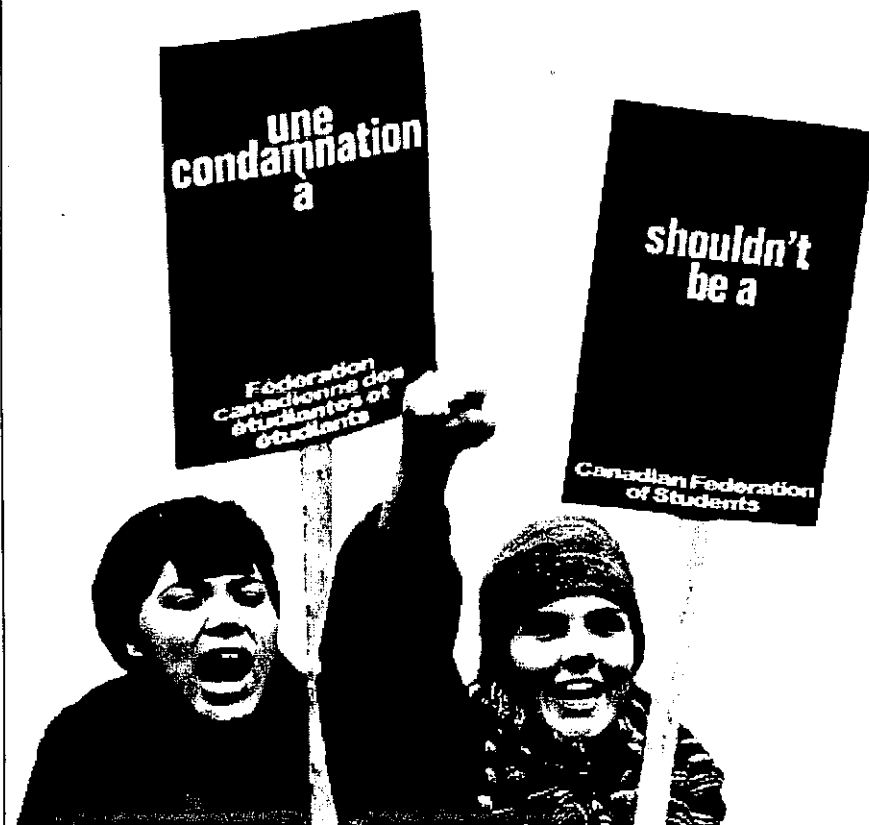


Canadian Federation of Students
National Executive Report

May 20 to November 24, 1998



Front cover photo: Todd Bутtenham, CUPE 1281 (Day of Action, January 28th, 1998, Toronto.)
Composition: Jeffrey Hsu, CUPE 1281

INTRODUCTION

Dear Members,

It is with great pleasure that we submit for your consideration the National Executive Report - an account of the activities of the Federation for the period beginning May 20, 1998 and ending November 24, 1998.

In the aftermath of the 1998 federal budget announcement, a clear, sweeping picture of a post-secondary education sector starved of funding, with students at the bottom of the food chain, has emerged. Transfer payments to the provinces for vital social programs including post-secondary education are at their lowest *per capita* since 1949. Student debt and tuition fees continue to rise quickly in most provinces. Ontario has introduced deregulated fees of as much as \$14,000 *per annum* for certain professional and applied programs. Canada is ranked first in the world by the United Nations as a place to live, but comes 10th out of 18 countries for the vastness of the gap between its rich and poor.

In the face of these challenges, the Federation has maintained pressure on federal and provincial governments. New links have been made with coalition partners and like-minded student organizations. The Federation has been at the forefront of growing public scrutiny of the Multilateral Agreement on Investment, discriminatory changes to the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, attempts by the for-profit education industry and federal government departments to undermine public education, and government repression of civil liberties and complicity in international human rights violations.

Through awareness-raising, activism and mass mobilizations, contact with government, and careful research, the Federation has begun the work of re-affirming students' demands for increased public funding and reform of specific measures in student financial assistance, such as the Millennium Foundation and the 10-year ban on student loan bankruptcy. The Federation has achieved some victories, and has applauded governments where they have continued tuition fee freezes, implemented new grant and tax relief programs, and increased funding to the research granting councils. Employing tactics from postcard campaigns to mass rallies and teach-ins, Federation members built up to the Federation's October 13 - 16, 1998 Pan-Canadian Days of Action, and has pushed the rest of the post-secondary education sector to make a strong call for increased transfer payments for post-secondary education.

During the coming months, the Federation will continue to be the most effective student organization in Canada. One of the greatest challenges students face is corporatization in its many forms. Corporate intrusion onto campuses has become a significant threat to accessible, high quality education. The dominance of a corporate agenda based on profit-making as the most fundamental socio-economic goal lies at the heart of everything from the brutal crackdown on student demonstrators at APEC by a craven government, through discriminatory student loan policy and funding cuts, to the structure of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation.

Beyond simply asking 'Who's Pulling the Strings?' in Canadian education policy, the Federation must also continue to educate, organize, and resist the continued downloading of educational costs from the public to the private sphere, onto the backs of students and into the obscene profit margins of banks.

It is with excitement and purpose that we will continue to build on the groundwork laid this fall in every corner of the country.

In Federation Solidarity,

National Executive
November 24, 1998

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Introduction

At the May 1998 national general meeting, the Federation developed *Campaigns Strategy 1998-99*, through which the membership articulated its short, medium, and long term objectives for legislative changes and raising public awareness. The *Strategy* outlined the context and the goals of the Federation's campaigns and identified the tactics needed to achieve its campaigns' objectives. These tactics include research, contact with government, membership involvement and coalition work.

RESEARCH

Up to date, in-depth research by the Federation provides member locals, government officials and the media with timely information on, and analysis of, government policies and trends within the post-secondary education system.

Research is integrated in the day-to-day work of the Federation. It is used in briefs to governments, in meetings with government officials and when dealing with campus and commercial media.

Research not only serves as a tool to respond to government initiatives; it is fundamental in promoting the Federation's policy objectives. Since the last general meeting, the following research documents have been produced:

- Fact Sheet on Student Loan Related Debt and Bankruptcy (first in the "After the 1998 'Education' Budget" series)
- Fact Sheet on New Measures that Threaten Needs-based Loans (second in the "After the 1998 'Education' Budget" series)
- Fact Sheet on Deregulation of Tuition Fees
- Considered opinion on a Section 15 Charter Challenge against the 10-year ban on bankruptcy
- Revised Recommendations for the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation
- Recommendations for selection criteria for members and directors of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation
- Grad Fact Sheet on Graduate Student Debt
- Grad Fact Sheet on Teaching Assistant Unions
- Written brief to the Standing Committee on Finance

- Presentations to the Standing Committee on Finance on behalf of the Federation, including the National Graduate Council
- October 13 - 16, 1998 Pan-Canadian Days of Action Campaign Bulletins
- Opening the Doors: Student Expectations of Post-Secondary Education (submission to the CMEC)
- Fact Sheet on Food Banks on Campuses



CONTACT WITH GOVERNMENT

Over the years the Federation has become a strong presence on Parliament Hill and in provincial legislatures. By using solid research and by working with groups supportive of the aims of the Federation, the Federation brings the interests of the membership to government officials and other decision makers.

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

On a regular basis the Federation holds meetings with elected officials, Senators, and bureaucrats. The Federation is also called upon to offer its perspective and information to government and departmental hearings and inquiries.

MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT

As a grassroots organisation, the foundation of all the Federation's efforts is the involvement of individual members. Contact with government will have little impact, unless the government believes our message has widespread support. This demonstration of support is achieved through activities ranging from postcard campaigns and petition drives to mass mobilizations like the January 25, 1995, February 7, 1996, January 28, 1998, and October 13 - 16, 1998 Pan-Canadian Days of Action. These tactics raise public awareness of the issues, and government awareness of student sentiment, both of which result in positive reactions from government.

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 of other students' unions is achieved to an even greater extent when the Federation works in coalition with other groups and organisations.

Campaign For Accessible, Public Post-Secondary Education

At the May 1998 national general meeting, the membership passed *Campaigns Strategy 1998-99*. This year, the Federation clearly ranked its campaign priorities by approving primary and secondary campaign components.

The primary component, the Campaign for Accessible, Public Post-Secondary Education, is divided into two parts, in order to provide time to generate renewed interest in post-secondary education issues following the 1998 'Education' Budget.

The October 13 - 16, 1998 Days of Action constituted the first part of the campaign to preserve and improve public post-secondary education, with a focus on increased core funding and specific new measures in student financial assistance. At the November 1998 national general meeting, the membership will review the impact of the October campaign and determine further action to be taken during winter 1999.

CONTACT WITH GOVERNMENT

As part of efforts to promote awareness of key issues and build up to the October Days of Action, the Federation met with over 60 members of parliament, policy advisors, and government and departmental committees since May 1998. At these meetings, Federation representatives discussed the main demands established by the membership in the 1998-99 Campaigns Strategy, sought information that is relevant to the Federation's goals, and secured commitments from decision-makers for follow-up actions.

The Federation's government relations efforts this summer and early fall have focused on organizing for the October 13 - 16, 1998 Days of Action. The main goals have been to:

- inform Members of Parliament of the impacts of the 1998 Federal Budget, including bankruptcy discrimination against student loan debt holders, restrictions on student loan eligibility, and the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation;
- build support with Members of Parliament, policy-makers, and policy advisors for an increase in federal cash transfer payments to the provinces and territories;
- prepare for the 1999 Federal Budget, specifically in calling for increased transfer payments to the provinces, and;
- promote the Federation's list of demands for October 13 -16, 1998 Days of Action

Follow-up from the 1998 Federal Budget

An analysis of Bill C-36, the legislation which enacts the policies of the federal budget into law, was presented to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance at its post-budget hearing on April 27, 1998 in Ottawa. The Federation was allocated two opportunities to address the committee on the Bill, while other organisations were extended just one opportunity.

The budget contained some positive measures for which the Federation has called. Grants for students with dependents are now available. Although it did not come in the form of increased core funding, the sum of \$2.5 billion was allocated to post-secondary education through primarily needs-based scholarships, to be available beginning in 2000-2001. Some additions were made to student financial assistance, including a debt remission program and extended interest relief periods. In addition, funds were restored to the research granting councils, with a focus on providing grants to graduate students.

However, many of these measures are tainted by features that limit their usefulness to students: eligibility for new measures in student financial assistance is limited, the Millennium Fund is a

CAMPAIGNS

misguided attempt to assist students, the ten-year ban on bankruptcy offsets some of the gains accrued in 1998 budget and discriminates against student loan debt holders, and Paul Martin has not rolled back the funding cuts that he engineered in 1993. Overall, the 'Education' Budget was a piecemeal compilation of some positive and several misguided measures, none of which will solve the funding and student debt crises in post-secondary education.

In June 1998 Bill C-36 (the enabling legislation for the 1998 Federal Budget) came into effect.

Presentations to the Federal Finance Committee

As part of the federal government's annual budget consultation, the Federation made presentations to the Standing Committee on Finance in Vancouver, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Montreal, Halifax, and St. John's.

On October 14, 1998, the Federation attended the Fiscal and Economic Update presented by Minister of Finance Paul Martin. The Federation was the only organization from the education sector that participated in the media scrum following the address, alongside the Canadian Labour Congress and the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses. Unemployment Insurance emerged as the primary issue, and the Federation condemned the fact that under Martin's changes to the program, only 15% of workers under the age of 30 are now eligible for benefits.

On October 26, 1998 Federation representatives participated in two roundtable discussions in Ottawa, whereas other organizations were only allowed to participate in a single roundtable, either the one for the post-secondary education sector generally or the one focusing on research. The AUCC co-ordinated a joint presentation of four groups during the roundtable on research. The NGC made a separate presentation in order to ensure that graduate students' concerns about specific measures in student financial assistance and issues regarding privatization were addressed. Most of the follow-up questions from the research roundtable were directed towards the Federation representative.

The Federation's recommendations for increased granting council funding and a repealment of the 10-year ban on student loan bankruptcy were well-received by all parties represented on the finance committee, although Liberal Party members repeatedly referred to measures from the 1998 'Education' Budget as having offset some of the concerns raised. In addition, Federation recommendations on specific federal measures such as the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, the Millennium Scholarship Foundation, and credit history checks on students were debated, with the most support arising from the NDP and the Bloc Quebecois. Reform Party representatives expressed concern about rising tuition fees and debt loads, but favour the regressive, market-based voucher model as one 'solution'.

IMPACT OF THE PRESENTATION

After months of lobbying within the post-secondary education sector by the Federation and the Canadian Association of University Teachers, the main recommendation emerging from the general roundtable was that increased transfer payments are critical in maintaining quality and accessibility. In addition, the roundtable on research recommended further increases to funding to the research granting councils, in particular the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Through concerted coalition efforts with education, health, and anti-poverty sector organizations, the Federation has made significant contributions to the call for increased cash transfer payments to the provinces. Transfer payments have resurfaced as one of the key issues leading up to the 1999 federal budget announcement.

Federation Representatives will meet with Finance Minister Paul Martin on November 25, 1998 to continue to pursue federal policy changes and increased funding for post-secondary education.

See also Appendix for a complete listing of national contact with government officials.

Days of Action October 13 - 16, 1998

PREPARATION AND PROMOTION

As a follow-up to last year's 1998 Federal Budget, dubbed by the federal government the 'Education Budget', the Federation undertook an awareness-raising and mobilization campaign this fall.

The October 13 - 16 dates were chosen to coincide with coalition efforts in Ontario to bring attention to the devastation wrought upon social programs by the Harris conservative government, to inform students about measures in the 1998 Federal Budget early in the academic year, and to build up to actions in February, 1999.

Campaign demands called for the federal government to:

- restore federal cash transfers to 1993 levels;
- encourage provinces to implement tuition fee freezes;
- transform the Millennium Scholarship Foundation into a system of national grants;
- end student loan and bankruptcy discrimination, and;
- stop privatizing education: some things are not for sale

In the weeks prior to the educational events and mobilizations, the Federation supported the organizing efforts of member locals and provincial components by co-ordinating the production and distribution of materials.

The following materials were produced and distributed:

- 17" X 22" colour 'Paul Martin: Who's Pulling the Strings?' poster
- Three stickers ('Keep the Public in Post-Secondary Education', 'Freeze Fees Now', and 'Days of Action')
- three placards (English, English and French - Québec, French - outside of Québec)
- handbills and posters for reproduction at the

local level (5.5" X 8.5" 'An Education Budget Your Banker Loved!' handbill, 'Who's Pulling the Strings?' 8.5" X 11" poster and 5.5" X 8.5" handbill, and 8.5" X 14" 'Tax Cuts Won't Pay for My Education' poster)

- six campaign bulletins (Days of Action Itinerary, Liberal Cuts Pave the Way to Privatization, Days of Action Itinerary Update, Martin's Economic Plan Offers Nothing to the Majority of Canadians, Support Continues to Grow, Days of Action Highlights - Building for February)
- over 30 advertisements (Briar Patch, HillTimes, student newspapers, and weekly community papers) and several public service announcements
- postcards to Paul Martin and Jean Chrétien, print run of 75,000 English, 20,000 French

This postcard is a reprint of the British Columbia component's campaign. The postcards call on Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Finance Minister Paul Martin to increase transfer payments to the provinces and implement a broad system of national grants. They will be delivered to the federal government as part of the build-up to February actions.

The Federation's web site was updated to include a dedicated segment for campaign bulletins, releases, materials, and members were encouraged to register on the Federation's web site debt wall their accounts of student debt and other funding cutbacks.

Materials were co-ordinated in a red, white and black colour scheme to suggest continuity from the January 28, 1998 mobilization and to create visual uniformity.

Province-by-Province Account of Activities

The Federation's campaigns for 1998-99 were successfully launched with the *Pan-Canadian Days of Action*, October 13-16, 1998. Member and non-member students and coalition partners participated in actions designed to educate, agitate and organize resistance to declining government support for post-secondary education. Below are highlights, primarily from mass events held on October 16, 1998.

CAMPAIGNS

NEWFOUNDLAND

Federation activists in St. John's distributed postcards calling on the federal government to fund a tuition fee freeze in Canada. Distributing materials and engaging in membership education to prepare for future actions to defend accessible quality post-secondary education was the focus of the week.

NOVA SCOTIA

In a highly successful mobilizing campaign Nova Scotia students organized teach-ins, info pickets at the provincial legislature, puppet shows, pub/cultural nights and a rally with more than 800 protesters on Friday October 16. Also, the organizers were able to involve students from campuses that have historically not participated in Federation events.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Building for the winter campaign, activists in PEI organized information tables and postcard signing for the Days of Action.

QUÉBEC

Montréal locals, as well as protesters from Sherbrooke and Québec City, brought together 500 students and activists on Thursday October 15. Targeting Paul Martin's transportation company, the stock exchange and the banks, protesters successfully laid the groundwork for building strong student opposition to the underfunding of post-secondary education. Since the Days of Action, the Québec government has announced that they will continue the tuition fee freeze for the length of their mandate, if re-elected.

ONTARIO

Activities were held in more than a dozen communities and on nearly twenty campuses. Peterborough students held info pickets and an on-campus rally and sit-in. Toronto locals, joined by students from southern Ontario, organized a march of 1,000 protesters through the financial district of Toronto to gather at the provincial legislature. In Ottawa, high school students joined a boisterous crowd of 400 for a rally at the Ministry of Finance, Business Council on National Issues and the Provincial Tory Convention. Actions also took place in Kingston, St. Catharines,

Sudbury, North Bay, Thunder Bay, Windsor, Waterloo and many other communities.

MANITOBA

A spirited rally of 300 hundred protesters in downtown Winnipeg sent a strong message to the government and Manitobans about funding and student debt crises. Later that afternoon, sixty students occupied a Human Resources and Development office in Winnipeg for seven hours, one hour for every billion dollars the federal Liberals will have cut out of post-secondary education between the years 1993 and 2000.

SASKATCHEWAN

At the University of Regina, one hundred students took part in a campus 'free education festival' and rally. Several hundred students also signed a petition calling for a number of measures to improve post-secondary education in Saskatchewan.

ALBERTA

Activists at the University of Alberta organized an on-campus rally attended by more than 150 students.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

In Victoria 500 protesters marched through the downtown core demanding that the federal government fund a tuition fee freeze. In Vancouver, pickets went up outside the offices of Liberal Members of Parliament Hedy Fry and Sophie Leung on October 16th.

NATIONAL COALITION PARTNER SUPPORT

Among the dozens of statements of support, the Federation received the following solidarity donations:

Canadian Auto Workers	\$5,000
Canadian Union of Public Employees	\$1,000
Steelworkers	\$1,000
Canadian Union of Postal Workers	\$500
Council of Canadians	\$500
Canadian Association of University Teachers	tbd
National Union of Public and General Employees	tbd

MEDIA COVERAGE OF EVENTS

As lead-up events to October 13 - 16 events, the Federation hosted a Days of Action kick-off press conference on October 6, 1998 at the House of Commons, attracting major media including the Globe and Mail, Canadian Press, CPAC, Toronto Star, CBC French and English networks, and the Canadian University Press.

Later that week, the Federation participated in a press conference condemning the pro-privatization Education Industry Summit in Toronto the next day. Following his speech at the Summit, in which corporatization and privatization of education were promoted, International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi held a press conference on site. Questions about the coalition groups' criticism of the event dominated. After Marchi's press conference, the Federation presented him with October 13 - 16, 1998 campaign materials and secured a commitment from him to meet with the coalition groups present.

As during past days of action, the Federation received numerous calls leading up to and during the week's activities. Eighty-three information requests, approximately 60 of which led to interviews, were received by the national office alone. Throughout the week, events were covered in major dailies and weeklies across the country. Highlights of English-language coverage include pieces on CBC radio one national news, on CBC TV news, on SRC national news (French), in the National Post, in the Globe and Mail, and a photograph in Maclean's magazine. Highlights of French-language coverage include SRC national news, SRC TV news, Le Devoir, La Presse, and the Journal de Montréal.

Overall, journalists were well aware of the key issues of student debt, tuition fees, and funding cutbacks. More work is required to improve media awareness of corporatization, and specific measures in student financial assistance such as the Millennium Scholarship Foundation and the 10-year ban on student loan bankruptcy. Media coverage of the October Days of Action has laid the groundwork for further mobilizing in February 1999.

EFFECTIVENESS OF THE EVENTS

As a lead-up event to actions planned for February 1999 and beyond, the October 13 - 16, 1998 Days of Action campaign succeeded in raising awareness and galvanizing members around the key issues of federal funding, deregulation, privatization, corporatization, and discriminatory and inadequate student financial assistance and bankruptcy legislation.

However, there is much work to be done in educating the membership and the general public about the many detrimental measures contained in the 1998 Federal Budget and the trend toward deregulation, corporatization, and privatization of post-secondary education.

The October 14, 1998 Fiscal and Economic Update from the Minister of Finance contained few references to education. Further, most Canadians are still unaware of some of the worst measures from last year's budget: bankruptcy discrimination; privately administered and inadequate Millennium Scholarships; credit history checks on student loan applicants; increased privatization and deregulation at the provincial level, and; continued low levels of federal funding for education.

This fall, the Federation was the only national post-secondary organization to launch a significant public awareness and political pressure campaign. After succeeding in keeping education on the public policy agenda, the Federation must continue to generate criticism and alternatives for the 1999 Federal Budget and other policy decisions.

Campaign for Increased Federal Funding of the Research Granting Councils

In 1994, the federal government announced a three-year schedule of funding cuts for the research granting councils. The three granting councils include the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and the Medical Research Council (MRC).

In 1996-97, the last year of the funding cuts, the Federation worked to gain support for the granting councils. In meetings with individual Members of Parliament and in presentations made to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance, the Federation educated government officials on the importance of increased funding to the granting councils.

In the 1996 report of the Standing Committee on Finance to the Finance Minister the recommendation to increase funding for the granting councils was included. While the February 1997 federal budget contained no increase in funding for the granting councils, the political groundwork was laid for an increase in the 1998 budget.

Building on this groundwork, the membership at the May 1997 national general meeting resolved that lobbying the federal government to increase funding to the federal granting councils continue.

The Federation raised the issue of increased funding to the granting councils during its many presentations to the Standing Committee on Finance throughout the fall. In late November 1997 when the Standing Committee made its recommendations to the Finance Minister, it included a recommendation to increase funding to the granting councils. At its meeting with the Finance Minister in January 1998 the Federation once again made its claim of the essential need to increase funding.

In the 1998 budget, the federal government announced that, effective April 1, 1998 the budgets of three national research granting councils would be restored to 1994-95 levels. The councils' budgets will also be increased in 1999-2000 and

2000-2001, taking their funding from \$766 million in 1997-98 to \$903 million in 2000-01.

The government has declared that these restored funds will be targeted at two areas: support to graduate students and enhanced partnerships between universities and industry. As such, these funds may be used to increase the number of fellowships and/or their value.

While these budget announcements are an important first step, the total of the announced increases - \$400 million over three years - is barely half of those calculated as necessary by the research community - \$795 million over five years.

Furthermore, even though graduate students in the social sciences and humanities comprise over 55% of all students, SSHRC received in 1997-98 only 12% of the total funding to the councils. The 1998 budget announcement exacerbates this situation by giving a lower increase to SSHRC relative to the other granting councils.

Finally, by directing funds towards partnerships with business the government is directing the university community to further open itself to corporate influence, an issue that is of growing concern to the membership and faculty.

In 1998-99, through several presentations to the Standing Committee on Finance and meetings with Members of Parliament and policy advisors, the Federation has continued to press on the issue of granting council funding, in particular funding for graduate students in the social sciences and humanities. At the October hearings of the federal Standing Committee on Finance, presentations by the Association of Universities and Colleges Canada (AUCC), the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), and the Consortium on Research all indicated the need for more funding to the councils, in particular SSHRC. During fall meetings with key Liberal caucus members, increased funding for the granting councils has been identified as a priority.

Campaign to End Student Loan and Bankruptcy Discrimination

Several punishing measures were passed as a result of the 1998 Budget decisions, despite opposition from the post-secondary education community.

In August 1998, a campaign kit was distributed to member locals and provincial components. It included fact sheets on student loan bankruptcy and restrictions on student loan approval, a campaign checklist, lobbying tips, a letter from Member of Parliament Elizabeth Davies calling on parliamentarians to support the repealment of the changes to the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, and a cover letter outlining the campaign strategy.

THE BAN ON BANKRUPTCY

Average student debt has risen sharply in the past decade, yet most students continue to repay their loans conscientiously. Unfortunately, federal policy has catered more to the banks than to the needs of students. One example of this pandering to the financial institutions is the recent changes to the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act.

In November 1995, Bill C-109, legislation designed in part to increase 'increase control of student bankruptcies that are filed to avoid repaying student loans' died when the election was called but then reappeared in the new session as Bill C-5. This legislation, passed in April 1997, barred individuals from discharging their student loan debts in the event of personal bankruptcy until two years had passed after leaving their studies. The prohibition came into effect in September 1997. A mere six months later, buried in the Federal Budget of February 1998, the Act was further amended. Bill C-36 proposed extending the prohibition period from two years to ten years. This change came into effect on June 18, 1998.

CONTACT WITH GOVERNMENT

The Federation spoke out clearly in opposition to the amendments to the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act proposed in Bills C-5 and C-36. Most recently, the Federation presented to the Standing Committee on Finance during 1998 post-

budget hearings on April 27, 1998 and during 1999 pre-budget hearings on October 26, 1998.

The changes to the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act were partly motivated by concerns raised within the Department of Industry. As part of the Federation's government relations efforts, meetings with key officials in the Department of Industry were scheduled in August.

On August 28, Federation representatives met with Industry Minister John Manley's Executive Assistant Tony Macerollo to discuss the 10-year prohibition on declaring bankruptcy on student loans. During the meeting, Macerollo suggested that the changes to the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act came from Human Resources Development Canada, beginning with Lloyd Axworthy's Social Policy Review.

On August 26, 1998, Federation representatives met with Elaine Hood, Senior Policy Adviser to Minister of Industry John Manley. Overall, Hood did not disagree with the Federation's analysis of the problems with the changes to the Bankruptcy and insolvency Act.

On August 26, 1998, Federation representatives met with Liberal Member of Parliament Mac Harb to outline the Federation's opposition to student loan bankruptcy discrimination. In a letter dated September 25, Harb called on Minister of Human Resources Development Canada Pierre Pettigrew to take action on the issue. The following is an excerpt from Harb's letter:

"I would appreciate it if you could investigate these claims [of discrimination] and take the necessary steps to ensure that the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act is indeed serving all Canadians equally and fairly."

These meetings are important in building the Federation's case against changes to the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, especially since all three officials were very clear that the 10-year ban may indeed discriminate against former students who have legitimate grounds on which to declare bankruptcy. Additional meetings with dozens of other officials indicate that the Federation is their first line of information on the changes to the Act.

CAMPAIGNS

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL TO REPEAL AMENDMENT TO BANKRUPTCY RULES

Working in conjunction with the Federation, Member of Parliament and Post-Secondary Education Critic Elizabeth Davies served a private member's bill calling for the repealment of the 1998 changes to the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act. The bill has yet to be debated in the House of Commons.

During a September 22, 1998 meeting with Federation representatives, Bloc Québécois Youth Critic Bernard Bigras committed the Bloc's support for repealment of the discriminatory new bankruptcy rule. The Federation will continue to work closely with Davies to build support for the bill.

CHARTER CHALLENGE

At its September 1998 meeting, the National Executive passed a resolution to proceed with a Section 15 Charter Challenge against the 10-year ban on bankruptcy on the grounds of discrimination based on age.

The Federation is in the preparatory stages of launching this challenge. When an appropriate test case is confirmed, and their application for bankruptcy is rejected by the courts on the basis of the amendments to the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act*, the case will proceed to the next level of appeal, the provincial court (general division). According to the Act, the decision of the provincial Court of Appeal is final and conclusive, unless special leave is obtained by the Supreme Court of Canada, at which point the matter proceed to that level.

RESEARCH

Due to cutbacks at Statistics Canada and proprietary information clauses in student loan risk-sharing agreements between governments and financial institutions, significant information required for this campaign is unavailable. Evidence gathered to-date suggests conclusively that student loan bankruptcies have actually declined in recent years as a proportion of total consumer bankruptcies. In the context of record high consumer debt, student loan debt holders have been very conscientious in attempting to repay their loans. The Federation is working with its legal counsel and coalition partners to gather any further information required.

COALITION WORK

The Federation has been working with the Canadian Insolvency Practitioners Association and the Canadian Bar Association, in particular with respect to the Charter Challenge. Fundraising efforts for the Charter Challenge are not yet underway.

MEDIA COVERAGE

On September 25, 1998, a Canadian Press wire story announcing the Federation's intention to launch a charter challenge appeared in the *Globe and Mail*. Media interest around bankruptcy discrimination has been growing ever since, and Federation spokespeople have done dozens of interviews on the subject. Many students and former students have contacted the Federation to become involved. A formal campaign launch will take place when the test case is confirmed.

CREDIT HISTORY CHECKS AND LOAN APPROVAL BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Restrictions on students' eligibility for Canada Student Loans have been added to Canada Student Financial Assistance regulations. These restrictions mean that students who are 22 years or older and who have missed a payment for 90 or more days on three separate occasions (on loans or debts of \$1,000 or more), in the three years before they apply, could be denied a student loan. These restrictions could include assessment of payments records on such loans or debts as student lines of credit, car loans, utility bills, and credit card payments. They will not take effect until August 1, 1999.

Until June of 1998, a student was deemed eligible for a Canada Student Loan and a provincial student loan based on the needs-assessment process. Beginning in June, 1998, the Governor-in-Council was given the authority to prescribe the circumstances in which a loan or certificate of eligibility may be denied. This amendment gives politicians the power to set criteria behind closed doors, and could mean that banks profiting from student loans will be able to influence student loan approval.

These restrictions are unfair because they reinforce incorrect stereotypes about students' willingness to repay their student loans and

contradict the tradition of exclusively needs-based assessment for student loan approval that has been crucial for ensuring that needy students receive loans. Although the loans program is no substitute for a national system of non-repayable grants, it must be available based on need alone.

CANADA EDUCATION SAVINGS GRANTS (CESGS)

New measures for Registered Education Savings Grants were included in the 1998 Federal Budget.

For any child resident in Canada, the Government of Canada will make Canada Education Savings Grants to the child's RESP equal to 20% of the RESP contributions made by her parents, subject to certain annual limits and a lifetime maximum grant of \$7,200 per child. The grant eligibility can be carried forward if parents cannot contribute enough in a given year.

If none of the parents' children take advantage of the RESP, the grants must be repaid, but not the income generated by the grant money (which has accumulated tax-free). Under certain circumstances, where no child pursues post-secondary education, the money can be rolled over into the parents' RRSP.

The inequity of this measure is dramatic: the government rewards parents wealthy enough to save for their children's education twice-over. Firstly, the savings generate income tax free. Secondly, parents get a bonus directly proportional to the amount they have free to put aside for their children. As real income continues to decline for the average Canadian household, the majority of parents can not afford to save much for their children's education and thus will not benefit from CESGs.

Since its first formal presentation to the Standing Committee on Finance following the 1998 budget announcement, the Federation has condemned these new measures in lobby meetings, mainstream and student media, and again in the submission to the 1999 budget consultation process. These new measures will be among the central concerns raised by the Federation at the December 10 and 11, 1998 meeting of the National Roundtable on Student Financial Assistance.

Campaign to Transform the Millennium Scholarship Foundation

The federal government has devised the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation to distribute scholarships to students - but not until the year 2000-2001. The Federation's opposes the Millennium Foundation for several reasons: the granting criteria include merit; the governance of the privately-run Foundation is unaccountable, duplicative, and dominated by corporate interests that do not have students' best interests in mind; the scholarships to be allocated are inadequate - they will help only 7% of students annually and run out in ten years, and; graduate students are not currently eligible for Millennium Scholarships.

The need to transform the Millennium Foundation into a comprehensive system of national grants was identified at the May 1998 national general meeting of the Federation, and was included in the list of October Days of Action demands. Because of widespread public support for the Fund following the 1998 budget announcement, the main focus of the campaign initially has been to educate members, government decision-makers, and the public at large about the changes it represents for education funding and its inadequacy.

Soon after the first public reference to the Millennium Scholarship fund in the 1997 Speech from the Throne, the Federation began to pressure the federal government to make need the only criterion for eligibility for assistance. In the final legislation, a maximum of only 5% merit was included, despite more moderate requests from the Liberal's own Caucus on Post-Secondary Education and Training for a 50/50 split of need and merit as criteria.

Federation research demonstrating that the Fund will only help 7% of student per year has been circulated widely in the mainstream press, and in particular, among Members of Parliament. Reform Finance Critic Monte Solberg referred to the Federation's research during an October meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance.

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CONTACT WITH GOVERNMENT

In addition to meeting with many key elected officials, the Federation has been invited to take part in two select groups making recommendations on the Foundation.

The Federation has participated in several in-person and telephone meetings with Interim Millennium Foundation CEO Brian Milton. He is charged with co-ordinating the selection of the 15 Foundation members who will then select 15 directors to run the Foundation. As a result of sustained pressure, all of the Federation's recommendations for the selection of student members were included in the list of selection criteria. These are that the student must:

- be a current student at a public post-secondary institution;
- possess demonstrable experience in the student movement, as a student representative, volunteer in a campus group, or staffperson of a student union;
- possess strong advocacy skills in standing up for students' rights, including an understanding of the history of the student movement and funding for post-secondary education in Canada and around the world;
- have experience in the system, especially with loans and other student financial assistance;
- have or be provided with means by which to communicate with students and other members of the post-secondary education community;
- be committed to accessible, public post secondary education;
- be representative of the experience of a majority of students (i.e. has had a student loan, has had to work to pay for their studies, et cetera); and
- be accountable to students.

The Federation has also met and corresponded with the Millennium Foundation's Senior Policy Advisor David Smith on several occasions. Smith co-authored a report for the Ontario government, including recommendations to implement ICLRPs and select interprogram differential fees, and to encourage the corporatization of education in some areas. The results of the Millennium Foundation consultation conducted by Smith are

scheduled to be released before the calendar year-end.

The Federation will continue its campaign to have the Millennium Scholarships transformed into a publicly administered and funded system of grants allocated exclusively on the basis of need, rather than a privately administered system of publicly-funded scholarships allocated partly on some basis of exceptional merit. Both the New Democratic Party and the Bloc Québécois oppose the implementation of the Millennium Scholarships. The Reform party has criticized the Foundation on several occasions for failing to provide adequate assistance.

Campaign Against Corporate Rule in Post-Secondary Education

As part of this secondary campaign component, the Federation has drafted a questionnaire, to be distributed in pilot form as a joint project with the Canadian Association of University Teachers and the College and Institute Educators' Association. This questionnaire will provide accounts of the effects of funding cutbacks and privatization, and is designed to catalyze discussions about their implications on the future of post-secondary education. The Federation has also begun to address the role that financial institutions have played in worsening students' debt loads and repayment options.

At the May 1998 national general meeting, members voted to produce a poster campaign entitled "100 Faces of Corporate Rule in Post-Secondary Education." Work is underway, with the intention that some of the raw data will come from the survey responses gathered from member locals, students, faculty, and staff of post-secondary institutions.

Through coalition efforts such as the Campaign to Stop the Megabank Mergers, APEC awareness, contributing a chapter to Member of Parliament Lorne Nystrom's upcoming book on the financial services sector, co-founding the new Public Education Network, and the Campaign to Oppose the Multilateral Agreement on Investment, the Federation has begun to lay the groundwork for a long-term campaign to oppose corporate rule in education.

Campaign Against Rohypnol and Date Rape

At the May 1998 General Meeting, the membership passed a motion to continue, as a variant on the longstanding No Means No Campaign, the Federation's Campaign Against Rohypnol and Date Rape.

Rohypnol, also known by other names such as roofies and ropies, is a drug that causes severe muscle relaxation, disorientation, and memory loss of the ten to twelve hours it takes to work through the victim's system. It is not legally available in Canada, but has been used in several cases of rape and attempted rape, particularly in bar settings.

This summer, a number of campus and community incidents involving Rohypnol and other date rape drugs were reported in the United States' media. The situation was of such concern that Surgeon General Joyce Elders proclaimed it a national problem and vowed to take action.

Unfortunately, here in Canada officials of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have continued to state that the use of Rohypnol and other date rape drugs is not a significant national safety issue. This is despite reports of incidents involving the drug at the University of Regina, University of Victoria, and King's College in Halifax. Use of date rape drugs has also been reported in British Columbia, Québec, Newfoundland, and in other communities.

The Federation has alerted the RCMP to its concerns, and will continue to raise awareness and to provide women with safety tips. Materials, including Date Rape/Rohypnol drink coasters, posters, bookmarks, and Fact Sheets will be available at the November 1998 national general meeting.

Campaign Against Youth and Student Unemployment

This past summer, student and youth unemployment stood at 16.8 per cent. This meant that approximately 440,000 Canadians between the ages of 15 and 24 years could not find work. The Federation has been at the forefront of criticizing the federal government for inaction on this issue.

Each summer the Federation tracks and promotes the unacceptably high levels of student and youth unemployment to the membership, the media and the government.

Despite much boasting by the federal government of greatly improved employment prospects for youth, it remains unclear as to whether any net employment gains have been experienced by youth and students. Although it reports show a decrease in the youth/student unemployment rate, Statistics Canada acknowledged in a report this summer that most, if not all, of these gains may be accounted for by a shrinking workforce. This means that many Canadians are simply giving up looking for work.

Since then, the Federation has continued to be the only pan-Canadian students' organization to receive media coverage on issues relating to unemployment. The Federation has begun to publicize the statistic that only 15% of people in Canada below the age of 30 years are eligible for unemployment insurance benefits, and that only 43% of contributors overall are now eligible, as compared to 83% as recently as 1990.

In September, 1998, the Federation was invited by Between the Lines publishing house to review a new book on student and youth unemployment by Richard Marquardt, entitled *Enter At Your Own Risk*. In a manner critical of government policy, the book traces a history of the school to work transition and current trends in unemployment and underemployment. An excerpt of the Federation's critique will appear on the back cover of *Enter At Your Own Risk*, and the Federation will take part in the book launch.

On November 14, 1998, at a Young Workers' conference organized by York University's Centre for Research on Work and Society, the Federation was invited to take part in a panel discussion on student and youth unemployment with Bob White of the Canadian Labour Congress.

At the 1998 national general meeting, the membership passed a secondary campaign component to create and promote a ten-point job creation plan for Canada, with a focus on student and youth unemployment. Due to time constraints, this document has not yet been produced. However, the Federation continues to work with the Canadian Labour Congress, the Alternative

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Federal Budget, and other coalition partners to bring attention to issues of unemployment, underemployment, and access to unemployment insurance benefits.

Campaign Against Red Cross Homophobia

At the May 1998 national general meeting, the membership voted to step up its campaign against homophobic questions included on the Red Cross' blood donor screening questionnaire. Instead of basing questions on high risk activities, the questions make a direct link between gay men and higher risk for HIV/AIDS.

Repeated attempts by the Federation and coalition partners at the local, provincial and national levels have succeeded in bringing about some changes to the questionnaire with respect to racist and sexist questions, but no changes have been made to the homophobic questions. High-ranking Red Cross officials have expressed that 'community standards' of discretion dictate that explicit questions about high risk activities such as unprotected anal sex may offend donors and eliminate too many potential heterosexual donors who may have engaged in anal sex.

The Federation will continue to apply pressure to bring about changes, especially now that the Red Cross has been wound up into the new National Blood Authority. Due to time constraints, this campaign remains in the research stage of development.

Other Campaigns

Campaign to Oppose Cutbacks to Support for Students with Disabilities

The Vocational Rehabilitation Development Program (VRDP) was created 36 years ago to promote job training for students with disabilities by providing subsidies to ensure that their added educational costs were covered. The program was jointly funded by provincial and federal governments, and administered at the provincial level.

Recently, however, the federal government has reduced funding, followed by an announcement that VRDP would be phased out. The program is being replaced by other funding mechanisms such as reduced grants and increased loans. Some students have seen their funding cut off entirely, and many are uncertain as to what funding will be available during the remainder of their current program of study.

At the May 1998 national general meeting, members passed a resolution to study and report on the changes to VRDP. Due to time constraints, information has been gathered, but no further work has been completed at this time.

Establishment of a Post-Secondary Education Agreement

The *1997-98 Campaigns Strategy* included a campaign to promote the implementation of a post-secondary education agreement. The post-secondary education agreement would outline funding and accessibility requirements, similar to the requirements for our health care system under the Canada Health Act.

After continued efforts to raise this issue, particularly with regards to transfer payments, provincial and federal governments have become more interested. Both the Liberal and New Democratic Parties have inquired as to the Federation's views on such an agreement, and the issue of an agreement arose during the Roundtable on Post-Secondary Education on October 26, 1998.

Contact with the Council of Ministers of Education (Canada)

The Council of Ministers of Education (Canada) is an intergovernmental body composed of representatives from provincial and territorial education and training jurisdictions and Human Resources Development Canada. They meet approximately every two years to consult with members of the education sector.

... AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

CMEC CONSULTATIVE MEETING

The CMEC held its 3rd consultative meeting in St. John's, Newfoundland from May 28 - 30, 1998. Representatives of the Federation participated in workshops, panel discussion, and other aspects of the consultation. The publicly-stated purpose of this meeting was to undertake a broad-based consultation with members of the education and training sector. The Federation's main goals during the consultation were to bring funding issues and support for public education to the fore, as well as to develop relationships with other groups.

A Federation representative participated in a keynote panel discussion on the topic of possibilities for pan-Canadian collaboration in the education sector. Overall, Federation delegates succeeded in:

- ensuring that demands for increased public funding were included in recommendations from the workshops;
- challenging the lack of focus on funding issues and holding all jurisdictions responsible for funding cuts;
- promoting some of the measures taken by provincial governments (such as tuition fee freezes and additional grants);
- criticizing the Ontario government and other governments for policies and practices supporting deregulation and privatization;
- criticizing differential fees among jurisdictions and programs;
- criticizing governments for consistently failing to acknowledge links between education and unemployment (i.e. for failing to admit that there is a lack of jobs in Canada);
- promoting the concept of a publicly funded post-secondary education system with no up-front user fees - and insisting that although other barriers exist, funding is currently the main obstacle to participation.

Federation delegates worked in concert with various coalition partners to bring attention to funding issues and government responsibility for education and training. The Federation and the following groups agreed to work in coalition to promote and support public education at all levels:

Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT)

Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF)
Canadian Labour Congress (CLC)
Centrale de l'enseignement du Québec (CEQ)
Fédération québécoise des professeures et professeurs d'université (FQPPU)
National Anti-Poverty Organization (NAPO).

As a follow-up to working together at the CMEC meeting, several pan-Canadian and Québécois organizations have formed the new Public Education Network / Réseau pour l'Éducation Publique.

PRESENTATION TO THE CMEC REGARDING *PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS* DOCUMENT

The Council of Ministers of Education (Canada) is in the process of developing a set of 'public expectations' for the post-secondary education system. A document called *Public Expectations of Post-Secondary Education* has been distributed to members of the education community and a consultative process has begun. Neither funding issues nor governments' responsibility in educating the general public about the role of education in society are included as principal expectations. The finished *Public Expectations* document is expected to be available in February, 1999.

On Friday, June 26, 1998 the Federation presented to the CMEC subcommittee, emphasizing the Federation's concerns about performance indicators, overall funding for post-secondary education, the different needs of colleges and universities, and models emphasizing competition and 'excellence'.

IMPACT OF WORK TO INFLUENCE THE CMEC

As a result of coalition efforts at the May, 1998 CMEC meeting in St. John's, issues around funding and unemployment came to the fore of the agenda. The Federation's presentation during the panel discussion also garnered support in new areas, such as among school principals and provincial deputy ministers.

On September 30, an article appeared in the Halifax Chronicle Herald stating that, thanks to the Federation's interventions in the *Public Expectations*

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consultation process across the country, the CMEC has included public expectations of governments as part of the document.

In a media release that same day, the CMEC called for the allocation of Millennium Scholarships to be determined through existing provincial student aid systems. Roger Grimes, Minister of Education for Newfoundland and Vice Chair of the CMEC stated that "[the] CMEC requests federal authorities to work with the provinces and territories to ensure a more reasonable balance between loans and grants."

Promotion of Increased Awareness/Participation of International Students in Student Events

The November 1997 national general meeting resolved that a campaign to promote international students' awareness of and participation in student events be implemented. The campaign is to include, but not be limited to:

- research on the present level of participation in student events on the part of international students;
 - the development and distribution of a poster for the promotion of international students' membership awareness;
 - assistance for the establishment of international students' collectives at every local where there are international students;
 - support for the creation of a position for international students on member local boards, councils or executive committees as well as provincial components;
 - orientation of and provision of applicable services for international students; and
 - opposition to the tactics through which institutions use international students as a strategy to increase enrolment and revenue.
- As an initial step in implementing the campaign, a

letter including suggestions for member locals as to how to encourage international students' involvement was included in the Organizing Manual mail-out.

International Covenant on Social, Economic, and Cultural Rights

Included in the 1997-98 Campaigns Strategy was a Campaign to Uphold the 1976 Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. Under article 13 of the Covenant, all levels of Canadian government are obligated to achieve full realization of the right to equally accessible higher education, "in particular by the progressive introduction of free education."

Since the May 1997 national general meeting, the Federation has learned that the United Nations is currently undertaking the latest pentannual review of signatories' implementation of the Covenant. In late November 1998, a panel will pose representatives of the Canadian government a series of 81 questions examining the impact of federal, provincial, municipal legislation, policies, and funding on all areas of the rights set out in the Covenant. The last such review took place 1993, and Canada was found to be unacceptably in violation of the Covenant. Documents pertaining to the United Nations review of Canada's performance in upholding the Covenant will be distributed at the November 1998 national general meeting.

Promotion of the Awareness/Participation of Students of Colour in Student Events

As an initial step in promoting the awareness and participation of students of colour in student events, a letter including suggestions for member locals as to how to encourage the involvement of students of colour was included in the Organizing Manual mail-out in August 1998.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

National Executive Composition

The National Executive is responsible for the day-to day management of the Federation. The following is a list of the current composition of the National Executive.

Aboriginal Students Representative	vacant
British Columbia Representative	Michael Conlon
Francophone Students' Representative	Muhoza Hakizamana
Graduate Students' Representative	Joy Morris
Manitoba Representative	Chad Samain
National Chairperson	Elizabeth Carlyle
National Deputy Chairperson	Jennifer Story
National Treasurer	Joey Hansen
Newfoundland-Labrador Representative	Louis Walsh
Nova Scotia Representative	Jessica Squires
Ontario Representative	vacant
Prince Edward Island Representative	Melissa Doucette
Quebec Representative	Rob Green
Saskatchewan Representative	vacant
Students of Colour Representative	Janelle Ho Shing
Women's Representative	Anita Zaenker

Federation Staff

The following are the current regular staff:

Communications Co-ordinator	Simone Sainte-Pierre
Financial Co-ordinator	Johanne Laurent
Health Plan Co-ordinator	Pam Frache
Health Plan Co-ordinator	Todd Butzenham
Internal Co-ordinator	Lucy Watson
Manitoba Fieldworker	Kerlin Nembhard
Researcher	Denise Doherty-Delorme
Student Discount/SIC Co-ordinator	Philip Link
Translator	Monique Landa
Translator	Carol-Lynn Prebinsky

Staff Changes

STAFF CURRENTLY ON LEAVES-OF-ABSENCE

Currently the following staff are taking leaves of absence:

Nova Scotia/PEI Fieldworker (to August 15)	Joe Byrne
Campaigns Co-ordinator (to May 13)	Karin Jordan
Government Relations Co-ordinator (to April 23)	Jocelyn Charron
Graduate Caucus Co-ordinator (to March 20)	Derrick Deans

Days of Action Organizer

In late August Len Bush was hired on a contract as Days of Action Organizer. The contract runs until February 15, 1998.

Graphics Designer

In late August Jeff Hsu, former Student Union Directory/Student Saver Co-ordinator was hired on contract as Graphics Designer, to produce campaign and other materials as needed. Jeff's contract expires November 27, 1998.

Newfoundland Fieldworker

Rajat Sharan was hired in the contract position effective November 24 until the end of the fiscal year.

Nova Scotia/PEI Fieldworker (Interim)

Jessica Squires was hired to fill this position for the duration of the current employee's leave (until August 15) effective November 29.

Current Vacant Staff Positions

Due to budgetary constraints the second Researcher position remains vacant.

Hirings Pending

The following hirings are imminent: Aboriginal

Caucus Co-ordinator; Graduate Caucus Co-ordinator (Interim); Government Relations Co-ordinator (interim)

STATUS OF COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

Since 1972 the Federation's national staff have been unionized with the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 1281. The Local also represents staff at the York Federation of Students, the Ryerson Students' Administrative Council, Carleton University Students' Association, the University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union, a number of Ontario Public Interest Research Groups, and other small, education related workplaces in Ontario.

The last collective agreement negotiations between the Federation and its employees took place in Spring of 1994, to replace an agreement which expired December 31, 1993. The agreement which came out of those negotiations expired December 31, 1997.

Negotiations for a new contract began in last April. The current management representatives for the bargaining committee are Brad Lavigne, former National Chairperson, Joey Hansen, National Treasurer, and Elizabeth Carlyle, National Chairperson. Although negotiations are still ongoing, a new agreement is likely for early in the new year, if not sooner.

STAFF RELATIONS OFFICER

Under the provisions of the collective agreement between the employees and the Federation, one of the at-large members of the National Executive serves as the Staff Relations Officer. National Deputy Chairperson Jennifer Story continues to serve this role.

Communications

WORLD WIDE WEB SITE

Since September 1996, the Federation has operated a bilingual web site at www.cfs-fcee.ca. The site contains information on the Federation's campaigns, research and programmes. Press releases sent from the National Office are posted on the listserv as well. The site is

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linked to many member local and coalition partner web sites.

Since the last national general meeting, there have been over 14,000 visitors, or 525 visitors per week, to the Federation's web site.

During the summer and fall, the Federation's web site has been revamped, including improvements in cohesion of site layout, a shortened sidebar menu, 'pop-up' boxes containing important information about site features and Federation work, a special section for the October Days of Action (including materials), easier-to-use archives, and press releases updated within 24 hours of new releases. A site section for the National Graduate Council is currently in the production stage. The web site's interactive 'debt wall' has remained a popular and useful feature.

The National Executive encourages all member locals with home pages to link their site to the Federation's web site.

LISTSERVES

To maintain daily communications among members, the Federation operates internet listserves. To date, there are five such lists, including, a general members' listserv, a National Graduate Caucus listserv, a Students of Colour listserv, a women's listserv and a National Executive and staff listserv. The purpose of the listserves is to provide a forum for information sharing and a vehicle to update members on Federation activities.

The National Graduate Caucus listserv was established in 1994 and currently has 99 subscribers. The Women's listserv was established in the winter of 1996 and currently has 44 subscribers. The Students of Colour Listserv was established in the Spring of 1996, and currently has 11 subscribers. The Federation's Members listserv, with 97 subscribers, went on-line in November 1997.

All listserves are managed from the National Office.

1998-1999 STUDENTS' UNION DIRECTORY

The directory, a long-standing project of the Federation, has undergone some major improvements in the last two years, including features such as spiral binding, listing of email

addresses, easier-to-use component and member listings, protruding tabs for easier reference, full colour, semi-glossy, sturdy cover, and additional sections for constituency groups and government and coalition partner listings

Although distribution of the directory is late this year, some improvements have been made: relevant staff have been added to component page listings, and the price of the directory has been reduced for members, non-profit organizations, and bulk purchases.

1998-1999 Organizing Manual

For years the Federation has produced a guide to local organizing on member campuses. The guide has traditionally included tips on how to organize a campaign at the local level, coalition work, media work, lobbying tips, co-ordinating volunteers, and more.

After successive and substantial improvements to ergonomics and content of the Organizing Manual over the past several years, the 1998-99, sent out this past August, featured a couple of new improvements, including a larger binder to accommodate press releases and membership advisories, and more divider pages for easier reference.

Coverage in the Media

Along with day-to-day contact with government, the Federation seeks to influence decision-makers by generating public support through the mass media. Since the previous general meeting, the Federation has continued to enjoy a large amount of favourable print, radio and television coverage of its activities.

Through the Federation's head office alone, there have been over 115 interviews and 65 information requests from campus and commercial media outlets since the May 1998 general meeting.

The bulk of the print media exposure that the Federation receives is from campus newspapers. The coverage comes from individual campus newspapers or through the Canadian University Press' national news-wire. In recent months, the Federation has also received increased coverage in weekly urban papers such as Ottawa's *Extra!*,

Montréal's *Hour*, Ottawa's *Capital City*, Winnipeg's *Perimeter*, Regina's *Prairie Dog*, Toronto's *Now*, and Calgary's *Eye*.

In addition to campus coverage, Federation representatives have been interviewed by many national and international news agencies including *Globe & Mail*, *Southam*, *Canadian Press*, *National Post*, *CBC's As It Happens*, *BBC Radio News*, *Maclean's Magazine*, *This! Magazine*, *CBC Newsworld*, *CBC The National*, *Reutgers*, and *Maclean's Magazine*.

In order to keep media and members apprised of its activities, 18 press releases and 11 membership advisories have been sent out by fax and email from the national office.

Directive to Produce Generic Informational Materials

Each year, materials are produced for general distribution to members and non-members. Especially in a membership-based organization such as the Federation, it is critical that members receive regular information about the Federation and its activities. In August and September this year, the following Federation promotional materials were sent to member locals for distribution on campuses: *StudentSaver* brochure, poster listing member locals, and 'CFS Proud' poster personalized for each local.

At the July 1998 National Executive meeting, a directive to produce generic materials promoting the Federation was passed. These materials were to include, but not be limited to: posters, pamphlets and buttons. The National Executive also voted to produce a regular newsletter for distribution to member locals and to members. Due to time constraints six campaign bulletins, but no newsletter, have been produced and distributed at this time.

The following materials are currently being designed and produced for general distribution:

- 'Declaration of Student Rights' poster - 17" X 22", colour scheme to be determined

This poster is a redesigned version of an earlier campaign. Text taken from Federation's Declaration of Student Rights.

- 'I am part of the student movement because...' poster - 17" X 22", colour scheme to be determined

This poster is a redesigned version of an earlier poster, with text based loosely on posters produced by the Federation in 1996.

- 'I am part of the student movement' button, red, white and black, English and French

This button is adapted from a button produced by the York Federation of Students, local 68 of the Federation. Print runs using a variety of colour schemes may be produced at a later date.

- 'We are the students in your neighbourhood' poster - 17" X 11" or larger, colour scheme to be determined

This poster is a redesigned version of a 1997 Manitoba Component poster, with text based closely on the original.

- 'Keep the Public in Post-Secondary Education' fridge magnet - red white and black, English and French

This magnet is a redesigned version of a sticker produced for the Federation's October 13 - 16, 1998 Days of Action. Text based loosely on a



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campaign of the College and Institute Educators' Association (CIEA).

Membership Issues

VOTES TO CONTINUE MEMBERSHIP

LOCAL 9

UNIVERSITY OF REGINA STUDENTS' UNION

On May 21, 1998, the Federation received improper notice from University of Regina Students' Union, Local 9 of the Federation, to hold a de-federation referendum.

At the July, 1998 National Executive meeting, the letter of notice was reviewed and found to be in violation of Bylaw I, articles 7.a.ii and 7.a.iii, pertaining to notice requirements. However, due to special circumstances unique to the University of Regina Students' Union these requirements were waived on a one-time basis. The National Executive accepted the notice of referendum, and on August 5, 1998 confirmed that campaigning would take place from October 26 - November 6 and voting on November 9 and 10, 1998.

Despite the University of Regina Students' Union board's endorsing the "No" side and bringing in outside activists to assist in organizing the de-federation campaign, the Federation ran a strong, successful campaign. Of the 980 votes cast, 654 voted in favour (66.6%), 326 opposed (33.4%), and 8 members spoiled their ballots. The overall voter turnout was 14%.

International Student Identity Card

CARD DISTRIBUTION

The International Student Identity Card (ISIC), a product of the International Student Travel Confederation (ISTC), is an international student travel document. The card is used to identify students world-wide and enable them to take advantage of discounts on travel, entertainment and accommodation. Since 1938 the ISIC has helped over 30 million students to make the most of their travel experience and nearly 3 million students will be cardholders in 1997-98. In Canada, the Federation is the sole distributing agent of the Card. As such, the Federation has a vote at the annual general meeting of the ISTC where all policies for the card are set.

The sale and member distribution of the ISIC has been immensely successful again this year.

TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES TO THE CARD

As members may have noticed, the ISIC has undergone considerable changes for the 1998-99 academic year. The card is now has a horizontal orientation, similar to other pieces of identification, such as driver's licenses. As well, the ISIC tracking number now appears on the actual card, rather than the seal. It is hoped that this change will reduce the amount of voided ISICs by eliminating the potential of voiding cards due to small errors such as misspelling the recipient's name.

The coming years will see further changes to the ISIC. The ISTC has recently decided to eliminate hand written cards by the year 2001. Hardware and software for card production is now available and is being used successfully in many countries. The National Executive is recommending that the budget be revised at this meeting to begin purchasing the equipment necessary for production of the card at our member locals.

Studentsaver Discount Programme

Since 1978, the Federation and its predecessor, the Association of Student Councils, 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. As a result, the Federation redesigned the membership/discount card in 1982 as the "Youthsaver Card" and made it available to members only. Unlike the ISIC, non-members could not buy the new discount card.

Under the new "Youthsaver" programme, the member locals became active 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 "Youthsaver" was not inclusive of mature students.

The actual design of the card has undergone many changes over the past 16 years, and the card now includes over one thousand discounts across Canada.

PROMOTION

Due to ongoing concerns about the quality of national discounts on the card, the National Executive resolved in April that for the 1998-99 programme, the front face of the card, where the national discounts have recently been listed, would instead be used to promote: the discounts available through the ISIC; the Studentsaver as the Federation's membership card; the Federation's ownership of Travel CUTS.

PROGRAMMES

DISTRIBUTION

While there has been much work to improve the quality of discounts and the general appearance of the card, for the past several years there has been considerable difficulty in ensuring that the cards reach member locals in time for insertion into handbooks and for distribution at orientation week activities. While some of these problems are caused by late discount solicitation from member locals, the company which prints the cards for the Federation has not provided satisfactory service. The printer has consistently failed to meet deadlines set by the Federation, and has also not always shipped the cards via air mail, as requested by the Federation. The National Executive is investigating the possibility of having another unionized Ottawa area printer produce the cards for September 1999.

National Student Health Network

MEMBERSHIP IN THE NETWORK

Members Currently with the National Student Health Network (1998-99):

11 student associations; over 70,000 individual members:

- Local 08 University of Winnipeg Students' Association
- Local 09 Students' Union of Nova Scotia College of Art & Design
- Local 11 University of King's College Students' Union
- Local 19 University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union
- Local 20 Nipissing University Student Union
- Local 24 Ryerson Students' Administrative Council
- Local 44 University of Victoria Students' Society
- Local 68 York Federation of Students
- Local 79 Post-Graduate Students' Society of McGill
- Local 84 York University Graduate Students' Association
- Atlantic School of Theology
- Northern College Student Administrative Council

Recent Activities with the Network

Since the last general meeting Local 11 University of Kings College Students' Union has signed on with the Network. This brings the total number of Network members to eleven.

RENEWAL AGREEMENTS

Renewal agreements were signed in the spring and are in the process of developing a standard renewal contract to be used with each plan member.

1998-99 PLAN INFORMATION

July and August were primarily devoted to the development and production of materials for use at the local level. This year, in an effort to be cost-effective, some of the materials have been consolidated. At the same time while we have significantly re-worked the text to make it more user friendly, and we have encouraged Network members to print the full text in local day planners. The Network has agreed to reimburse locals for the cost of the additional planner pages that may be necessary to include the full health plan text. This has allowed us to reduce the quantity of booklets ordered. Staff will be evaluating the effectiveness of using day planners to disseminate more detailed insurance plan details later in the academic year.

STUDENT OPTIONS

This September Student Options was launched, an optional health and dental plan for students who are graduating or who may not currently have access to a group health insurance plan. We have developed a marketing strategy which targets students who may be more likely to desire health and dental coverage, such as mature and part-time students, graduating students, and single parent students.

TROUBLESHOOTING

While there has been significant improvement in the level of service provided to Network members, both by Federation staff and by Heath staff, there are currently two significant problems that we are working hard to correct:

LOCAL 79

There is a discrepancy in the enrolment figures for 1996-97 between Local 79, Heath Consulting, the Federation; and Canada Life. Canada Life is arguing that the total number of students enrolled in 1996-97 is much higher than is actually the case. Our consultant is confident in their figures and is working to resolve this issue. However, the current problem is symptomatic of ongoing problems that the Network has been having with Canada Life. We are working to build relationships with other carriers which can provide similar plans at affordable rates.

NORTHERN COLLEGE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION - SOUTH PORCUPINE CAMPUS

It has recently come to the attention of Health Plan Office staff that the Northern College administration has attempted to arbitrarily create an opt-in provision in the plan. The plan has been in place for the past year at the South Porcupine Campus. We had agreed that the plan itself would be extended to all campuses. However, without our knowledge, the administration made the same plan available to students from the other campuses on an opt-in basis. We have rectified the problem and any students from the other campuses wishing to join the South Porcupine plan will not be able to do so. Those that had already submitted their money will be reimbursed by the administration.

ENVIRONMENTAL
STUDENT
HEALTH
NETWORK

FEDERATION FINANCES

Budget Management

Nationally, the Federation operates with an annual budget of approximately \$2 million. The Budget for the current fiscal year projects a combined surplus and share purchase in Travel CUTS of approximately \$290,000. Results of the 1997-98 year, as well as an up to date picture of the 1998-99 year will be presented at this meeting for the purposes of revising the 1998-99 budget.

Amalgamation of the Two Legal Entities

When founded in 1981, the Federation was incorporated into two separate legal entities: The Canadian Federation of Students and the Canadian Federation of Students-Services. At the May 1995 national general meeting, the membership directed the National Executive to immediately begin the process of amalgamating the two legal entities.

This process was proceeding as directed, but recent developments have forced the National Executive to delay the amalgamation.

Debt Reduction

Although overall the Federation is quite healthy, with approximately \$6 million in assets, throughout the late 1980's and early 1990's the Federation consistently spent over budget. By the 1996-97 year, the debt had reached nearly a million dollars. Numerous problems resulted for the Federation, including poor cash flow and difficulty in maintaining our line of credit. Since the 1996-97 year, the National Executive has worked diligently to ensure that the Federation was eliminated its debt, and as of June 30, 1998, the Federation's debt had fallen below \$200,000.

1997-98 Membership Due Collection

Approximately 50 percent of the Federation's revenue is derived from the dues paid by its individual members. Timely collection and remittance of those dues is essential for the operation of the Federation. While collection of

those membership dues was good during the fall semester of the 1997-98 year, the pace of the collection slowed during the spring and summer semesters. Although many locals were slower than usual to remit fees collected on behalf of the Federation, the Federation as now received most of the fees collected on its behalf during the 1997-98 year.

The National Office has non-discretionary costs of over \$80,000 per month. This does not include any other costs such as printing, costs associated with general meetings or National Executive Meetings, and transfers to provincial components. If fees are not remitted to the National Office, the Federation in turn cannot transfer funds or pay bills on time to avoid interest charges.

Implementation of Accurate Membership Dues

After 11 years of having the same national membership due, the members at the May 1992 national general meeting voted to increase the full membership fee from \$2.00 to ~~\$3.00~~^{\$3.25} per semester per individual member. At the same time, it was resolved that the fee would increase annually by the rate of increase in the Canadian Consumer Price Index. At this point, approximately 90 percent of member locals collect and remit the accurate membership due.

As of August 1, 1998, the change in the Canadian Consumer Price Index had resulted in the membership due becoming \$3.17 per semester per individual member. Most of the Federation's locals are currently collecting the accurate membership due.

Other Dues to be Recovered

There are several student unions which owe the Federation past membership dues at this time. These include: Acadia Students' Union with an outstanding accumulated debt to the Federation of \$62,268; Association des Étudiant(e)s de Collège Université de Saint-Boniface, owing \$18,608; Carleton University Graduate Students'

Association, owing the Federation \$35,603, Holland College Students' Union, owing the Federation \$9,328; and Mount Saint-Vincent University Students' Union, owing the Federation \$24,401.

Travel Pool Update

Since 1981, the Federation has employed a travel pool to equalise the travel costs of member locals attending national general meetings. While the Federation currently calculates a travel average in advance of the meeting, that was not always the case. Prior to the November 1996 national general meeting, member locals were responsible for arranging their own travel. After the meeting, locals would then send in their receipts for travel costs and the national office would then calculate the average cost of locals to travel to the general meeting. Those locals whose travel costs were greater than the average would be reimbursed for the difference, while those locals whose costs were less than the average would be billed for the difference.

However, the system broke down in the late 1980's and early 1990's. Member locals which owed money to the travel pool were not sending in their receipts in a timely fashion. This resulted in delays in calculating the travel average. Additionally, the calculated travel average was often inaccurate. Finally, the travel average of the May 1996 meeting, the last meeting to employ the old travel pool system, was never calculated.

Recognising that having many member locals owed thousands of dollars through the travel pool, the November 1995 national general meeting resolved that "member locals owed funds through the travel pool be reimbursed by the Federation as soon as the Federation's cash flow permits". Unfortunately, the Federation's level of debt did not allow for the reimbursement of member locals prior to the 1998-99 year. While there has been some money budgeted the process of completely reimbursing locals which are owed money through the travel pool will likely take several years.

Financial Institution

The November 1997 general meeting resolved that the feasibility of transferring the Federation's

accounts to a credit union be investigated. Following the general meeting, Ottawa-area credit unions were investigated. To meet the needs of the Federation, a financial institution must be able to: process payroll, offer an adequate line of credit and offer chequing services. At the previous general meeting, it was reported that one Ottawa based credit union, the Ottawa-Carleton Education Credit Union, appeared to meet all of the Federation's needs.

However, since the general meeting in May, the Federation has transferred responsibility of the National Student Health Network's finances to the Health Plan office in Toronto. The Federation now needs a financial institution which is able to take deposits in both Ottawa and Toronto. As well, as the Health Network processes large batches of cheques and has operated on a deficit basis for the last three years, the Federation also needs to ensure that the Health Network is able to access the Federation's line of credit. The National Executive is currently investigating whether or not the Ottawa-Carleton Education Credit Union will be able to meet those needs.

Auditing Firm

Since the founding of the Federation, the membership has appointed *Arthur Anderson* to perform its annual audit. Upon learning that *Anderson Consulting*, an associated company, was involved in the implementation of the Ontario government's workfare program, the membership at the November 1997 general meeting resolved that an investigation for an alternative auditing firm for the 1998-99 year be sought.

The national executive has completed its investigation and is recommending that *Welch and Co.*, a firm based in Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec, be retained as the auditors for the 1998-99 year. The firm, which deals primarily with unions and not-for-profit corporations, is large enough to provide the Federation with all of the accounting specialists provided by *Arthur Anderson*, but is retained by very few publicly traded companies and does not perform any consulting services aimed at eroding the social safety net.

SOLIDARITY WORK

Coalition Roster

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Canadian Association of University Teachers
Coalition for Post-Secondary Education
Canadian Consortium for Research

FUNDING AND EMPLOYMENT

Action Canada Network
Canadian Auto-Workers
Canadian Labour Congress
Canadian Union of Public Employees
Canadian Union of Postal Workers
Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union
National Anti-Poverty Organization
National Federation of Nurses Unions
National Union of Public and General Employees
United Steelworkers of America

ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVES

Alternative Federal Budget
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives
Council of Canadians
Roundtable on the Multilateral agreement on investment
Campaign for Press and Broadcast Freedom
Canadian Council on Social Development
Canadian Community Reinvestment Coalition

HEALTH CARE

Canadian Health coalition

CHILD CARE

Child Care Association of Canada

ABORIGINAL STUDENTS' RIGHTS

Assembly of First Nations

WOMEN STUDENTS' RIGHTS

National Action Committee on the Status of Women

GAY, LESBIAN AND BISEXUAL STUDENTS' RIGHTS

Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere

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 realises by working in a Federation of other students' unions is realised to an even greater extent when the Federation works in coalition with other groups and organisations.

Work-to-Date on the 1999 Alternative Federal Budget Project

Since May 1996 the Federation has been and active participant in the AFB project. The budget, first released in 1994, was developed by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and CHOICES, a social justice coalition based in Winnipeg. It is produced annually and provides a forum through which to present alternatives to the government's fiscal, monetary and economic policies. It addresses the priorities: debt reduction through a progressive taxation system, the rebuilding of Canada's social safety net and national standards, environmental protection and full employment.

The Federation is a member of the Steering Committee the Federations' Researcher Denise Doherty-Delorme and National Deputy Chairperson Jennifer Story have been attending the meetings where the budget is drafted.

First meeting of the Steering Committee was held in August, to review and fine-tune the process and get an earlier start in order to have the budget released well in advance of the Martin budget. This year there will be an increased emphasis on how the budget is communicated to the media and to our communities, and on advancing our message during the pre- and post- Martin budget analysis.

The primary focus of this year's budget will be health care. Backgrounders on the current crisis in the health care system, inequality and economic instability (global economic crisis) are currently being prepared for advance release, possibly as early as the end of the month.

Budget schools are currently being scheduled and planned. Member locals are encouraged to

contact the National office or CHOICES to hold budget schools on campuses.

Federation's Work with the Action Canada Network

The Action Canada Network (ACN) is comprised of over fifty organizations, and was formed in 1987 to oppose the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and to ensure that it was a central issue in the 1998 Federal election. The Network continued to fight free trade and took that campaign forward to organize opposition to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The Network has since evolved into an organization where social justice and labour groups and regional and provincial coalitions come together to devise a common strategy against funding cuts to social programs and to coordinate support for partners which are organizing major campaigns. For example, the Network helped the Federation organize support for the 1995 Day of Strike and Action.

In recent months, members of the Network have undergone an extensive process in order to determine its purpose and role. Member organizations agreed on the following:

- the Network would work to link activists from across the country to the various campaigns that member groups had initiated;
- two assemblies per year, would be held, rotating across the country, to share campaign plans and successes, and to build on skills and strategies
- in between assemblies the Network would serve as a clearing house for information on members' campaign efforts, and;
- the Network would put a high priority on ensuring regional coalitions' participation in the network overall.

The Federation has had a seat on the Network's Executive Committee for the last several years, and was intimately involved in the rebuilding of the Network.

Member locals were strongly encouraged to participate in the assembly held September 11-13.

Jessica Squires, the Nova Scotia Representative on the National Executive, along with two representatives from Local 68, attended the last Network Assembly, the first one held in almost two years.

The assembly gave those attending the opportunity to hear about a few successful campaigns for last year, such as the Public Service Alliance of Canada's successful pay equity ruling; overviews and sharing of ideas on current and upcoming campaigns, including the Federation's Campaign for 1998/99; and international campaigns such as the fight against the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas, and preparations for the World March of Women, a Quebec-based campaign culminating in October 17, 2000.

Others in attendance included provincial and municipal coalitions, public and private sector union activists, anti-poverty groups such as the National Anti-Poverty Organisation, the Council of Canadians, and Women's Groups.

The overriding tone of the weekend was positive. The two emerging themes were poverty and the growing gap between the rich and poor, and that these overlapping campaigns need to be brought to an international level.

Campaign to Oppose the Multilateral Agreement on Investment

In January 1997 a confidential draft text entitled Multilateral Agreement on Investment: Consolidated Texts and Commentary was circulated among governments and corporate officials in the member countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development — an organization comprised of the world's 29 wealthiest nations.

This agreement — dubbed the "Corporate Bill of Rights" and the "Corporate Rule Treaty" — would be a common rulebook for international investment. Under the MAI:

- laws and regulations at all levels of government must treat foreign investors at least as well as local investors — this would apply to grants, subsidies, tax breaks, etc

SOLIDARITY WORK

- no conditions on foreign investment, such as job creation targets or training obligations, labour, environmental or ethical investment standards, will be allowed
- foreign corporations will have access to all economic sectors including finance, health, education and natural resources – defense alone would be exempt
- signatories cannot pass any new laws that would conflict with the agreement
- governments would be forced to repeal laws already in place that hinder foreign investment
- governments could be forced to provide any public subsidies to currently provided to non-profit services and crown corporations to private, for-profit foreign firms as well
- corporations can sue governments for damages and loss or anticipated loss of revenue on their investment as a result of government legislation – though neither governments nor citizens can use the MAI to sue corporations
- complainants would take their case to an international tribunal of investment experts, not through any sort of court system – completely at odds with our parliamentary tradition

Behind closed doors, secret consultations and negotiations took place for over a year at the OECD headquarters in Paris. Last May the OECD encountered serious difficulties in forging agreement with member nations due to the unprecedented global citizens' opposition. The OECD decided to take a cooling-off period of six months for member nations to hold consultations back home.

THE GLOBAL FIGHTBACK AGAINST THE MAI

When the OECD representatives negotiating the agreement reconvened last month, global opposition had only strengthened. Two days before the meeting, France announced it was pulling out of the talks, and the Quebec government called on the Canadian government to do the same. Representatives from the Canadian Roundtable Against the MAI participated in a people's summit, which culminated in a demonstration and "light show" outside the OECD compound, and a storming of the International Chamber of

Commerce, also located in Paris, the organization where the concept of the MAI originated.

The Federation has done its part to raise international opposition globally. Federation representatives distributed materials and talked about the agreement to representatives of student unions from around the globe at the World Conference on Higher Education last month, and have circulated information and updates from Canada on various international electronic mailing lists.

Currently there is a global petition being circulated by the Third World Network to oppose the relocation of the MAI at the table of the World Trade Organization. The letter states the following reasons that the WTO should not negotiate the agreement:

THE FIGHTBACK AGAINST THE MAI IN CANADA

Currently hundreds of community groups, trade union locals, coalitions and provincial and national organizations have taken a strong and united stand against the agreement, and have called on the federal government to pull out of the talks. Thousands of community educational events have been held, petitions circulated, articles and letters written and media interviews done on Canadian grassroots opposition to the agreement. As much as 40% of the population are opposed in some regions of the country.

THE FEDERATION AND THE FIGHTBACK AGAINST THE MAI

The Federation has been participating in the Roundtable, a coalition that began in January 1998.

Last summer the Council of Canadians proposed that public hearings be held across the country on the MAI when it was clear that the government had no intention of holding consultations. Materials were sent out to member locals in early October.

The MAI Inquiry began last month and has so far held hearings in several Canadian cities. Federation representatives sat on the panel in both British Columbia and Manitoba.

In addition to our support for the Inquiry, the Federation is currently planning on conducting joint research on the effects of the MAI on post-secondary education with the Canadian

Association of University Teachers (CAUT).

Protest against the OECD Electronic Commerce Conference

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) conference on electronic commerce was held in Ottawa October 8 at the Chateau Laurier. Community organizers met several times to organize a demonstration outside the conference to bring the OECD a message: Canadians are vehemently opposed to the proposed MAI and will take every opportunity possible to oppose the agreement and the government agents that are negotiating it.

National Deputy Chairperson Jennifer Story participated in the planning of the event. Postings were sent out to the membership about the event. The Federation donated photocopying and banner materials, made a financial contribution to bussing activists in from Montreal, and participated in the planning meetings.

Federation members and community activists from Locals 1, 79 and 83 participated in the event, and National Chairperson Elizabeth Carlyle spoke at the rally, and went inside with other representatives from the protest to present the group's concerns to chief MAI negotiator Donald Johnston.

The Federation's Participation in the Campaign to Oppose the Bank Mergers

Last January, four of Canada's five major banks announced their intention to merge. Finance Minister Paul Martin announced that the mergers would not be approved without full government hearings and cross-country consultations. A wave of public opposition has been rallied around a number of concerns: concentration of wealth, corporate greed and record bank profits, the possibility of branch closures, decreased access to loans for small businesses and the self-employed, job losses (as many as 40,000 people would possibly lose work), and the prospect of foreign banks being allowed to operate in Canada in the interest of foreign investors over domestic concerns.

Social justice and labour organizations have been fighting the bank mergers through their own efforts and through the Canadian Community Reinvestment Coalition. The coalition has put forward a proposition that would require the banks to invest a percentage of their profits in the community, and other conditions to protect the public interest if the banks were allowed to merge.

The Council of Canadians has been running a campaign explicitly opposing the mergers. The organizing booklets are available here at this meeting.

The Federation has also produced a pamphlet with the Council of Canadians on the potential impact of the bank mergers on student assistance, which will be sent out to locals shortly after this general meeting.

Support for Striking Workers of Unite Local 1764

The women of UNITE local 1764 in Trenton have been on strike against their employer, sock maker JB Fields, since March 23rd, 1998. The company has asked them to take "incentive" cuts of 38%, and further pay cuts of 20%, while men at the plant (who are now crossing the picket line) were asked to take cuts of only 4%.

Arbitration rulings against the company have been ignored. The local president was fired unjustly THREE times. The workers have faced continual abuse and harassment by their employer:

To make matters worse, the women who remain on the line have now been told that they will not be hired back. Instead they are to be permanently replaced.

Member locals received two action updates calling for support, one in July and one in October. Anita Zaenker, Women's Representative on the National Executive, sent a letter of support and a donation to the strike fund, and a letter of complaint to the employer.

SOLIDARITY WORK

Meeting with the Movement for Canadian Literacy

On Wednesday, June 24, the National Chairperson met with two representatives of the Movement for Canadian Literacy (MCL) who are seeking to work with the Federation in some capacity.

MCL represents 'learners' in literacy programmes across the country. These programmes are funded primarily by Human Resources Development, Canada, and range from classroom programmes linked with existing public schools to private tutoring arrangements. The programmes are taught by practitioners who are not technically classified as teachers.

In addition to providing a network for literacy learners and practitioners, MCL has taken on an advocacy role, especially with regards to federal funding issues and academic and funding appeals for its members. Although discussions are ongoing, the Federation has pledged its support to the MCL in its efforts to organize the students it represents.

Endorsements

The Federation has endorsed the following domestic campaigns after receiving formal requests:

PSAC PAY EQUITY CAMPAIGN

The Federation signed on advertisement calling on the Federal government to respect the court ruling that the government pay the pay equity settlements it owes to the members of the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC).

CALL FOR NATIONAL DISASTER RELIEF FOR HOMELESSNESS

This campaign, organized by the *Toronto Disaster Relief Committee*, calls on all levels of government to declare homelessness a national disaster as a first step in implementing an National Homelessness Relief and Prevention strategy, both short and long term. The Federation is a signatory to the campaign.

CHARTER FOR A CONNECTED CANADA

This campaign, organized by *People for Affordable Telephone Service*, calls on the federal government

to ensure affordable telephone services in rural areas. The Federation signed on as a supporter of the Charter.

International Solidarity Efforts

SUPPORT FOR THE STUDENTS PROTESTERS WRONGFULLY TREATED AT THE ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (APEC) SUMMIT DEMONSTRATIONS

Last November, during the Federation's fall general meeting, students and community activists were protesting the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Summit being held at the University of British Columbia, for a wide list of reasons. The RCMP used unreasonable force to control the protest and keep the foreign "dignitaries" from being "embarrassed" by protestors and signs aimed at challenging their human rights records (particularly Indonesia's now toppled President Suharto) and defending their right to free speech and assembly. In addition to the RCMP's violent treatment, in the days just preceding the summit some of the organizers were illegally detained in an effort to keep them away from the protest.

At the November 1997 general meeting an emergency resolution was passed condemning the RCMP for their actions and calling on members to support those who were unlawfully arrested.

Since that time, formal complaints have been made by the protesters to the RCMP Public Complaints Commission. Through this process evidence has come to light that implicated the Prime Minister's office, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the Solicitor General in cracking down on dissent.

The Federation held a press conference in late October condemning the Canadian government for its handling of the affair, calling for the complainants' legal costs to be paid by the Solicitor-General's office, and drawing the links to the issues that led to the protest in the first place, particularly the Canadian and other APEC governments' promotion of international trade at the expense of democracy and basic human rights.

Member locals have been forwarded information through membership advisories and Federation updates on the status of the issues surrounding the APEC demonstrations and RCMP complaints and

have been strongly encouraged to help raise funds for the legal costs of the complainants.

A number of locals across the country have been involved in fundraising efforts throughout the fall.

A local speaking tour has been organized to bring some of the APEC Alert activists to member local campuses to talk about their experience and encouraging locals to get involved in the campaign.

In addition, the British Columbia component has produced buttons to be sold as a fundraising tool. The buttons should be available at this general meeting for locals who would like to get involved.)

Participation in the World Conference on Higher Education

The National Executive voted last spring to send a representative to the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Conference on Higher Education, held in Paris October 5-9, 1998. Maura Parte, British Columbia Chairperson, represented the Federation. Jennifer Story, National Deputy Chairperson, also attended the meeting on behalf of the International Union of Students (IUS).

The meeting participants were organized into three groups: members of official delegations, non-governmental organizations and international governmental organizations. The official Canadian delegation was co-chaired by Andrew Petter, Minister for Advanced Education, Training and Technology of British Columbia, and Pauline Marois, Minister of Higher Education for Quebec. The official Canadian delegation consisted of representatives from provincial governments, Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC), and the Association of Universities and Colleges, Canada (AUCC).²² Nonetheless, Federation along with the Canadian Association of University Teachers and the Federation Etudiante Universitaire du Quebec and the Federation quebecoise des professeures et professeurs d'universite (FQPPU) were invited to participate in the daily meetings of the official delegation.

While the official delegations attended the plenary sessions to listen to speeches and the various "interventions" (statements on the official

conference documents or the state of education in their country), the remainder of the participants attended workshops on a variety of topics, such as: financing, pertinence, accountability xxxxx.

CONFERENCE GOALS

The ostensible purpose of the conference was to adopt the "World Declaration on Higher Education for the 21st Century" and the "Framework for Priority Action for Change and Development." The wording of the declaration and framework had been drafted out of regional consultations that took place in the two years prior to the conference. To date, the only significant international measures for post-secondary education are articulated in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

But the real engine behind the meeting were corporate interests, led by the World Bank, with a clear agenda of privatization, deregulation, increased costs to the "user" (a.k.a students) and, according to Bill Graham (President of the Canadian Association of University Teachers), the reduction or elimination of faculty and teaching support staff, and principles such as universality, accessibility, tenure and academic freedom.

For the powerful forces seeking to control post-secondary education, led by the World Bank and its allies, the enemy are university teachers around the world; and war has been declared. The battle cry is that higher education "must proceed to the most radical change and renewal it has ever been required to undertake." And that means radically changing the "traditional" or "classical" or "research based" university and its personnel to meet the ravenous needs of the knowledge-based global economy.

The Federation's goals for the meeting was straightforward: to influence the Canadian delegation's work on the official documents; to influence students' work on the document; to gather information on the state of post-secondary education in other countries, the state of student organizing around the world and the forces at work on post-secondary education at the global level; and to further assist in the rebuilding of the international student movement, particularly the *International Union of Students*.

SOLIDARITY WORK

It was clear from the first day of the meeting that changes to the documents were to be minimal. Student contributions were actively stifled in a number of ways:

- First, the committee that prepared the student submission was hand-picked by UNESCO. The committee was comprised of an unprecedented mix of national and regional student union representatives along with students representing professional programs (such as the International Pharmaceutical Students Association) which are primarily funded by the industries they hope to work for. Previously UNESCO consulted only students from National Unions and their regional affiliations (such as the Asian Students' Association, or the European Students' International Bureau). The participation of these professional "clubs" seemed to be to block any strong language in the submission, particularly around the elimination of fees and the challenging of corporate involvement in education.
- Secondly, students had to fight for space to meet and access to photocopying, and were not provided with translation services, making discussions of any kind lengthy and confusing.
- Thirdly, the deadline to enter our submission fell less than forty-eight hours after the meeting started. This combined with lack of resources made it almost impossible to have any meaningful debate on substantive issues.

As such, the official work of the conference was frustrating at best, and the end result was quite disappointing. The World Bank succeeded at putting their "reform agenda" front and centre, and having the final declaration read that higher education "requires" both private and public funding.

Nonetheless, some of the Federation's goals were achieved. Delegates returned with a huge volume of information and materials that will be useful for research and organizing purposes in the coming months and years; strong links were made with other national unions of students, particularly in the Philippines, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, Ghana, Namibia, Germany, and the UK. (Lack of adequate translation made communications with the Latin American and

Caribbean students extremely difficult. It was clear from the discussions, however, that we have more in common in terms of our goals and our strategies with the Latin American and Caribbean, African and Asian students present, than with American or European student unions - with the notable exception of Germany.)

A workshop is being held at this general meeting to detail the results of our participation in the conference, and a report will be circulated to locals early in the New Year.

Campaign to End the Occupation of East Timor

For twenty-three years the Indonesian government has forcibly occupied the island nation of East Timor. It is estimated that over 200,000 people have been killed at the hands of the Indonesian military since the occupation began.

At the November 1997 General Meeting the membership voted on a campaign strategy that included support for the broader social justice campaign in Canada and around the world to support full independence for the people of East Timor.

Since that time Solidarity Updates have been sent to the membership on the status of the campaign and the Federation's work to support it. In addition, the National Deputy Chairperson participated in a press conference demanding that the Canadian government, particularly Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Lloyd Axworthy, support the withdrawal of troops from East Timor, the holding of a referendum for Timorese independence and an embargo on military sales to Indonesia.

The Federation also participated in the national meeting of the East Timor Alert Network, held at the Federation's Ottawa office in early November.

Last week the Federation made a donation to Renetil, the East Timorese student organization, who are planning a mass demonstration in early December. Member locals were strongly encouraged to make additional donations.

Endorsements

The Federation has endorsed the following international campaigns after receiving formal requests:

CALL FOR AN END TO POLITICAL PERSECUTION OF SOUTH KOREAN PROTESTORS

This campaign was organized in defense of the hundreds of South Korean students and trade union activists who have been the victims of state and police persecution regarding their participation in a general strike last May. The Federation signed on to an advertisement calling for an end to the persecution.

"SHARE IN JUSTICE" CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE EMBARGO OF CUBA

This campaign, organized by Oxfam, is directed at the extra-territorial and punitive legislation of the U.S.' Helms-Burton Law and the American Embargo of Cuba. The Law states that any Canadian who does business with Cuba can be brought to trial in the United States, as a method of discouraging any Canadian involvement in the Cuban economy and strengthening the American effort to overthrow the Cuban government. The Federation signed on to one share "in justice for the people of Cuba."

OPEN LETTER TO COLUMBIA'S PRESIDENT-ELECT REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

This campaign, organized by the Inter-Church Committee on Human Rights in Latin America, calls on the now President of Columbia to put an end to the politically motivated violence and killings that have seen more than 30,000 Columbians killed in the last decade, including the 185 massacres by paramilitary death squads. The Federation signed the open letter.

Federation's Membership in the International Union of Students

The International Union of Students is a federation of national students' unions from around the world. It was founded 50 years ago, with the purpose of fighting fascism and promoting universally accessible, publicly funded post-secondary education. "Education is a right, not a privilege" serves as its motto.

For reasons relating to students' role in the fight against fascism during World War II, the IUS is headquartered in Prague, Czech Republic, where it thrived for years in the historic IUS building on November Street. However since the decline of the eastern block, the IUS has struggled financially and organizationally to the extent that communication was severely curtailed and most member organizations, including the federation, were dormant from 1994 until the World Festival of Youth and Students in August 1997.

In 1992, then Deputy Chairperson Alison Lewis was elected as the Representative for Women's Equality and Rights on the Executive Secretariat, the international equivalent of our National Executive. She left her position after a short time because the IUS was unable to pay her, along with the rest of the executive and staff. Though we had the option of filling our seat on the Secretariat, the Federation chose not to do so until the IUS' finances were put back in order.

However, following a special informal meeting of IUS member organizations at the Festival the Federation renewed its commitment to the international student movement. Since that time the Federation has been involved in many aspects of efforts to rebuild the IUS and to strengthen solidarity among national unions around the world.

Since that time Federation representatives have met with the Organization of Caribbean and Latin American Students (OCLAE) to encourage their renewed participation. A trip has been made to Prague to collect information on the Union's financial difficulties and the state of the building, has provided the resources to hold informal executive meetings via phone, and has provided the resources for the mailing of newsletters.

SOLIDARITY WORK

Currently the Federation is one of three national unions to be up-to-date in the payment of dues. All other member unions that are still active have stated their intention to pay their dues only after a Congress (equivalent to our general meetings) is held, with full elections and a full accounting of the finances.

While attending the World Conference on Higher Education, Federation representatives participated in a number of meetings with national unions to establish a date and location for the next congress.

A tentative decision was reached to hold the next congress in Libya in June or July, though since that time one of the national unions from France and Columbia have submitted offers to host. Both are aware that the final location must be announced by the end of the calendar year and that the meeting must be held next summer, and have yet to submit their full offer. Until that point, plans are being made for Libya.

Meetings with Members of Parliament and Presentations to Government Committees

MEETING: Lorne Nystrom (NDP, Qu'Appelle) and Judy Wasylcia-Leis (NDP, Winnipeg North)

DATE: June 9, 1998

SUBJECTS: Trade liberalization, mega bank mergers

MEETING: Herb Gray, MP and Deputy Prime Minister

DATE: June 17, 1998

SUBJECTS: Federal transfer payments, Canadian Health Coalition Campaign

MEETING: Alexa McDonough, MP (Halifax) and Leader of the NDP

DATE: June 17, 1998

SUBJECTS: Federal transfer payments, Canadian Health Coalition Campaign

MEETING: Elizabeth Davies, MP (NDP, Vancouver East)

DATE: July 30, 1998

SUBJECTS: Bankruptcy, federal budget, student debt, Millennium Scholarship Foundation

SUBMISSION TO: Standing Committee on Finance

DATE: August 7, 1998

SUBJECTS: Written submission of recommendations for 1999 Budget

MEETING: Ian Murray, MP (Liberal, Lanark-Carleton)

DATE: August 24, 1998

SUBJECTS: Bankruptcy, granting councils

MEETING: David Pratt, MP (Liberal, Nepean)

DATE: August 25, 1998

SUBJECTS: Bankruptcy, granting councils

MEETING: Mac Harb, MP (Liberal, Ottawa-Centre)

DATE: August 26, 1998

SUBJECTS: Bankruptcy, student loan defaults, granting councils

MEETINGS AND PRESENTATIONS

- MEETING:** Elizabeth Davies, MP (NDP, Vancouver East)
DATE: August 30, 1998
SUBJECTS: Bankruptcy, federal budget, October 13 - 16, 1998 Pan-Canadian Days of Action
- MEETING:** Peter Adams, MP (Liberal, Peterborough)
DATE: September 2, 1998
SUBJECTS: Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, Student Loan eligibility, transfer payments, Millennium Scholarship Foundation, high tech jobs, transfer payments
- MEETING:** John Harvard, MP (Liberal, Charleswood-Assiniboine)
DATE: September 2, 1998
SUBJECTS: Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, Student Loan eligibility, transfer payments
- MEETING:** Judy Wasylicia-Leis, MP (NDP, Winnipeg North) and Pat Martin, MP (NDP, Winnipeg North-Centre)
DATE: September 3, 1998
SUBJECTS: Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, student loan eligibility, transfer payments, tuition fees
- MEETING:** Rick Borotsik, MP (Progressive Conservative, Brandon-Souris)
DATE: September 4, 1998
SUBJECTS: Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, Student Loan eligibility, transfer payments
- MEETING:** Peter Adams, MP (Liberal, Peterborough)
DATE: September 9, 1998
SUBJECTS: Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, Student Loan eligibility, transfer payments, Millennium Foundation
- MEETING:** Alexa McDonough, MP (Halifax) and Leader of the NDP
DATE: September 10, 1998
SUBJECTS: Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, student loan eligibility, banks' involvement in loans, Pan-Canadian Agreement, tuition fee freeze
- MEETING:** Elizabeth Davies, MP (NDP, Vancouver East)
DATE: September 21, 1998
SUBJECTS: bankruptcy, fall session of parliament
- MEETING:** Peter Adams, MP (Liberal, Peterborough)
DATE: September 21, 1998
SUBJECTS: bankruptcy, fall session of parliament

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MEETING: Paul Crête, MP (Bloc Québécois, Kamouraska-Rivière-du-Loup-Temiscouata-Les Basques) and Bernard Bigras (Bloc Québécois, Rosemont)

DATE: September 22, 1998

SUBJECTS: Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, Student Loan eligibility, transfer payments, Unemployment Insurance, Millennium Foundation, fall session of Parliament

MEETING: Stéphan Tremblay, MP (Bloc Québécois, Lac Saint-Jean)

DATE: September 22, 1998

SUBJECTS: Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, Student Loan eligibility, transfer payments, Unemployment Insurance, Millennium Foundation, fall session of Parliament

MEETING: Rob Anders, MP (Reform, Calgary West)

DATE: September 23, 1998

SUBJECTS: Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, Student Loan eligibility, transfer payments, Millennium Foundation, fall session of Parliament

MEETING: Joe Fontana, MP (Liberal, London North-Centre), Bonnie Brown, MP (Liberal, Oakville), Stan Keyes, MP (Liberal, Hamilton West), Nunzio Discepola, MP (Liberal Vaudreuil-Soulanges), Sophia Leung, MP (Vancouver-Kingsway), Tony Valeri, MP (Stoney Creek)

DATE: September 24, 1998

SUBJECTS: Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, Student Loan eligibility, transfer payments, Millennium Foundation, fall session of Parliament

MEETING: Ron Duhamel, MP (Liberal, Saint-Boniface)

DATE: September 25, 1998

SUBJECTS: Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, Student Loan eligibility, transfer payments, Millennium Foundation

MEETING: Jean Dubé, MP (Progressive Conservative, Madawaska-Restigouche)

DATE: September 29, 1998

SUBJECTS: Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, fall session of Parliament

MEETING: New Democratic Party Caucus

DATE: October 6, 1998

SUBJECTS: October 13 - 16, 1998 Days of Action campaign and demands

MEETINGS AND PRESENTATIONS

MEETING: Sergio Marchi, MP (York West) and Minister of International Trade
DATE: October 7, 1998
SUBJECTS: Education Industry Summit, corporatization and privatization of education

MEETING: Secretary General of the OECD
DATE: October 7, 1998
SUBJECTS: Education Industry Summit, corporatization and privatization of education

MEETING: Svend Robinson, MP (NDP, Burnaby-Kingsway)
DATE: October 26, 1998
SUBJECTS: APEC

MEETING: Svend Robinson, MP (NDP, Burnaby-Kingsway)
DATE: November 5, 1998
SUBJECTS: APEC discussion at University of Regina

MEETING: Maynard Sonntag, Saskatchewan Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training
DATE: November 5, 1998
SUBJECTS: tuition freeze, harmonization of student loans, funding

Meetings with and Presentations to Non-elected Decision-Makers and Government Officials

MEETING: National Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance, HRDC
DATE: May 22, 1998
SUBJECTS: Measures in 1998 federal budget, student loan harmonization, designation of institutions for student loans

MEETING: Council of Ministers of Education (Canada), St. John's
DATE: May 28 - 30, 1998
SUBJECTS: provincial and territorial education and training consultation

MEETING: *CanLearn Interactive* Advisory Group, HRDC
DATE: June 23, 1998
SUBJECTS: *CanLearn* web site project, student financial information and education choices

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MEETING: Council of Ministers of Education (Canada)
DATE: June 26, 1998
SUBJECTS: *Public Expectations*consultation

MEETING: Association of Universities and Colleges Canada
DATE: June 29, 1998
SUBJECTS: lobby paper on research funding

MEETING: Renée Michaud, Evaluation and Data Development Strategic Policy Department, HRDC
DATE: July 6, 1998
SUBJECTS: Lessons Learned 4 - Student Financial Assistance Policy

MEETING: Working Group on Student Financial Information, HRDC
DATE: July 29, 1998
SUBJECTS: student financial information stakeholders' meeting (banks, federal government, provincial government, students, student financial aid officers)

MEETING: Brian Milton, Interim CEO of the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation
DATE: August 4, 1998
SUBJECTS: Millennium Scholarship Foundation appointments

MEETING: Elaine Hood, Senior Policy Advisor to Minister of Industry John Manley
DATE: August 26, 1998
SUBJECTS: 10-year ban on student loan bankruptcies, research granting councils

MEETING: Tony Macerollo, Executive Assistant to Minister of Industry John Manley
DATE: August 28, 1998
SUBJECTS: 10-year ban on student loan bankruptcies

SUBMISSION TO: David Smith, Senior Policy Advisor, Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation
DATE: August 31, 1998
SUBJECTS: Recommendations for the Millennium Foundation

SUBMISSION TO: Brian Milton, Interim CEO of the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation
DATE: August 31, 1998
SUBJECTS: Recommendations for the selection of directors and members of the Millennium Foundation

MEETING: David Smith, Senior Policy Advisor, Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation

MEETINGS AND PRESENTATIONS

DATE: September 16, 1998

SUBJECTS: Recommendations for the implementation of the Millennium Foundation

MEETING: Thomas Townsend, Director General of the Learning and Literacy Directorate of Human Resources Development Canada

DATE: September 18, 1998

SUBJECT: Bankruptcy, Millennium Scholarships, credit history checks, designation for student loans, transfer payments

MEETING: Brian Milton (Interim CEO of the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation), Hoops Harrison (Canadian Alliance of Student Associations), Nikolas Ducharme (Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec)

DATE: September 24, 1998

SUBJECTS: Criteria for selection of student directors and members of the Foundation

MEETING: Canadian Labour Force Development Board

DATE: October 14, 1998

SUBJECTS: Labour market, jobs, education, and youth

MEETING: Working Group on Student Financial Information, HRDC

DATE: October 14, 1998, October 21, 1998, and November 2, 1998

SUBJECTS: Student financial information stakeholders' meeting (banks, federal government, provincial government, students, student financial aid officers)

MEETING: *CanLearn Interactive* Advisory Group, HRDC

DATE: October 20, 1998

SUBJECTS: *CanLearn* web site project, student financial information and education choices

MEETING: National Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance, HRDC

DATE: November 3, 1998

SUBJECTS: Measures in 1998 federal budget, harmonization, student financial information, risk-sharing agreements, designation of institutions for student loans

APPENDIX I

Meetings with Education Sector Coalition Partners and Other Organizations

- MEETING:** Public Education Network (Canadian Association of University Teachers and Canadian Teachers' Federation)
- DATE:** June 18, 1998
- SUBJECTS:** Preliminary meeting of a new coalition group
- MEETING:** Deborah Chadman and Dan Haley (Movement for Canadian Literacy)
- DATE:** June 24, 1998
- SUBJECTS:** Organizing student unions, membership mobilization strategies
- MEETING:** Jim Turk, Canadian Association of University Teachers
- DATE:** August 21, 1998
- SUBJECTS:** Coalition work, 1998 federal budget, campaigns
- MEETING:** Mathieu Henri Jetté, Fédération étudiante collégiale du Québec
- DATE:** September 9, 1998
- SUBJECTS:** Coalition work, 1998 federal budget, campaigns, Québec student movement, CEGEPs
- MEETING:** Heather-jane Robertson (Canadian Teachers' Federation) and Erika Shaker (Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives)
- DATE:** September 10, 1998
- SUBJECTS:** Coalition work, Education Industry Summit
- MEETING:** Bob Best and Robert Giroux, Association of Universities and Colleges Canada
- DATE:** September 2, 1998
- SUBJECTS:** Bankruptcy, Millennium Scholarship Fund, campaigns, fall session of Parliament
- MEETING:** Narinder Nann, Canadian Labour Congress
- DATE:** September 4, 1998
- SUBJECTS:** Coalition work, current youth, student and labour issues
- MEETING:** Public Education Network
- DATE:** September 21, 1998
- SUBJECTS:** new coalition, current issues in education, World Conference on Higher Education, Education Industry Summit

MEETING: Pascal Bérubé and Christian Robitaille, Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec

DATE: September 24, 1998

SUBJECTS: Coalition work, campaign and tactics, communication, bankruptcy, ICRRPs

MEETING: Erika Shaker (Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives)

DATE: September 25, 1998

SUBJECTS: Education Industry Summit

MEETING: Bob Best, and Robert Davidson (Association of Universities and Colleges Canada), Rubina Ramji (Canadian Graduate Council), Canadian Consortium for Research, and Humanities and Social Sciences Federation of Canada

DATE: October 15, 1998

SUBJECTS: Federal Budget presentation

MEETING: Public Education Network

DATE: October 26, 1998

SUBJECTS: Coalition work, campaigns, lobbying

MEETING: Robert Léger, Canadian Association of University Teachers

DATE: October 26, 1998

SUBJECTS: Preparation for 1999 federal budget hearings

PRESENTATION TO: Youth Quake '98, Winnipeg

DATE: November 14, 1998

SUBJECTS: High school student and youth skills building and activism

MEETING: Nikolas Ducharme and Christian Robitaille, Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec

DATE: November 19, 1998

SUBJECTS: Millennium Scholarship Foundation, bankruptcy, coalition work

MEETING: Bob Best, Jeff Morrison, and Robert Giroux (Association of Universities and Colleges Canada), Jim Turk and Robert Léger (Canadian Association of University Teachers), Hoops Harrison (Canadian Alliance of Student Associations), Gerry Brown and Pierre Killeen (Association of Canadian Community Colleges), John Service (Canadian Consortium on Research),

DATE: November 23, 1998

SUBJECTS: Follow-up from 1999 federal budget hearings, transfer payments, designation policy

APPENDIX II

Travel CUTS: A Subsidiary of the Federation

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Since the November general meeting, the composition of the Travel CUTS Board of Directors has been as follows:

Board of Directors Chair

Jennifer Story

Board of Directors Deputy Chair

Brad Lavigne (until July 5, 1998)

Elizabeth Carlyle (since July 5, 1998)

Board of Directors Treasurer

Christie Stephenson (until July 5, 1998)

Joey Hansen (since July 5, 1998)

Federation At-Large Representatives

Karen Eryou (until July 5, 1998)

Dale Kirby (since July 5, 1998)

Heidi Van Dyk (since July 5, 1998)

Staff Representatives

Robert Keddy

Joanne Taylor (until July 5, 1998)

Monica Miller (since July 5, 1998)

Ex-officio Member of the Board

J. Rodney Hurd

The Travel CUTS board has met twice since the previous general meeting. Each meeting consists of a report from the Chair of the Board on the activities of the Federation as they may relate to the work of the travel company, a report from the President on the activities and finances of the company, program information sessions and other items as directed by the National Executive or membership.

TRAVEL CUTS PERFORMANCE FOR 1997-98

The Board is pleased to report that Travel CUTS had a strong performance in 1997-98. All regions of the country made significant gains over last years performance. Sales were up 19.54% from the previous fiscal year. Expanded distribution through new offices (opened within the last two years) and newly relocated offices account for approximately fifty percent of this increase.

TRAVEL CUTS 1998-99 FIRST QUARTER PERFORMANCE

Following on its performance during the 1997-98 fiscal year, the company had a strong performance during the first quarter of this year. Once again all regions experienced a growth in sales, and as a result, first quarter sales are up 23.9% from the previous year.

Unfortunately, the exceptionally strong first quarter results are not expected to be maintained throughout the course of the year. The Air Canada pilots' strike saw sales decline by fifty percent during the first ten days of September. The decline was followed by a massive surge in sales, caused by the announcement of seat sales at both Air Canada and Canadian Airlines. However, most of the sales applied to travel in December and January. Preliminary results for October show that the company's sales are down for the month and the Board is estimating a loss of \$370,000 for the month.

NEW OFFICES

Since May, the company has opened the following offices:

Kelowna, BC
Corner of King Street and Spadina, Toronto
The Glebe, Ottawa

TRAVEL CUTS BOARD RETREAT

In order to resolve several long-standing issues between the Federation and its travel company, the Travel CUTS Board of Directors held a retreat July 3, 4 and 5, 1998. In addition to the Board, the retreat was attended by several members of the Federation's staff complement and front-line employees of the company. Among the issues discussed were: distribution of the International Student Identity Card, the nature of advertising in the *Student Traveller*, and the creation of a retirement plan for Travel CUTS employees. Although the retreat was not a formal decision making meeting, it provided a good opportunity for the Board to meet with many of the front-line workers of the company and to hear their concerns directly.

WORLD YOUTH AND STUDENT TRAVEL CONFERENCE

The Federation/Travel CUTS is a member of two international trade groups which are comprised of various groups involved in the student and youth travel business. Each year, these organizations, the International Student Travel Confederation and the Federation of Youth Travel Organizations, hold a joint meeting, the World Youth and Student Travel Conference. The conference consists of the general meetings of the two organizations, workshops on changes to the International Student Identity Card, and a trade fair, where the various member companies engage in buying and selling of various products and services.

