that many college students' associations do not hold elections until late September, thereby excluding the executive names from the directory. As well, the pressure on the resources of the National Office during the fall semester, due to the Federation's Pan-Canadian Week of Action, limited work in other areas. In the past two years, the major action or campaign has taken place in the second semester.

In May 1996, the National General Meeting resolved that the Federation Directory "include categories for services offered, membership fee structure, student union building ownership/occupancy arrangements, arrangements for student representation in institutional governance, local research available and recent campaign successes." (GM-96/05:52) When 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 directive could not be implemented until the publication of the 1997-98 edition.

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" (GM-96/05:52).

At the time the motion was passed, it was explained that the Directory information packages had already been distributed to every campus in the country. Therefore, the directive cannot be implemented until the 1997-98 edition.

Federation Coverage in the Media

Along with the day-to-day contact with government, the Federation seeks to influence decision makers by shoring up public support through the media. At the national level, the Federation has enjoyed very positive coverage in print, radio and television media since May. Through the National office alone, there have been over 150 interviews or information requests solicited from campus and commercial media outlets.

Television & Radio

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

At the beginning of November, the Federation was approached once again by CPAC. The goals and aims of the Federation was again the focus. *Portfolio*, 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 relief for students campaign and the Federation's position on Income Contingent Loan Repayment Schemes.

In addition to the countless regional and provincial-wide media outlets that have featured the organisation, Federation officials have appeared on CTV's *National News*, *Newsworld's Maclean's* TV, *Coast to Coast*, *On the Line with Patrick Conlon*, *Face-Off*, and CBC's *The National*.

Print Media

The bulk of the print media exposure that the Federation receives is from campus newspapers. The coverage can come from

individual campus newspapers or through the Canadian University Press' national news-wire. Since May, the Federation has generated much publicity on issues such as student unemployment, increases in tuition fees, student debt and privatisation. While it is up to each member of CUP to run the nationally generated articles, the number of interviews solicited from CUP bureau chiefs has been steady.

The Federation received good profile in the *Maclean's* Magazine "Sixth Annual Universities Ranking" released on November 25, 1996. In addition to incorporating quotations from



National Chairperson, Brad Lavigne
in *Maclean's* Magazine's Sixth Annual
Ranking of Canadian universities

the National Chairperson, there was space allocated for issues raised by the Federation such as higher tuition fees, growing student debt, privatisation and decreasing government funding of post-secondary education. In addition to the profile in the November 28 edition of the magazine, the National Chairper-

son was featured on *Maclean's TV*, a half-hour CBC Newsworld program hosted by Pamela Wallen which highlights the stories covered in that week's edition.

For a full listing of media profile generated at the national level, please ask your provincial National Executive representative for a copy of the National Executive's Media Report.

A sample of Federation coverage in campus and commercial print media has also been included in the delegates binder.

1996-97 Organising Manual

This year, the Federation has produced, for the first time, an Organising Manual for member local associations. The Manual was created to easily store the materials each member local receives throughout the year in one binder format.

The manual features the document "Don't Agonise, Organise," which contains skills and tips for campaign organising. It provides information on working within groups, organising campus campaigns, committees, dealing with the media, lobbying college and university administration, organising a demonstration, and working in coalitions.

In addition, the Manual features the following materials:

- Campaigns Strategy 1996-97
- Constituency Group Resource Kit
- the Federation's blueprint for post-secondary education, *Strategy for Change*
- Recent Federation research
- Federation research bibliography
- Government contacts

- Coalition partner contacts
- Federation contacts
- Federation press releases & advisories
- Record of local organising.

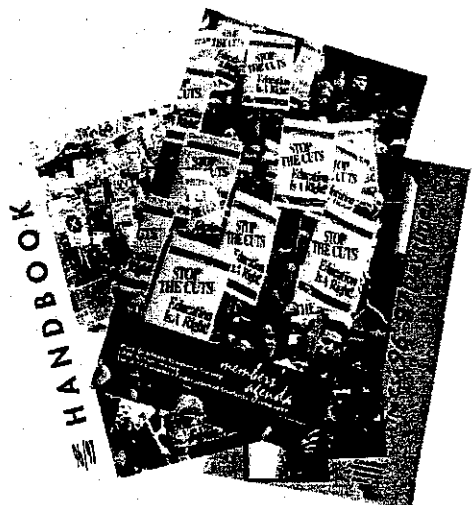
The Manual was issued to each member local between late August and early September. Member local associations will receive the remainder of the organising materials that are to be placed in the Manual throughout the year. Such material will include the students of colour resource kit, fulfilling directive GM-96/05:07.

1996-97 Member Local Handbook Kits

To insure that the work of the Federation is prominently displayed in member local handbooks, the Federation produced, for the first time, a Member Local Handbook Kit.

The Kit contained:

- a letter to the membership from the National Chairperson,
- a brief history of the student movement in Canada,
- CFS Facts, quick samples of statistics pertaining to the post-secondary education system,
- information on Federation programs,



- interesting dates to be placed in the calendar section of handbooks denoting historical events of the student movement in Canada and around the world, and
- Federation membership list.

In its first year, the Kit proved to be a success. A number of member locals incorporated the information into their handbooks.

At the May National General Meeting, the membership resolved that "member locals be encouraged to include a section regarding racism and issues specific to People of Colour in their member handbooks." (GM-96/05/16:09) The National Executive feels that this motion would be better implemented by including this information in the Federation's Handbook Kit.

COALITION WORK

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 for Post-Secondary Education

This Coalition brings together students, faculty and support staff to work on issues of common concern, ranging from funding for teaching and research to working conditions for staff to accessibility to post-secondary education.

Most recently, the Coalition produced an organising manual entitled "Making A Case for Post-Secondary Education." This document, which was released in October, includes

sample letters to Members of Parliament, Opinion/Editorial pieces for newspapers, and a list of all federal and provincial ridings in which a post-secondary institution is located.

The Coalition employs one staff person. As part of the Federation's contribution to the Coalition, the staff person works out of the Ottawa Office of the Federation.

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 Book Publishers 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 Roster

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

Action Canada Network

The Action Canada Network, comprised of over 50 member organisations, was formed in 1987 to oppose the Free-Trade Agreement (FTA). Although the Network was unsuccessful in blocking the FTA, it insured that the Free Trade debate entered the public forum by making it an election issue in the 1988 Federal election. Subsequent to its opposition to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) during the 1993 Federal election, the Network has since evolved into an organisation where progressive social justice groups, labour unions and local coalitions come together to devise a common strategy against funding cuts to social programs.

It also acts as a support group for organisations which are organis-



ing major events. Recently, the Network helped the Federation with its January 25, 1995 Day of Strike and Action, as well as assisted the National Action Committee on the Status of Women and the Canadian Labour Congress organise the Ottawa stretch of the Women's March Against Poverty in June 1996. Most recently, it helped the National Anti-Poverty Organisation with its events around the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The Network is currently working with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives to produce popular materials on the Alternative Federal Budget.

This year, the Network has decided that its campaign will focus on preparation for the upcoming federal election. The campaign will highlight the negative effects of the current government's funding cuts to social programs and its job strategy.

The Federation, which has been a member of the Network since 1989, pays an annual membership fee of \$500.00 and continues to actively participate: the National Deputy Chairperson is a member of the Network's Executive and Federation executive members attend all Steering Committee and National Assembly meetings.

To communicate its work to member organisations, the Network publishes a bi-weekly newsletter, *Action Bulletin*.

Alternative Federal Budget

Since May, the Federation has again been an active participant in the Alternative Federal Budget process. The Alternative Federal Budget, first released in 1994, was developed by CHOICES, a social justice coalition based in Winnipeg and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, based in Ottawa.

Produced annually, the Alternative Federal Budget provides a comprehensive forum in which to present alternatives the federal government's economic/fiscal policies. It addresses the following budgetary priorities: debt reduction through a progressive taxation system, the maintenance of comprehensive social programs and national standards and full employment rather than low interest rates.

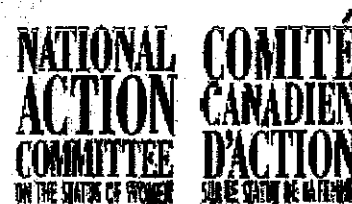
The Federation is a member of the Alternative Federal Budget's Steering Committee and participates in the Alternative Federal Budget's policy groups. The

Federation further contributes to the development of the budget by translating a portion of the document and accompanying materials.

The Alternative Federal Budget Forum will be held January 24-25, 1997 in Ottawa and the Alternative Federal Budget will be released in late February.

National Action Committee on the Status of Women

As a member of NAC, the Federation has insured that access to post-secondary education is an issue which this national women's advocacy organisation addresses. A call for "grants, not loans" was one of the demands of the Women's March Against Poverty, co-organised by NAC and the Canadian Labour Congress. As well, the Womens' Representative



on the National Executive, Jennifer Story, spoke on behalf of the Federation at the June rally on Parliament Hill which marked the end of the national women's march against poverty.

Federation representatives, including the Womens' Commissioner, the former National Graduate Council Chairperson, and Women's National Executive Representative (observer), attended NAC's General Meeting held in Ottawa in June. The motion that was served by the Federation condemning tuition fee increases, the deregulation of fees and the

outmoded loans program was passed unanimously by the delegates at the meeting. At the meeting, the members of NAC also approved the undertaking of a "campaign for equality and democracy" that focuses on the upcoming federal election.

CHO!CES' "Project Loophole"

The Federation has endorsed the CHO!CES court challenge against Revenue Canada's regressive ruling in regards to an advance taxation issue. In 1991, Revenue Canada issued an advance tax ruling to a large family trust to transfer its assets to the United States without having to pay Canadian taxes. The *Globe and Mail* reported that one of Canada's richest families, the Bronfmans, benefited greatly from this ruling. It was reported that Revenue Canada allowed the Bronfman's Family Trust to avoid remitting as much as \$750 million in federal and provincial taxes. Yet, the Chretien government has consistently supported the ruling.

CHO!CES has launched a court challenge against Revenue Canada's ruling. The challenge is meant to expose the regressive nature of Canada's taxation system (a system which allows profitable corporations and wealthy individuals to pay no taxes). As well the challenge is intended to highlight the relationship between deficit reduction policies and the amount of wealth in the country not being harnessed through a fair taxation system. The cost of proceedings is being covered by Legal Aid of Manitoba.

Council of Canadians

The Council of Canadians is an independent non-partisan, public-interest organisation established in 1985. With over 40,000 members and supporters, the Council is dedicated to: the protection of social programs, the promotion of economic justice, renewing democracy, asserting Canadian sovereignty, promoting alternatives to corporate-style free-trade and preserving the environment. In the past six months, the Council's major focus of concern has been the cuts to the Canada Pension Plan (CPP). The Federation was invited to speak at a Council-sponsored rally in support of the Canada Pension Plan. The Deputy Chairperson accepted the invitation and spoke on behalf of the students of Canada at the rally, which took place during a Federal-provincial conference on the CPP.



Florida Boycott Coalition

In June, the Congress of the United States of America enacted into law the so-called "Helms-Burton Bill." The law allows US citizens to sue in US courts any individual or company, whether American or not, who have traded with or invested in Cuba. The new law has been widely condemned around the world as a blatant form of "extra-territoriality" - the extension and application of domestic policy as international law. Following the adoption of the law, Oxfam-Canada called on social justice and public interest groups to participate in a boycott

of tourist travel to Florida.

The purpose of the boycott is to pressure the President of the United States to repeal the law in its entirety or at least repeal the most regressive features of the Law, "Title Three." Since students constitute a large portion of Canadian society that travels to Florida during the months of December and February, the

Federation was approached by Oxfam-Canada to participate in the boycott.

At its September meeting, the National Executive of the Federation endorsed the boycott and now encourages all member locals to join Oxfam-Canada's call.

There were
two main

reasons why Florida was chosen as the target of the boycott. First, Florida is a very popular destination for Canadians who travel south during the winter months. Furthermore Florida is the home-state of many ultra right-wing anti-Cuban political organisations, (such as the very powerful Cuban-American Foundation headed by multi-millionaire Jorge Mas Canosa). These organisations have been very successful in convincing the State of Florida and the US Federal government to maintain and expand its economic embargo against Cuba. For over 35 years, the government of the United States has imposed a total economic embargo against Cuba despite widespread condemnation by the international community. The General Assembly of the

United Nations has held numerous nearly-unanimous votes which have declared the embargo immoral and a violation of international law.

The Federation's participation in this boycott is as follows: Federation members are being encouraged to boycott travel to Florida; information is being provided by the Coalition to Federation members; Travel CUTS, the travel company owned and operated by the Federation, is not promoting travel to Florida; finally, Travel CUTS removed from its travel publication, *Student Traveller*, a section originally dedicated to Florida travel and replaced it with a section on alternative destinations for Spring Break travel.

Canada Health Coalition

The Federation is an active member of the Canada Health Coalition. In September, 1996 the Federation became a member of the Coalition's Board of Directors. The Federation plans to have a central role when the Coalition launches its campaign to review the Drug Patent Act in 1997. The Review of the Drug patent Act could result in major ramifications for the Federation's National Student Health Network.

The Coalition is also very involved in the debate surrounding the introduction of a two-tiered system of Medicare. The Coalition is documenting the impact of the Canada Health and Social Transfer on the Medicare system. Also the Coalition is examining what the impact of a two-tiered system of health care would mean to Canadian society.



Boycott Florida Poster
This poster was created for the promotion of the Florida Boycott. The design was also used for a postcard campaign

INTERNATIONAL WORK

International Union of Students (IUS)

The International Union of Students is an international coalition of National Student Unions from around the world. Founded 50 years ago, the purpose of the IUS is to promote around the



world the principle of a universally accessible publicly funded post-secondary education and has adopted the Federation's motto "Education is a right not a privilege".

With its head office in Prague, Czech Republic, the IUS has faced in recent years serious financial difficulties. The source of the difficulty is that the Union has been unable to successfully secure membership fees and the bulk of the equity that the IUS has is tied up in the head-office building in Prague. The Secretariat was committed to selling the building and using the income to relocate the head-office to the Hague, The Netherlands. To date the IUS has been unable to sell the building, leaving the Union virtually bankrupt. Due to these financial constraints, the IUS has been unable to operate successfully. The Secretariat has been attempting to call a general meeting for the re-election of the executive and to discuss the future of the organisation. With the lack of funds such a meeting has not taken place. As a result of these problems communication between the International Union of Students and the Federation has been sparse over the last two years.

On August 14 the Federation received a letter requesting our presence at a special meeting in Prague on August 25 and 26, 1996. Invitations to the meeting were extended to every student-federa-

tion and union that is a member of the Secretariat. The Federation's invitation was based on the fact that until 1995 former Federation National Deputy Chairperson, Allison Lewis, was the Women's Representative to the IUS Secretariat. The intent of the meeting was to discuss the situation of the IUS and the future of the organisation. The Federation was unable to send a representative to the meeting due to time and financial constraints. A letter was sent to the head office of the IUS expressing the Federation's regrets for not attending the meeting and to express the Federation's desire to improve communication between the Secretariat and the Federation's national executive. The remaining members of the Secretariat responded to the Federation's letter and also expressed a desire to improve communications.

European Students International Bureau (ESIB)

The ESIB invited the Federation to attend the United Nations' Educational Working Group Conference that took place in Vienna, Austria from November 25 - 29, 1996. The Federation could not commit to sending a delegate to the meeting due to both time and financial constraints.

Contact with Other Nation-wide Organisations

South African Students' Congress

The Federation was invited to the South African Students' Congress 5th National Congress that took place at the University of North-West in Mmabatho from November 30 - December 5th 1996. Due to time and financial constraints, the Federation could not send a delegation to the meeting.

Vereniging Van Vlaamse Studenten Association of Flemish Students

The Federation was invited to the European Students' International Bureau's autumn meeting (seminar and board meeting) hosted by the Vereniging Van Vlaamse Studenten (Association of Flemish Students) in Brussels, Belgium from November 19th - 24th, 1996.

The main focus of the meeting was "Life-long Learning". Before the meeting, there was a North-South meeting from the 16th - 19th, where two delegates from each continent were invited to attend. The Federation would have been the "North American delegate." Due to time and financial constraints, the Federation could not send a delegation to the meeting; however, documents from the meeting are kept at the Federation's Ottawa Office.

National Union of Students—United Kingdom (NUS-UK)

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-UK on these topics. An invitation was extended to the Union to attend the Federation's Annual General Meeting in May. As a result of a national law that recognises the NUS-UK as the representative of post-secondary students, NUS-UK is currently comprised of 98% of post-secondary students in the United Kingdom. Furthermore it 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 was contacted by the Österreichische Hochschüler Innenschaft (Austrian National Union of Students). The Austrian Union is planning on launching an anti-date rape campaign in Europe and wanted to include some of the "NO Means NO" materials that the Federation developed for our campaign. The National Office put together a package of the materials that we had available and sent it to our Austrian colleagues. Through this initial contact, the Federation has been able to establish communication with the European Students International Bureau (ESIB) and 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 support for the growing movement of de-colonisation.

Today, Canadian youth and students are preparing for the 14th World Festival of Youth and Students (WFYS), to take place in the Summer 1997 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 14th 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

On Monday October 28, 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: 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 Thursday, November 7, 1996 the council of **College of New Caledonia 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 Monday, June 30, 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 hold a full membership vote by June 30, 1997.



Demonstrators at the 'On To Ottawa Trek'

Provincial Component Development

Newfoundland—Labrador Component

In March 1995, the Newfoundland-Labrador Federation of Students entered into a strategic plan with the Federation to establish a provincial component. Nationally, the Federation committed resources to the structural and membership development to realise this goal. At its most recent meeting held in Stephenville on October 24-27, 1996, the provincial federation changed its name to "The Newfoundland and Labrador Component of the Canadian Federation of Students".

At the November 1996 National General Meeting, members accepted the prospective membership applications from Cabot College Students' Association and the Labrador College Students' Association. The National Executive is very pleased to report that every undergraduate student in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador is a member of the Federation.

Solicitation of Aboriginal Institution Students' Associations

At the May 1996 General Meeting, the membership directed the Federation to compile a list of all aboriginal post-secondary institutions in Canada. The intent of the directive is to actively promote membership in the Federation with student at these institutions. To date the information has been compiled and work on this directive will continue.

Defederation Referendum

Association générale des étudiant(e)s de l'Université Sainte-Anne

The membership of l'Association générale des étudiant(e)s de l'Université Sainte-Anne in Pointe-de-l'Église, Nova Scotia, held a defederation referendum on Thursday, November 21, 1996.

The Federation representatives on the referendum committee, which exists to oversee all aspects of the referendum, reported that all requirements as prescribed by local, provincial and national bylaws were respected. The results of the vote were 36% in favour of continued membership, 62% opposed, and 2% abstained. The percentage of those who participated in the vote was 58%.

Skills Development Workshops

At its May 1996 General Meeting, the Federation 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 and geographic context using national and provincial-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.

The National Executive is hoping to have this information ready by the time spring elections take place at member locals.

Programmes

The National Student Health Network

Users' Group Meeting

On August 10-11, 1996 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 of members of the Network

Ongoing Improvements to the Plan

The Federation's Broker, the Canadian Actuarial and Consulting Group Incorporated (CACGI),

has negotiated an exclusive arrangement with the Canadian Dental Hygienists' Association (CDHA). As an alternative to a complete dental care package, the CDHA is interested in providing preventive 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 approxi-

mately \$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 for auto insurance. CACGI is currently preparing details on packages that

would offer individual students tenants and for auto insurance at reasonable rates.

At the Federation's May 1996 General Meeting, a directive was adopted to investigate the possibility of instituting partial health plan coverage for

Member Locals Currently with the National Student Health Network

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Local 9 | Students' Union of Nova Scotia College of Art & Design |
| Local 79 | Post-Graduate Students' Society of McGill |
| Local 54 | University of Guelph Central Students' Association |
| Local 62 | University of Guelph Graduate Students' Association |
| Local 68 | York Federation of Students |
| Local 84 | York University Graduate Students' Association |
| Local 23 | Simon Fraser Student Society |
| Local 44 | University of Victoria Students' Society |

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.

In addition to those cited above, there are a number of schools that are currently looking at the Network and may have referenda in the Winter semester.

students with disabilities, who already have partial health care coverage through other plans. Work on this directive is on-going.

International Student Identity Card

VIA Rail Discount and VIA Voucher

As reported at the November 1995 General Meeting, VIA Rail entered into an agreement with the Federation to offer a 40% discount on VIA travel to students with the International Student Identity Card (ISIC).

At the time of the initial agreement, any student with a valid student identification booking five days in advance continued to receive 50% off travel without an ISIC. However, at the beginning of the summer of 1996, 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% discount.



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.

For members of the Federation, the

cost of the International Student Identity Card is waived. Non-members pay \$15.

International Student Identity Card (ISIC) Distribution

The International Student Identity Card (ISIC) is an international student travel document and is a product of the International Student Travel Confederation-ISTC. In Canada, the Federation is the sole distributing 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 distributing 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.

The National Office is now directly involved in the distribution and promotion of the ISIC. Members and non-members in British Columbia and Yukon now receive 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 Lucy Watson, the National Student Discount Coordinator, at the National Office.

At the Federation's May 1996 General Meeting, a directive was adopted to investigate the possibility of extending International Student Identity Card membership to the children (18 years and under) of members. It has become apparent to the national executive that there is some resistance to

expanding the eligibility of the card, for reasons which have to do with the marketing strategy intended for the card. 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. 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. Furthermore the Federation's representative to the most recent general meeting of the ISIC Association recognised that the members attending the ISIC Association general meeting would not be willing to expand the eligibility of the Card to the children of students.

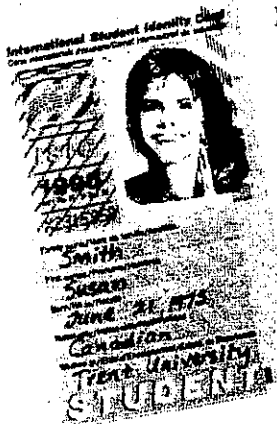
In an effort to fulfil the intent of this directive, the National Executive would propose directing the Travel CUTS Board to investigate the possibility of lobbying the airlines to include companion travel, at the student ticket price, for children under 14 years. Currently, high school students can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

However, this new scheme proved too costly for the Federation and, as a result, it redesigned the membership/discount card 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. Unlike the ISIC, non-members cannot buy the card.

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 identification. In 1983 the program was renamed the "StudentSaver" 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.

Promotion

In the past there has been some confusion surrounding the idea that the card can and should be used nationally. The National Executive has attempted to address this problem by posting all

Studentsaver discounts on the Federation's Web page. In addition, the Federation organised 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 served as a reminder to locals and businesses that the

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 than in recent years.

National discounts are currently being sought for the 1997-1998 year. We are attempting to secure discounts that 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 that 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 solicitation for better national discounts be undertaken.

In reviewing the history of the Studentsaver Programme, the National Executive evaluated the reasons behind discontinuing

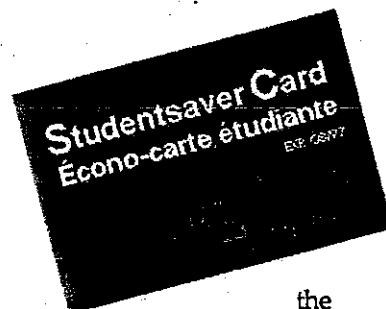
The following is a brief history of the evolution of the Studentsaver Card

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	The discount/membership card and programme were renamed Studentsaver
1987-88	The Card resembled a plastic credit card and discount books were issued to the east and west with Winnipeg as the dividing line.
1988-90	The Card now distributed in an envelope that included coupons and regional discount books.
1990-92	The Card continued to be distributed in an envelope. Laminated cardboard replaced the plastic card.
1992-93	Responding to concerns of 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 exorbitant printing expenses.
1994-96	The Card was separate from the enclosure. The enclosure included a mail back portion. Due to its overwhelming success, 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 their wallets. The mail-back section was discontinued.

card can be used both regionally and nationally.

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

With the increase of discount programmes vying for the student market, we are also investigating



the national guidebook. While the guidebook served as a reminder that the Studentsaver

programme was a national programme, the actual production of the book was time consuming and expensive to print and ship to member locals.

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 page. For the 1997-98 year, the Web page 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 be compiled on forming a student-owned credit union. Credit unions are non-profit, membership-driven, democratically run financial institutions which 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.

Although there are currently 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).

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 states. Because credit unions are legislated provincially, any efforts would have to stem from either this level or from a more grassroots level closer to the prospective credit union membership. 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 initiatives were as follows:

- 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 enrolment statistics for post-secondary students by age, gender and course of study, which is available from the provincial ministries of post-secondary education; the directive is to collect and compile this information 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 dependants. (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 its June meeting, prioritised the long list of research directives, from the May General Meeting, as well as research already in progress. In assessing 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 early in the new year. In making this decision, the National Executive recognised that the remainder of the research directives would have to be delayed.

A major difficulty in fulfilling some of these directives is that the statistics requested by the membership simply do not exist. Universities and Colleges do not require that students identify their race, familial status, number of dependants etc. The membership should re-evaluate these directives to determine whether it is possible to find the necessary information.

It is also important for the membership to be cognisant of the fact that the human resources of the National Office are limited. While all of the research directives are important for the work of the Federation, it is not possible for one researcher to fulfil all 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

National Executive Composition

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.

Aboriginal Students Representative

May 17 to Present

Penny Kerrigan

British Columbia & Yukon Representative

May 17 to Present

Joey Hansen

Chairperson

May 17 to Present

Brad Lavigne

Deputy Chairperson

May 17 to Present

Réal Déquier

Francophone Representative

May 17 to Present

Vacant

Graduate Students Representative

May 17 to Present

Tracy Henry

Manitoba Representative

May 17 to Present

Elizabeth Carlyle

Newfoundland and Labrador Representative

May 17 to Present

Dale Kirby

Nova Scotia Representative

May 17 to September 21

Vacant

September 21 to Present

Jessica Squires

Ontario Representative

May 17 to Present

Jason Stevens

Prince Edward Island Representative

May 17 to Sept 21

Vacant

Sept 21 to Present

Amber Allin

Quebec Representative

May 17 to Present

Michael Temelini

Saskatchewan Representative

May 17 to Present

Pam Kapoor

Students of Colour Representative

May 17 to Present

Lance Morgan

Treasurer

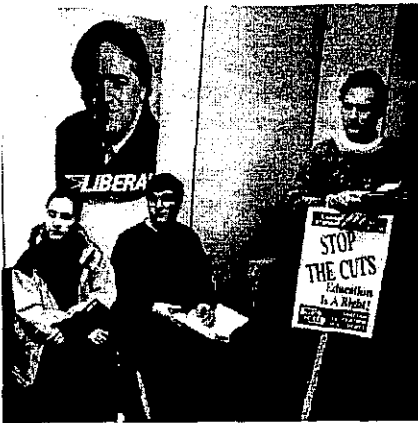
May 17 to Present

Cassandra Koenen

Women's Representative

May 17 to Present

Jennifer Story



Students occupy Brian Tobin's office,
in St-John's, Newfoundland

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 Co-ordinators, 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 transferred internally 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 Coordinator of the National Day of Strike and Action of January 25, 1995. She was then 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 the Health Plan Office in Toronto.

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 1996.

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

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

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

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.

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.

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/



Kemlin Nembhard, Federation staff, receives congratulations from original trekker at Canadian Labour Congress Convention

Newfoundland Fieldworker.

As well, at the May General Meeting, the National Executive was directed to negotiate with the union to create four 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 to be of top priority and as such was completed first. The negotiations for the Aboriginal Caucus Coordinator and the Campaigns Coordinator have recently finished and are 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 members of the National Executive 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 the National Treasurer.

Directive On Staff Bilingualism

The Federation has had a long history of ensuring that there is 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 must all 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.

National Office

Office Move

Since the May General Meeting the Federation has relocated to the 5th Floor of 170 Metcalfe Street, Ottawa, ON. The Health Plan has also relocated from 243 College Street to 720 Spadina Avenue in Toronto, Ontario. 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 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 and 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 the Federation's research.

The increased space has also al-

lowed us to offer the use of one of our offices to the staff member of the Coalition for Post-Secondary Education. By providing this space, the Federation is able to meet 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

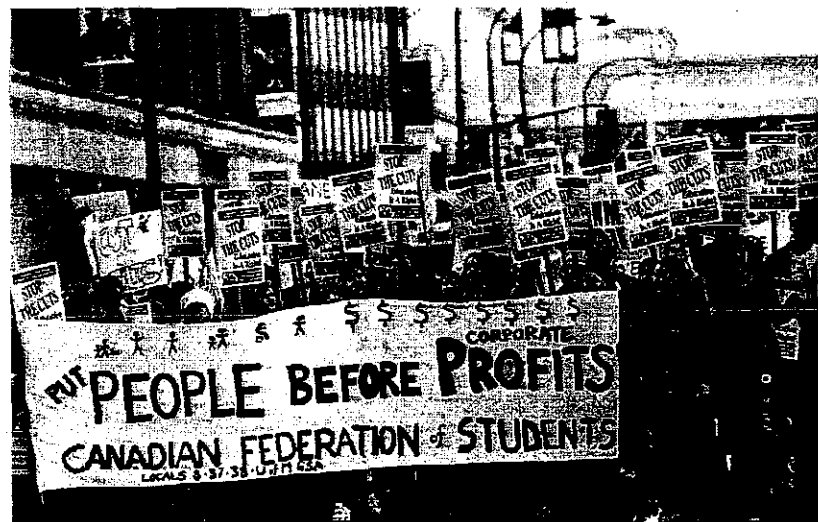
A result of the office move was the inevitable purchase of new office equipment and office furniture. Where it was possible, furniture from the old office was transferred to the new office. However, much of the old office furniture was unsuitable for continued use. Furniture purchased included chairs which had adequate back support, desks, shelving, filing cabinets, as well as tables and chairs for the Board Room. An extensive search was made to keep the costs down to a minimum.

The Toronto Office had little equipment of its own; most of it was owned by Travel CUTS. The few computers that the Federation did own were sold to Travel CUTS. As a result, the Federation has purchased three new computers and a printer for the Ottawa Office and a fax machine for the Health Plan Office since May 1996.

It should also be noted that the Federation also upgraded the phone system 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 is also not efficient for time management. The cost is minimal and should be done by Christmas. In addition, as we fill the remaining staff positions, computers, desks and chairs will need to be purchased for these new staff members.



Students demonstrate in Winnipeg
on Federation's Day of Action
on February 7, 1995

Finances

The annual budget constitutes the monetary targets of the Federation for the fiscal year (July 1 to June 30).

At the Spring General Meeting of each year, a budget for the next fiscal year is adopted.

The budget is then reviewed and, if necessary, revised at the Winter General Meeting.

The National Executive is responsible for ensuring that the budgetary targets are met as closely as possible.

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 that projected a surplus and a share purchase in Travel CUTS of \$250,509.00. It basically designated virtually all of the surplus - \$250,000.00 - to 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.



Grad student at Ontario Day of Action

One hundred thousand dollars (\$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: programme revenues were lower than projected; spending on professional fees was higher than expected; a Goods and Services

Tax (GST) review of the National Student Health Network was undertaken by the government and expenses in the former Toronto office were higher than had been 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; 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.

Although the Budget Committee in November 1995 increased the allocation for professional fees, the amount was not sufficient to cover the cost of legal and auditing services which were required to complete the amalgamation of the two national Federations. Although the amalgamation was somewhat costly in the short-term, significant savings will be realised in 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 that were 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. Again, while the cost of legal counsel was incurred this year, costs should be recovered at a later date. This particular litigation could take some time 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 operation 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, that 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.

Also, it should be noted that for the first time in the history of the Federation, with the exception of member locals in British Columbia, membership fees are being remitted to the National Office in Ottawa, not Toronto.

Collection of Previous Year's Membership Fees

As noted above, the Federation is now actively pursuing outstanding membership fees through legal means from delinquent former member associations. Recently, through the efforts of 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 \$30,265.00 to the national budget and \$ 30,265.00 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 \$10,680.00.

- 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 \$16,600.00.
- The Association générale du Centre universitaire de Saint-Louis-Maillet owes the Federation for membership dues owed for the fiscal year 1994-95 and 1995-96 for the amount of \$14,793.68.
- The Association étudiante de l'Université de Moncton à Shippagan owes the Federation for membership dues owed for the fiscal year 1995-96 for the amount of \$2,898.68
- The Acadia Student Union owes the Federation for membership dues owed for the fiscal year 1995-96 for the amount of \$32,612.00. As well, the plenary at the last General Meeting did not recognise the invalid referendum held at Acadia last year, which makes the student union liable for this year's 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 increased the Federation fee 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 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 firm, 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 Anderson of Toronto and Ottawa have been extremely helpful in aiding 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 of Arthur Anderson as the Federation's auditors for the 1996-97 year.

**ARTHUR
ANDERSEN**

Directive to Assess the System Used for Allocating Constituency Group Funding

Before the November 1992 National General Meeting, constituency group members pursued funding by making funding requests to the Budget Committee at National General meetings. These requests were often reduced to almost nothing by the end of the budgeting process.

At the November 1992 National General Meeting, policy was adopted which guaranteed that 1.5 percent of the operating budget would be allocated to constituency groups and extended authority to the groups to decide amongst themselves how to allocate these funds.

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 1996, 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 locals 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' be further defined 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

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' Handbook Kit.

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 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 and groups are allocated time and space on the agenda to meet and discuss issues in a safe and closed environment. At the last three general meetings, the National Executive has also allocated space for a mediation room which 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 requires 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 business meetings of the Federation. This means that delegates are not permitted to 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



Students participating in Federation's Week of Action activities in Toronto, Ontario

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," was 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.

