

Canadian Federation of Students  
**National Executive Report**  
November 25, 1998 to May 12, 1999

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

# INTRODUCTION

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Dear Members,

The past six months have been busy and productive for Canada's student movement. We should be proud of the past six months of activism, mass mobilisation, lobbying, research, and coalition work. The membership base of the Federation continues to grow as the external profile of the movement gains strength. Students at Glendon College, College of the North Atlantic and graduate students at the University of Ottawa have voted strongly in favour of membership.

Thanks to strong, pan-Canadian coalitions of which the Federation is an important part, students have shared in several victories: Parliament passed the new federal Tobin Tax designed to provide public revenues by taxing international monetary transactions; funding for students testifying at the APEC hearings was granted; the 1999 federal budget includes some increased funding for the research granting councils; and the International Union of Students is poised for a much-needed revival moving into the new millennium.

We have also gained recognition in recent months for our important work on pressing human rights issues. Many compliments and requests have been received in anticipation of the upcoming release of our 1999 *Date Rape: No Means No* campaign. The Federation has also been invited to participate in an historic delegation to observe events in East Timor, and members have been organising across the country to support peaceful solutions to the war in Kosovo.

The key to our continued and growing success will be to intensify these coalition efforts towards the goal of securing increased federal funding for higher education and widespread support for public programs such as higher education. The Federation's *Access 2000* campaign will provide the basis for both student mobilisations and for broadening our message to make it relevant for government decision-makers and for all Canadians.

Already, we have led the movement within the national post-secondary education sector to call for increased transfers, helped found a new, pan-Canadian education coalition, and we have issued a highly publicised challenge to the federal government's prohibition on bankruptcy for student loans. The charter challenge issued by the Federation will force the government to defend this legislation under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

In building up to Student Strike 2000, we have every reason to be confident in our ability to capture the imagination of the public and build social movements. Still more possibilities lie ahead for our Federation.

Let's build towards Student Strike 2000 together!

In Federation Solidarity,

National Executive

May 12, 1999

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## Introduction

At the November 1998 national general meeting, the Federation reviewed and refined *Campaigns Strategy 1998-99*, through which the membership has articulated its short, medium, and long term objectives for legislative changes and raising public awareness. The *Strategy* outlines the context and the goals of the Federation's campaigns and identifies the tactics required to achieve its campaign objectives. These tactics include research, contact with government, membership involvement, and coalition work.

## Research

Up to date, in-depth research by the Federation provides 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 Deregulation of Tuition Fees (November 1998)
- 1999 Federal Budget Backgrounder – What to Expect;
- 1999 Federal Budget Backgrounder – Quick Response Media Guide;
- 1999 Federal Budget Backgrounder – Summary of 1999 Budget;
- Access 2000 Bulletins – Backgrounders on 1999 Federal Budget, Social Contract, Tuition Fees and Funding;
- Access 2000 Organising Manual, including fact sheets on student financial assistance;
- Access 2000 Guide for Launch of Charter Challenge to Bankruptcy Laws, including backgrounder on legal issues and student debt

index of facts;

- "The Corporatisation of Our Universities and Colleges", an article for the Education Monitor's special issue of Education Limited III, focusing on corporatisation;
- "A Student Loan and Grant Program for Students, Not Just the Banks", a chapter for Lorne Nystrom's book on the financial services sector.

## Contact With Government

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

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 governmental 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 mobilisations like the January 25 1995, February 7 1996, January 28 1998, October 1998, and upcoming February 2000 days of strike and action. These tactics raise public and governments' awareness of the issues and of student sentiment, resulting in positive action by governments.

## Coalition Work

In order to achieve its goals, the Federation works in coalition with other groups and

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organisations that share the Federation's objectives.

The 'strength in numbers' which a student union realizes by working in a federation of other student unions is achieved to an even greater extent when the Federation works in coalition with other groups and organisations.

## **Access 2000, The Campaign for Higher Education - Building Towards Student Strike 2000**

At the May 1998 national general meeting, the membership adopted *Campaigns Strategy 1998-99*. Following the October 1998 Days of Action, *Strategy* was further refined at the November 1998 national general meeting. This year, the Federation has more deliberately ranked its campaign priorities and has created a strategy that allows for greater development of public support for the Federation's call for increased transfer payments and Student Strike 2000.

*Access 2000, The Campaign For Higher Education*, lasts for over one year, culminating in a mass Student Strike in early February of the year 2000. *Access 2000* is designed as a framework in which a wide variety of organising work may take place at the national, provincial and local levels including expanded public awareness-raising and the promotion of an international student day of action.

As stated in *Strategy*, the goals of the *Access 2000* campaign are not only to secure increased funding for higher education, but also to raise awareness among members, the public, and decision-makers of the dangers of corporate sector threats to the accessibility and quality of education.

The *Access 2000* campaign is divided into three periods:

### **FEBRUARY - MAY 1999**

February was 'Education Month'. Member locals organised local actions, with national materials and support. A national launch of the *Access 2000* campaign took place.

### **JUNE 1999 - AUGUST 1999**

Preparation of materials and preparatory campus organising work will build up to mobilisation activities in the fall. Research on corporate rule in education. Coalition work will take place at all levels.

### **SEPTEMBER 1999 - FEBRUARY 2000**

Build-up to Student Strike 2000, including preparation for Federal Budget 2000.

## **Contact with Government:**

As part of efforts to promote awareness of key issues and promote the *Access 2000* campaign, the Federation has met with over 40 members of parliament, policy advisors, and government and departmental committees since November 1998. At these meetings, Federation representatives discussed the main sentiments established by the membership in *Campaigns Strategy 1998-1999*, sought information that may be relevant to the Federation's goals, and secured commitments from decision-makers for follow-up actions.

The Federation's Government Relations efforts this winter and early spring have focussed on the federal budget, transfer payments, research funding, the privatisation of student loans, and corporatisation generally. The main goals have been to:

- inform Members of Parliament of the continued impacts of the 1998 Federal Budget, including bankruptcy discrimination against student loan debt holders, restrictions on student loan eligibility, and concerns about the Canada Millennium Scholarship fund;
- build support among Members of Parliament and policy-makers and policy advisors for an increase in federal cash transfer payments to the provinces and territories; and,

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- prepare for the 1999 Federal Budget, in particular by calling for increased transfer payments to the provinces.

## **Preparation for the 1999 Federal Budget**

Although the 1998 federal budget contained some positive measures for which the Federation has called, including grants and interest relief, these measures do not begin to address the fundamental erosion of accessibility to post-secondary education that has taken place under the Liberal government. Eligibility for new measures in student financial assistance is limited, the Millennium Fund is a misguided attempt to assist students, the ten-year ban on bankruptcy discriminates against student loan debt holders, and Paul Martin has not restored the funding cuts to education and training he engineered in 1993.

Earlier in the 1998-99 year, as part of the federal government's annual budget consultation, the Federation made presentations to the Standing Committee on Finance in Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Halifax and St. John's. Following the November 1998 national general meeting, the Federation made public support for increased funding and fairer measures in student financial assistance its goals.

## **Announcement of the 1999 Federal Budget**

The Federation participated in the Deputy Finance Minister's "lock-up", or closed session to review budget documents prior to the budget speech in the House of Commons. Federation representatives provided over 20 interviews, primarily with national media, during the scrum following the budget lock-up.

## **Impact of the Campaign**

In 1994, the federal government announced a schedule of funding cutbacks to cash transfers to the provinces totalling \$7 billion dollars and ending in the year 2000. Since the

announcement of these cutbacks, part of the federal Social Policy Review/Green Paper, the Federation has been at the forefront of efforts to reverse the cutbacks. Although no major funding gains were made for the post-secondary education sector in the 1999 budget, the Federation was part of an important lobby that successfully created the political imperative under which the federal Liberals were compelled to make at least an initial increase to core funding for health care.

Further, after months of lobbying within the post-secondary education sector by the Federation and the Canadian Association of University Teachers, the tacit understanding among many groups that increased transfer payments to the provinces was an unfeasible goal was reversed. Increased transfer payments are now considered to be the critical next step in sector-wide lobby and mobilisation efforts. In addition, the sector has continued to call for 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 organisations, the Federation has made a significant contribution to the call for increased cash transfer payments, to the extent that the issue has resurfaced as one of the key issues leading up to the 1999 federal budget announcement.

Federation representatives met with Finance Minister Paul Martin on November 25 to pursue federal policy changes and increased funding for post-secondary education. Martin was able to provide only a very sketchy rationale for the ten-year ban on student loan bankruptcy. Further, it was revealed that the 1999 federal budget would prioritize research spending in the university sector with no priority for base operating funds for colleges and universities.

On April 19, 1999, representatives met with Finance Minister Paul Martin as part of the the Steering Committee of the Alternative Federal Budget. At this meeting, which provided an



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opportunity to compare and contrast Paul Martin's and the Alternative Federal Budget, Martin expressed ignorance of several key announcements made by the Millennium Scholarship Foundation, suggested that next year's federal budget would focus on child poverty issues and lay groundwork for new environmental initiatives, and did not rule out increases in transfer payments for sectors other than health.

Since the November 1998 national general meeting, activities leading up to, during, and immediately following the announcement of the 1999 federal budget included:

- Helping initiate and co-sign a sector-wide letter calling on the federal government to increase transfer payments to the provinces for education. Eight other national organisations signed the letter: the Association of Universities and Colleges Canada, the Association of Canadian Community Colleges, the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, the Canadian Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, the Canadian Association for University Continuing Education, the Canadian Association of University Teachers, the Canadian Consortium for Research, and the Canadian Graduate Council.
- Provision of materials to member locals, including the distribution of:
  - The Federation's submission to the federal standing committee on finance;
  - Access 2000 campaign bulletins, including a fact sheet and poster for distribution on campuses, in response to the federal budget;
  - Questions and Answer sheets for work with media;
  - Question and Answer sheets about what to expect from the 1999 budget;
  - Question and Answer sheets about Social Union talks;
  - The 'Tax Cuts Won't Pay For My Education' poster;
  - Regular updates on Federation listserves;
  - A summary analysis of the 1999 federal budget

- Generating national media interest in education issues related to the federal budget by providing timely and relevant analysis;
- Encouraging member locals to organize campaigns around the federal budget.
- Coordinating federal budget response activities with coalition partners in the education and health care sectors.

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

## **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 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 Federation and other groups in the post-secondary education and research sectors laid the political groundwork for an increase in the 1998 budget.

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

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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 targeting funds at 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.

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, the Canadian Association of University Teachers, 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 were identified as a priority.

The 1999 budget included further, but modest, restoration of funds for three granting councils:

- The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council will receive \$25 million annually for the next three years;
- The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council will receive \$5 million annually for the next three years; and
- The National Research Council, the governmental granting council, will receive \$5 million annually for the next three years, as well as some funds for capital purchases.

This restoration of funding is linked to the

federal government's aggressive efforts to 'commercialize knowledge' in Canada.

The 1999 federal budget also included, as part of its plans to ease the transition to 'public-private partnerships' through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research scheme, the following funding increases:

- The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council will receive \$7.5 million annually for the next three years;
- The Medical Research Council will receive \$27.5 million annually for the next three years;
- The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council will receive \$7.5 million annually for the next three years;
- Health Canada's National Health Research Development Program will receive \$2.5 million annually for the next three years; and
- The National Research Council, the governmental granting council, will receive \$5 million annually for the next three years.

## **Access 2000 Campaign Kick-Off**

*Campaigns Strategy 1998-1999* called primarily for locally-focussed, provincially-coordinated, and nationally-supported activities to launch the *Access 2000* campaign.

The *Access 2000* campaign calls for the federal government to:

- restore federal cash transfers to 1993 levels;
- encourage provinces to implement tuition fee freezes;
- improve and expand student financial assistance;
- renew its commitment to education as a public program.

The *Access 2000* framework will also incorporate the Federation's campaign against unemployment approved at the May 1998 national general meeting.

## **PREPARATION AND PROMOTION**

The *Access 2000* campaign was launched across the country in February, 1999. National

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campaign work to-date includes:

- lobbying and communications work around 1999 federal budget announcement;
- launch of Charter Challenge against amendments to the *Bankruptcy and insolvency Act*;
- distribution of Student Income Security Survey;
- book launch of *Enter At Your Own Risk*, a book by Richard Marquardt about youth and the Canadian labour market;
- national support and coordination was provided for local and provincial activities:
  - **February 4, 1999** - Newfoundland/Labrador Component - Day of Action (materials, national press release);
  - **February 10, 1999** - Carleton University Students' Association, Local 1 - Day of Action and Occupation (materials, representation, national call for support and press release);
  - **February 11, 1999** - Student Union of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Local 7 - Student Strike (materials, representation, national call for support and press release);
  - **February 16, 1999** - Trent Central Student Association, Local 71 - Rally and sit-in (materials, national press release);
  - **February 25, 1999** - Lakehead University Student Union, Local 32 - Day of Action (materials, national press release);
  - **March 4, 1999** - University of Western Ontario Society of Graduate Students, Local 47 - Rally (materials, representation);
  - **March 22, 1999** - University of Winnipeg Students' Association, Local 8 - Protest and sit-in (materials);
  - **March 18 and 22** - University of Ottawa - Protests (materials, representation);
  - **March 23, 1999** - Laurentian University Students' General Association and Association des étudiants francophones, Locals 30 and 88 - Student Strike (materials, representation at event, national press release).
- **March 31, 1999** - Quebec Component -

Day of Action (support is ongoing)

- **March 31, 1999** - University of Regina Students' Union, Local 9 - Day of Action (support is ongoing).

## MATERIALS

In order to promote campaign cohesion and assist in campaign development, the following resources have been produced and distributed nationally:

- 'Join the Campaign for Higher Education' posters (22" X 33");
- 'Do the Right Thing' postcards (perforated, two per sheet, with informative bookmark)
- 'Freeze the Fees' stickers (2" X 4");
- Regular Campaign Bulletins for members, media, and coalition partners;
- Questions and answers document on the Social Union;
- Backgrounder - 'Tax Cuts and Higher Education Funding'
- Campaign Guide, including campaign overview, questions and answers about the campaign and issues in higher education, fact sheets on student financial assistance;
- 1999 federal budget announcement kit, including questions and answers documents, backgrounder, budget response poster, budget summary;
- Charter challenge kit, including questions and answers documents, backgrounder, biography of test case, and case summary;

Other Access 2000 campaign organising includes preparation of research documents on student financial assistance (including Millennium Scholarships and Corporate Rule), a report card on the federal government's record on higher education, and a tool kit for the campaign against corporate rule, including the production with coalition partners of the '100 Faces of Corporate Rule in Education' poster.

The Federation's web site was updated to include a dedicated section for campaign bulletins, releases, materials. Members are encouraged to promote the site's student debt

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wall, where students may provide accounts of student debt and other student experiences.

*Access 2000* materials have been co-ordinated in a blue, green and yellow colour scheme to create visual uniformity.

## **Access 2000 – Launch of Bankruptcy Charter Challenge**

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 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.

In fall 1998, the Federation announced its intention to launch a legal challenge under section 15 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, with the goal of repealing changes to the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* that prohibit bankruptcy on student loans for ten years following graduation or leaving school. The Charter challenge will argue that the changes to bankruptcy rules constitute discrimination on the basis of age because a statistically significant portion of student loan debt holders are under the age of thirty years.

On March 9, 1999 the Federation announced

the test case in its Charter challenge and presented the judicial and legislative fundamentals of the challenge. The test case has filed for bankruptcy, and there will be a nine-month processing period during which the campaign around the challenge will be built. The launch generated 126 media interviews, including several spots on national television, and a lively public discussion.

Since the launch, support has grown for the Charter challenge, and federal officials are reportedly taking the case very seriously.

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

Although it is not entirely clear that the changes to the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* are motivated by banks involved in student loan risk-sharing agreements, it is evident that the Departments of Industry, Human Resources, and Finance were involved in creating the ten-year ban on student loan bankruptcy. As part of the Federation's government relations efforts, meetings with key officials in these departments took place in August. Information gained at these meetings trace the bankruptcy changes as far back as Lloyd Axworthy's Social Policy Review and the beginning of the student loan risk-sharing agreements in which financial institutions took a much greater role in student loan administration.

Federation representatives also met with several opposition party and Liberal Members of Parliament and senior civil servants to outline the Federation's opposition to student loan bankruptcy discrimination. In a letter dated September 25, MP Mac 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:

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*"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.

## **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. During a September 22 meeting with Federation representatives, Bloc Québécois Youth Critic Bernard Bigras committed the Bloc's support for repealment of the discriminatory new bankruptcy rule.

Due to a recent procedural change in Parliament, private members' bills are tabled for debate unpredictably, by way of a lottery system. Davies' bill has not yet been debated in the House of Commons. Although this makes it difficult to prepare a public campaign around the issues, the Federation will continue to work closely with Davies to build support for the bill and push not simply for the repealment of the 'ten-year' amendment, but for the repealment of any bankruptcy restrictions that discriminate against students (including the original two-year ban).

## **RESEARCH**

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. More detailed research will take place during the summer of 1999.

## **COALITION WORK**

The Federation has been working with the Canadian Insolvency Practitioners Association and the Canadian Bar Association, with respect to the Charter Challenge. Fundraising efforts for the Charter Challenge are also underway.

## **MEDIA COVERAGE**

On September 25, 1998, a Canadian Press wire story broke the story in the Globe and Mail, announcing the Federation's intention to launch a charter challenge. 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 get involved.

As a result of the March 9 launch of the Charter challenge against bankruptcy discrimination against students, the Federation, its legal counsel, and the test case provided 126 interviews, generating coverage on national television (CPAC, CBC, CTV), in major national papers (Globe and Mail, Toronto Star, National Post), and on national radio (CBC, Chum Group).

## **Access 2000 – Other Issues in Student Financial Assistance**

### **NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS WORKING SESSION ON STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Human Resources Development Canada, the federal department responsible for student financial assistance and employment, holds annual consultation sessions with the following 'stakeholders' in student financial assistance: students, university and college administrators,

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faculty, student aid administrators, financial institutions, provincial governments. This year's Working Session was intended to provide feedback in five areas: student aid limits, needs assessment, designation policy, credit worthiness, and lifelong learning.

Nine Federation representatives attended the 1998 Stakeholders' Working Session on Student Financial Assistance in Ottawa on December 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. National Chairperson Carlyle presented as part of a panel that included representation from several different pan-Canadian organisations and the 'big banks'. The Working Session was attended by over one hundred participants, including senior Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) and provincial government representatives.

Overall, the Working Session was shaped by HRDC's clearly-expressed goal of finding ways to keep financial institutions involved in the student loans program and by participants' criticisms of privatisation, funding cuts and student aid restrictions. In both plenary and break-out group sessions, Federation representatives and coalition partners succeeded in conveying resonant criticism of the banks' role in student aid. The Federation also offered progressive solutions such as grants, funding increases, and tuition fee freezes. The main debates centred around:

**Designation** - The federal government had intended to move ahead with a policy that would de-designate from Canada Student Loans eligibility institutions with student loan default rate records surpassing a certain threshold. The policy proposal is designed to restrict access to student loans, without (as of yet) specifying different rules for public and private institutions, and reinforces incorrect stereotypes about students and the willingness and ability to repay loans. The joint letter on designation from the post-secondary education sector and a press release issued by the Federation generated media attention and forced HRDC to agree to a six-month consultation period on the designation proposal.

**Credit Worthiness** - HRDC sought input on and to convince 'stakeholder' groups of the arguments in favour of the implementation of credit history checks on student loan applicants who have had previous loan defaults (on three loans of over \$1000 each). Participants from groups representing students, faculty, and student aid administrators expressed strong opposition to the new measure, and called for its reversal. The Association of Universities and Colleges Canada, however, was silent on the issue.

**Risk-Sharing Agreements** - The backdrop of the Working Session was looming deadlines on risk-sharing agreements between financial institutions, provinces and the federal government. In Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick, these student loan administration and guarantee agreements ran out on December 31, 1998. The federal agreement expires on August 31, 2000. All focus areas selected by HRDC had the goal of implementing measures that would be favoured by the banks: designation, credit history checks, and higher risk premiums. The risk-sharing agreements set out the terms under which student loans are administered and guaranteed, including the premium (or automatic revenue) provided to the financial institutions in exchange for their involvement in the programme.

Despite HRDC's best efforts to guide discussions on the basis that no new funding was available, all participants from the post-secondary education sector made strong and persistent arguments in favour of increased spending on social programmes including post-secondary education. In fact, all the public opinion polling results presented at the beginning of the session by Ekos consulting firm reinforced the view that Canadians place the highest public spending priority on social programmes, above debt and tax reductions.

## **INCOME CONTINGENT LOAN REPAYMENT SCHEMES**

As a follow-up to its 1996-7 review of the

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Canada Student Loans Program, Human Resources Development Canada's strategic policy department is publishing a video on current trends and issues in student financial assistance. The video, fourth in an internal video series called *Lessons Learned*, is designed largely for internal HRDC use, but is also being distributed to groups such as the National Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance, the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on Student Financial Assistance, and the Financial Arrangements Working Group.

After having meetings with and providing feedback to Human Resource Development Canada, on January 22, 1999 the Federation provided its final assessment of the video script. In November 1998, the department had drastically altered references to the segment about income-contingent loan repayment schemes and other key issues, in direct response to concerns expressed by the Federation. However, changes remain inadequate and income-ontingent repayment schemes continue to be proposed as a policy option. Follow-up work on this and other student financial assistance measures will be undertaken during the summer of 1999.

## DESIGNATION

Among preparatory documents for Human Resource Development Canada's Working Session on Student Financial Assistance (December 10 - 11, 1998, Ottawa) was a clear statement that the federal government intended to implement a designation policy geared towards the de-listing for student financial assistance students at institutions with 'high' default rates. The proposal also signalled a move towards making individual post-secondary institutions responsible for such indicators as employment and loan repayment rates, and incomes of graduates. In initial statements, federal bureaucrats were not willing to differentiate between public institutions which already have many accountability mechanisms in place and private institutions which are largely unaccountable to students

and governments.

As a result of pressure from post-secondary education sector organisations present at the Working Session, including the Federation, Thomas Townsend, Director General of Human Resources Development Canada's Learning and Literacy Directorate, committed to consulting with the sector on the issue within six months of the meeting.

On February 25, 1999, an invitation was received from Thomas Townsend to participate in an HRDC expert panel on designation, the task of which is to formulate a draft policy statement, for use in wider consultations to take place in April and May. On March 30, at the National Executive meeting, a decision was made to sit on the expert panel, but also to express concerns about the process followed to-date.

On April 6, 7, 26, and 27, Federation representatives participated in the expert panel with representatives of the public and private post-secondary education sectors, governments, and financial institutions. The entire public sector was resolute in a united position that no designation policy should be considered for public institutions. The sector expressed varying opinions on designation as related to private, for-profit post-secondary institutions. The Federation raised concerns that, although private institutions should not be subsidized by public funds, students at those institutions should neither be denied student assistance unless access to comparable public programs is provided. The results of the expert panel's deliberations remain to be released by Human Resources Development Canada.

## CREDIT HISTORY CHECKS

On November 23, 1998, the federal government reported that restrictions on students' eligibility for Canada Student Loans would be applied. These would remove the eligibility of 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.

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The 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.

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

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. Top federal bureaucrats acknowledge that many of the details surrounding implementation have not yet been negotiated, but maintains its objective of implementing the credit checks by August 1999.

## MILLENNIUM SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

The federal government has established the publicly-funded but privately-administered Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation to begin handing out scholarships to students in January, 2000. The Federation is critical of the Millennium Foundation on several fronts: 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, will run out in ten years, and graduate students are not 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 demands for the October Days of Action. Because of initially widespread public support for the Fund following the 1998 budget announcement, the main focus of the campaign has been to educate members, government decision-makers, and the public at large about its inadequacy and inherently problematic private administration.

Federation research showing that the Fund will only help 7% of students per year has 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.

In February 1999, the Foundation held its first directors' meeting in Toronto. The Federation responded to media calls and expressed concerns about the Foundation's main recommendations, expressed in a letter from Foundation Executive Director Norman Riddell:

A student must [demonstrate] his or her capacity for study at the post-secondary level by completing 60% of a full year of courses [...], full-time enrollment in an eligible institution [and], successful progress in one year' of studies [...] I understand that you may find this answer somewhat disappointing.

## CONTACT WITH GOVERNMENT

In addition to meeting with many key elected officials, the Federation was invited to take part in two select groups making recommendations on the Foundation. The Federation has also participated in several in-person and telephone meetings with Interim Millennium Foundation Executive Director and new Executive Director Norman Riddell.

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 ICR schemes



# ... AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

and select interprogram differential fees, and to encourage the corporatisation of education in some areas. The results of the Millennium Foundation consultation conducted by Smith have been released, and the Federation is composing a thorough response to the findings and recommendations. In the meantime, National Chairperson Elizabeth Carlyle has spoken with Millennium Foundation Executive Director Norman Riddell to express concerns about:

- The merit-based nature of the awards;
- The obstacles to accessing the scholarships, particularly with respect to part-time and college students;
- The communication and accountability problems already evident due to the Foundation's being a private body.

## IMPACT OF THE CAMPAIGN

The campaign to have the Millennium Scholarships transformed into a publicly administered and funded system of grants allocated exclusively on the basis of need has been part of the Federation's overall campaign to improve student financial assistance. In this context, initial awareness-raising has been successful in building opposition to the scholarships, but more work is required.

Currently, both the New Democratic Party and the Bloc Québécois oppose the implementation of the Millennium Foundation. The Reform party has criticized the Foundation on several occasions for failing to provide adequate assistance. Perhaps more importantly, the Provinces, through the Council of Ministers of Education Canada, have made a call for the scholarships to be distributed as part of existing student loans programs and to employ existing needs assessment mechanisms to determine eligibility.

In early May, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Saskatchewan announced that Millennium scholarship administration agreements had been reached. However, British Columbia and Quebec continue to express concerns about the merit-based nature of the awards, the fact that

the Foundation is a private body, and the intrusion of federal 'boutique programs' such as Millennium scholarships into provincial jurisdiction.

## REVIEW OF THE NEEDS-ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND STUDENT LOAN HARMONISATION

The Federation was invited to send two representatives to the preliminary meeting of student organisations of the National Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance, held in Hull on May 6, 1999. This preliminary meeting precedes the day-long gathering of the National Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance on May 7, 1999. Two Federation representatives were also in attendance at this meeting: Researcher Denise Doherty-Delorme and British Columbia National Executive Representative Michael Conlon.

The National Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance meeting came in the wake of announcements that Ontario and New Brunswick had signed harmonisation agreements with the federal government, designed to create common federal and provincial loan administration and repayment features. In both these provinces, the gradual process of harmonisation has taken place in the context of reduced assistance for students and more catering to the banks in areas such as interest relief, credit worthiness, and designation.

Given the vast and sweeping changes in student financial assistance that have taken place in the past five years, research is underway to devise drafts of more substantial and detailed policy proposals for improvements to student financial assistance. Until more systemic recommendations are ready for release, the Federation will also continue to monitor risk-sharing agreements between governments and financial institutions and take the dozens of specific cases on which it advises students and graduates to federal bureaucrats and elected officials to ensure that students receive some satisfaction of their concerns.

# CAMPAIGNS

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## **Access 2000 – Campaign Against Corporate Rule in 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 privatisation, 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.

Work is underway to produce the 100 Faces of Corporate Rule in Post-Secondary Education poster. 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 NDP 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 to Support the Implementation of the Tobin Tax on International Currency Speculation**

On April 22, 1999, the New Democratic Party initiated a proposal, accepted by the federal government, to promote to its G7 partners the

adoption of the Tobin Tax on international monetary transactions by the international community.

According to the NDP, at a meeting of the G7 in Cologne in June 1999, Minister of Finance Paul Martin will have an unprecedented opportunity to promote the Tobin Tax

The Tobin Tax is a low-rate levy on international financial transactions that is designed not to harm commercial activity, but to reduce the appeal of speculation and force investors to act responsibly.

Through its work in the Alternative Federal Budget project, the Federation has been closely involved in the campaign to tax international monetary transactions. The Federation also contributed a chapter to NDP Member of Parliament Lorne Nystrom's book about the financial services sector, to be published later this year.

## **No Means No Campaign Against Date Rape**

At the May 1998 national general meeting, the membership passed a motion to continue the Date Rape: No Means No campaign, with a focus on date rape drugs such as Rohypnol.

Rohypnol, also known by other names such as roofies and Mexican valium, is a drug that causes severe muscle relaxation, disorientation, and temporary memory loss. It is not legally available in Canada, but has been used in cases of rape and attempted rape, particularly in bar settings.

During the summer of 1998, 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.

Throughout this academic year several cases were also reported on Canadian campuses and

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in communities such as the University of Regina, the University of Victoria, King's College, and Quebec and Newfoundland. Despite the concerns raised by organisations such as the Federation, in campus and mainstream media and in correspondence to federal and provincial officials, Canadian officials and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have refused to acknowledge the severity of the problem.

Only after 3500 units of Rohypnol were seized by police in Vancouver in late January 1999 has the RCMP begun to take the issue more seriously. The Federation's work to have date rape and date rape drugs recognized as a pressing, national issue and to educate the perpetrators of sexual assault about the consequences of date rape and the use of Rohypnol is ongoing.

At the May 1999 national general meeting, member locals will receive a Date Rape: No Means No and Rohypnol campaign kit, with materials including but not limited to coasters, posters, stickers, and a sample news release.

## **Campaign Against Discrimination by the Red Cross**

At the May 1998 national general meeting, a motion was passed to intensify the Federation's campaign against homophobic questions included in the Red Cross' blood donor screening questionnaire. Instead of basing questions on high risk activities such as unprotected anal sex, 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 were made to the homophobic

questions. During the summer of 1997, 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 high-risk sexual activities. These outrageous statements clearly indicate the Red Cross' lack of respect for the safety of blood product recipients and underline its dangerous, homophobic approach to blood donor screening.

In 1998, the Canadian Red Cross was dissolved and immediately replaced by Canadian Blood Services. CBS took on former Red Cross space, space, supplies, and all other aspects of the organisation. The new mandate of Canada's blood donation service is to place a priority on safe blood and compassionate service for those in need. Unfortunately, despite this renewed mandate, CBS has continued the Red Cross' homophobic screening practices and failed to acknowledge that unprotected anal sex, not 'gay sex', constitutes a high risk activity for HIV/AIDS.

At the May 1999 national general meeting, member locals will receive a CBS campaign kit, including background information and materials for distribution on campus.

## **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 for aids such as medication, equipment, and therapy were covered. The program was jointly funded by provincial and federal governments, and administered at the provincial level.

# CAMPAIGNS

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In 1998, after reductions in federal funding for VRS, the federal government announced that the program would be phased out and replaced by new funding mechanisms such as reduced grants and student loans. In some provinces, students have been cut off funding mid-way through their programme and forced onto student loans that they have little hope of being able to repay.

At the May 1998 national general meeting, a motion was passed to study and report on the changes to VRDP and their effect on students. Currently, Students with Disabilities Co-Commissioner Chris Green is gathering information for the report.

## **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 Organising Manual mail-out. The 1999-2000 will include suggestions, this time incorporated into the "Don't Agonize...Organize!" section.

## **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 Organising Manual mail-out in August 1998.

Suggestions as to how to promote involvement of students of colour in local work will be incorporated into the "Don't Agonize...Organise!" guide in the 1999-2000 Local Organising Manual.

## National Executive Composition

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

**Aboriginal Students' Representative**

Charlene Green

**British Columbia Representative**

Michael Conlon

**Francophone Students' Representative**

Muhoza Hakizimana

**Graduate Students' Representative**

Joy Morris

**Manitoba Representative**

Chad Samain

**National Chairperson**

Elizabeth Carlyle

**National Deputy Chairperson**

Vacant

**National Treasurer**

Joey Hansen

**Newfoundland-Labrador Representative**

Louis Walsh

**Nova Scotia Representative**

Penny McCall Howard

**Ontario Representative**

Claire Gilbert

**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

## EXECUTIVE RESIGNATION

Effective March 31, 1999, Jennifer Story resigned as National Deputy Chairperson. Story had served as National Deputy

Chairperson since May 1997. Prior to that she served one year as the Ontario Representative and one year as Women's Commissioner on the National Executive.

## Federation Staffing

The following are the current regular staff:

**Communications Coordinator**

Simone Saint-Pierre

**Discount Programmes Coordinator**

Philip Link

**Financial Coordinator**

Johanne Laurent

**Health Plan Coordinator**

Todd Bутtenham

**Health Plan Coordinator**

Pam Frache

**Internal Coordinator**

Lucy Watson

**Manitoba Fieldworker**

Kemlin Nembhard

**Newfoundland-Labrador Organizer (Contract)**

Rajat Sharan

**Nova Scotia/PEI Fieldworker (Interim)**

Jessica Squires

**Researcher**

Denise Doherty-Delorme

**Translator**

Monique Landa

**Translator**

Carol-Lynn Prebinsky

## STAFF RESIGNATIONS

Jocelyn Charron resigned his position of Government Relations Coordinator, effective April 26, 1999. Charron had worked for the Federation since 1991. During his time with the Federation, he worked as the Federation's Communications Coordinator and as a Researcher before becoming Government Relations Coordinator in 1994. He had been on a leave of absence from the Federation since March 1998.

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Karin Jordan resigned her position of Campaigns Coordinator effective April 12, 1999. Jordan had been with the Federation since 1996. She had been on a leave of absence since last summer, working for the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

## STAFF ON LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Currently, the following staff are currently away on leaves of absence:

### **Graduate Caucus Coordinator**

Derrick Deans (until October 1999)

### **Nova Scotia/PEI Fieldworker**

Joe Byrne (until August 15, 1999)

## OTHER STAFF CHANGES

Graphics Designer Jeff Hsu's contract expired on November 27, 1998. Days of Action Organizer Len Bush's contract expired on February 15, 1999.

## Current Vacant Staff Positions

The following staff positions are currently vacant:

- Campaigns Coordinator
- Government Relations Coordinator
- Graduate Caucus Coordinator
- Researcher

## Hiring Freeze

Due to financial considerations, the National Executive resolved at its January 1999 meeting to freeze all hirings for unfilled staff positions until the end of the fiscal year. At the March meeting, the decision was revisited and the freeze was lifted for the purpose of initiating a single hiring. Subject to negotiations that are ongoing with the union, the Federation will be hiring the second Researcher position with a modified job description to allow for some duties relating to the Aboriginal Caucus and the National Graduate Caucus.

## 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.

One of the most basic aspects of unionisation is that the terms of work are organized under a collective agreement, essentially a common contract with varying job descriptions and a pay scale for staff. These collective agreements are negotiated by the employer (management, i.e. the National Executive of the Federation) and the Union (i.e. CUPE), on behalf of the employees. The result is a contract that, ideally, protects the rights of both the employer and employee, as regards such items as wages, benefits, hours of work, and discipline.

Management reserves the right to direct the workforce, with limits set by labour legislation and the collective agreement. Whenever possible, if disputes arise based on different interpretations of the collective agreement by Management and the Union, the Labour-Management Committee addresses them to the mutual satisfaction of both parties. If the Union, on behalf of the employees, is dissatisfied with any decision of the National Executive regarding staff issues, the Union may grieve, or lodge a complaint, against the employer.

Collective agreements last for defined periods of time, usually less than 5 years. Within a reasonable time before a collective agreement expires, the Union and the employer sit down to negotiate, or bargain, the terms of a renewed agreement. Workers and their Unions may also organize strikes or other work stoppages if they feel collective agreement bargaining, or negotiations, are not proceeding in good faith.

Strikes are designed to force the employer to take workers' concerns seriously and to find agreeable solutions.

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

Negotiations for a new contract began in April 1998. At that time, representatives for management on the bargaining committee were Elizabeth Carlyle, then Manitoba representative on the National Executive, Brad Lavigne, then National Chairperson, and Michael Temelini, then Graduate Students' Representative on the National Executive. The current management representatives are Elizabeth Carlyle, National Chairperson and Joey Hansen, National Treasurer.

Negotiations have essentially been completed, and both parties have agreed to implement the new collective agreement informally until the document is signed. In its current draft, the expiry date is March 31, 2000.

## 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 Officers. National Treasurer Joey Hansen assumed this role following the March 1999 National Executive meeting.

## Communications

### WORLD WIDE WEB SITE

Since September 1996 the Federation has operated a bilingual web site at [www.cfs-fee.ca](http://www.cfs-fee.ca). The site contains information on the Federation's campaigns, research, and programmes. Press releases sent from the national office are posted on the listserve as well. The site is linked to many member local and coalition partner web sites.

Several modifications have been made to the Federation's web site in recent months:

- A dedicated page on the site has been created for the National Graduate Council, addressing the motion passed at the March 1998 NGC meeting. The page, although requiring further development, includes an overview of the Council and links to the federal research granting bodies;
- 'Debt Wall' entries from 1998 have been archived to provide easier access and quicker service to the wall;
- More Access 2000 bulletins and other materials are now available in a dedicated section;
- The 1999-2000 Member Local Handbook Development Kit will be available in \*pdf file format for the first time.

The interactive 'Debt Wall' remains a popular section of the site. A marked increase in the number of entries logged on to the wall corresponded to the launch of the Access 2000 Charter Challenge campaign.

Since the last national general meeting, there have been over 16,000 visitors, or 745 visitors per week, to the Federation's web site. This represents an increase of 14.3% over the last six-month period. A letter from Canada NewsWire, a major national source for electronic news postings, dated February 23, 1999, confirms that the Federation's web site ranked among the top ten sites accessed on the NewsWire site. On February 16 alone, the day on which the federal budget was released, the site was accessed by 241 internet browsers.

All member locals are encouraged to link their home pages to the Federation's web site.

### LISTSERVES

To maintain daily communications among members, the Federation operates internet listserves, the purpose of which is to provide a forum for information-sharing and a vehicle to update members on Federation activities. Currently, seven listserves are in operation:

- a general members' list – established in

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November 1997, has 112 subscribers;

- a lesbian / gay / bisexual / transgendered students' list - established in April 1999;
- a National Executive and staff list - established in November 1996, has 39 subscribers;
- a National Graduate Council list - established in 1994, has 99 subscribers;
- a student artists' list - established in April 1999, has 112 subscribers;
- a students of colour list - established during the spring of 1996, has 17 subscribers; and,
- a women's list - established during the winter of 1996, has 41 subscribers.

All listserves are managed from the national office.

## COVERAGE IN THE MEDIA

Along with day-to-day contact with government, the Federation seeks to influence decision-makers by generating public support through mass media coverage of Federation campaigns and student issues. Since the previous general meeting, the Federation has continued to be the premier source of student views and national information to mainstream and student radio, print, and television media.

The Federation's most significant media event since the November 1998 national general meeting, the launch of a Charter challenge against changes to bankruptcy laws that discriminate against students, generated significant coverage before, during, and after the March 9, 1999 news conference.

Collectively, National Chairperson Elizabeth Carlyle, the Federation's legal counsel, and the test case in the challenge did 126 interviews and responded to 39 information requests, primarily over the space of only two days. Seventeen media outlets, primarily mainstream, national journalists, were in attendance at the March 9 event.

Earlier in the semester, Federation spokespeople did 33 interviews and responded to 37 information requests relating to the February 16 release of the 1999 federal budget.

Several other members of the National Executive were also interviewed across the country on the topic of the 1999 federal budget.

In addition to coverage around the Charter challenge and the 1999 federal budget, Federation spokespeople at the national office were interviewed 130 times and responded to 52 information requests. Federation representatives in the national office have also channeled dozens of interviews to member locals and provincial components.

In addition to many interviews with campus media, the Canadian University Press national student newswire service, community media, and alternative press across the country, Federation spokespeople were interviewed on several occasions by such major national media as: Maclean's magazine, the Globe and Mail, the Montreal Gazette, the Toronto Star, the National Post, Canadian Press wire, CBC radio's As It Happens, CBC French-language national radio, CTV national news, CBC Newsworld, and the London Times Higher Education Supplement.

In order to keep media and members apprised of its activities, 19 news releases and 5 media advisories have been distributed by fax and email from the national office.

## 1999-2000 STUDENTS' UNION DIRECTORY

The directory, a long-standing project of the Federation, has continued to include recent major improvements such as spiral binding, email addresses, section divider tabs, full-colour, sturdy cover, and additional sections for constituency groups, government, and coalition partner listings.

Despite late distribution, lower prices for members, non-profit organisations, and bulk purchases have helped create a sustained demand for the 1998-1999 directory.

Efforts are underway to ensure timely delivery of the 1999-2000 Students' Union Directory; it will be available for the early fall of 1999.

## 1999-2000 ORGANISING MANUAL



For years, the Federation has produced a guide to local organising on member campuses. The guide, much improved in recent years in both content and presentation, has traditionally included tips on how to implement Federation campaigns locally, work successfully in coalitions, do media work, coordinate volunteers, and lobby.

The 1999-2000 manual will be available to member locals late in the summer of 1999.

## Task Force on Racism and Sexism

At the November 1998 national general meeting, the plenary resolved that:

- an independent public inquiry be held to address the issues of sexism and racism within the Federation; and be it further resolved that recommendations from this inquiry be presented at the 1999 semi-annual national general meeting;
- the terms and conditions of the inquiry be drafted by a committee;
- the committee charged with the responsibility of developing the terms and conditions governing the public inquiry be comprised of the following:
  - Aboriginal National Executive Representative;
  - National Chairperson;
  - National Deputy Chairperson;
  - Francophone National Executive Representative;
  - \*TBGL Commissioner;
  - Students of Colour Commissioner; and
  - Women's Commissioner on the National Executive;
- the committee seek the advice of the following organisations:
  - The National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC);
  - The Assembly of First Nations (AFN);
  - The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC);
  - The Native Association of Women (NAW);
- the committee seek the advice of constituency group commissioners.

Members of the committee to recommend terms of reference for the Task Force were: Elizabeth Carlyle, National Chairperson; Charlene Green, Aboriginal Representative on

the National Executive; Muhoza Hakizimana, Francophone Representative on the National Executive; Janelle Ho-Shing, Students of Colour Representative on the National Executive; Clarissa Lagartera, \*Transgendered, Bisexual, Lesbian and Gay Students' Commissioner; Jennifer Story, National Deputy Chairperson (replaced on March 31, 1999 by Michael Conlon, incoming National Chairperson); and Anita Zaenker, Women's Representative on the National Executive.

With due consideration to the motion passed at the November national general meeting, the committee determined that its primary tasks were to answer the following questions:

- What should be the goals of the task force?
- What should be the process to achieve these goals?
- Given the process, what should the timelines be?
- What should the consultation of designated organisations look like?

Overall, it was agreed that draft terms of reference for the task force would be developed with recommendations for the May 1999 national general meeting.

Following are the recommendation of the committee:

### RECOMMENDATION #1: GOALS

The Committee recommends the following goals for the Task Force:

- to investigate and propose ways to improve on the Federation's commitment to equity issues; and
- in particular, to evaluate the Federation's commitment to the elimination of marginalisation of various groups based on certain characteristics, including but not limited to: race, gender, ethnicity, physical ability and sexual orientation.

### RECOMMENDATION #2: STRUCTURE AND PROCESS

The committee recommends that the following structure and process be implemented:

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- The committee will draft a request for proposals and distribute it to coalition partners, those organisations identified by plenary, and other progressive networks. A consultant will be hired to conduct the investigation. The consultant will be chosen by the committee.
- The consultant will:
  - review federation bylaws, policies, standing resolutions, minutes, campaigns and other materials and practices;
  - interview past and present local, provincial, national representatives and staff as appropriate;
  - review written responses to survey to be prepared by consultant and to be sent to locals;
  - investigate and report on best practices from other organisations' work on equity issues.
- The consultant will work with an advisory group of individuals enlisted from the organisations identified by plenary (NAC, AFN, CLC, NAW). The committee also recommends that individuals representing the following groups be included on the advisory group:
  - a First Nations Elder;
  - Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere (EGALE);
  - National Education Association of Disabled Students (NEADS);
  - An at-large member of the National Executive, to provide information or answer questions as requested by the consultants and/or committee.
- The advisory group will:
  - assist the consultant to understand the issues and situations particular to people represented by their constituency;
  - act as a resource for both the consultant and the at-large representative on matters of racism, sexism, and other forms of oppression in Canadian society.

## RECOMMENDATION #3: TIMELINES

The committee recommends the following timeline for the Task Force:

- Requests for Proposals (from consultants) received by June 15;
- Consultant hired by early July;
- Consultation with Advisory Committee,

research and interviews throughout summer and early fall;

- Creation and release of report during the late fall, including recommendations for consideration at the November 1999 national general meeting.

## Relations with the Mouvement pour le droit à l'éducation

At the November 1998 national general meeting, a resolution was passed to undertake negotiations with the Mouvement pour le droit à l'éducation (MDE), with the goal of investigating the possibility of a closer working relationship with the Federation.

At the January 1999 National Executive meeting, National Chairperson Elizabeth Carlyle and Internal Coordinator Lucy Watson were assigned to undertake negotiations with the MDE.

On January 31, 1999 Carlyle attended a general meeting of the Mouvement to assess the possibilities for joining. Representatives of the Quebec Component were also in attendance.

At this meeting members of the MDE executive expressed concerns about the Federation's:

- fee structure (MDE fees are \$1 per student per year);
- organisational development strategies (MDE is wary of the high level of internal development and organisation of the Federation);
- practice of lobbying and meeting with government (MDE does not meet with government).

Although several delegates disagreed with the points raised by the executive of the MDE, a motion was passed to recommend that the Federation's Quebec component be invited to join the MDE. Notwithstanding some of the criticisms levelled against the Federation, it appeared that the primary reason for the passage of this motion was the relatively favourable membership possibilities for the MDE within Quebec, thus eliminating much of

the need to join formally with other organisations.

Based on this preliminary investigation, it is clear that any negotiation that would see the MDE become fully congruent members of the Federation is a long-term project. However it is recommended that the Federation continue to work in coalition with the MDE and to seek further ways in which the two organisations may work together, such as sharing office space or jointly coordinating events.

## **Amalgamation of the Federations**

In 1981, the National Union of Students, the Association of Student Councils and all of the established provincial student federations agreed to amalgamate with one another to form a single national student union, the Canadian Federation of Students. However, despite the agreement to create a single federation, a decision was made to incorporate twice – once as the Canadian Federation of Students and a second time as the Canadian Federation of Students-Services.

At the May 1995 general meeting, the membership directed the National Executive to immediately begin the process of amalgamating the two legal entities into one organisation – the Canadian Federation of Students. To conclude the process, the May 1996, national general meeting empowered the National Executive to begin the process of winding down Canadian Federation of Students and transferring its assets to Canadian Federation of Students-Services. The general meeting also resolved that, following the wind down and transfer of assets of Canadian Federation of Students, that the name of Canadian Federation of Students-Services should be changed to Canadian Federation of Students.

In the end, it made more sense to dissolve the Canadian Federation of Students and transfer its assets to Canadian Federation of Students-Services rather than undertaking the complicated process of transferring the much larger asset base of Canadian Federation of

Students-Services to Canadian Federation of Students.

Unfortunately, the National Executive has not yet been able to move forward with the the amalgamation due external circumstances beyond the Federation's control.

# MEMBERSHIP ISSUES

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## Membership Development

There are many ways in which the Federation keeps in touch with members on local campuses across the country. Notwithstanding national media coverage and other wide-reaching national activities, the work of the member local is crucial to the proper development of awareness among students at all Federation member locals.

Generally, the national office prepares materials and resources for use by the member local, relying on the member local to communicate directly with members.

## Membership Advisories

Federation membership advisories contain updates and other key internal information. In order to keep members apprised of internal Federation activities, since November 1998, five membership advisories have been distributed to member locals by fax and email, in addition to numerous 1999 federal budget and Access 2000 campaign updates.

## Implementation of Membership Awareness Strategy

The Federation is best described as 'a partnership of students' unions.' Each member local of this partnership pools resources to undertake work at the provincial and national levels. Just as it is the responsibility of each member local to promote the work that is undertaken at the local or campus level, so too is it the responsibility of the member local to promote the work that it undertakes at the provincial and national levels.

Over the years, member locals have developed means to entrench the profile of the work that it undertakes at the provincial and national levels. The Membership Awareness Strategy, first passed at the May 1997 national general meeting, seeks to formalise practises that member locals can undertake to increase the

profile of the work they do at the provincial and national level. The Strategy is divided into a preamble and two main components: Raising Awareness Among Elected Officials and Raising Awareness Among Membership on Campus, each with a checklist of reminders for member locals' convenience.

Since May 1997, the strategy has been updated from year-to-year and included in the Local Organising Manual produced each summer and distributed to member locals and provincial components.

## Member Local Handbook Development Kit

It is critical, both to further develop the student movement and to fulfil members' right to be informed of Federation work, to provide information about the Federation during campus orientation/welcome back activities.

The member local handbook development kit, a long-time project of the Federation, is designed to provide this information to members, in the form of such items for inclusion in handbooks and daily planners as:

- camera-ready artwork (Federation logos and photographs);
- information about Federation campaigns;
- Fed Facts about historical and current issues in post-secondary education and dates of interest;
- an overview of the Federation, including a brief history of the student movement, a description of programmes, a letter from the National Chairperson, a summary of the year's campaign strategy, and contact information.

For the first time, the handbook kit will be available on compact disk, and on the Federation's web site. These innovations will allow the provision of higher quality graphics and more convenient use for other applications.

## Generic Informational Materials

Each year, materials are produced for general

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distribution to members and non-members. During the late summer and early fall, each member local receives from the national office Student Saver cards and brochures for distribution to members, an Organising Manual, and, since 1998, a 'CFS proud' poster and membership list to copy and post.

At the July 1998 National Executive meeting, a directive was passed to produce a variety of generic Federation promotional materials. The following materials will be ready for distribution in May 1999:

- 'I am part of the student movement because...' poster – 17" X 22", bright, multicolour. This poster is a redesigned, updated version of an earlier poster produced in 1996.
- 'I am part of the student movement because...' button – 1 1/4", two colour purple and green (coordinated with poster, above). This button is adapted from ones produced by the York Federation of Students, Local 68 and Ryerson Students' Administrative Council, Local 24.
- 'We are the students in your neighbourhood' poster – 11" X 17", bright, multicolour. This poster is a redesigned version of a 1997 Manitoba component poster geared towards building coalitions and community support for the student movement.

A new version of the Federation's longstanding Declaration of Student Rights poster and a newsletter template are currently in production.

## Full Membership Votes

### COLLEGE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

In 1987, the Federation's member locals in Newfoundland and Labrador formed a separate provincial organisation – the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Students – together with several college student unions which did not belong to the Federation.

At the time, the Federation's leadership in Newfoundland and Labrador argued that it was

necessary to get the college student unions involved at a provincial level first before encouraging national membership. This argument was premised on the belief that national membership would follow within a year or two.

Unfortunately, the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Students remained a separate provincial organisation well into the 1990's and its membership remained incongruent with the Federation's membership in the province.

In 1995, the leadership of the provincial Federation proposed to transform the organisation into a congruent provincial component of the Federation. At the time, the student unions at the five community/regional colleges in the province – Cabot Institute, Central Newfoundland Regional College, Eastern College of Applied Arts and Technology, Labrador Community College and Westviking College of Applied Arts – belonged to the provincial Federation but not the national one.

After some negotiations it was agreed that the five student unions would become prospective members of the Federation, but they would have three years rather than one to pass full membership referenda.

In Spring 1996, the first of the referenda was conducted at Central Newfoundland Regional College. In that referendum, students voted more than 90 percent in favour of membership in the Federation. Full membership was approved at the May 1996 national general meeting.

In Spring 1997, the government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced its plans to amalgamate the five colleges into one provincial college – College of the North Atlantic – with 18 campuses throughout the province. Shortly thereafter, the student unions at the five colleges also decided to amalgamate, creating a union composed of some students who were full members of the Federation and many more who were merely prospective members.

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The amalgamation created some initial confusion over how to proceed with the remaining referenda. The Federation and the Association agreed ultimately that a single referendum on full membership would be held on all campuses of the college, but that the ballot would vary. Students who were prospective members would vote on joining the Federation, while students who were already full members would vote on reaffirming membership.

The membership drive commenced in mid-February. The Federation had three campaign teams: one for Labrador; one for the west coast, central and eastern regions of the province; and one for St. John's and the Avalon and Burin peninsulas. Voting days varied from campus to campus as Federation campaigners moved from town to town and region to region.

After nearly three weeks, the campaign and balloting was completed. On March 3, the ballots were tabulated and the results announced. The Association's membership had voted more than 98 percent in favour of full membership. Of the 1969 College of the North Atlantic students who voted, 1931 supported membership, only 35 opposed it and three spoiled their ballots. More than one-third of eligible voters cast ballots.

A full membership application was submitted immediately. The National Executive has reviewed the application and is recommending that the members of the College of the North Atlantic Students' Association not already belonging to the Federation be ratified as full members of the Federation.

## **GLENDON COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION**

The Glendon College Students' Union is composed of roughly 1,600 students attending the Glendon Campus of York University.

In the late 1970's, the Union belonged to the Ontario Federation of Students and both the National Union of Students and Association of Student Councils, the two national student unions which amalgamated in 1981 to form the

Canadian Federation of Students. When the Federation was established, the Union failed to pursue membership in it. For the remainder of the 1980's and most of the 1990's, the Union remained unfederated.

In fall 1998, the Union applied for and was granted prospective membership in the Federation, obliging it to hold a full membership referendum.

In late February the referendum campaign got underway. The campaign was relatively good, with only minor opposition surfacing. Voting was held early in March and the ballots counted on March 30. 261 students voted in favour of membership while only 150 students – 38 percent of voters – opposed membership.

As an officially bilingual campus (French/English) and home to a large percentage of international students, Glendon has special needs that many students recognised would be best addressed by membership in the Federation.

Unfortunately, during the course of the referendum campaign, the Federation learned that the Union is not incorporated. Because the organisation is not currently incorporated, it does not have the legal status to enter into a legally binding agreement on membership with the other members of the Federation.

Efforts were made to get the Union incorporated prior to this meeting; however, incorporation has not been accomplished. Therefore, the National Executive is recommending that the Union's application for full membership be ratified effective upon its incorporation and that, in the meantime, its prospective membership be extended.

## **UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION DES ÉTUDIANTS DIPLOMÉS DE L'UNIVERSITÉ D'OTTAWA (GSAÉD)**

In the early 1980's, the Students' Federation of the University of Ottawa joined the Canadian Federation of Students. At that time both graduate and undergraduate students were

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members of the student union and, therefore, the Canadian Federation of Students.

In 1987, the graduate students of the union withdrew from the Students' Federation and formed a separate and autonomous student union - the University of Ottawa Graduate Students' Association des étudiants diplômés de l'université d'Ottawa. The process of dividing the two unions failed to take into account the Federation membership of the graduate students and, for the next twelve years, graduate students were not participating members of the Canadian Federation of Students.

In the interim, the association has developed into a fully bilingual graduate student union that represents close to 3000 graduate students. During the past year, the association expressed a renewed interest in the Federation and several members of the executive of the association attended previous national and provincial meetings of the organisation. As a result, the executive was able to lay an excellent base of support for the membership drive.

At the start of 1999 the council of the association voted overwhelmingly in favour of a referendum on full membership in the organisation. In late March, Federation organizers and GSAÉD volunteers collected the required 10% of students' signatures in less than a week. The campaign began almost immediately after the petition drive.

During the campaign, graduate students at the University of Ottawa were excited about the work of the National Graduate Council and the activist work of the Federation. In addition, the services offered by the Federation were also a significant factor in the successful membership drive. In the voting, held between April 6 and 9, graduate students voted decisively in favour of becoming full members of the Federation.

The National Executive has reviewed a letter applying for full membership and has recommended that the association be accepted as full members at the May, 1999 general meeting.

## Prospective Membership Issues

### DALHOUSIE ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Immediately prior to the November 1998 national general meeting, the Federation was informed by the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students that it would applying for prospective membership at the meeting.

The Association sent one delegate to the general meeting, but failed to provide an application letter for prospective membership. However, assurances were provided that a letter would be forthcoming. On that basis, Association was granted prospective membership.

The Federation's Bylaws require that a prospective member hold a referendum on full membership prior to the national general meeting following the general meeting at which prospective membership is granted. Despite this provision, the Association did not hold a referendum on full membership.

Approximately six weeks ago, the National Executive learned that the leadership of the Association had been operating on the understanding, at the time it resolved to apply for prospective membership, that it had no obligation to actually conduct a full membership vote. (Apparently, the conditions of prospective membership were not clearly communicated to the Association.)

The Association was given the option of requesting an extension of prospective membership, but the offer was declined. Given that the Association never actually submitted an application for prospective membership and never committed to holding a full membership referendum, the National Executive is recommending that the motion from the previous general meeting, granting prospective membership to the Association, be rescinded.

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## Memberships in Question

### LOCAL 18-KWANTLEN UNIVERSITY-COLLEGE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Kwantlen University-College Students' Association was a founding member of the Federation in 1981. During the decade which followed, the Association participated actively in the Federation.

However, in 1991, the Association's active participation in the Federation began to wane. That summer, the Federation received notice from the Association that it intended to hold a referendum on Federation membership in September of that year.

The Federation informed that the Association that it had failed to provide the other members of the Federation with the six month's notice that the Bylaws required and that, therefore, the notice was invalid. Early in September 1991, the Federation's provincial Chairperson attended an Association Executive meeting to explain in more detail the Federation's position. He left that meeting with the understanding that the referendum would be re-scheduled.

In late September, the Federation learned that the Association had proceeded with a referendum vote, and that the Association's members had voted, by a narrow margin, to de-federate. The Federation immediately took the position that it would not recognise the results as being valid and communicated that position to the Association.

At the time of the vote, the Association was more than a year behind on fee remittance. Despite repeated requests, the Association failed to remit those fees or any fees for the year in which the disputed referendum was held.

In summer 1997, the Federation was informed by its lawyers that it would lose any claim over the oldest of the fees owed by the Association if it did not initiate legal action by August 31 of that year. Though it was reluctant to do so, the National Executive felt that it had no option but

to seek a legal judgement in order to collect the fees.

The lawyers also advised, and the National Executive agreed, that a judgement should be sought, as part of the legal action, on the question of membership and on the matter of all fees collected but not remitted by the Association for the period following the disputed referendum.

In summer 1998, the Federation was contacted by the new president of the Association about whether a settlement could be reached before the matter proceeded to court. An initial meeting was held in which both sides informally stated their understanding of the situation. To the surprise of Federation representatives, the Association agreed with the claim concerning the amount of fees owed prior to and for the year of the disputed referendum. There was, however, no agreement on the issue of subsequent year's fees and on the basic issue of membership.

In the fall, an examination for discovery was held in which the Federation's lawyers sought evidence from the Association. To the surprise of the Federation, the Association expressed no interest in examining any representative of the Federation.

The matter remained relatively dormant until late January, roughly six weeks before the scheduled court date, when the Federation was approached once again by the Association's president seeking to negotiate a settlement.

Negotiations commenced within a few days and after a few hours a settlement was reached. Under the financial terms of the settlement, the Federation received all provincial and national membership fees – approximately \$78,000.00 – owed prior to and for the year in which the disputed referendum occurred. The Federation also received \$30,000.00 for interest on the withheld fees and for legal costs. The Federation relinquished any claim for membership fees for the years after the 1991-92 fiscal year.



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On the question of membership, the Association agreed that the referendum had been invalid and that it was still a member of the Federation. It was agreed that a new referendum would be held in fall 1999 and that it would be conducted in accordance with the current Bylaws of the Federation. It was also agreed that the elected leadership of the Association would take a neutral stance during the vote.

At this point the exact dates for the vote have not been established, though it is likely that voting will be held during the third week in October. During the period prior to the vote, the Association will have all rights associated with membership, including voting rights at Federation national general meetings. For this meeting, the Association will have one delegate in attendance. Let's make him feel welcome!

## **Incongruity of Membership**

In 1992, the Ontario Federation of Students resolved to transform itself into the Ontario Component of the Canadian Federation of Students. At the time there were some members of the Ontario Federation of Students who were not members of the Canadian Federation of Students.

As a condition of becoming a provincial component and receiving an allocation from the national budget, the provincial organisation agreed to require its members, which did not belong to the national Federation, to either join nationally or withdraw provincially.

In spite of the agreement, only some of the Ontario locals that did not belong to the national Federation have since joined. The following student associations continued to participate provincially and pay provincial dues without participating nationally and paying national dues:

- Atkinson College Student Association
- McMaster University Graduate Students' Association

During the past year, the National Executive has discussed the need to achieve congruity

in membership, but has yet to develop and implement any concrete strategies to achieve it.

## **Prospects for Membership Development in Alberta, New Brunswick and the Territories**

The fall 1998 national general meeting directed that the Federation actively pursue membership from student associations in Alberta, New Brunswick and the Territories.

The National Executive spent a considerable amount of time examining membership options in those jurisdictions and has concluded that it would not be feasible to pursue membership in those areas at this time.

The pursuit and maintenance of membership in a particular province requires infrastructure in that province. The Federation currently has no infrastructure in Alberta, New Brunswick and the Territories. The cost of developing that infrastructure would be prohibitive.

The National Executive feels strongly that it would make more sense to use the existing, well-developed provincial infrastructures to expand the Federation's membership base. This would hopefully result in the funds necessary to expand the Federation's membership basis in provinces in which the Federation has no members.

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## International Student Identity Cards

The International Student Identity Card is the only internationally recognised form of student identification. The Card is produced and distributed by the International Student Travel Confederation and endorsed by the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural organisation (UNESCO). (The UNESCO logo appears on the face of the Card.) Since its founding in 1981, the Federation has served as the Canadian agent for the Card.

The price of the Card varies slightly from country to country. In Canada, the Federation charges \$16.00 for the Card; however, only non-members of the Federation pay this fee at the point of issuance. The Federation covers the cost of cards issued to its members from the membership fees paid by the members.

A portion of the fees collected for all the cards issued in Canada is paid to the International Student Travel Confederation. The amount paid per card to the Confederation varies based on the volume of cards issued.

In 1993, student discounts requiring the International Student Identity Card as proof of student status were secured on major domestic air travel routes. Immediately, the Federation experienced a huge increase in Card sales. That growth has continued steadily every year since then. Demand for the card received another boost in 1997 when a major student discount requiring the Card was secured with VIA Rail.

Prior to 1993, roughly 15,000 cards were issued each year in Canada. So far this year, close to 100,000 cards have been issued.

The vast majority of the Cards are issued by member locals and the more than 50 Travel CUTS offices across Canada. A small portion is issued by non-member locals that the Federation has licensed as official issuing offices.

Prior to 1995, distribution of cards to all issuing offices – member local offices, non-

member local offices and Travel CUTS offices – was administered by the Federation's former national office in Toronto. In 1995, when the Federation closed its office in Toronto and moved most of its operations to Ottawa, responsibility for administering distribution was transferred temporarily to the head office of Travel CUTS. This past summer the Federation re-assumed responsibility for administering distribution to member and non-member local offices. Starting in August the Federation will also re-assume responsibility for distributing the cards to Travel CUTS offices.

Two years ago the Confederation embarked on a project to update the quality and appearance of the Card. The new Card was launched last summer in time for 1999 issuing year (September 1, 1998 to December 31, 1999).

While the personal data on the Card can be hand-written, just as it could be on the old Card, equipment and software is available which allows for the issuing of printed cards. The Travel Confederation has set as a goal to have no more hand-written cards after next year. This poses a considerable problem for the Federation, given that vast majority of member and non-member locals who issue cards issue less than 300 cards per year. It would not be worthwhile for most of them to purchase the equipment or for the Federation to do so for their use.

For some member locals, such as Local 1 and Local 44, which each issue in excess of 2,000 cards each year, purchase of the equipment is warranted right now, given that the equipment and software accelerates the issuing process. The National Executive is recommending that funds be allocated in the upcoming year's budget for the purchase of the issuing software and a small number of printers.

The new Card design and structure allows for various co-branding and 'smart card' options to be added to the Card. The Travel Confederation has already arranged with some universities in other countries, to make the Card the all-

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purpose student card for those universities. However, this is only feasible at institutions at which there are no part-time students, as the Card may only be issued to students engaged in full-time studies. Therefore, it is unlikely that it would be feasible at any institutions in Canada. At this point the National Executive has no plans to pursue any co-branding or 'smart card' options.

The National Executive is, however, committed to increasing the number of student travel discounts available with the Card. Student discounts will be sought on bus lines in Northern Ontario and in Newfoundland. The National Executive has also discussed the possibility of securing discounts on ferries operating on the east and west coasts.

## Studentsaver

Through Studentsaver, Canada's student discount programme, the Federation has provided reduced prices on goods and services to our members for more than fifteen years. In recent years, competition to the Studentsaver programme has developed in the form of the National Student Price Card, a for-profit enterprise. Through an aggressive and effective marketing strategy, the Price Card has captured many national and local discount providers. Meanwhile, the Studentsaver card remained unchanged and lost its share of national discount providers.

In January 1999, the National Executive adopted a plan to revitalize the Studentsaver programme. The plan focused on a redesign of promotional materials, a new look and style of card, and a stronger focus on good local discounts. The intent of the new design will be to raise the Studentsaver card and materials to the standard and quality of the International Student Identity Card and its promotional materials, thereby increasing the popularity of the card among students and among potential discount providers.

The new card will be printed separately from

the list of discounts, allowing discount solicitation to take place further into the summer. Member locals will receive their Studentsaver kits in the first week of June and will have the entire month to solicit discounts. The cards will be printed in June, ensuring delivery to member locals in plenty of time for August or September distribution. This will also allow some locals to include the cards in their member local handbooks in detachable format.

## National Student Health Network

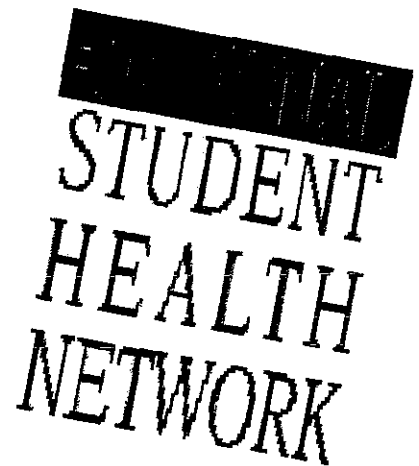
The National Student Health Network continued its growth during the past year, with the implementation of a health and dental plan at one campus and the addition of one program for the 1999-2000 plan year.

The University of Winnipeg health and dental plan, with the assistance of the Local 8 and its staff, began its first year of operation. The referendum campaign was conducted in March, 1996 and the plan was finally made available to students after some struggles with the University administration over its implementation.

A successful referendum campaign in February, 1999 at Local 89 means they will not only join with the Local 44 health plan, but will also have a dental plan of their own. Local 89 will begin receiving care under their plan in September of 1999.

In spite of the hard work of the executive of Local 20 and Federation staff, the referendum campaign in March 1999, to expand the existing health coverage and add a dental plan, was unsuccessful. Local 20 has been a member of the Network since 1998.

The National Executive is guardedly optimistic about opportunities to expand themembership of the Network for the 2000-01 plan year.



## 1998-99 Budget Management

The annual budget constitutes the monetary targets of the Federation for the fiscal year to follow. The budget for the 1998- 99 fiscal year (July 1, 1998 to June 30, 1999) was set by the membership at the general meeting one year ago and adjusted at the general meeting held in November. The National Executive is responsible for ensuring that the budget is followed.

Nationally, the Federation operates with an annual budget of approximately \$2 million – an amount slightly smaller than the budget of the Federation's larger member locals. The budget for the current fiscal year projects a combined surplus and share purchase in Travel CUTS of \$290,000. Approximately \$240,000 of the surplus has been invested in additional shares, while the remainder has been allocated to debt retirement.

## 1998-99 Membership Fees Collection

As of the start of this meeting, 79.8% of projected membership fees have been collected for the current fiscal year. Most member locals have remitted at least a portion of their dues, with roughly one-quarter having remitted all fees owed for the year.

Unfortunately, several member locals have not yet remitted any membership fees, including:

- Local 09-University of Regina Students' Union
- Local 25-Ontario College of Art & Design Students' Union
- Local 31-University of Prince Edward Island Students' Union
- Local 33-Emily Carr Students' Union
- Local 34-Mount Saint Vincent University Student Union
- Local 38-Association des étudiant-e-s du Collège Universitaire de Saint-Boniface

- Local 45-Marine Institute Students' Union
- Local 72-North Island Students' Association
- Local 82-Algoma University Students' Association
- Local 86-College of the Rockies Students' Union
- Local 90-Saskatchewan Indian Federated College Students' Association

Indications are that some of the Federation's membership fee projections were overly optimistic. In particular, enrolment at universities in Manitoba and Ontario, at which the Federation has member locals, appears to have fallen. Actual combined fees revenue for the year, from Local 8 and Local 37 in Manitoba, is more than \$5,000.00 under the amount budgeted.

On a positive note, fees from some locals in British Columbia, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia have already or will likely exceed the budget projections, though the National Executive is not confident that this will offset the loss of fees from locals in other provinces.

## Expenditures

In general, spending for the year is under control with the exception of a few spending areas identified at previous meetings. By far the most significant of these is legal fees, though the National Executive has taken measures to compensate for the additional costs.

It also appears that the \$35,000.00 budgeted for membership drives and referenda will prove inadequate. Almost all of the allocation has been consumed by the first two referendum campaigns of the fiscal year: the University of Regina Students' Union de-federation vote and the College of the North Atlantic membership drive. Therefore, the costs of the recently concluded membership drive at Glendon College and the current membership drive at the University of Ottawa will result in a budget overrun. Fortunately, spending limits imposed by the University of Ottawa Graduate Students' Association will help reduce that overrun.

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## Membership Fee Issues

### Fee Adjustments for CPI Change

In 1992, the Federation's membership fee was increased from \$2.00 per student per semester to \$3.00. At the same time, a bylaw was adopted stipulating that, starting in 1996, the fee would be adjusted each August 1 by the rate of change in the Canadian Consumer Price Index during the previous calendar year.

### CPI ADJUSTMENT FOR THE 1999-2000 ACADEMIC YEAR

The following table shows the adjustments which have been made to the national membership fee since the annual adjustments commenced in 1996:

YEAR	CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% OF PREVIOUS YEAR'S CPI	FEDERATION FISCAL YEAR	ADJUSTED FEE
1994	130.7	Not Applicable	1995-96	\$3.00
1995	133.5	102.14%	1996-97	\$3.06
1996	135.6	101.57%	1997-98	\$3.12
1997	137.8	101.62%	1998-99	\$3.16
1998	139.2	101.01%	1999-2000	\$3.20

As the table illustrates, the Federation's national membership fee for the upcoming academic year will be \$3.20 per student per semester.

### STATUS OF THE ANNUAL CPI ADJUSTMENTS

Each member local falls into one of following four categories that describes the level of national membership fee it is collecting:

- collecting the correct base fee with all of the annual adjustments for inflation;
- collecting the correct base fee with some but not all of the annual adjustments for inflation;
- collecting the correct base fee but with none of the annual adjustments for inflation; and
- collecting the pre-1992 base fee.

The Federation does not currently possess accurate information on the level of national membership fees collected by some member locals. Work to compile this information for those member locals is currently ongoing. This information is vital for budgeting purposes and

determining which member locals require assistance to ensure that the correct fee is collected.

### Work to Ensure Collection of Correct Base Membership Fee

As members will recall, the previous National Executive meeting identified several member locals which continue to collect only the original membership fee of \$2.00 per student per semester, even though it has been close to seven years since the membership voted that the fee be increased. Since the previous National Executive meeting, the following progress has been achieved:

#### - Local 44-University of Victoria Students' Society

As reported at previous meetings, the University of Victoria Students' Society has been, since 1995, the only member local in BC not collecting the proper base national membership fee. However, in a referendum completed earlier this month, the Society's members in favour of a proposal to re-allocate a portion of the Society's building fund to bring the Federation's national and BC levies to the proper base level.

Collection of the higher fee will commence with fall registration. There is some question, though, whether the fee to be collected will account for the inflationary adjustments to the base fee which have occurred since 1996, given that the referendum question made no mention of it. It will likely require some work by the Federation officials in BC to ensure that the correct fee is collected.

#### - Local 25-Ontario College of Art and Design Students' Union

In fall 1982, the members of the Ontario College of Art and Design Students' Union voted in favour of full membership in the Federation. Despite the vote, it is unclear whether the Union ever remitted any national membership fees in the years immediately following or whether it even arranged

collection of the fees. It is known that, since 1987, the Union has remitted no national dues. (The Union has remitted some provincial dues during this time.)

In February, the Union conducted a general membership meeting in which its members were asked to approve collection of the national membership fee and the correct level of provincial membership fee. The meeting voted in favour of the motion. The Ontario Component Executive and staff will ensure that collection commences with the fall 1999 registration and will pursue a formal fee collection agreement between the Federation and the union.

As far as National Executive have been able to determine, none of the other member locals which have been collecting only the pre-1992 level of membership fees has initiated collection of the correct fee since the previous National Executive meeting.

Uncollected membership fees constitute a significant amount of revenue lost to our Federation. During the 1997-98 fiscal year (the last year for which we have a full year's figures), there were seven large to medium-size member locals which were still collecting only \$2.00 per student per semester on behalf of the Federation. As the following chart illustrates, over \$165,000 in fee revenue was lost as a result:

MEMBER	1997-98 FEES (\$2.00 per)	1997-98 FEES (\$3.12 per)	TOTAL NOT COLLECTED
LOCAL	13,376.00	20,866.56	\$7,490.56
Local 38	50,626.22	78,976.90	\$28,350.68
Local 01	49,112.00	76,614.72	\$27,502.72
Local 14	44,641.68	69,641.02	\$24,999.34
Local 24	7,745.79	12,083.43	\$4,337.64
Local 47	47,726.88	74,453.93	\$26,727.05
Local 44	82,481.97	128,671.87	\$46,189.90
Local 68	295,710.54	461,308.44	\$165,597.90
TOTAL			

## Recovery of Outstanding Fees

### LOCAL 26-KWANTLEN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

As members of the National Executive are aware, the Federation initiated legal action in Fall 1997 to recover membership fees collected

by the Kwantlen University-College Students' Association on behalf of the Federation but not remitted to it. As part of the action, the Federation successfully garnisheed \$78,399.00 in combined provincial and national fees owed from the 1989-90 and 1990-91 fiscal years.

As explained earlier in the report, the Federation will receive the entire \$78,399.00 which was garnisheed and an additional \$30,000.00 to cover a portion of the Federation's legal costs and interest on the outstanding funds. The Federation waived any claim on fees owed after 1991.

### LOCAL 18-DOUGLAS COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

In 1992, the Douglas College Student Society conducted an invalid de-federation vote. At the time of the vote, the Society owed roughly \$60,000.00 combined provincial and national membership fees.

In February 1998, the Society acknowledged that the original referendum had been invalid and held a successful referendum 'renewing' its membership in the Federation. At the same time, the Society acknowledged that it owed back fees to the Federation. Though the Federation provided a precise accounting of the fees owed, the Society said that it needed time to verify the amount owed.

A year has now passed without the Society remitting any of the back dues owed, though National Executive has received assurances that the BC Component Executive Committee is actively pursuing payments.

## Status of Travel Pool 1991-96

Since its inception, the Federation has employed a travel pool to equalise costs of member locals attending national general meetings. While the Federation currently calculates a travel average in advance of the meetings, this was not always the case. Prior to the November 1996 national general meeting of

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the Federation, member locals were responsible for arranging their own travel. After the meeting, locals would then send their receipts for travel costs to the national office, and the average cost of travel would be calculated. Those locals whose costs were greater than the travel average would be reimbursed the difference, while locals whose costs were less than the average would be invoiced the difference.

Unfortunately, the system broke down in the late 1980's and early 1990's. Member locals which owed money were not sending receipts to the national office in a timely fashion. This resulted in delays and inaccuracies in the travel average for those meetings. To make matters worse, the travel average of the May 1996 national general meeting, the last general meeting to employ the old travel pool system, was never calculated.

Recognising that many member locals were 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 cash flow permits". Unfortunately, the Federation's cash flow did not allow for the reimbursement of member locals prior to the current fiscal year. The National Executive is currently gathering information on member local's travel costs in order to begin the process of reimbursing locals owed money from the pool.

## Auditor

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 programme, the membership at the November 1997 general meeting resolved that an investigation for an alternative auditing firm be sought.

At the previous general meeting, the

membership resolved to appoint Welch and Co, a firm based in eastern Ontario and Western Quebec as the auditors for the 1998-99 year. Unfortunately, representatives from the firm have suggested that, until the amalgamation of Canadian Federation of Students and Canadian Federation of Students-Services is complete, the Federation should remain with Arthur Anderson. Based on the advice from Welch and Company, the National Executive is recommending that Arthur Anderson be re-appointed as the Federation's auditors for the 1998-99 year.



# SOLIDARITY WORK

## Coalition Roster

The Federation works in formal and informal coalition with a variety of organisations, including regular coalition partners such as:

### POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

- Canadian Association of University Teachers
- Canadian Consortium for Research, CCR (M)
- Public Education Network, PEN (M)
- Dr. Kin Yip Chun

### FUNDING AND EMPLOYMENT

- Canadian Auto-Workers
- Canadian Labour Congress
- Canadian Labour Congress – Youth Committee
- Canadian Union of Public Employees
- Canadian Union of Postal Workers
- Communications, Energy, and Paperworkers' Union
- National Anti-Poverty Organisation, NAPO
- National Federation of Nurses' Unions
- National Union of Public and General Employees
- Solidarity Network, formerly Action Canada Network (M, SC)
- United Steelworkers of America

### ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVES

- Alternative Federal Budget, AFB (M, SC)
- Campaign for Press and Broadcast Freedom
- Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, - CCPA
- Council of Canadians (M)
- Canadian Council on Social Development, CCSD
- Canadian Community Reinvestment Coalition, CCRC
- Roundtable on the Multilateral Agreement on Investment

### HEALTH CARE

- Canadian Health Coalition, CHC (M, SC)

### CHILD CARE

- Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada, CCAAC (M)

### ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

- Assembly of First Nations, AFN
- Coalition for an Inquiry into the Death of Dudley George

### WOMEN'S RIGHTS

- National Action Committee on the Status of Women, NAC (M)

### GAY, LESBIAN, AND BISEXUAL RIGHTS

- Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere, EGALÉ (M)

### INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Citizen's Action: Social Watch, CASW (M, - SC)
- Maquiladora Solidarity Network

### INTERNATIONAL

- International Union of Students (M, SC)
- United Nations' Education, Science, and Cultural Organisation, UNESCO (Federation registered as lobbyist)

(M) Memberships

(SC) Steering Committee Member

## New Coalition Memberships

### CITIZEN'S ACTION: SOCIAL WATCH

Citizen's Action: Social Watch is a pan-Canadian initiative to engage civil society groups and individuals in discussions about global citizenship in the context of structural adjustment both in Canada and internationally. The initiative is founded on the vision of creating an equitable, just, and sustainable world.

### COALITION FOR AN INQUIRY INTO THE DEATH OF DUDLEY GEORGE

In September of 1995 First Nations activist Dudley George was shot and killed by the Ontario Provincial Police, as over 300 officers confronted 30 protestors in the Ipperwash Provincial Park, unceded Stoney Point First

# SOLIDARITY WORK

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Nations land. For years, the Coalition for an Inquiry into the Death of Dudley George has been calling for a provincial inquiry.

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION NETWORK**

The Public Education Network, formed in the late summer of 1998, is a loose coalition of national organisations representing all levels of public education in Canada and Quebec. Since its inception, PEN has mapped out as its most important objective to collaborate in support of public education in Canada through active, mutual support of member campaigns, joint campaigns, and information-sharing. As part of this work, PEN groups are coordinating meetings among different departments, such as research and communications. Current projects include a *100 Faces of Corporate Rule in Education* poster and an education report-card.

## **Domestic Solidarity Work**

### **Alternative Federal Budget**

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

The AFB is both a process and a contained project. Its two main elements are:

**Budget Schools** – These are workshops in local communities designed to increase economic literacy and to shape the

recommendations included in the AFB budget document. The budget schools are coordinated by CHOICES;

**Budget Document** – The budget document is the annual centre-piece of the AFB project. It contains recommendations generated through budget schools and by organisations involved in the AFB. The document is used as a platform from which to generate media coverage, lobby governments, and present concrete alternatives to dominant socio-economic ideas.

The Federation is a member of the Steering Committee, with Researcher Denise Doherty-Delorme and former National Deputy Chairperson Jennifer Story having attended meetings to draft and coordinate the 1999 Alternative Federal Budget. As of April 1999, incoming National Deputy Chairperson Elizabeth Carlyle and Researcher Denise Doherty-Delorme are the Federation's representatives on the Steering Committee.

In preparation for the release of the 1999 AFB document, the Steering Committee and others interested in the project engaged in discussions about the value of producing a budget document and the process of using the budget schools as a source of recommendations in the budget-production process, in particular given the limited resources available to the project. These concerns remain unresolved; however, all groups involved expressed their continued commitment to the project.

Although the macro-economic approach remains constant, the focus of the 1999 Alternative Federal Budget document, entitled 'Vital Measures', is reinvestment in health care.

In addition to a national Federation news release, the Federation participated in AFB promotional activities by encouraging member locals to participate in local launch events, making the full-length AFB budget document available, as well as by providing popular materials and the budget-in-brief for distribution on campus and in the community. The Federation took part in the national launch of the AFB document on January 29, 1999 in

Ottawa. Launch events, in which several member locals and provincial components participated, took place in dozens of communities across the country.

## **Federation's Work with the Solidarity Network**

The Solidarity Network, formerly the Action Canada Network, comprised of over fifty organisations, has its roots in the 1987 struggle to oppose the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Canada and the United States, including efforts to make the FTA a central focus of the 1988 federal elections. Following this formative period, the Network continued to fight free trade, organising opposition to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The Network has since evolved into a forum for action in which social justice groups, labour organisations, and regional and provincial coalitions devise common strategies against funding cutbacks to social programmes, and to coordinate support for campaigns organized by Network members or like-minded groups. One example of the Network in action is the support provided to the Federation for its January 25, 1995 and January 28, 1998 Days of Strike and Action.

Over the past year, members of the Network have undergone an extensive process to determine a clear purpose and role for the coalition. Member organisations agreed to the following parameters in establishing the renewed Solidarity Network:

- The Network will work to link activists from across the country to the various campaigns that member groups initiate;
- Two assemblies will take place annually, rotating around the country from time to time, to share campaign plans and successes, and to build skills and refine strategies;
- In between assemblies, the Network will serve as a clearinghouse of information about members' campaigns;
- The Network will place a high priority on ensuring that regional coalitions participate in Network.

At the most recent, transitional assembly of the Action Canada Network/Solidarity Network from March 26 – 28, 1999 in Halifax, the Federation was represented by Jessica Squires, Nova Scotia/PEI fieldworker and Melissa Doucette, PEI National Executive Representative. Information collected during this assembly is available during the Info Fair at the May 1999 national general meeting of the Federation.

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

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

The National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC), of which the Federation is a member group, is currently suffering through a very serious financial crisis. This crisis, caused by retrenched federal funding for women's organisations and stalling by the federal government in approving NAC's grant application, follows the organisation's protests against funding changes. In recent years, the federal government has not only cut back funding for groups like NAC, it has changed the granting process such that, instead of the operational grants formerly provided, only project grants are available.

On December 9, 1998, former National Deputy Chairperson participated in a press conference on Parliament Hill to call for the approval of NAC's grant application. Other participating groups included: the Canadian Labour Congress; the National Anti-Poverty Organisation; Harmony House (a women's shelter); First United Church; and the Canadian Health Coalition.

The Federation joined in calling on Hedy Fry, Secretary of State for Multiculturalism and the Status of Women, to approve the grant application for NAC, which had been forced to lay off staff and nearly closed its doors

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completely in mid-December. The importance of NAC's work was emphasized, highlighting its work on issues like sexual violence, an issue that members continue to work on through the Federation's *No Means No* campaign and the value of its advocacy work for women against such injustices as sexual violence and pay equity.

During the news conference, Nancy Riche, Executive Vice-President of the Canadian Labour Congress, and Linda Lalonde from the National Anti-Poverty Organisation drew attention to the findings published earlier in December by the United Nations' Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which draws attention to the harsh impact Canada's cuts to social programmes have had on women. The report states that, "in particular single mothers, who are a majority of the poor, the majority of adults receiving social assistance and the majority among the users of social programs [have been harmed]." The UN report specifically recommends that Canadian governments at all levels should allocate more funding to women's needs in Canada, and ensure adequate support for women's non-governmental organisations.

Finally, thanks to pressure from member groups and supporters of NAC, the federal government approved funding for the pan-Canadian women's network in February. However, NAC continues to experience financial difficulties.

To assist NAC in its struggle to survive, the \$2000 donation approved at the Federation's November national general meeting has been forwarded. An additional, in-kind donation of \$200 in postage was also provided in April to assist with NAC general meeting organising. Member locals are encouraged to support NAC by calling on Hedy Fry, Secretary of State for Multiculturalism and the Status of Women, to advocate for reinstated operational funding to women's organisations.

## **Support for Canadian Labour Congress' Unemployment Insurance Campaign**

In 1995 the federal government made drastic changes to eligibility rules and levels of assistance available under the employee and employer funded unemployment insurance program. Changes included a new name, the Employment Insurance program, and the diversion of funds to balance the federal budget and to pay for training and incentive programs formerly covered by federal funds.

These changes resulted in drastic shifts in the accessibility and overall mandate of the program. Instead of providing insurance to workers, the program is now very difficult to qualify for, and insurance funds have been used to perform functions that have traditionally been the responsibility of Human Resources Development Canada proper. In fact, the situation is so aggravated that a huge, \$21 billion, surplus in the program has become a cash pit for government projects while most workers find themselves ineligible for any assistance in times of unemployment. Since 1995, for example, workers aged 18 to 30 have seen their eligibility fall drastically: in 1998, only 15% of young workers benefited from the programme, down by more than half since the cutbacks to benefits and changes to eligibility requirements were implemented. Overall, workers' access to the programme had declined from 72% to 36% during the 1990's.

Meanwhile, the federal Liberals continue to use the 'surplus' created by this brutal rollback to reduce premiums and fund everything from Millennium Scholarships to health care.

In early 1999, the Canadian Labour Congress launched its campaign to fight these drastic changes to unemployment insurance. The demands include increasing benefits and restoring eligibility for the programme. The CLC has stated that it is not opposed to the programme's generating some surplus, but that this surplus should be reinvested in workers' well-being.

Further information about how member locals may participate in the campaign will be made available during the summer of 1999.

## **Canadian Labour Congress 17<sup>th</sup> Triennial Convention**

National Chairperson Elizabeth Carlyle and British Columbia Representative Maura Parte attended the Canadian Labour Congress' 17<sup>th</sup> Convention, held every three years, from May 3 to 7, 1999.

The Federation, as a guest at the meeting, was invited to operate an information table and observe virtually all aspects of the meeting. In addition, the Federation is a member of the Congress' national Youth Committee, which convened a meeting on Wednesday, May 5.

On Thursday, May 6, National Chairperson Carlyle was interviewed alongside Earl Manners, President of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, on Union Wave Radio, the temporary radio station established on-site at the convention and broadcast on FM airwaves.

Many discussions in during plenary were relevant to the work of the Federation, including motions about funding levels, privatisation, unemployment insurance, economic alternatives, and young workers.

Among the resolutions adopted as part of the report of the Public Services Committee was the following:

Whereas the federal government has decreased significantly transfer payments to provinces for support of education; and

Whereas provincial governments in response to reduced transfer payments from the federal government have downloaded their responsibilities on individual students by allowing increased tuition fees at universities and colleges, therefore discriminating against lower income Canadians and limiting their access to post-secondary education; and

Whereas an increasing number of students are forced to borrow from the banks and go into

long-term debt in order to pay for post-secondary education; and

Whereas governments are moving to Income Contingent Loan Repayment Plans which shift most of the cost of education to students; massive, lifelong debts; the withdrawal of public funding from the education system; fee deregulation; and increased privatisation and corporate control; and

Whereas the recent federal budget accomplished little towards addressing the needs of currently enrolled post-secondary students; and

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students is waging a high profile campaign, including pan-Canadian Days of Action against these development, and has focused public attention on the issues involved; and

Whereas the fight being waged by the CFS is a fight against the very same corporate agenda the labour movement is opposed to;

Therefore be it resolved that the Canadian Labour Congress call on the federal government to restore transfer payments to the provinces for the support of post-secondary education; and

Be it further resolved that the CLC condemn tuition increases and fee deregulation, demanding in the process an immediate tuition freeze leading to the reduction and eventual elimination of tuition fees in Canada; and

Be it further resolved that the CLC call upon its affiliated unions and labour councils to join with the Canadian Federation of Students in each community in waging an ongoing coordinated campaign for fully accessible and affordable post-secondary education.

Overall, the Federation's participation at the Convention laid the groundwork for building labour support for the Access 2000 campaign.

## **Canadian Labour Congress - Youth Committee**

The CLC, a long-time coalition partner, provides a seat for the Federation on its Youth Committee. Incoming National Deputy Chairperson Elizabeth Carlyle has participated in the last two meetings of the committee.

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Initial priorities for the committee are educating youth about the labour movement and organising workplaces dominated by young workers. The Committee also hopes to coordinate Canadian participation in a new campaign of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), entitled 'The Future Starts Now < Join a Union!', by organising Canadian educational efforts and events focused on youth labour rights and organising.

## Letters of Support

From time to time, the Federation offers support to workers enduring labour disputes. In supporting workers and their unions as outlined in Federation policy, the Federation raises awareness, helps bring about fair and timely settlements to labour disputes, makes the links between labour struggles and student struggles, and opens doors to further solidarity work.

Letters, however, are an insufficient form of support: member locals are encouraged to contact labour unions to organize solidarity pickets and awareness-raising events in their communities.

## SUPPORT FOR STRIKING COMMUNICATIONS, ENERGY, AND PAPERWORK MEMBERS

During the months of February and March, CBC technicians endured a bitter labour dispute over the issues of job security and wages. The technicians, members of the Communications, Energy, and Paperwork (CEP) union, were on strike for seven weeks, beginning February 17, 1999. Throughout the strike, Federation spokespeople declined to enter CBC studios in support of striking workers. After a directive passed at the March National Executive meeting, spokespeople for the Federation did not participate in any CBC interviews until the completion of the strike.

On April 8, after the completion of the strike, 1999 National Chairperson Elizabeth Carlyle sent a letter of support outlining the Federation's support of the technicians to Mike Sullivan, the chief negotiator for CEP at the

CBC bargaining table.

In another labour dispute involving CEP members, the Federation continues to offer support to Bell operators, who were still on strike at the writing of this report. Jean Monty, Chief Executive Officer of Bell Canada Enterprises, announced in March 1999 the intention of the company to transfer switchboard operators' jobs in Canada to the U.S. firm Excelle Global, with no guarantees of benefits or job security. The transfer would have resulted in as much as a 40% cut in pay for some operators and lay-off notices for others.

After negotiations in which Bell refused to provide protection for operators' jobs, a strike vote provided the Communications, Energy, and Paperworkers' Union with a 73% mandate to take job action. Bell operators went on strike on April 9, 1999.

Member locals, particularly in Ontario, have organized support teams to walk the picket lines with the operators. On April 12, 1999 National Chairperson Elizabeth Carlyle sent a message of solidarity to Fred Pomeroy, chief negotiator for the Bell operators, to express solidarity. The letter included a comparison of Bell CEO Jean Monty's treatment of Bell workers to his involvement in the Millennium Scholarship Foundation. Under Monty's direction as Chair, the Foundation has already announced that it will restrict access for part-time and college students to the already inadequate Millennium Scholarships and that it will not challenge the merit-based, not exclusively need-based, nature of the awards.

On May 4, 1999, Federation representatives in attendance at the Convention of the Canadian Labour Congress in Toronto participated in a march to protest Bell Canada's treatment of workers.

## SUPPORT FOR STRIKING SASKATCHEWAN NURSES

On April 8, 1999, after the Saskatchewan provincial government turned down demands

for wage increases and much-needed reinvestment in health care, the executive of the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses (SUN) launched strike action, with overwhelming support from its members. However, the government of Saskatchewan legislated the nurses back to work only six hours after the announced strike. Adamant that overworked and underpaid nurses could not offer Saskatchewanians quality, accessible health care without improvements in working conditions and infrastructure, the SUN began an illegal strike. The wildcat strike lasted ten days and resulted in commitments from the province to meet some of the nurses' demands. Although the wildcat strike ended in April, SUN continues to express serious concerns about working conditions and the overall state of health care in Saskatchewan.

On April 8, 1999 National Chairperson Elizabeth Carlyle sent a letter of support to Rosalee Longmoore, President of the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses. At the time of writing, no resolution to the ongoing labour issues raised by SUN had been achieved.

## **SUPPORT FOR DR. KIN-YIP CHUN**

On April 27, British Columbia National Executive Representative Michael Conlon sent a letter of support to University of Toronto President Robert Pritchard on behalf of Dr. Kin-Yip Chun. Dr. Chun is a renowned physicist at the University of Toronto who has been turned down for tenure and promotion despite superior credentials. Dr. Chun is alleging bias and has been fighting for a review of his case and the Federation has joined the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) and the University of Toronto faculty association in our call for an indepent review of Doctor Chun's case. Mmembers wishing more information can find deatils at: <http://www.utoronto.ca/acc/chun>.

## **SUPPORT FOR PROTEST AGAINST HOMELESSNESS**

On March 10, the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty led a protest in Ottawa against the growing crisis of homelessness across Canada.

On March 11, 1999, National Chairperson Elizabeth Carlyle sent a letter of support to OCAP.

## **Fulfilment of Directives from Plenary**

### **THE CAMPAIGN FOR AN INQUIRY INTO THE DEATH OF DUDLEY GEORGE**

In September of 1995 First Nations activist Dudley George was shot and killed by the Ontario Provincial Police, as over 300 officers confronted 30 protestors in the Ipperwash Provincial Park, unceded Stoney Point First Nations land.

The Coalition for an Inquiry into the Death of Dudley George has been calling for a provincial inquiry for years, but the Harris government has continuously refused to do so. Now the coalition has turned its efforts in part to the Honourable Jane Stewart, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, to have her call an inquiry as is her purvue under the Indian Act. So far Minister Stewart has only stated that it is a provincial matter.

At the November national general meeting it was resolved to join the Coalition for a Public Inquiry into the Death of Dudley George. It was further resolved that:

- a press release be issued supporting the call for a public inquiry;
- member locals be encouraged to endorse, join, support, and contribute financially to the campaign;
- a sample letter to the Ontario government calling for a public inquiry be written and distributed to member locals; and
- a donation of \$2,500 be made to the coalition.

On December 10, the National Deputy Chairperson participated in a press conference on Parliament Hill to call on Jane Stewart, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to call an inquiry. The Federation joined representatives from the Canadian Labour Congress, the Ontario Federation of

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Labour, the Aboriginal Rights Coalition, and the co-ordinator of the Coalition.

On the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Federation and other Coalition members in attendance at the news conference called on federal Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Jane Stewart to begin an inquiry, or the Coalition will take the issue to international fora.

Members were encouraged via electronic update to call on their members of parliament as well as the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Jane Stewart to call for an inquiry. Later, in March, a news release was issued in support of the campaign for an inquiry, and further encouragement was provided to Federation members to support the campaign locally. On March 28, a representative of the Campaign for an Inquiry into the Death of Dudley George, based in Toronto, spoke at the meeting of the National Aboriginal Caucus.

## **SUPPORT FOR THE CAMPAIGN FOR AN INQUIRY INTO THE STAND-OFF AT GUSTAFSEN LAKE**

In June of 1995, members of the Shuswap nation gathered near Gustafsen Lake, British Columbia to practise a traditional Sundance ceremony. The Sundance site was a portion of some 922 hectares to which, without the consent of the Shuswap nation, American rancher Lyle James had been granted grazing rights. When James attempted to evict the Sundance campers from their unceded land, the Sundance campers made clear their intention to stay. For the next three months, they were subjected to a campaign of legal, psychological, physical and military intimidation from James and his ranchers, the RCMP, the military and the government.

By the time the Shuswap defenders left the Sundance camp on September 17, some 77,000 rounds of ammunition had been spent. As well, helicopters, armoured personnel carriers, video surveillance, C-7's and land mines were used

by the RCMP.

After a 10-month trial that included police officers' openly admitting to a "smear and disinformation campaign" against the Ts'Peten Defenders and their supporters, guilty verdicts were returned against 15 people. Since then, dozens of organisations throughout Canada and the United States have been calling on the provincial and federal governments for an inquiry.

At the November national general meeting, a motion was passed unanimously to campaign in support of an inquiry into these incidents. On March 23, 1999, a news release was issued in support of an inquiry into the stand-off, and member locals were encouraged to write to the government of British Columbia and the federal government in support of an inquiry.

## **International Solidarity Work**

### **Campaign to Oppose the MAI**

In January 1997 a confidential draft text entitled 'Multilateral Agreement on Investment: Consolidated Texts and Commentary' was circulated among governments and corporate leaders in the member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) – an organisation comprised of the world's 29 wealthiest nations.

This agreement – dubbed the 'Corporate Bill of Rights' and the 'Corporate Rule Treaty' – was to become the 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, Called the 'national treatment' provision, this would apply to grants, subsidies, tax breaks, etc.;
- no conditions on foreign investment, such as job creation targets or training obligations,



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- 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 – defence alone will be exempt;
- signatories will be barred from passing any new laws that may come into conflict with the agreement;
- governments would be forced to eventually repeal any existing laws that may hinder foreign investment;
- corporations can sue governments for damages and revenue losses or anticipated losses on their investment as a result of government legislation, even that legislation is in the larger public interest. Neither government nor citizens can use the provisions of the MAI to sue corporations;
- complainants would take their case to an international tribunal of investment experts, not through any impartial judicial system, an appeal process completely at odds with parliamentary systems of government.

Behind closed doors, secret consultations and negotiations took place for over a year out of the OECD headquarters in Paris. However, the MAI did not remain shrouded in secrecy for long. A global movement quickly generated significant public concern about the threat the MAI posed to all levels of government and socio-economic measures to protect citizens from the vagaries of global trade and investment.

In Canada, hundreds of national and local community organisations campaigned against the MAI. In some regions of the country, these efforts resulted in 40% of the population's being opposed to the global trade deal.

The Federation contributed to national and international efforts to oppose the MAI by:

- distributing resource materials and popular documents to member locals;
- assisting with the Council of Canadians' cross-country alternative MAI hearings. Federation representatives sat on the panels in

- both Manitoba and British Columbia;
- participating in the Canadian Roundtable Against the MAI;
- participating in several protests and media events; and,
- networking with students from around the world on issues around the MAI at the World Conference on Higher Education in Paris in October 1998.

In addition, several provincial components and member locals made significant contributions to efforts to oppose the MAI.

Public pressure globally, including protests at the October 1998 meeting of the OECD, created an environment in which OECD members such as France and Germany could come forward in opposition to the MAI. Quebec also called on the Canadian federal government to pull out of talks, while British Columbia held province-wide public consultations on the deal and the Prince Edward Island legislature massed a motion opposing the agreement. In a momentous victory, international efforts to oppose the MAI forced the OECD to retract the latest drafts of the agreements.

The movement to oppose trade liberalisation that threatens democracy, workers' rights, and the environment has regrouped to counter emerging regional trade deals such as the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and continued efforts to create a global trade agreement through the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The Council of Canadians will be releasing its report of proceedings of their pan-Canadian 'MAI Inquiry' in the coming weeks. Federation representatives presented to the federal sub-committee on international trade and trade disputes which is conducting cross-Canada hearings on the future direction of international trade and investment negotiations in preparation for the next round of scheduled negotiations this year at the WTO.

The WTO negotiations are particularly important because, originally, the MAI was

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slated to be passed by this global body. It was passed over to the OECD only after major protests from countries such as India and the Philippines, and many corporate leaders were hopeful that it would encounter less opposition in the OECD. The Federation continues to work in coalition with groups in Canada and around the world to oppose free trade agreements that compromise democracy, economic stability, environmental health, and human rights. The November 1999 round of WTO negotiations in Seattle, declared by local governments to be an MAI-free zone and a Third World Network petition to oppose the MAI's being relocated to the WTO, will undoubtedly be important flashpoints for renewed public discussion.

## **Support for Students Who Protested the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) Summit**

During the Federation's November 1997 national general meeting, a motion was passed to condemn the brutal RCMP crackdown on protestors at the APEC summit in Vancouver and to call on the federal government to make human rights a main feature of APEC negotiations. Member locals were encouraged to support those who were unlawfully arrested.

Following these events, formal complaints were lodged by several protestors against the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) through its Public Complaints Commission. The Commission proceeded; however, it became evident that the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Solicitor General were implicated in the crackdown and pepper-spraying incident, but this was beyond the scope of the Commission. The complainants and their supporters, including the Federation, called for a full, public inquiry that would be empowered to investigate the involvement of the federal government.

The campaign quickly gathered steam,

becoming the dominant issue virtually every day, for every opposition party, during Question Period at the House of Commons. The issue came to be known as 'peppergate'.

In the October 1998, the Federation organized a news conference to contribute to the growing campaign to question the federal Liberals' relationship with Asian dictatorships, to expose the relationship between trade and human rights abuse, and to provide adequate funding to the complainants to the Commission, who had been denied funding for legal expenses.

Members of Democracy Street (an anti-APEC solidarity coalition) attended the November 1998 national general meeting and presented a compelling account of the incidents at the 1997 APEC Summit. Following the meeting, many delegates participated in a 'peppergate' protest at the Prime Minister's house, 24 Sussex Drive. Member locals and provincial components across the country contributed to the growing campaign by making donations and hosting and organising local fora and protests. The Federation continued to make donations, support organising efforts, provide information, and draw attention to international human rights abuses and domestic police violence.

Finally, during the winter of 1998-1999, pan-Canadian efforts culminated in several victories: Solicitor-General Andy Scott resigned over his role in 'peppergate' and the denial of funding; some funding for legal costs was provided to complainants; and the scandal had weakened the federal Liberals to a visible degree. In fact, the Prime Minister made an unprecedented apology to the House of Commons over the Inquiry.

The campaign, however, continues. The Inquiry is not yet complete and still has no mandate to investigate the federal government, Canada's support of human rights abuse in APEC countries has changed little, and police brutality has continued to escalate in Canadian cities.

## **Solidarity Campaign for an End to the Occupation of East Timor**

For the past 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. Students in Canada have been active in fighting the occupation for several years, through student unions, campus clubs, and the network of Public Interest Research Groups.

At the November 1997 national general meeting, 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 was approved.

Since November, Federation support for the campaign has been forthcoming in numerous ways: by providing the East Timor Alert Network with office space; by sending out frequent solidarity updates on the status of the campaign and the Federation's work to support it; by participating in the national meeting of the East Timor Alert Network; by making a donation to Renetil, the East Timor student movement; and by providing information about the campaign in mailings and at the November national general meeting. Posters and newsletters from the East Timor Alert Network were distributed in March as part of a larger coalition mailing to member locals. In addition, the Federation, the Canadian Labour Congress, and ecumenical organisations have been invited to participate in a Canadian delegation to observe the referendum vote on independence for the island nation, to take place on August 8, 1999.

In April, the Federation, the Federation endorsed an ETAN postcard campaign calling for the release of political prisoners and other measures. Copies of the postcards will be available in May 1999.

## **Participation in the United Nations' Education, Science, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)**

UNESCO is comprised of government representatives of United Nations member countries, and its mandate is to promote education, social programmes, and cultural protection for the world's peoples. The body meets regularly at the United Nations' headquarters in New York and hosts special gatherings on a regular basis.

One such gathering, the World Conference on Higher Education, took place in Paris from October 5 – 9, 1998 and was attended by Federation representative Maura Parte. Jennifer Story, then Federation Deputy Chairperson, attended on behalf of the International Union of Students. As a registered lobbyist with UNESCO, the Federation was invited to attend as an NGO, or non-governmental organisation. The Federation has no vote at UN meetings, but has the right to observe, take part in discussions, and receive information.

The ostensible purpose of the conference was to adopt the "World Declaration on Higher Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" and the "Framework for Priority Action for change and Development". The production of these documents took place during the two years prior to the World Conference. The statements were approved by the official delegations present from dozens of countries; however, they contained no substantial, positive measures not already enshrined in the United Nations' International Covenant on Social, Economic, and Cultural Rights.

The real engine driving the meeting was corporate interests, led by the World Bank, with a clear agenda of privatisation, deregulation, and increased "user fees". Bill Graham, the President of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, also suggests that the World Conference set the stage for the reduction or even elimination of faculty, teaching and support staff to new technology,

# SOLIDARITY WORK

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restrictions on academic freedom and accessibility, and downsizing. These measures are part of structural adjustment programs espoused by the World Bank internationally and such bodies and our federal government domestically, whether formalized (such as in developing countries) or informalized (such as neo-liberal policies in developed countries). During the World Conference, these changes were couched in terms of the need for "the most radical change and renewal [post-secondary education] has ever been required to undertake."

The Federation's goals for the meeting were straightforward: to influence the official Canadian delegation's work on statements from the conference; to influence students' work on the documents; to gather information on the state of post-secondary education in other countries; to learn more about students' organising efforts around the world; and to further assist in rebuilding the international student movement, particularly the International Union of Students.

Unfortunately, the World Conference had been organized to minimize student input. Students' contributions were actively stifled in a number of ways:

- The committee that prepared the student submission was hand-picked by UNESCO and primarily representative of professional students' organisation (which are largely funded by the industries they hope to work for), rather than a broader cross-section of student populations. This approach marked a tactical change for UNESCO; in the past, UNESCO had consulted national student unions and their regional federations. This change resulted in weaker statements that were unrepresentative of the majority of students' sentiments with respect to user fees, use of technology, human rights and democracy on campuses;
- Students had to fight for space in which to meet and organize and for access to services such as photocopiers and translation services. This made meetings lengthy and

communication difficult.

- The deadline to make submissions for the declaration came less than forty-eight hours after the meeting started. This, combined with the lack of resources, made it nearly impossible to have any meaningful discussion about the issues at hand;
- The 'student forum' was organized by the Paris Youth Chamber of Commerce, and provided very little time and space for student input. No democratically elected representatives of autonomous student organisations were chosen to sit on the keynote panel.

Given these challenges, it was not surprising that the World Bank succeeded in placing its agenda of "reform" and "public-private funding partnerships" front and centre.

Nonetheless, some of the Federation's goals were achieved:

- Federation delegates returned with much useful information about post-secondary education and student movements worldwide;
- Delegates were able to pressure the official Canadian delegation on key issues and to see first-hand how Canadian governments portray the situation in Canada on the international scene;
- Strong links were made with the student activists from the Philippines, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, Ghana, Namibia, Germany, and the UK. (Sadly, lack of translation made it very difficult to communicate with delegates from South and Central America.)

The Federation was unable to send a representative the March 1999 meeting in Ottawa of the Canadian Commission to UNESCO, at which some follow-up from the World Conference would take place. However, the Federation continues to be involved. Further follow-up from the World Conference includes: communication with student organisations present at the event; responses to reports and statement issued at the event; work within the Public Education Network to expose

the implications of structural adjustment for post-secondary education in Canada and internationally; and involvement in campaigns to expose Canada's failing grade in the recent review of the UN Covenant on Social, Economic, and Cultural Rights.

## **Donations, Letters of Support, and Endorsements**

### **DONATION TO THE MAKI FAMILY BUS TOUR**

In 1990, the Maki family, Carol, Alan, Carrie, and Jeremy, fled from the USA to Canada to escape a twenty-year campaign of severe harassment because of Alan's long-time work as a student, peace and social justice activist. The harassment included threats and the use of violence against them by right-wing organisations and state agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

After fleeing the USA, the Maki Family resided in northern Manitoba without incident until Alan became involved in pro-aboriginal, anti-racist activism and became known to the Canadian federal government as an activist. Since then, Immigration Canada has contested the Maki family's claim to political refugee status and has demanded that they be deported. No adequate rationale has been provided for the deportation, and no hearing has been held to allow the Makis to contest the decision.

The Makis have organized a bus tour to build support for their campaign to stay in Canada. The campaign demands include: access to FBI files on the Maki family; a fair hearing with Immigration Canada; and, the right to remain in Canada on humanitarian and compassionate grounds or as political refugees until a hearing takes place.

The November 1998 national general meeting resolved that \$200 be donated to the Maki Family National bus tour campaign. This donation has already been sent, and Federation representatives in the national office met with Alan Maki in February to discuss his family's plight. Alan Maki also provided interesting

historical documents relating to his past involvement in now-defunct counterpart organisations to the Federation in the USA such as Students for Democratic Society. Since this meeting, the Maki family has neither been deported nor received an affirmative response to their requests for a documentation and a fair hearing. The Makis made stops at several member local campuses over the course of their awareness-raising tour. Efforts to support the Makis will be ongoing.

### **DONATION TO HURRICANE MITCH RELIEF EFFORTS**

At the November 1998 national general meeting, it was decided that \$3000 would be donated to relief efforts to assist communities devastated by Hurricane Mitch.

Hurricane Mitch relief efforts and the donation were discussed at the January and March 1999 meetings of the National Executive.

Proposals to ensure that the most lasting, grassroots, and constructive - rather than simply charitable - assistance was provided to those communities ravaged by the natural disaster were discussed. In keeping with the debate in plenary at the November meeting, a decision was made to make the donation only to groups working at the grassroots level and working not just to provide immediate relief but also long-term relief.

### **SUPPORT FOR CAMPAIGN TO END HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY COLUMBIAN REGIME**

In 1998, the Federation endorsed an open letter sent by the Inter-Church Committee on Human Rights in Latin American, calling for an end to politically-motivated violence and killings perpetrated by the president-elect of Columbia. More than 30,000 Columbians have been killed over the last decade, including 185 massacres by paramilitary death squads.

In April 1999, the Federation signed a further letter of support, part of efforts to intensify this appeal to the government of Columbia.

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## **DONATION TO THE ALL-AFRICA STUDENTS' UNION**

At the November 1998 national general meeting, a motion was passed to make a \$2000 donation to the All-Africa Students' Union, a continent-wide, student-run umbrella organisation of African, national students' unions. This donation has been received with thanks from AASU, and the Federation will continue to work with African national students' organisations and AASU, especially in preparation for the upcoming constitutional event of the International Union of Students.

## **SUPPORT FOR THE EXTRADITION OF LÉON MUGESERA**

In a judgement released on July 11, 1996, Canadian immigration adjudicator Pierre Turmel ordered the expulsion of former Rwandan official Léon Mugesera from Canada. Mr. Mugesera, who entered Canada in 1993 as a refugee, was found to have lied when he made his application to Canadian authorities and to have concealed the fact that he had committed crimes against humanity in Rwanda.

The case focused on a speech given by Mr. Mugesera in the Rwandan town of Kabaya, in Gisenyi Prefecture, on November 22, 1992, to a political meeting of supporters of former president Juvénal Habyarimana. Because the speech was given in Kinyarwanda, the national language of Rwanda, there was considerable debate before the tribunal as to the meaning of veiled references to the elimination of the Tutsi minority.

At the November 1998 national general meeting, a motion was passed to call upon the federal government to immediately extradite Léon Mugesera from Canada in order that he might be tried by the United Nations' tribunal investigating the genocide in Rwanda.

On April 8, 1999, National Chairperson Elizabeth Carlyle sent a letter to federal ministers Lloyd Axworthy of Foreign Affairs,

Anne McLellan of Justice, and Christine Stewart of Citizenship and Immigration. The letter was copied to relevant critics in the House of Commons and to the All-Africa Student Union. At the time of writing, no substantive response to the concerns raised has been provided to any of the ministers.

## **SUPPORT FOR THE EXTRADITION OF AUGUSTO PINOCHET**

At the November 1998 national general meeting, a motion passed to support the extradition of former Chilean President Augusto Pinochet from England to Spain, with goal of having him tried in his home country for the brutal murders and human rights abuses he commissioned during his nearly two decades of dictatorship. General Pinochet's military government ruled Chile from 1973 to 1991 after ousting democratically-elected socialist president Salvador Allende. During his regime, thousands of people were killed or disappeared.

In April 1999, a letter was sent to the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Foreign Affairs, urging Canada to support the extradition of Augusto Pinochet to Spain. The letter was sent following the ruling of the British Home Secretary Jack Straw authorising proceedings for extradition to Spain on reduced charges of crimes against humanity committed during his regime. The Federation has called on the Canadian government to publicly support bringing General Pinochet to justice despite massive legal challenges to the extradition ruling. General Pinochet's lawyers and ardent supporters such as Baroness Margaret Thatcher continue to challenge the ruling on the basis that the number and range of charges against Pinochet do not warrant extradition. Although the international movement to have Pinochet extradited has received widespread support, at the time of writing no response had been received from Axworthy's office.

## **SUPPORT FOR AN END TO THE NATO-LED WAR IN KOSOVO**

In the wake of all-party federal support for the

# SOLIDARITY WORK

brutal and illegal NATO bombings of Kosovo, a motion was passed at the March meeting of the National Executive to call upon the House of Commons to end Canada's role in the air strike and other potential military efforts in Kosovo. The full text of the motion, not including background information, follows:

Be it resolved that the Federation condemn Canada's involvement in the bombing of Yugoslavia;

Be it further resolved that the Federation condemn Milosevic's war on Kosovo, and recognize that the NATO bombing will not stop the plight of Kosovo's ethnic Albanians, and other ethnic minorities in the region;

Be it further resolved that the Federation demand that Canada take a leadership role in finding a peaceful political resolution to the dispute over Kosovo;

Be it further resolved that the Federation issue a press release to this effect, encourage coalition partners to do the same, and support attempts to organize actions where possible;

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to write letters, pass motions, and participate in and organize actions aimed at ending Canada's involvement in the bombing of Yugoslavia.

In April 1999, a news release appealing for an end to NATO bombings was issued. Several subsequent updates were issued on the members' listserve of the Federation, including reports from friendly student organisations in Belgrade of the devastation wrought by the bombings. In addition to these efforts, Federation representatives have participated in, provided in-kind donations to, and organized a variety of anti-war events.

In the context of growing student concern about Canada's role in the NATO bombings and possible deployment of ground troupes, an ampler discussion is anticipated at the May national general meeting.

## **Status of Efforts to Rebuild the International Union of Students**

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

The IUS is headquartered in Prague, Czech republic, where it thrived for thirty years in the historic IUS building on 17<sup>th</sup> November Street, named after the 1939 massacre of students and others protesting fascism and the beginning of World War II. However, since the decline of the eastern block, the IUS has struggled financially and organisationally to the extent that communication was severely curtailed and most member organisations, including the Federation, were dormant from 1994 until the World Festival of Youth and Students in August 1997.

In 1992, then National Deputy Chairperson Alison Lewis was appointed to the Federation's seat on the IUS' Executive Secretariat, as the Representative for Women's Equality and Rights. She left her position in Prague after a short time because the IUS was unable to pay her, along with the rest of the executive and staff. Though the Federation had the option of filling its seat on the Executive Secretariat, it chose not to do so until the IUS' finances improved. However, this proved to be a fallacious approach to solving the problems of the IUS. Because other member unions also disinvolved themselves from the work of the IUS, the situation worsened.

However, following a special, informal meeting of the IUS at the World Festival of Youth and Students in Cuba in August 1997, the Federation renewed its commitment to the international student movement. The Federation has filled its seat on the Executive Secretariat and been involved in many aspects of efforts to rebuild the IUS and to strengthen solidarity among national student unions around the world.

# SOLIDARITY WORK

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As part of its responsibilities on the Executive Secretariat, the Federation sent a representative to a February 1998 meeting of the Organisation of Caribbean and Latin American Students (OCLAE) to encourage the renewed participation of central and south American member unions. A trip has been made to Prague to collect information on the IUS' financial difficulties and the state of the building.

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

Also, 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.

Other IUS work that has been undertaken by the Federation since the November national general meeting includes:

- the provision of resources to hold executive meetings via telephone;
- communication by email with member and friendly student organisations in the Americas;
- the provision of resources for the mailing of an April 1999 circular letter to member unions;
- the maintenance of regular contact with remaining IUS executive members in Prague and Bonn;
- notifying the Executive Secretariat that Elizabeth Carlyle has replaced Jennifer Story as Representative for Women's Equality and Rights; and
- the solicitation and consideration of bids to hold a constitutional event (congress and council meeting).

The Executive Secretariat has announced that the next council and congress meetings of the IUS will take place in Tripoli, Libya, with tentative dates of November 10 – 17, 1999, to coincide with the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the massacre of November 17<sup>th</sup>. In conjunction with the executive, the Great Libyan Jamahiriya national student organisation has begun to prepare for these momentous events by providing resources for logistical work in Prague, and by making preparations domestically.



# MEETINGS AND PRESENTATIONS

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To assist in the continued rebuilding of the IUS, the only student-run, non-partisan international student organisation advocating for students rights globally, member locals and provincial components are invited to make cash or in-kind donations to the IUS, especially in preparation for the upcoming constitutional events.

## MEETINGS WITH AND SUBMISSIONS TO GOVERNMENT

- MEETING: Honourable Paul Martin, Finance Minister  
DATE: November 25, 1998  
SUBJECTS: *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act*, student loan eligibility, transfer payments, tuition fees, unemployment insurance, and youth/student unemployment
- LETTER TO: Honourable Pierre Pettigrew, Minister of Human Resources Development and Steve MacDonald, Alberta Minister of Advanced Education and Career Development, co-chairs of the Working Group on Student Financial Assistance  
DATE: December 9, 1998  
SUBJECTS: Federal designation policy
- MEETING: National Stakeholders' Working Group on Student Financial Assistance  
DATE: December 10 to December 11, 1998  
SUBJECTS: Risk sharing designation, credit worthiness, lifelong learning data
- SUBMISSION TO: From Greed to Growth, an economic literacy project facilitated by MP Lorne Nystrom (NDP, Qu'Appelle)  
DATE: January, 1999  
SUBJECTS: Chapter for book, focusing on student financial assistance, student loans and the big banks
- MEETING: Canadian Labour Force Development Board  
DATE: January, 1999  
SUBJECTS: Future of the Board (it was decided that the Board would expire its mandate then review possibility of future work)
- PHONE MEETING: HRDC - Canada Pension Plan and youth inquiry (conference call)  
DATE: January 19, 1999  
SUBJECTS: Views of youth on the Canada Pension Plan
- MEETING: Paul Martin, MP (Lib) and Minister of Finance  
DATE: January 21, 1999  
SUBJECTS: Alternative Federal Budget document, contrasted with 1999 federal budget

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- MEETING: Glen Clark, Premier of British Columbia and Andrew Petter, Minister of Advanced Education, Training, and Technology of British Columbia  
DATE: January 22 and January 23, 1999  
SUBJECTS: Federal policy on student financial assistance and tax credits, funding, tuition fee freeze, differential fees
- MEETING: Alternative Federal Budget - Steering Committee  
DATE: January 25, 1999  
SUBJECTS: Pre-budget meetings
- MEETING: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives  
DATE: January 27, 1999  
SUBJECTS: Alternative Federal Budget Launch
- LETTER TO: Honourable Paul Martin  
DATE: January 28, 1999  
SUBJECTS: Letter from Post-secondary education community regarding the need for increased transfer payments for post-secondary education
- MEETING: Peter Adams, MP (Lib) and Chair of Liberal Caucus on Post-Secondary Education and Research  
DATE: February 1, 1999  
SUBJECTS: Federal Budget, Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, student loan eligibility, transfer payments, tuition fees, unemployment insurance, and youth/student unemployment
- MEETING: Chris Dendys, Assistant to Elizabeth Davies MP (Lib)  
DATE: February 1, 1999  
SUBJECTS: 1999 federal budget, charter challenge to amendments to Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act
- PHONE MEETING: HRDC - Student Information Working Group -(conference call)  
DATE: February 2, 1999  
SUBJECTS: Promotion of student financial assistance available for loan repayment
- PHONE MEETING: Diana Kahn, Human Resources Development Canada, File Officer for Credit Worthiness Policy  
DATE: February 9, 1999  
SUBJECTS: Timelines and implementation of credit history checks on Canada Student Loan applicants
- PHONE MEETING: Alternative Federal Budget - Steering Committee (conference call)  
DATE: February 10, 1999  
SUBJECTS: Launch of Alternative Federal Budget
- EVENT: 1999 Federal Budget announcement - Deputy Minister Scott Clark's lock-up  
DATE: February 16, 1999  
SUBJECTS: Transfers payments, funding for granting councils

# MEETINGS AND PRESENTATIONS

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- MEETING: Katalin Deczky, Director of Canada Student Loans Program and Samantha Tattersol, File Officer - Designation  
DATE: Thursday, February 18, 1999  
SUBJECTS: Overall concerns with privatisation of CSLP, loan eligibility, credit history check policy, risk-sharing, harmonisation, access to CSLP information, and specific student loan problems
- MEETING: Public Education Network  
DATE: March 2, 1999  
SUBJECTS: Follow-up from 199 federal budget announcement, joint campaign on corporate rule, PEN member group updates
- MEETING: Department of International Trade- David Lysne, Greg Veysey, Darren Smith  
DATE: Wednesday, March 17, 1999  
SUBJECTS: Canadian Education Marketing Board, differential fees for international students, commercialisation of post-secondary education
- MEETING: Post-secondary Education Sector meetings  
DATE: March 25, April 21, 1999  
SUBJECTS: Strategy sessions - Designation of institutions for student loans, pre-HRDC consultations
- SUBMISSION TO: Education Monitor, a publication of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives  
DATE: March 30, 1999  
SUBJECTS: Article on corporatisation of post-secondary education
- MEETING: Human Resources Development Canada - Expert Panel on Designation  
DATE: April 6, 7, 26, 27, 1999  
SUBJECTS: Federal designation policy
- MEETING: Honourable Paul Martin, MP (Lib), Minister of Finance, with Steering Committee of Alternative Federal Budget project  
DATE: April 19, 1999  
SUBJECTS: Transfer payments, macro-economic policy, unemployment insurance fund, national debt, health care, education, child poverty, revenue and spending priorities
- MEETING: CanLearn  
DATE: April 21, 1999  
SUBJECTS: Launch of CanLearn web site

# APPENDIX I

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MEETING: Bernard Bigras, MP (BQ), Paul Crête, MP (BQ), and Christine Gagnon, MP (BQ)

DATE: April 21, 1999

SUBJECTS: Millennium Scholarships, Bankruptcy legislation, youth unemployment

MEETING: Students' organisations and Human Resources Development Canada

DATE: Thursday, May 6, 1999

SUBJECT: Needs Assessment Review, subgroup of National Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance (NAGSFA)

MEETING: National Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance (NAGSFA)

DATE: Friday, May 7, 1999

SUBJECT: Designation, harmonisation, credit worthiness, needs assessment, bankruptcy legislation

# COMMUNICATIONS DOCUMENTS

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## **Press Releases, Media Advisories, Membership Advisories - November 24, 1999 to April 29, 1999**

### **News Releases**

#### **Date**

Thursday, December 3, 1998

Monday, December 7, 1998

Thursday, December 10, 1998

Friday, December 11, 1998

Monday, December 14, 1998

Friday, December 18, 1999

Friday, January 8, 1999

Thursday, January 14, 1999

Thursday, February 4, 1999

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Tuesday, February 16, 1999

Tuesday, February 16, 1999

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Wednesday, March 23, 1999

Wednesday, March 31, 1999

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

#### **Title**

Students to Martin : Tax Cuts Won't Pay for Our Education!

"Martin, Did You Hear The Message?"

Proposed Changes to Student Aid to Benefit Banks - Not Students. Student Concerned Changes Will Be Made Based on Misleading or Non-Existent Data

Students Condemn Status of Women Canada's Decision to Cut Funding to NAC

HRDC Agrees to Consult on Contentious Student Aid Proposal Students, faculty angered by federal government's kow-towing to banks over student loans restrictions

Banks Threaten Student Loan Program

Federal 'Education Measures' Fail to Allay Parents' Worries about Education Costs

Newfoundland Tuition Freeze : Good First Step for Students

Tobin and Martin This Time Listen!

Student Campaign For Access Picks up Speed Events leading up to federal budget include sit-ins, strikes

Health Research For Public Good or Private Profit?

Federal Budget Ignores Students - Again

Students Launch Legal Challenge Against Bankruptcy Discrimination

Students Call For Full Inquiry Into The Death of Dudley George

Laurentian Students Strike Against Fee Hikes

Students Join Growing Campaign For Inquiry Into Use Of Force At Gustafsen Lake, 1995

Québec Students Protest Funding Cuts and Fee Hikes

Federation Welcomes Three New Member Locals

# APPENDIX II

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## Media Advisories

### Date

Tuesday, December 8, 1999

Tuesday, January 26, 1999

Tuesday, February 16, 1999

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Friday, February 12, 1999

### Title

Statistics Canada Report Confirms :

Uncontrollable Students Loan Defaults a Myth

The *Alternative Federal Budget 1999* National Launch

Students' spokesperson available to react to the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation's First Board of Directors Meeting

Students Challenging Federal Bankruptcy Law

Students Calling For Increase Transfers For Social Programs in Budget 1999

## Membership Advisories

January 26, 1999

Wednesday, February 3, 1999

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Monday, April 26, 1999

The Alternative Federal Budget Launch

Proposed changes will mean more denied student loans

Look Out For Private Student Loan Kick-Back Scheme on Your Campus!

Federation Welcomes Three New Member Locals

New Contact Information for National Office

## ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

35<sup>th</sup> Semi-Annual National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students  
Wednesday, May 12 - Sunday, May 16, 1999 – Hull, Québec

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### Committee Composition

#### Caucus Representatives

Caucus of College and Institute Associations  
Caucus of Small University Associations  
Caucus of Large Institute Associations  
National Aboriginal Caucus  
National Graduate Council

Karen Eryou  
Collete Nickerson  
Jen Anthony and Christa Peters  
Dennis Saunders and Mark Solomon  
Cailey Crawford

#### Component Representatives

British Columbia Component  
Manitoba Component  
Newfoundland and Labrador Component  
Nova Scotia Component  
Ontario Component  
Prince Edward Island Component  
Quebec Component  
Saskatchewan Component

Theresa Sabourin  
Margaret Bryans  
Vanessa Buckle and Stephen Crane  
Amanda Margison and Inessa Petersen  
Meghan Gariepy, Matt Griem and Joel Harden  
Heather Currie  
Mistie Mullarkey  
Heath Packman

#### Constituency Group Representatives

Student Artists' Constituency Group  
Students of Colour Constituency Group  
Students with Disabilities' Constituency Group  
Francophone Students' Constituency Group  
Mature and Part-time Students' Constituency Group  
\*Transgendered, Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Constituency Group  
International Students' Constituency Group  
Women's Constituency Group

Linda Szasz  
Zahra Habib  
Alexandra Free and Anthony Nelson  
Lindsey Scully  
Todd Bosak  
Margaret Cameron and Amanda Wheeler  
Vacant  
Erin George and Janelle Ho-Shing

#### Coordinators

British Columbia Representative/National Chairperson-elect  
British Columbia Representative-elect

Michael Conlon  
Maura Parte

#### Staff

Executive Officer-British Columbia  
Internal Coordinator

Michael Mancinelli  
Lucy Watson

### 1. MOTIONS REFERRED FROM OPENING PLENARY

#### a. Proposal to Develop and Implement Full Congruency Plan

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion (99/05:N10):

✓ 99/05:N10

#### MOTION

Local 73/Local 9

Whereas the need to have congruency of membership between the Federation and its provincial components was established as a structural principle of the Federation at the time of its founding; and

Whereas a complete congruency of membership has yet to be achieved; and

Whereas the Federation's strength and effectiveness are reduced as a result; therefore

Be it resolved that a plan for achieving full congruency of membership be developed and implemented by the National Executive during the coming year.

#### b. Proposal to Expand the Definition of a Student Association

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion (99/05:N01) with the subsequent amendment (99/05:OD-1):

## **PAGE 2 — ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

35<sup>th</sup> Semi-Annual National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students  
Wednesday, May 12 - Sunday, May 16, 1999 – Hull, Québec

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### **○ 99/05:N01 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS**

Local 89/Local 44

Be it further resolved that Section 3 of the Definitions in the Bylaws be amended to read:

A local student association will be taken for all purposes of these By-laws to mean an organisation of students which satisfies the following criteria:

- it is locally and democratically controlled;
- it is autonomous from other organisations; and
- it represents students at only one post-secondary institution.

or, the graduate students belonging to an organisation that fulfils these criteria and is comprised of both graduate and undergraduate members, not belonging to the Federation, provided that the graduate students have an identifiable infrastructure and some legal structure enabling it to enter into contracts.

### **99/05:OD-1 MOTION TO AMEND**

Local 75/Local 44

Be it resolved that Motion 99/05:N01 be amended to read as follows:

"Be it further resolved that Section 3 of the Definitions in the Bylaws be amended to read:

A local student association will be taken for all purposes of these By-laws to mean an organisation of students which satisfies the following criteria:

- it is locally and democratically controlled;
- it is autonomous from other organisations; and
- it represents students at only one post-secondary institution.

or, the graduate students belonging to an organisation that fulfils these criteria and is comprised of both graduate and undergraduate members, not belonging to the Federation, provided that the graduate students have an identifiable infrastructure and a legal structure enabling it to enter into contracts."

### **c. Proposal to Eliminate Prospective Membership Fee**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion (99/05:N05) with the subsequent amendment (99/05:OD-2):

### **○ 99/05:N05 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS**

Local 30/Local 18

Be it resolved that Section 2.b.v of Bylaw I be deleted.

### **99/05:OD-2 MOTION TO AMEND**

Local 30/Local 1

Be it resolved that Motion 99/05:N05 be amended to read as follows:

"Be it resolved that Section 2.b.v of Bylaw I be amended to read:

- v. The fee for prospective membership in the Federation shall be 5% of the regular Federation membership fee, notwithstanding that the fee may be waived by a majority vote of the plenary or the National Executive."

### **d. Proposal to Adjust Small Budget Subsidy**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion (99/05:N07):

### **99/05:N07 MOTION TO STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

Local 73/ Local 26

Whereas Standing Resolution #25, Scaled National General Meeting Delegate Fees, provides for reduced delegate and travel pool fees for member locals with budgets under \$150,000.00 per year; and

Whereas Standing Resolution #25 states that "a yearly inflationary adjustment shall be applied upwards to the subsidy ceiling"; and

Where no inflationary adjustments has been made in the past five years; and



Whereas many graduate and college member locals have annual budgets in the \$75,000 to \$200,000.00 range; and

Whereas there is a need to ensure that these locals can each afford to send a second delegate to Federation national general meetings; and

Whereas participation in the Federation has to be and appear to be affordable to prospective graduate and college member locals; and

Whereas, if the ceiling had been \$200,000.00 instead of \$150,000.00 for the previous national general meeting, the travel subsidy would have cost only \$1,483.86 more and the delegate fee subsidy would have cost only \$2,256.37 more for the 51 subsidised delegates; therefore

Be it resolved that reference to "\$150,000.00" and "225,000.00" in Standing Resolution #25 be replaced with "200,000.00" and "\$300,000.00", respectively.

**e. Proposal Concerning the Saskatchewan Component Fee**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion (99/05:N04) with the subsequent amendment (99/05:OD-3):

**o 99/05:N04      MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS**

Local 73/Local 44

Whereas Bylaw VII, Article 1, states that "a provincial component shall be composed of all member locals within a particular province"; and

Whereas Bylaw I, Article 2.a.iii), provides for a provincial component fee; and

Whereas provincial component fees have been established for most provincial components for several years; and

Whereas there has been a Saskatchewan Component fee of \$.50 per student per semester since the formation of the Federation; and

Whereas it has been suggested that the Saskatchewan Component fee should cease to be collected merely because the incorporated entity, Canadian Federation of Students-Saskatchewan, was dissolved in fall 1998; and

Whereas there is no reason that the fee should not continue to be collected and used to fund Federation organizing in Saskatchewan; therefore

Be it resolved that the following Standing Resolution be adopted:

**SASKATCHEWAN COMPONENT FEE**

The provincial component fee for full member locals in Saskatchewan shall \$.50 per student per semester, or \$1.00 per academic year, per local association individual member, pro-rated as per the practice of the local association with respect to the pro-ration of its membership fee.

**99/05:OD-3      MOTION TO AMEND**

Local 9/Local 44

Be it resolved that Motion 99/05:N04 be amended to read:

"Be it resolved that the following Standing Resolution be adopted:

**SASKATCHEWAN COMPONENT FEE**

The provincial component fee for full member locals in Saskatchewan shall \$.50 per student per semester, or \$1.00 per academic year, per local association individual member, pro-rated as per the practice of the local association with respect to the pro-ration of its membership fee.

The provincial component fee shall be allocated for work within the Saskatchewan Component including, but not limited to, membership development, organisational development, campaigns and government relations, and communications. In the event that internal provincial component structures do not exist, any expenditures of component funds will be undertaken in consultation with the Saskatchewan representative on the National Executive."

**f. Aboriginal Caucus Funding**

The Committee recommends that the following motion (99/05:N08) be referred to the National Executive:

**99/05:N08 MOTION TO STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

Local 73/Local 44

Whereas the Federation has two functioning national caucuses – the National Aboriginal Caucus and the National Graduate Council; and

Whereas the National Graduate Council receives an annual funding allocation based on the number graduate students belonging to the Federation in a given year; and

Whereas the funding mechanism for the National Graduate Council is established by Standing Resolution and reads as follows:

One-quarter of the annual Federation membership fees paid by individual graduate students belonging to Federation member local associations shall be allocated to the National Graduate Council; and

Whereas the National Aboriginal Caucus also requires a funding mechanism which ensures stability and consistency in its funding from year to year; and

Whereas the number of individual aboriginal students belonging to the Federation is lower than the number of graduate students and, therefore, a higher per individual allocation is necessary; and

Whereas statistics on the number of aboriginal students attending each public college and university in Canada are widely available, thereby making calculation of the allocation relatively easy; therefore

Be it resolved that the following Standing Resolution be adopted:

One-third of the annual Federation membership fees paid by individual aboriginal students belonging to Federation member local associations shall be allocated to the National Aboriginal Caucus.

**99/05:OD-4 MOTION TO REFER**

Local 73/Local 61

Be it resolved that Motion 99/05:N08 be referred to the National Executive; and

Be it further resolved that the National Executive consider this motion in conjunction with the Aboriginal Caucus Executive.

**g. Remuneration of Full-time Members of the National Executive**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion (99/05:N06) with the subsequent amendment (99/05:OD-5):

**o 99/05:N06 MOTION TO ADOPT STANDING RESOLUTION**

Local 73/Local 44

Whereas the full time members of the National Executive-National Chairperson, National Deputy Chairperson and National Treasurer-currently earn \$2,500.00 per month; and

Whereas this salary has not increased for more than a decade; and

Whereas inflation during the past decade has significantly eroded the value of these salaries; and

Whereas the full-time members of the National Executive regularly work 60-80 hours per week in the course of fulfilling their duties; and

Whereas they incur greater costs as a result of working long and unconventional hours; and

Whereas by being full time they lost their student status and, as a result, have to commence repayment of any student loans they may have; and

Whereas the level of remuneration paid to National Executive members should be established by standing resolution; therefore

Be it resolved that the following Standing Resolution be adopted:

**REMUNERATION FOR NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**

The National Chairperson, National Deputy Chairperson and National Treasurer shall:

1. receive a salary of \$2,750.00 per month, prorated for partial months; and
2. have access to the extended health and dental plan available to the Federation's employees.

**99/05:OD-5 MOTION TO AMEND**

Local 73/Local 61

Be it resolved that standing resolution, proposed in Motion 99/05:N06, be amended to read:

**REMUNERATION FOR NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**

The National Chairperson, National Deputy Chairperson and National Treasurer shall:

1. receive a salary of \$2,750.00 per month, and prorated for partial months, to be adjusted each June 1 by the rate of change in the Consumer Price Index, for the greater Ottawa/Hull area, during the previous calendar year; and
2. have access to the extended health and dental plan available to the Federation's employees."

**h. Proposal to Adopt Electoral Procedures**

The Committee recommends that the following motion (99/05:N55) be referred to the National Executive:

**99/05:N55 MOTION TO ADOPT STANDING RESOLUTION**

Local 76/Local 44

Be it resolved that the following Standing Resolution be adopted:

**ELECTORAL PROCEDURES**

**1. Electoral Committee**

The Electoral Committee shall:

- a. consist of any Chief Returning Officer(s) appointed by the National Executive pursuant to Bylaw 6.7;
- b. be introduced to delegates at the opening plenary, and shall at that time:
  - i. review the election procedures of the Federation;
  - ii. list the positions open for election at that meeting; and
  - iii. provide information on how they can be contacted during the national general meeting.
- c. prepare and make available nomination forms for the open positions.
- d. coordinate and monitor the grill session for the at-large positions to be elected, pursuant to Bylaw 6.3a(iv);
- e. hold a mandatory meeting for all candidates running for at-large positions, prior to the grill session, to review the procedures governing the grill session and the elections;
- f. prepare separate ballots for each position;
- g. distribute the ballots to member locals associations that are present at the commencement of the voting period;
- h. count the ballots upon the completion of the voting;
- i. announce the results of the election during the closing plenary session, including the number of ballots cast for each candidate.

**2. Nomination Period**

The times at which nominations open and close shall be set at the opening plenary session as part of the adoption of the block agenda for the national general meeting. Nominations for at-large positions shall be open for at least two and a half days.

**3. Nomination Procedure**

To be nominated, an eligible candidate (as defined in Bylaw 6.1) must submit to the electoral Committee a nomination form signed by two representatives of member local associations present at the national general meeting.

**4. Scrutineers**

Each candidate shall have the right to appoint a scrutineer, not seeking election in the same balloting, to observe the counting of the ballots.

**5. Require Majority**

Pursuant to Bylaw 6.3.a(iii), a nominee must receive a majority of the votes cast in order to be elected. If:

- a. No nominee receives a majority of the votes cast, additional votes shall be taken until one of the nominees receives a majority or until the plenary re-opens nominations for the position;
- b. More than two nominees are running for a position, then the nominee receiving the fewest votes shall be dropped from the next ballot;
- c. Only one nominee is seeking election to a particular position, member locals associations shall vote either "yes" or "no" for the nominee.

**6. Proxy Votes**

Where a member local association has duly notified the Speaker of the issuance of a proxy vote pursuant to Bylaw 2.7b, the proxy vote shall be entitled to a ballot in elections for at-large positions. The proxy vote shall only be entitled to a ballot in elections for Caucus and Constituency Group positions if proxy votes are permitted under the Standing Resolutions governing that group and if the proxy vote conforms to the guidelines in that Standing Resolution.

**7. Elections in Caucus and Constituency Groups**

Where this does not contravene the Standing Resolution governing a Caucus or Constituency Group, the Electoral Committee shall oversee the elections of that group in a manner consistent with the guidelines of this policy. All elections for positions on the National Executive shall be subject to ratification by the plenary.

**8. Authority of the Electoral Committee**

- a. on any matter relating to election procedures that is not specified with the Bylaws, Standing Resolutions or Operating Policy, the Electoral Committee shall have the power to make rulings;
- b. such rulings may only be overturned by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the plenary at the national general meeting, or in the case of a ruling relating to elections within a Caucus or constituency group, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of that group.

**99/05:OD-6 MOTION TO REFER**

Local 46/Local 1

Be it resolved that Motion 99/05:N55 be referred to the National Executive.

**i. Proposals to Amend Bylaw VI, National Executive Elections**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion (98/11:N49):

○ **98/11:N49 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS**

Local 76/Local 44

Be it resolved that all references to the "Women's Commissioner" in Bylaw VI be amended to "Women's Representative".

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion (98/11:N50):

○ **98/11:N50 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS**

Local 76/Local 44

Be it resolved that Bylaw VI, Article 2, be amended to include:

**e. Timing of Elections of the Students' of Colour Commissioner**

The election for the Students' of Colour Commissioner shall be conducted at such times as established by Standing Resolution.

Be it further resolved that Bylaw VI, Article 2, be amended to include:

**f. Timing of Elections of the Francophone Representative**

The election for the Francophone Representative shall be conducted at such times as established by Standing Resolution.

Be it further resolved that Bylaw VI, Article 2, be amended to include:

**g. Timing of Elections of the Women's Representative**

The election for the Women's Representative shall be conducted at such times as established by Standing Resolution.

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion (98/11:N51):

○ **98/11:N51      MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS**

Local 76/Local 44

Be it resolved that Bylaw VI, Article 3, be amended to include:

**f. Procedure for the Election of the Francophone Representative**

The election for the Francophone Representative shall be as established by Standing Resolution.

Be it further resolved that the remainder of Article 3 be renumbered accordingly.

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion (98/11:N52):

○ **98/11:N52      MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS**

Local 76/Local 44

Be it resolved that Bylaw VI, Article 4, be amended to include:

**f. Term of Office for the Francophone Representative**

The term of office for the Francophone Representative shall be as established by Standing Resolution.

Be it further resolved that the remainder of Article 4 be renumbered accordingly.

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion (98/11:N53):

○ **98/11:N53      MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS**

Local 76/Local 44

Be it resolved that Bylaw VI, Article 5, be amended to include:

**e. Removal from Office of the Students' of Colour Commissioner**

The Students' of Colour Representative may be removed from office as established by Standing Resolution.

Be it further resolved that Bylaw VI, Article 5, be amended to include:

**f. Removal from Office of the Francophone Representative**

The Francophone Representative may be removed from office as established by Standing Resolution.

Be it further resolved that the remainder of Article 5, be renumbered accordingly.

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion (98/11:N54):

○ **98/11:N54      MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS**

Local 76/Local 44

Be it resolved that Bylaw VI, Article 6, be amended to include:

**e. Vacancy in the Position of Students' of Colour Commissioner**

A vacancy in a position of Students' of Colour Representative shall be filled in a manner as established by Standing Resolution.

Be it further resolved that Bylaw VI, Article 6, be amended to include:

**f. Vacancy in the Position of Francophone Representative**

A vacancy in a position of Francophone Representative shall be filled in a manner as established by Standing Resolution.

Be it further resolved that the remainder of Article 6, be renumbered accordingly.

**j. Proposal to Repeal Bilingualism Requirement for Deputy Chairperson**

The Committee recommends unanimously the adoption of the following motion (99/05:N09) with the subsequent amendment (99/05:OD-7):

**99/05:N09 MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

Local 73/Local 44

Be it resolved that all references to "or National Deputy Chairperson" in Bylaw VI, Articles 1c and 1d, be removed; and

Be it further resolved that all references to "and National Deputy Chairperson" and "or National Deputy Chairperson" in Standing Resolution 21 be removed.

**99/05:OD-7 MOTION TO AMEND**

Local 73/ Local 54

Be it resolved that Motion 99/05:N09 be amended to read as follows:

"Be it resolved that all references to "or National Deputy Chairperson" in Bylaw VI, Articles 1c and 1d, be removed; and

Be it further resolved that Standing Resolution 21 be amended to include:

**Second Language Proficiency for National Deputy Chairperson**

In the event that a member elected to the position of National Deputy Chairperson is not proficient in the second language, the individual will be required to receive training in basic language skills and Federation terminology, between the time of election and the assumption of the position.

Be it further resolved that all references to "National Deputy Chairperson in Standing Resolution 21, Section 1 be removed."

**k. Proposal to Amend Assessment of Second Language Proficiency of Nominees for National and Deputy Chairperson**

The Committee recommends unanimously the adoption of the following motion (99/05:N41):

**99/05:N41 MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

Local 76/Local 44

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 21, Section 2.a., be amended to read:

- a) The Aboriginal Caucus shall notify the National Executive in writing, a minimum of six (6) weeks prior to a national general meeting, of a request to activate the Language Criteria/Evaluation Committee.

The Committee recommends unanimously the adoption of the following motion (99/05:N42):

**99/05:N42 MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

Local 76/Local 44

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 21, Section 2.b., be amended to read:

- b) The Language Criteria/Evaluation Committee for the Aboriginal language requirements shall be comprised of language speaker(s), the nominee(s), the National Executive Representative and/or the Chairperson of the Aboriginal Caucus.

The Committee recommends unanimously the adoption of the following motion (99/05:N43):

**99/05:N43 MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

Local 76/Local 44

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 21, Section 2.c., amended to read:

- c) The decision of the language speaker(s) shall be ratified by the Aboriginal Caucus and shall be final.

**I. Proposal to Amend Standing Resolution 18, National Graduate Council**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion (99/05:N25) with the subsequent amendment (99/05:OD-8):

**99/05:N25 MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

Local 76/Local 44

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 18, Section 6c., be amended to read:

**c. Eligibility**

A nominee for the position of Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson or National Executive Representative must be a registered graduate student and an individual member of the Federation.

**99/05:OD-8 MOTION TO AMEND**

Local 76/Local 44

Be it resolved that Motion 99/05:N25 be amended to read:

"Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 18, Section 6c., be amended to read:

**c. Eligibility**

A nominee for the position of Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson or National Executive Representative must be a registered graduate student from a full member local association of the Federation."

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion (99/05:N26):

**99/05:N26 MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

Local 76/Local 44

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 18, Section 7a. vi., be removed; and

Be it further resolved that the remaining articles be renumbered accordingly.

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion (99/05:N27):

**99/05:N27 MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

Local 76/Local 44

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 18, Section 7d. viii., be amended to read:

- viii. shall be responsible for coordinating production and maintenance of the Council web site.

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion (99/05:N28):

**99/05:N28 MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

Local 76/Local 44

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 18, Section 8f. ii., be amended to read:

- ii. In rare and extenuating circumstances the National Graduate Council Executive shall consider an appeal to subsidise in full or in part the attendance of a member local which would otherwise be precluded from attending. Any such approval would proceed on an emergency basis and be subject to financial constraints. Funding for such delegates would not take precedence over any existing budget line items.

**m. Proposal to Amend Standing Resolution 17, Aboriginal Caucus**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion (99/05:N31):

**99/05:N31 MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

Local 76/Local 44

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 17, Section 2., be amended to include the following:

- a) to support and uphold the Declaration of Aboriginal Student Rights

Be it further resolved that the remaining articles be renumbered accordingly.

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion (99/05:N32):

**99/05:N32 MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

Local 76/Local 44

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 17, Section 3.c.ii, be amended to read:

- ii. provide delegate(s) from its Aboriginal student members for the purpose of voting in Caucus meetings;

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion (99/05:N33):

**99/05:N33 MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

Local 76/Local 44

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 17, Section 4.c.ii., be amended to read:

- ii. upon receipt of a petition signed by (10) ten member associations.

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion (99/05:N34) with the subsequent amendment (99/05:OD-9):

**99/05:N34 MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

Local 76/Local 44

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 17, Section 4.f, be amended to read:

The most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of all Caucus general meeting provisions; however, the Caucus reserves the right to temporarily suspend Robert's Rules of Order in favour of consensus building methods.

**99/05:OD-9 MOTION TO AMEND**

Local 73/Local 13

Be it resolved that Motion 99/05:N34 be amended to read:

"Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 17, Section 4.f, be amended to read:

The most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of all Caucus general meeting, notwithstanding that the Caucus may temporarily suspend Robert's Rules of Order and use building methods in its place."

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion (99/05:N35) with the subsequent amendment (99/05:OD-10):

**99/05:N35 MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

Local 76/Local 44

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 17, Section 5.b., be amended to read:

The term of office for:

- i. the Caucus Chairperson and National Executive Representative shall be one year, commencing upon the close of Federation semi-annual general meeting following election and expiring at the succeeding Federation semi-annual general meeting.
- ii. provincial component Aboriginal Representatives shall be one year according to provincial component elections.

**99/05:OD-10 MOTION TO AMEND**

Local 30/Local 13

Be it resolved that Motion 99/05:N35 be amended to read:



"Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 17, Section 5.b., be amended to read:

The term of office for:

- i. the Caucus Chairperson and National Executive Representative shall be one year, commencing upon the close of Federation semi-annual general meeting following election and expiring at the succeeding Federation semi-annual general meeting.
- ii. provincial component Aboriginal Representatives shall be one year in accordance with the provincial component bylaws.

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion (99/05:N36):

**99/05:N36      MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTIONS**  
Local 76/Local 44

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 17, Section 5, be amended to include:

c) **Vacancy**

In the event of a vacancy in the position of National Executive Aboriginal Representative, the Caucus executive shall appoint an Acting National Executive Aboriginal Representative from the Caucus Executive until an election can be held.

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion (99/05:N37):

**99/05:N37      MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTIONS**  
Local 76/Local 44

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 17, Section 6.a., be amended to read:

The Chairperson shall be elected at the annual general meeting of the Federation each year by the members of the Caucus.

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion (99/05:N38):

**99/05:N38      MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTIONS**  
Local 76/Local 44

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 17, Section 6.e.iv., be amended to read:

- iv. In the event that only one nominee is seeking a particular position, member associations will vote either "yes" or "no" for the nominee. In the event of an affirmed "no" vote, the Caucus may re-open nominations exclusively for that position.

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion (99/05:N39):

**99/05:N39      MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTIONS**  
Local 76/Local 44

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 17, Section 7.a., be amended to include the following:

- i. contacting and informing all member locals about Caucus meetings;

Be it further resolved that the remaining articles be renumbered accordingly.

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion (99/05:N40):

**99/05:N40      MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTIONS**  
Local 76/Local 44

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 17, Section 7.c., be amended to include the following:

- i. shall chair all Caucus meetings;

Be it further resolved that the remaining articles be renumbered accordingly.

## **2. MOTIONS REFERRED FROM WOMEN'S CONSTITUENCY GROUP**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion:

### **99/05:OD-11 MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

Local 76/Local 44

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 14, Section 1, be amended to include:

- a. provide a setting for women at national general meetings to evaluate the political climate within which women's issues are confronted.

Be it further resolved that the remaining sections be renumbered accordingly.

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion:

### **99/05:OD-12 MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

Local 76/Local 44

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 14 be amended to include:

#### **2. Purpose**

At each national general meeting, the Constituency Group shall:

- a. appoint representatives to the national plenary standing sub-committees;
- b. discuss national general meeting motions that are of concern to members of the constituency group;
- c. discuss campaigns to be implemented by the Constituency Group;
- d. determine a budget for the Constituency Group;
- e. discuss any other business of concern to members of the Constituency Group.

Be it resolved that the remaining articles be renumbered accordingly.

The Committee recommends defeat of the following motion:

### **99/05:OD-13 MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

Local 76/Local 44

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 14, be amended to include:

#### **Basis of Unity**

Women's Constituency Group is a group of women and transgendered delegates working on what are collectively determined as feminist issues within the Federation and communities. It is acknowledged that systemic oppression based on social and political factors including, but not limited to, racism, ableism, homophobia, heterosexism, ageism, classism, anti-semitism, religion, language and their intersections are women's issues and the members of the constituency group will work to ensure the inclusivity of the women's movement and the student movement.

## **3. MOTIONS DEVELOPED BY THE COMMITTEE**

### **a. Proposal to Amend Standing Resolution 14, Women's Constituency Group**

### **99/05:OD-14 MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

Local 8/Local 18

Be it resolved that all references to "Women's Commissioner" in Standing Resolution 14 be replaced with "Women's Representative";

Be it further resolved that references to "Women's Commissioner" in Section 3c, Standing Resolution 14 be replaced with "Women's Representative";

Be it further resolved that all references to "Women's Commissioner" in Section 5, Standing Resolution 14 be deleted;

Be it further resolved that Section 6, Standing Resolution 14 be deleted in its entirety and the remaining sections renumbered accordingly;

Be it further resolved that Standing Resolution 14, Section 7a, be amended to read:

- a) facilitate Constituency Group meetings during national general meetings

Be it further resolved that Standing Resolution 14, Section 7 f, be amended to read:

- f) communicate regularly with designated women's officers from provincial components

**o 99/05:OD-15 MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

Local 18/Local 75

Be it resolved that the reference to "all women and transgendered people" in Standing Resolution 14, Section 2 be replaced with "all women including transgendered people."

**b. Directive Regarding the Application of Scaled Nat'l General Meeting Delegate Fees**

**99/05:OD-16 MOTION**

Local 35/Local 44

Be it resolved that in the case of multi-campus institutes, the formula for the scaled national general meeting delegate fees be applied to the budget of the executive body of the institute rather than the combined budgets of the individual campuses.

**99/05:OD-17 MOTION TO REFER**

Local 35/Local 44

Be it resolved that Motion 99/05:OD-16 be referred to the National Executive.

**c. Proposed Deadline for the Production of Materials**

**99/05:OD-18 MOTION**

Local 24/Local 9

Whereas promotion of the Federation, such as its existence, services and campaigns, is a vital component of building the student movement; and

Whereas orientation week(s) and the beginning of the academic year are prime opportunities to promote the Federation to students; therefore

Be it resolved that the national communication tools of the Federation, including the Student Union Directory, Studentsaver Card and enclosure, Organising Manual, No means No campaign and preliminary Access 2000 campaign materials be prepared, printed and distributed to member locals by the second week of August.

**d. Proposal to Invite Former Local 36 to the Next National General Meeting**

**99/05:OD-19 MOTION**

Local 46/Local 9

Be it resolved that a representative of the Sir Wilfred Grenfell College Students' Union be invited to attend the November 1999 annual national general meeting.

