

LETTER TO THE MEMBERS

Dear Members,

We are pleased to submit for your consideration the following report of our work over the past six months. Despite continuing human resource shortages, the Federation has sustained an exacting pace since the November 1999 annual general meeting. Student issues and the Federation's messages have consistently received attention from the nation's major media outlets, with a particularly welcome upsurge of attention from the televised media. Most notably, the February 2, 2000 day of action garnered significant, positive media coverage and struck a chord not only with thousands of students, but with Canadians in general.

Due in part to the high-profile lobbying and mobilising campaigns of the Federation on key student issues such as tuition fees, funding, student loans, date rape, and global trade liberalisation, several new members will be joining Canada's national student organisation this spring.

By strengthening the membership and by continuing to reach out to like-minded movements and the broader public, the Federation can build on the momentum generated by the February 2 day of action and the Seattle protests against global trade liberalisation.

As students, we have built on the work of our predecessors to solidify a strong and effective movement. In the months ahead, we look forward to turning this movement to the important task of fighting off the growing corporate influence on our campuses.

In Solidarity,
The National Executive

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CAMPAIGNS & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Access 2000, The Campaign for Higher Education

INTRODUCTION

Since 1995, the federal government has cut billions of dollars from funding of post-secondary education and other social programmes. Student tuition fees have more than doubled since 1990 and student debt has been recognised as reaching crisis proportions.

In the fall of 1998 in response to a growing sense of urgency around post-secondary issues, *Access 2000* was launched, with the main goal of building a comprehensive foundation of support for the restoration of social programme funding.

OVERALL CAMPAIGN STRATEGY AND DEMANDS

Access 2000 was intended to provide a long-term campaign strategy that strove to define the terms of debate and positively influence the public policy agenda, by establishing continuity and momentum over an extended period of time.

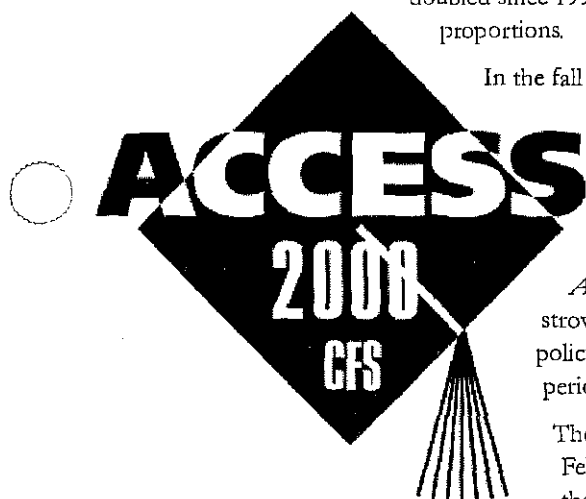
The *Access 2000* campaign culminated in a day of strike and action on February 2, 2000. The campaign was guided by four key demands on the federal government:

- restore the \$3.7 billion cut from higher education since 1993;
- create a comprehensive system of grants, not loans;
- negotiate tuition fee freezes, and eventually the elimination of all user fees, with the provinces; and
- establish national standards for access to higher education in Canada.

As the business sector increased pressure on governments to seek private solutions for the crisis in post-secondary education, the Federation decided that a broad mobilisation of the membership was required to widen public support. Additionally, *Access 2000* undertook to increase the number of activists involved locally.

For some member locals, this meant strike action, while for others rallies, sit-ins, forums, fax-ins, and other tactics were employed. To garner public support, member locals were encouraged to undertake petition-signing drives and other activities designed to take the campaign beyond the campuses.

In addition, the Federation's ongoing campaigns for improvements to student financial assistance and to secure an increase in the level of tax exemption for student grants,



Campaigns and Government Relations

bursaries and other awards were highlighted as part of the *Access 2000* campaign.

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

February – May 1999

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

June 1999 – August 1999

Work commenced on the production of materials and on preparations for campus organising. Research was undertaken on corporate rule in education. Coalition work was invigorated at all levels.

September 1999 – February 2000

Buildup to the February 2, 2000 Day of Strike and Action included preparation for the 2000 federal budget; the production and distribution of *Access 2000* fact sheets; and the production and distribution of other materials to assist with campus organising.

Activities after the November 1999 national general meeting focused on mobilising efforts. The implementation of the mobilisation strategy required a consolidation of resources within the national office, several short-term hirings across the country to provide support for national and local organising, and the production of materials.

What follows is a report on the culmination of organising for February 2, 2000, with an account of materials produced, research, coalition work, and a brief outline of events in each community that organised an action for February 2. Immediately following this account are detailed reports of other campaign and government relations work over the past six months. Much of this activity occurred in conjunction with *Access 2000* and raised the profile of the campaign.

In particular, activity focused on the government's implementation of Millennium Scholarships and the failed negotiations surrounding the banks' involvement with the Canada Student Loan Program. These issues generated national media

attention and confirmed the Federation as the national voice of students in Canada. In addition to the foregoing report, radio, television, and print coverage is documented in the communications section of this report.

On the heels of the overwhelming media attention generated by lead-up activities and the public outcry about student financial assistance, it was possible to direct media attention towards the Federation's demands and organising activities for the February 2 Day of Strike and Action.

RESEARCH

Although much of the research that underpinned the campaign was completed during the summer and fall of 1999, several fact sheets were produced between the November national general meeting and the day of action.

Since the last general meeting, the following research documents have been produced:

- *Access 2000* Fact Sheet, UI Training Loans: A Debt Sentence for the Unemployed;
- *Access 2000* Fact Sheet, Unemployment Insurance: It's time to restore benefits;
- *Access 2000* Fact Sheet, Tax Cuts Don't Cut It;
- *Access 2000* Backgrounder, Millennium Scholarship Fiasco;
- *Access 2000* Backgrounder, Higher Education and the Alternative Federal Budget;
- *Access 2000* Backgrounder, Unemployment Insurance Training Funds;
- *Access 2000* Backgrounder, Income-Contingent Loans for Training Programmes;
- Précis on changes to the Canada Student Loan Program;
- *Access 2000* Tabloid – Articles on the *Access 2000* campaign, international solidarity work and human rights, and Aboriginal issues;
- *Missing Pieces* – an alternative guide to Canadian post-secondary education, produced in conjunction with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives; and
- "The Betrayal of the Public Trust", a paper delivered at the Canadian Association of University Teachers' conference on corporatisation. This paper was also delivered as part of a keynote panel at the retreat of Boards

of Governors' Chairs in St. John's, Newfoundland.

In addition, as hot-button issues emerged – such as the bank bailout and new details about Millennium Scholarships – analysis and research was undertaken to keep pace with increasing media demands and membership awareness work.

MATERIALS

In the weeks preceding the day of action, the following materials were produced and distributed:

- 30,000 English and 2,000 French 'All Out' posters;
- 10,000 English and 2,000 French 'Strike' posters;
- 75,000 English and 10,000 French Student Issues 2000 tabloids;
- 10,000 English and 1,000 French *Access 2000* poster templates;
- 28,000 English and 8,000 French *Access 2000* buttons, with an additional run of 5,000 English buttons;
- 7000 English placards and 1000 French placards; and
- 1 bilingual banner.

Most of these materials were available and distributed at the November 1999 national general meeting. Since that national general meeting, much time and many resources were spent packaging and distributing the materials across the country to member locals, non-member student unions, community organisations, trade unions, and interested activists. The bulk of the placards were shipped directly from the printer to campaign organisers. On the whole, distribution costs were prohibitive, and the possibility of contracting with printers to serve several different regions across the country is being investigated for future campaigns.

Access 2000 updates for the membership were produced and distributed regularly beginning in January. Updates were produced on January 17, 20, 25, and 28, and February 1 and 7. As with all other *Access 2000* materials these updates were distributed by fax and email, and posted to the web site.

ACCESS 2000 - PETITION DRIVE

In addition to the popular education materials produced, an issues-based petition, directing the demands of the Federation towards the House of Commons, was produced. It was used to focus mobilising efforts and disseminate more widely the principles and goals of the campaign. Eventually, over 40,000 signatures were gathered and presented to the House of Commons prior to the release of the year 2000 federal budget.

Also, a separate "Strike Petition" was devised and distributed to campuses organising strike votes and campus shutdowns. These petitions were not centrally collected, but served as a tool for mobilising students and other supporters at the local level.

ENDORSEMENTS

In addition to media coverage and grassroots mobilising, work with organisations that support the goals of the *Access 2000* campaign was an important feature of organising efforts.

On Tuesday, January 11, the Solidarity Network assisted the Federation in hosting a meeting of other national organisations to discuss support for *Access 2000*. The following organisations attended:

- Canadian Labour Congress;
- Canadian Union of Public Employees;
- National Union of Public and General Employees;
- Council of Canadians;
- National Action Committee on the Status of Women;
- National Anti-Poverty Organisation;
- Public Service Alliance of Canada;
- Communications, Energy and Paperworkers' Union of Canada; and
- Canadian Auto Workers.

At this meeting organisations were encouraged to issue news releases in support of the day of action, and to make donations to the work of the Federation. Ultimately, over \$32,000 in donations was received by the Federation, provincially and nationally.

Campaigns and Government Relations

For the day of action, most of the organisations that were present at the meeting issued news releases or statements in support of the *Access 2000* campaign.

The Canadian Auto Workers union (CAW) donated its graphic design services and space on its public billboards to display the following message across the country prior to the day of action: “Invest the Surplus, Restore Education Funding.”

Regular updates of the endorsement list were published and distributed to the membership. The final list of endorsements included over 130 organisations, among them the Federation’s traditional national and local partners, but also several university and college presidents and Boards of Governors. Other non-traditional supporters included community-based organisations such as Chambers of Commerce, and town and city councils.

Over 200 information packages were sent out in response to individual email and phone queries. An additional 200 packages were sent to individuals who signed and submitted the *Strike 2000* petitions. It is of note that many of these packages went to individuals in New Brunswick and Alberta.

LEAD-UP EVENTS PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 2

Lead-up activities were organised which included local and provincial press conferences, forums, and information tables.

Some member locals organised strike votes to determine the extent of support for shutting down the campus on February 2. Where such votes were organised, the voter turnout was high and the tactic was overwhelmingly adopted.

At Lakehead University, students camped out in tents using the slogan “Freezin’ to Freeze Fees.” This event proved very effective in garnering media exposure and in increasing awareness of the campaign.

MASS MOBILISATION ON FEBRUARY 2

In all, events took place in more than 50 cities and towns across Canada.

What follows is a summary of events across the country:

British Columbia

Vancouver

Roughly 3,000 students from colleges and universities the Vancouver area took to the streets with a rally and march that stopped at the head offices of three banks: the Royal Bank, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and the Bank of Montreal.

Victoria

Over 2,500 Victoria-area students demonstrated at the downtown rally. Pickets were set up at the University of Victoria and Camosun College, where students had voted to conduct strike action as part of the February 2 events.

Cranbrook, Creston

Dozens of students from Local 86 marched and rallied in Creston and Cranbrook, adding their voices to the day’s events.

Castlegar, Fruitvale, and Trail

Students and their supporters used February 2 as an opportunity to collect signatures on petitions and send messages to their Member of Parliament.

Nanaimo

Over 250 students and their supporters mobilised in Nanaimo, following a press conference organised by the Malaspina Students’ Union.

Prince George

About 125 College of New Caledonia students joined their counterparts from the University of Northern British Columbia in a rally.

Terrace, Prince Rupert and Smithers

More than 50 students and faculty rallied in front of Reform Member of Parliament Mike Scott’s office – half stayed outside chanting while the rest staged a sit-in in the MP’s office until he signed the *Access 2000* petition. In Prince Rupert, students held an information session and dropped off petitions at the office of Premier and local Member of the Legislative Assembly Dan Miller, urging him to lobby the federal government for more funding.

Campaigns and Government Relations

Campbell River, Comox, and Port Alberni

Information sessions and petition drives were conducted in Comox, Port Alberni and Campbell River.

Alberta

Edmonton

After workshops in the morning, 200 students rallied in the Student Union Building at the University of Alberta. Organisers handed out change for pay phones taped to politicians' phone numbers, encouraging fellow students to phone and send their message directly to government.

Calgary

Approximately two hundred Mount Royal College students rallied on campus at their student union building. At the University of Calgary, students held a one-day soup kitchen to decry an impending 5.15% increase in tuition fees this fall.

Grande Prairie

A boisterous crowd of over 100 placard-waving students rallied against rising tuition fees at Grande Prairie Regional College. A student dressed as the Grim Reaper and a cardboard coffin was used to symbolise the death of accessible education that would be the result of government inaction. Students also called for a publicly-elected college administrative board, in response to the current board's decision to allow tuition fees at Grand Prairie Regional College to increase by another 10.5%.

Lethbridge

Students at the University of Lethbridge participated in a day of activities on campus, including forums, political theatre, banner-making, petition-signing, and letter-writing.

Saskatchewan

Regina

Between 1,200 and 1,500 people attended events scheduled throughout the day at the University of Regina. Events included the creation of a debt wall, on which students posted their current debts.

One highlight was the Jean Chrétien piñata, containing chocolate loonies representing the federal budget surplus. Member of Parliament Lorne Nystrom struck the winning blow, allowing students to "take back the surplus".

Manitoba

Winnipeg

About 2000 students rallied, then marched to the Human Resources Development Canada offices downtown. Students at the University of Winnipeg and the Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface both took strike action, shutting down their campuses for the day. Students from the University of Manitoba and Red River Community College joined the demonstration. At the rally, students carried placards and wore *Access 2000* toques.

Brandon

After a local event in the early morning in which hundreds of students participated, students from Brandon University travelled to Winnipeg to participate in the rally.

Ontario

Ottawa

Despite the temperature of minus 25 degrees Celsius, hundreds of students rallied at the University of Ottawa. At Carleton University, picket lines were set up. Students from Carleton met protesters at the University of Ottawa to march to Parliament Hill. Students from St. Paul's University and local high schools also attended the spirited demonstration of over 2,500 students, trade unionists and other social justice activists on Parliament Hill.

Federation National Deputy Chairperson Elizabeth Carlyle spoke on behalf of the Federation and introduced the other speakers at the event in front of the parliament buildings. Speakers included: James Pratt of the Carleton University Students' Association; Joel Duff, National Graduate Council Deputy Chairperson and President of the Graduate Students' Association of the University of Ottawa; Jim Turk of the Canadian Association of University

Campaigns and Government Relations

Teachers; New Democratic Party leader Alexa McDonough; Bloc Québécois Member of Parliament Stéphan Tremblay; Joan Grant-Cummings of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women; Marilyn Buffalo of the National Council of Aboriginal Women; and Maude Barlow of the Council of Canadians. The beginning of the event was fed live to CBC Newsworld.

Kitchener-Waterloo

Dozens of students in Kitchener-Waterloo marched with picket signs and placards chanting "Grants not Loans". One hundred students attended a panel discussion on post-secondary education issues at the University of Waterloo.

London

Roughly 100 secondary and post-secondary students marched to the office of Diane Cunningham, Ontario Minister of Universities and Colleges. Over 50 students travelled by bus to join the demonstration in Toronto.

Sault Ste. Marie

Fifty students and their supporters rallied in Sault Ste. Marie.

Sudbury

About 400 Laurentian University students marched from Bell Park to the Grand Theatre. Motorists honked their horns and waved in support of the march. Members of the Association des étudiantes et étudiants francophones de l'Université Laurentienne organised mural and window painting.

Thunder Bay

The more than 80 Lakehead University students who had been camping out and "Freezin' to Freeze the Fees" for a week left their camp for the picket lines. Some 500 students marched through the streets to the office of their Member of Parliament.

North Bay

About 35 Nipissing University students stood outside Premier Mike Harris's constituency office with megaphones and placards to demand more money for education. The students then headed for federal Member of Parliament Bob Wood's office.

Windsor

Over 500 people participated in events throughout the day. At the noon rally, speakers ranged from high school students to the Windsor Faculty Association. Ken Laewenza from the Canadian Auto Workers also addressed the rally. A march

through the downtown culminated at the Human Resources Development building. Later in the afternoon and evening, some 50 people participated in workshops.

Guelph

Over 600 students demonstrated in Guelph before travelling to Toronto to join the rally.



Kingston

In one of the city's largest rallies in recent memory, over 1,500 students and their supporters demonstrated in Kingston.

Toronto

Five thousand people from post-secondary institutions throughout Toronto participated in the student march and rally that started at Ryerson Polytechnic University. In the morning, picket lines were set up at York University and Ryerson University.

Those addressing the rally included: Michael Conlon, National Chairperson of the Federation; Joel Harden, Ontario Chairperson; Bill Graham of the Canadian Association of University Teachers; Dr. Marie Bountriogianni, Ontario Liberal Critic for Post-Secondary Education; Howard Hampton, Ontario Leader of the New Democratic Party; and Buzz Hargrove, President of the Canadian Auto

Workers. Comment from Conlon was fed live to CTV's national news show.

Québec

Montreal

Roughly 300 students marched through downtown Montreal calling for a restoration of federal education spending. Students from McGill, Concordia and Université de Québec à Montréal gathered downtown to voice their demands. Prior to the rally, the Concordia Students' Union held a general meeting that was attended by several hundred students.

Prince Edward Island

Charlottetown

Hundreds of University of Prince Edward Island students protested the state of higher education at a Kraft Dinner lunch organised by the University of Prince Edward Island Student Union. An evening panel discussion included: Wade MacLauchlan, President of the University of Prince Edward Island; Chester Gillan, PEI Minister of Education; Robert Maddix, PEI Opposition Education Critic; and Leo Broderick, New Democratic Party Representative and member of the PEI legislature.

Nova Scotia

Sydney

At the University College of Cape Breton cafeteria, a series of speakers talked to a lunchtime crowd nearing 1000. Several hundred students signed the *Access 2000* petition and an information table was continually crowded with about 100 students at a time.

Stellarton

The Pictou Campus Students' Association of the Nova Scotia Community College organised a noontime barbeque and teach-in.

Wolfville

A rally was organised in front of the Acadia University Library, after which students from Acadia University, Horton High School and

Central King's High School boarded a bus bound for the Halifax rally. About 200 signatures were gathered on the *Access 2000* petition.

Halifax

The Nova Scotia College of Art and Design was completely shut down by information pickets set up at 8 am. Likewise, the University of King's College was virtually empty as a result of morning pickets. After rallying at Dalhousie University, students marched downtown, meeting contingents from St. Mary's University, Mount St. Vincent University, the Nova Scotia Community College, Queen Elizabeth High School, Acadia University, Horton High School and Central King's High School and the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. Trade unionists and other social justice activists joined the marchers. In all, roughly 2000 people participated in the rally.

New Brunswick

Edmonton

About 250 students demonstrated at the office of Jean Dubé, the local Member of Parliament, to demand a restoration of federal education funding. Handmade placards read: "J'étudie, donc je crève!" [I study, therefore I go without] and "Les études m'inspirent, les factures m'expirent!" [My studies inspire me, but the fees kill me].

Fredericton

About 100 students from St. Thomas University and the University of New Brunswick demonstrated and collected signatures on *Access 2000* petitions.

Shippagan

Dozens of students in Shippagan participated in February 2 events, including a rally and an *Access 2000* petition-signing drive.

Moncton

Chanting "enough is enough" and "education is a right, not a privilege" students at the Université de Moncton closed their campus in a one-day strike. News coverage of the event included national television coverage and a picture of the strike in the Montreal Gazette.

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Newfoundland

Grand Falls-Windsor

Hundreds of students from the College of the North Atlantic, Die Trac Technical Institute, and high school students from Exploits Valley High marched on the provincial building.

Labrador West-Wabush

About 60 students – half of the student population at the College of the North Atlantic's Wabush-Labrador campus – marched to the office of the two local mayors, where Steelworkers joined them. Students asked the mayors to add their voices to the call for increased funding for education.

Gander

Roughly 300 students from the Gander campus of the College of the North Atlantic participated in a rally and march.

Corner Brook

About 400 students in Corner Brook demonstrated.

Clarenville

Over 100 students from the College of the North Atlantic's Clarenville Campus marched to the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce to protest rising student debt and against the transfer of an additional \$100 million to the banks for administering student loans.

Carbonear

About 45 Carbonear students rallied in solidarity with students across the country.

Port-aux-Basques

Fifty percent of the students attending the Port-aux-Basques Campus of the College of the North Atlantic marched.

St. John's

Over 1,500 students from post-secondary institutions in the St. John's area demonstrated. The rally started at Memorial University and finished at the provincial legislative buildings. Speakers at the rally included the provincial Minister of Education, the President of the

Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour, the President of the Memorial University Faculty Association, and a representative from Oxfam.

IMPACT OF THE CAMPAIGN

The *Access 2000* campaign was successful in raising the profile of the funding and policy crisis in higher education in Canada to levels unprecedented since 1995.

Member locals participated in the campaign at many different levels including campus shutdowns and strikes on campuses where the membership had been relatively inactive or where a student strike had never before been organised. Rallies and protests in mid-sized urban centres such as Winnipeg and Halifax were larger than they have been for nearly ten years. Small, remote communities and new member locals that had seldom or never organised a demonstration had successful rallies, forums, and marches. Equally notable was the enthusiastic participation of several campuses in Alberta and New Brunswick.

The Federation broke through barriers in gaining positive and substantial television coverage. The campaign also enjoyed a significant increase in both the amount and broadness of radio airtime, and was featured on some of the most listened-to talk-radio stations across the country.

Despite the primacy of tax cuts in the measures announced in the 2000 federal budget, the Federation achieved concrete victories: a significant increase in the tax-exemption for student scholarships, grants, and fellowships; a continuing commitment from the federal government not to implement income-contingent loan repayment schemes; the withdrawal of the big banks from student loan administration and collection; and ongoing, widespread public awareness about the need for increased funding for higher education and student financial assistance.

Finally, the Federation's work has had an impact on the provincial level, laying the groundwork for victories such as: the 10% tuition fee rollback and new bursary programme in Manitoba; a tuition fee freeze at the University of Prince Edward Island; a

renewed tuition fee freeze in British Columbia; and the renewal of the tuition fee freeze in Quebec. In Ontario, the provincial government announced a 2% cap on tuition fee increases for regulated programmes – a significant improvement over the typical 10%-plus tuition fee increases implemented over the previous four years. An Angus Reid Poll conducted during the week immediately following the February 2 day of action showed that 82% of Ontarians opposed further tuition fee increases.

Meeting with Human Resources Development Minister Jane Stewart

With pressure mounting on the federal government to address the crisis in student financial assistance, the Federation was in regular communication with senior officials in the Ministry of Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) and in the office of HRDC Minister Jane Stewart.

The Federation issued an invitation to the HRDC Minister to join the representatives from both federal opposition parties in addressing the students and supporters that would rally on Parliament Hill on February 2. Stewart declined, but did agree to meet with a delegation later in the day. Federation representatives met for over an hour with Stewart, one of her senior assistants, and Thomas Townsend, senior bureaucrat for HRDC's Learning and Literacy directorate. The demands of the campaign were stated, and Stewart agreed that higher education is a priority for Canadians. She also acknowledged that tuition fees had increased astronomically over the past decade, but attempted to shift responsibility for the situation to provincial governments.

Student Financial Assistance

In 1995 the federal government entered into risk sharing agreements with two of Canada's chartered banks (Royal Bank and Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce). Under the agreement, the banks financed the Canada Student Loans Programme program in exchange for a 5% risk-sharing premium. In essence, the premium acted as insurance against those loans the bank

was unable to collect over the life of the agreement. Under the agreement, over \$300 million has been transferred to the banks to insulate them from fiscal risk on the delivery of the CSLP. As that agreement neared expiration, the federal government entered into negotiations with the banks to strike a new five-year deal.

In January, details of the negotiations were leaked to the media and it was reported that the federal government had offered to increase the premium to 7% for public institutions and 23% for private institutions. The most controversial aspect of the federal government's offer was the provision that these premiums would reach back to existing loans disbursed under the agreement signed in 1995. This amounted to a further payment of \$100 million to the banks for the 1995-2000 period, in addition to an offer that would nearly double the amount they would receive as a risk-sharing premium under a new contract. *The Globe and Mail* broke the story of the proposed terms with a front page piece on Monday, January 24 that featured comment from the Federation.

Later that day, National Chairperson Michael Conlon was featured live as the feature interview on CBC Newsworld. A flurry of national and local media interest followed. The coverage was overwhelmingly critical of the federal government's offer to the banks. Despite growing public opposition to the terms of the risk-sharing agreement, the banks actually rejected the aforementioned offer to extend the contract and made a counterproposal that would have been even more lucrative. Late in February negotiations broke off and, on March 9, the banks held a press conference to announce that they were withdrawing from the CSLP as of the expiration of the current contract on July 31, 2000.

The opposition to the transfer of public funds to private banks that the Federation helped to mobilise had made it politically difficult for the federal government to agree to the banks' demands for even more public money. It was because of the Federation's efforts, and the federal government's consequent lack of commitment to negotiations, that the banks ultimately withdrew from the CSLP.

Campaigns and Government Relations

After a briefing with HRDC officials on March 9, the Federation held a press conference with the Canadian Association of University Teachers that was carried live on CTV.

On Monday, April 11, the Federation participated in a meeting of the National Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance, a forum through which Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) keeps stakeholders apprised of the administration of the Canada Student Loan program. The Federation was represented by National Chairperson Michael Conlon and Researcher Denise Doherty-Delorme. The agenda for the April 11 meeting was dominated by the banks' withdrawal from the CSLP.

In detailing the chronology of events surrounding the withdrawal, Thomas Townsend, Director General of the Canada Student Loan Program, confirmed the Federation's analysis of risk-sharing agreements by admitting that the program could not be delivered economically by a for-profit enterprise. This point was made abundantly clear when Townsend explained the role that the banks' 'hurdle rate' played in the negotiations. In financial parlance, the hurdle rate represents the rate of return on investment deemed acceptable to a banks' shareholders. In essence, Townsend cast doubt over the bank's specious claims that they were losing \$200 million a year on the student loan portfolio. In reality, Townsend's reference to the hurdle rate likely means that the banks claim of \$200 million dollar losses is actually the opportunity cost of the money disbursed under the CSLP. In short, the banks left the program because the profit margin was not sufficient.

Determining the exact nature of the federal government's relationship with the banks, however, will be impossible as both Human Resources Development Canada and the banks refuse to release data on the program. The banks have also consistently refused to release the methodology they use to account for the program. Townsend noted that one of the advantages of the deal falling through was that the program would now be subject to a standard of transparency one would expect of a social program funded by the public.

Federation representatives and others at the table noted with some disgust that at the March 9 press conference, previously secret data had been released that showed that the default rate had actually decreased between 1996 and 1997. The entire *post mortem* discussion of the banks' involvement confirmed the Federation's analysis in 1995: that risk sharing agreements were bad fiscal and social policy. In addition to the fiscal pressures the banks put on the program, they were also able to leverage several very regressive policy measures from the federal government, including credit checks on student loan applicants and the 10 year prohibition on those eligible to declare bankruptcy on student loans. The consensus around the table was that the CSLP was better off without Canada's chartered banks.

The April 11 meeting also outlined where the program is headed over the next 18 months. For the academic year beginning September 2000, the CSLP will be financed by the federal government and administered by a private service bureau. This new model of funding will introduce a third type of student loan currently in circulation. It is possible that some students will have a CSL under the pre-1995 system of guaranteed loans, a loan under the risk-sharing agreements covering 1995-2000, and finally a new direct finance loan in 2000. HRDC officials assured the committee that students would see little or no disruption in the disbursement of loans this fall. That said, there is still no agreement in place to have the chartered banks deposit loans. However, because the financial risk to the banks has been eliminated Townsend was certain an agreement would be reached. In terms of repayment, students will, in essence, be paying back three separate federal student loans if they find themselves in the anomalous situation outlined above. The Government of Canada will hold and collect the pre-1995 loans as well as the new direct-finance loan. As per the risk-sharing agreements, the banks are responsible for collecting and administering loans disbursed between July of 1995 and July of 2000.

One significant change brought by the withdrawal of the banks from federal student loans is that government has changed the definition of default

from 90 days under the banks to 420 days under the direct-financing system. The Federation has long argued that 90 days was a very short period considering the punitive consequences of having a loan in default. At this point HRDC has not committed to any extension and, at a later meeting, suggested that the extension of the default period may only be an internal change that will not change the 90 day trigger for restrictions on CSLP programs. Currently, a student is deemed to be in default if they are 90 days behind in payment of the loan and, once designated as a default, that student is no longer eligible for federal loans, provincial loans, interest relief or the Millennium Scholarships. The Federation will continue to vigorously argue for the extension of the 'default window.'

On the whole, however, Townsend was concerned about the increased cost of the program and speculated that current CSLP was under pressure because of high tuition fees and the general increase in educational costs. Townsend hinted broadly that after the current year the CSLP should be thoroughly reviewed. Though the Federation has received assurances that income-contingent schemes are no longer being considered, the withdrawal of banks has made the future direction of the program much less certain.

The federal government has put a tender out for private service bureaus and to date has received thirty-six bids. The government considers eight of the bids serious. At one point, Townsend volunteered that several of those bidding were collection agencies. Immediate concerns were raised about this prospect but Townsend refused to rule out the possibility. However, he did invite the Federation and other groups to a meeting with the organisations short-listed for the contract. At this point, the role of the service bureau will be to administer the loan and collect loans that are in arrears. Several of the groups who have submitted bids are American firms who do a wide variety of work on student aid policy.

Following up on this meeting, National Chairperson Michael Conlon travelled to Toronto on May 5 to participate in a series of interviews with potential service providers for the CSLP to

begin on August 1, 2000. Twelve potential providers made presentations and took questions in the day-long meeting. Of the twelve, 3 were collection agents and two were American companies. American firms are entitled to bid on the program as a result of provisions in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) that prohibit 'monopoly bidding practices.' The Federation submitted a response to HRDC based on observations of the May 5 meeting. In the response was the argument that, as a social program, the CSLP should be administered publicly. Federation representatives also made it very clear to HRDC that the Federation believes that the CSLP should not be administered by a collection agency. The HRDC hopes to have an agreement in place by July 1.

Millennium Scholarship Fiasco

The federal government established the publicly-funded but privately-administered Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation (MSF) and began handing out scholarships to students in January, 2000. When the fund was announced the legislation accompanying it declared that the money would be distributed among provinces based on population levels. In addition, the needs-based portion of the funds would use the same assessment formula as the Canada Student Loan Program. In addition to denying students who do not qualify for a Canada Student Loan, the fund is not available to part-time or graduate students.

The remainder of the criteria for the scholarships not set out in the legislation are determined by a privately-controlled board. The board is chaired by Jean Monty, Chief Executive Officer of Bell Canada Enterprises. After vigorous lobbying from the Federation, the federal government agreed to guarantee that 95% of the funds would go to needs-based grants and that the portion of the remaining 5% that went to merit-based scholarships would be determined by the board of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation. Not surprisingly, the board has chosen to maximise the merit portion at 5%. The Federation voiced opposition to the merit portion of the fund at the

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Foundation's 'search conference' on exceptional merit.

On December 9, the Millennium Scholarship Foundation issued a news release announcing that all provinces with the exception of Quebec had signed agreements to disburse scholarships in January 2000. The Federation issued a response to the Foundation's release and Federation representatives conducted several interviews with national media on the implementation of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation. The substance of each agreement stipulates that the provinces agree to spend on student financial aid any money saved by the implementation of the MSF. In most provinces, there will be a degree of duplication with existing programs and the provinces have agreed to use the displaced funds for new or enhanced student financial aid programs. In British Columbia, for instance, the MSF overlaps with the existing grants program for first- and second-year students. In essence, students who would have been eligible for grants under the existing BC program now receive those grants through the MSF thereby saving the BC government a sizeable amount of money. In response, the BC government used those savings to extend their grants program to third and fourth year students. However, the implementation of the agreements has had wildly varying results. Nova Scotia and Ontario are of particular concern because they have effectively absconded with the savings from the MSF without putting the money back into student financial aid.

In January, the Federation helped break the story that in Ontario some students would be no better off, or possibly worse off, if they accepted a Millennium Scholarship. Funds for the Millennium Scholarships served to replace the existing provincial loan-forgiveness funds. Students who lose part of their entitlement to this loan-forgiveness programme by accepting the additional assistance offered by a Millennium Scholarship would have been no better off, as the amount of the Scholarship would simply be deducted from their total loan forgiveness.

In addition, given that all but \$500 of a student's income from scholarships and bursaries was taxable (unlike loan remission), a Millennium

Scholarship recipient in Ontario could have ended up paying taxes on her Millennium Scholarship. On a \$3000 Millennium Scholarship, a student could end up paying as much as \$425 in taxes. A student in this situation would in fact be worse off after accepting a Millennium scholarship 'award'.

On Tuesday, January 25, the Federation hosted a news conference at which an Ontario student announced that she would be returning her Millennium Scholarship in light of the province's handling of the funds. The Federation demanded that the federal government make both the Foundation and the Province of Ontario accountable for the debacle.

With the exception of some French-language media outlets (because Quebec was not affected by this development), all major national media attended the news conference. Throughout the day, and for the remainder of the week, a barrage of media coverage ensued. Coverage was substantial in all media: radio, television, and print. Highlights included: syndicated radio interviews not only on CBC's English and French networks, but on nationwide talk-radio networks; television interviews on CTV and other national media outlets.

In the aftermath of the Federation's extensive media coverage of the campaign against the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation, the Federation arranged a series of meetings with MSF officials. On January 28, National Chairperson Michael Conlon and Ontario Internal Coordinator Ashkon Hashemi met with Norman Riddell, Executive Director, and Francoise Rioux, Director of Research, for the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation. The Federation's representatives detailed the problems with the implementation of the programme, with emphasis on the fact that in Ontario the scholarships are actually having a negative impact. Millennium Scholarship Foundation officials stated that they had expected a certain amount of duplication when the program was introduced, but that all of the provinces signed contracts binding them to spend any savings realised by the MSF on student financial aid. Federation representatives quickly pointed to an Ontario cabinet document leaked shortly before Christmas that suggested that the

Ontario government was going to simply fold the MSF savings back into general revenue. Officials of the MSF agreed to work with the Federation to pressure the Ontario government to reinvest the savings as promised. The remainder of this initial meeting focused on general problems with the implementation of the program. It was pointed out by the Federation that the 'self-serve' press releases sent to Scholarship recipients were poorly received by students and the media.

On February 22, Federation representatives had a follow-up meeting in Toronto with Francoise Rioux of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation. Rioux provided an update on progress since the previous meeting. She noted that Norman Riddell had met with Diane Cunningham, Ontario Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, who had agreed that the savings should go back into student financial aid. However, Riddell had been unable to secure any specific commitment about how the money was to be spent. Predictably, when the Ontario budget was announced in April, no new spending measures were announced despite savings of close to \$50 million as result of the MSF. However, a few weeks later the Ontario government did announce that they were lowering the ceiling for loan remission from \$7000 to \$6500 for Scholarship recipients, which means that \$500 less is payable upon consolidation of the loan. Though this announcement is a direct response to the Federation's campaign, it falls far short of investing the full amount saved from the MSF, which, according to Federation research and the MSF, is \$50 million.

On March 28, National Chairperson Michael Conlon and Nova Scotia National Executive Representative Penny McCall Howard met with Norman Riddell and Francoise Rioux to discuss the effect of the scholarships in Nova Scotia. Several weeks before the meeting, the Nova Scotia component released a report outlining the problems with the implementation of the programme in Nova Scotia. Millennium Scholarship Foundation officials were well aware of the report, and complemented the Federation on its quality. They noted that they shared the Federation's concern that Nova Scotia had made

no firm commitments to reinvest the savings realised by the influx of Millennium Scholarship funds. In the end, the Nova Scotia government went the same route as Ontario and refuses to publicly state how they will fulfil their contractual obligation to reinvest savings from MSF. The Federation will continue to pressure the Ontario and Nova Scotia governments to ensure that those governments honour their contractual obligation.

In the final analysis, however, the Federation's intensive campaign against the gimmicky nature of the MSF was successful. The program was exposed as a hollow, politically motivated public relations vehicle designed to offer the appearance of addressing the crisis of student debt. From the moment it was announced, the Federation has stood alone in criticising the Millennium Scholarship Foundation as little more than an exercise in public relations. In fact, when the program was first announced one national group went so far as to give the 1998 federal budget a mark of A+ solely on the basis of the Millennium Scholarships. Now that the scholarships have been implemented, Federation analysis seems prophetic, positioning Federation representatives well to respond to problems with the program.

On a more tangible level, MSF officials have publicly stated that pressure from the Federation forced the federal government to grudgingly increase the level of tax exemption on scholarships and bursaries from \$500 to \$3000. The original \$500 deductible had been set in 1972. In 1994, the Federation's National Graduate Council led a campaign to increase the amount. Members of the Canadian Federation of Students sent in thousands of postcards to the federal Minister of Revenue, David Anderson, calling for the deductible to be increased to \$2,000 – but no changes were made. Since then, the Federation has consistently recommended to the Standing Committee on Finance that the deductible for grants and bursaries be increased in the federal budget. In 1998, the Federation's recommendation for an increase in the tax exemption was included in the report of the Finance Committee. Yet even in the so-called 1998 'Education Budget,' the recommendation remained unfulfilled by the

federal government. In the wake of the embarrassment caused by the Federation's campaign, the federal government changed the amount as a means of salvaging what was left of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation's public image.

Budget 2000 and the Campaign for Increased Transfer Payments for Higher Education

One of the key demands of the *Access 2000* campaign was the call for the restoration of \$3.7 billion to post-secondary education. This amount represents the amount cut from federal transfers for education since the social policy review of 1994. Federal cuts have resulted in a decline of close to 20% in the operating budget of colleges and universities. Though education is a provincial responsibility the vast majority of funding for public institutions comes from the federal government. *Access 2000* was designed with the goal of holding the federal government accountable for the crisis in higher education.

In June of 1999 the Federation participated in a meeting with Finance Minister Paul Martin in which the post-secondary sector presented a united front on the issue of increased transfer payments for post-secondary education. In November, the Federation submitted a brief and appeared before the Standing Committee on Finance. The brief outlined the funding crisis in post-secondary education and documented the devastating effect on students of the new eligibility requirements for the Canada Student Loan Program. The Standing Committee on Finance released its report on December 9, 1999. The report is, in theory, a summary of the written submissions and verbal presentations to the committee. However, the report deals almost exclusively with tax cuts. Though the recommendations of the Standing Committee are not binding, the report carries considerable influence in the budget-making process. The Federation has written to Finance Minister Paul Martin expressing concern that the final report of

the Standing Committee did not adequately represent the breadth of contributions.

The federal budget itself was tabled on February 28 in the House of Commons by Finance Minister Paul Martin. As in previous years, the Federation participated in the budget lockup and this year was represented by National Chairperson Michael Conlon. After viewing the budget one hour prior to its release time, the Federation prepared a press release. The Federation's analysis of the budget received prominent media coverage in national print, radio and television media. Along with the Canadian Medical Association and the Canadian Federation of Taxpayers, the Canadian Federation of Students was featured in the lead CBC television story on the evening of February 28.

Despite several public opinion polls showing that over 76% of Canadians listed health and education spending as their number one priority (versus 19% for tax cuts), the 2000 federal budget contained a five-year plan for tax reduction designed to cut tax revenue by over \$50 billion. The bulk of spending on tax cuts comes in the form of a reduction to the corporate tax rate from 27% to 23% and the elimination of the 3% surtax on those earning over \$250,000. The latter initiative will cost over \$600 million per year alone.

The budget also contained a four year plan for funding the Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST). In contrast to the \$50 billion set aside for tax expenditures, \$2.5 billion was allocated over four years to provide funding for health care, post-secondary education, and social services. Based on its current share of 16% of the CHST 'funding envelope' the new funding amounts to about \$400 million over four years. This amount falls well short of the \$3.7 billion identified by the Federation as the amount necessary to address the crisis in post-secondary education. However, as noted earlier, the Federation scored an important victory in forcing the government to raise the tax exemption on scholarships and bursaries from \$500 to \$3000.

The federal budget also contained new funding for research. Monies were allocated for the previously announced 1200 university research chairs. There was also a significant infusion of new funds for

the Canada Foundation for Innovation. Both of these funding initiatives exacerbate the trend of supporting research under the auspices of public-private partnerships while freezing funding for Canada's public research infrastructure (the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, and the Medical Research Council). In addition, the funding for research chairs contains no provision for overhead costs associated with the research expected of the newly appointed chairs. In essence, if Canadian universities are forced to absorb the new chairs without core funding, existing research and teaching initiatives might actually be eroded.

Bankruptcy Charter Challenge

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 violate the charter on the basis of its provision for equality under the law.

On December 6, 1999 the Federation's test case Annick Chenier had her outstanding debt discharged, as per the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, with the exception of her student loans. At that time, the Federation filed notice of intent to appeal that judgement, on her behalf, to the Ontario Superior Court.

Federation representatives have been meeting regularly with legal counsel to craft the appeal and discuss the next stage in the charter challenge. Dr. Saul Schwartz, a leading expert in the sociology of bankruptcy, has agreed to act as the Federation's expert witness in the challenge. Dr. Schwartz is considered to be a leading authority on the social implications of bankruptcy and has published material that is germane to the Federation's legal position in the case.

The Federation intends to officially file the case before the summer recess of the House of

Commons on June 8. Once the case is filed the federal government will have 45 days to respond to the appeal. When the federal government files a response the matter will proceed to the trial phase within six months. The case will be assigned to a judge in the Ontario Superior Court and a date will be set for the presentation of evidence. At the trial phase, both sides will present evidence from expert witnesses. Though evidence will be entered in written form, each side has the right to cross-examine witnesses under oath, in person.

Other Education Sector Work

MEETING OF NATIONAL STUDENT ADVISORY GROUP ON STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The National Student Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance is comprised of organisations with a stake in the delivery of the Canada Student Loan Program (CSLP). Among others, groups currently in NAGSFA include the Canadian Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (CASFAA), Association of Universities and Colleges Canada (AUCC), Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC), National Association of Career Colleges (NACC), and the Canadian Federation of Students. Though NAGSFA is not a decision making body, it serves as the public consultation on the CSLP. NAGSFA meets at least three times per year in Ottawa. The latest meeting took place on Tuesday, April 11, 2000, and the Federation was represented by Chairperson Michael Conlon and Researcher Denise Doherty-Delorme.

In addition, to the banks' withdrawal from student loans administration and collection, the meeting reviewed several other topics. A report was provided on the status of the review of Needs Assessment.

At the last NAGSFA meeting a report on needs assessment was presented and the Federation offered feedback. The Federation has been advocating for an increase in the amount of money a student is able to earn while receiving students loans. A modest recommendation to increase the allowance by \$50 could come into effect in the Fall.

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A report was also presented on the issue of credit checks. The report outlined the number of credit checks over the past year. To date, 46,000 student loan applicants have been checked and 600 were denied loans (1.6%). The number of applicants checked will likely increase next year as the program only checked those applying after August 1 for the 1999/2000 study period.

A report was also provided on debt reduction. Debt reduction was introduced in the 1998 budget and is designed to reduce a student's debt when interest relief has been exhausted (i.e. after five years). Eligibility for the program is tied to income and a table similar to the interest relief table is being devised to implement the program. HRDC officials reported that the delay is attributable to a slow response from the Department of Finance, which is responsible for setting the table. The program should be in place for September 2000. As follow-up from this meeting, a letter will be written to the Minister of Finance to draw his attention to the delay in setting the income table for the debt reduction program. Also, representatives of the Federation will be meeting with HRDC Minister Jane Stewart to discuss the new direction of the Canada Student Loans Program.

Finally, member locals will have an opportunity to discuss student financial assistance with Townsend, who will be present at a lobby session at the May 2000 semi-annual national general meeting.

ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGES

At the recent meeting of the National Advisory Group on Student Financial Aid, the Federation was invited by the Association of Community Colleges Canada (ACCC) to participate in a two-day 'summit' on student financial aid. The ACCC sees the event as an opportunity to draw public attention to the issue of student debt.

The framework for the discussion will be set by the ACCC working group on student financial aid. Though not a traditional coalition partner, the ACCC working group outlined in its initial report many concerns shared by the Federation about the future of student aid. The Federation therefore

accepted the invitation and National Chairperson Michael Conlon participated in a phone meeting on December 16 to discuss the logistics of the 'summit.'

CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

On November 12, National Chairperson Michael Conlon attended a meeting called by the Canadian Medical Association. Other invitees included the Canadian Dental Association, Canadian Bar Association, the Canadian Federation of Medical Students, Canadian Council of Professional Engineers, Canadian Pharmacists Association, and the Canadian Veterinary Association. The meeting was called to explore the possibility of a broad-based coalition to mount a campaign against the deregulation of tuition fees for professional programs. Initial discussion focused on the possibility of holding a national conference in the summer. Funding for the project would be on a *pro rata* basis but the CMA indicated that the cost to the Federation could be partially subsidised.

CANADIAN CONSORTIUM FOR RESEARCH

The Canadian Consortium for Research is a coalition of organisations united to undertake campaigns and government relations work on behalf of public research in Canada. Most major, national research organisations belong to the coalition and the consortium has a considerable profile on Parliament Hill.

Recently, however, a split has developed within the consortium about how to respond to the Expert Panel Report on the Commercialisation of Research. Some members of the coalition favour the report and are reticent to support a campaign against it. Because a majority of members endorsed the report, the CCR made an initial decision to issue a statement in favour of it. However, several members of the coalition, including the Federation and Canadian Association of University Teachers, are strongly opposed to the report and refuse to endorse it indirectly through the Consortium.

On December 14 National Chairperson Michael Conlon attended a meeting at which the decision-making process of the Consortium was reviewed and the potential exodus of several members was

discussed. It was subsequently agreed that the consortium would continue with a consensus-based method of decision-making. The Consortium, therefore, will remain silent on the report of the Expert Panel because there is no consensus. This discussion was satisfactory to all parties and the Consortium will continue its work, with the CAUT and the Federation continuing as full members.

CONTRIBUTION TO MISSING PIECES

On November 17, 1999 the Federation, in conjunction with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, launched *Missing Pieces – An Alternative Guide to Canadian Post-secondary Education*.

Missing Pieces provides a comprehensive analysis of the state of higher education across the country, using the criteria of equity, quality, accountability and accessibility. The report offers a new method of judging post-secondary institutions, as well as a way to analyse the provincial governments' commitment to higher education.

In November, all member locals received the executive summary and a copy of *Missing Pieces*.

Campaign against Corporate Rule in Post-Secondary Education

At the May 1998 semi-annual national general meeting, it was resolved to implement a campaign against corporate rule in education.

This component of the campaign strategy is designed to develop research and analysis on the effect corporatisation has had on public post-secondary institutions. The goal of this project is to make a direct link between the withdrawal of government support for post-secondary education and the increased control that corporations have over curriculum and the day-to-day operations of Canadian universities and colleges. Research has been undertaken on the corporate composition of Boards of Governors. That research formed the basis of the paper *The Betrayal of the Public Trust: Corporate Governance of Canadian Universities* delivered by National Chairperson Michael Conlon

at a Canadian Association of University Teachers conference. This paper has also been accepted for publication in a book entitled *The Corporate Campus: Commercialization and the Dangers to Canada's Colleges and Universities*. Research on university governance will also form the basis of the corporate rule 'tool kit'. This package will serve as a resource for Federation members organising against corporate control of local campuses. The kit will highlight the growing trend toward private for-profit research, and will serve as the basis for developing Federation policy. The kit will be prepared and distributed before September 2000.

THE EXPERT PANEL ON THE COMMERCIALISATION OF RESEARCH

In March of this year the Prime Minister's Advisory Council on Science and Technology tabled a report with a series of recommendations on the future of university research. The report is a stark and frank call for the government to turn university research over to for-profit enterprise. The report is highly critical of the fact that most university research is done in the public interest. The panel advocates a new funding formula based on the ability of the university to maximise the potential profit of research initiatives. Universities that fail to meet certain 'performance' standards would see a cut in their base budget. In addition, the report explicitly calls for an end to university autonomy and a legislated role for corporate control of the research agenda. The panel also lends its support to the call for tax cuts. The Federation is currently engaged in a campaign with the Canadian Association of University Teachers against these panel recommendations. The Federation was invited to appear before an Industry Canada panel on the report on October 25. The Federation was represented by National Chairperson Michael Conlon and Researcher Denise Doherty Delorme. In addition, National Chairperson Michael Conlon participated in a panel discussion of the report on October 15 at Queens University.

In March, the Federation participated in a campaign of the Canadian Association of University Teachers to collect the signatures of graduate students and prominent Canadian

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researchers to endorse a letter prepared by CAUT. The letter, addressed to the Prime Minister, outlined the problems with the panel's report and called on the Prime Minister to reject its recommendations. The response was overwhelming – well over 1000 researchers signed the letter, including Nobel Prize winner John Polanyi and noted environmentalist David Suzuki. The CAUT held a press conference on Parliament Hill and the letter, including the list of signatories, was turned into a full-page ad in the *Globe and Mail*. As a result of the pressure mounted by the Federation and the CAUT, many of the expert panel's recommendations have been set aside for further study. The Federation and the CAUT will continue to work together to ensure that the recommendations are not introduced piecemeal or under different auspices.

PUBLIC EDUCATION NETWORK

Background

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. Its first priority has been to collaborate in support of public education in Canada through active campaigns and exchange of information.

The PEN is comprised of the following organisations: Canadian Association of University Teachers; Canadian Federation of Students; Canadian Labour Congress; Canadian Teachers' Federation; Conseil de l'Enseignement du Québec; Fédération québécoise des professeures et professeurs universitaires; Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec; Fédération étudiante collégiale du Québec; and National Anti-Poverty Organisation as a consultative member.

The PEN has maintained monthly or bi-monthly meetings of senior representatives. This structure has enabled rapid decision-making and little focus on structural issues.

Since the fall, meetings and activities of the Network have become somewhat less regular. The Federation's work within the coalition since the November 1999 national general meeting has

consisted primarily of galvanising support among PEN members, in particular the Canadian Association of University Teachers, for the February 2 mobilisation, and strategising around the 2000 federal budget.

Public Education Network Web Site Project

The Canadian Teachers' Federation recently proposed that the Network develop an anti-privatisation website that would serve as a clearinghouse for updates, analysis and campaigns on corporatisation, privatisation, and globalisation within the education sector. The project, entitled "Countering the Privatisation of Public Education," is modelled on the U.S.-based Centre for the Analysis of Commercialism in Education (CACE), located at www.uwm.edu/Dept/CACE.

The Canadian Teachers' Federation has committed \$10,000 in addition to staff time towards the start-up costs of the project. There is general support for the project, but no decision has yet been reached on the CTF's proposal.

In addition to the CTF proposal, the possibility exists for the Federation's own campaign on corporate rule to be integrated into the PEN project. It will therefore be important to establish the nature of the Federation's commitment to these initiatives prior to the upcoming meeting of the Public Education Network scheduled in June.

"100 Faces of Corporate Rule in Education" Campaign Kit

Several years ago, the Jesuit Information Centre (since renamed the Centre for Social Justice) produced a campaign kit which included a poster exposing the one hundred most prominent corporate executives in Canada, their company profits and recent lay-offs, compensation levels for executives, and the low levels of tax paid by both the companies and executives.

As part of the campaign strategy around corporate rule in higher education, the Federation resolved to produce a similar kit focusing on corporate rule in post-secondary education, including a poster and fact sheets highlighting high-profile advocates of for-profit higher education in Canada. The Public

Education Network expressed interest in the project, and the campaign was broadened to become the "100 Faces of Corporate Rule in Education" campaign. The Canadian Association of University Teachers volunteered to begin research for the kit, and the Federation volunteered to produce a detailed campaign proposal for the Public Education Network. Development of the proposal is in progress.

Campaign to Oppose Global Trade Liberalisation

Background

Trade-liberalisation in Canada has long been an rallying point for students and other social justice advocates. With the advent of the Free Trade Agreement in 1989, the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1994, the Free Trade Area of the Americas, and other multilateral trade deals such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the General Agreement on Trade in Services, Canadians have seen the elimination of hundreds of thousands of jobs, concentration of wealth among fewer Canadians, a plummeting Canadian dollar, and soaring foreign ownership of Canadian enterprises. However, in addition to these economic trends, trade liberalisation has encouraged the implementation of draconian policies – including severe cutbacks to education funding, regressive student aid measures, and commercialisation of research.

On a global scale, global trade liberalisation has become the latest juggernaut for the implementation of policies which impede governments' ability to protect citizens from the ups and downs of the economy, hinder workers' efforts to organise, widen the wealth gap, worsen malnutrition and famine, and erode standards for environmental protection. In particular, the following bodies have championed the ideology of corporate, not democratic, rule: the World Trade Organisation; the Organisation of American States; the

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation; the World Bank; and the International Monetary Fund.

After a momentous victory in which international efforts to oppose the Multilateral Agreement on Investment forced the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to retract the latest drafts of the agreement, the Canadian movement to oppose the MAI was re-established nationally as the Canadian Roundtable on the World Trade Organisation, now known as the Common Front on the WTO. Across North

America, post-secondary students have rallied under the banner of the Ad Hoc Student Coalition for Fair Trade, a broad coalition of student organisations and organisations with students as their primary membership base. These two coalition groups have focused recent efforts on opposition to the latest rounds of trade talks at the WTO, including the meetings in Seattle, Washington.

Below is an account of the Federation's involvement in the growing international campaign against global trade liberalisation. Although the specific mobilisation campaigns described have been critical in galvanising public sentiment, the Federation has been integrating an analysis of the effects of global trade liberalisation and corporatisation into many aspects of its work. In meetings with government officials, in media work, and through coalition work the Federation has been highlighting the effects of globalisation on education and other public programmes.

THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION

The World Trade Organisation (WTO), comprised of 160 member nations, was formed in 1994 during the Uruguay Round of negotiations for the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Unfettered free trade in education would deeply worsen the current funding and access crises faced by students in Canada and around the world. The WTO also sets the stage for the implementation of structural adjustment programmes.



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National Deputy Chairperson Elizabeth Carlyle and Newfoundland/Labrador representative Jen Anthony participated in the mass protests that stymied efforts of the World Trade Organisation to launch a new round of multilateral trade negotiations in Seattle. Notably, the British Columbia Component worked with trade unions to organise bus transportation for 1,000 students to Seattle to join the estimated 100,000 demonstrators. Many member locals' banners were seen on the march—and around the world in global newscasts of the events in Seattle.

National Organising

The Federation exchanged regular, detailed updates on government policy and actions with other sectors through the Canadian WTO Roundtable, chaired by the Council of Canadians and the Canadian Labour Congress. In preparation for the WTO ministerial meetings in Seattle, the Federation also worked closely with other like-minded organisations, some of which had been invited to participate in the official Canadian delegation's deliberations in Seattle. In Seattle, the Federation participated in a preparatory meeting and news conference to share information and coordinate strategies in Seattle.

Education Campaign

A major component of the campaign leading up to and during the protests in Seattle was popular education.

Across North America, organisations representing post-secondary students rallied under the banner of the Ad Hoc Student Coalition for Fair Trade. The Federation and the Boston-based Centre for Campus Organizing coordinated the production and distribution of 100,000 tabloids on the WTO. Tabloids were distributed from California to Newfoundland, and concerted distribution occurred in Seattle during the protests.

The Federation participated in a Cross-Canada Caravan Against the WTO, attended the Teach-In coordinated by the International Forum on Globalization, and helped organise dozens of other issue-specific educational events.

Protests in Seattle

On November 30, the principal, day of mass action during the events in Seattle, the Federation participated in three main events:

The Student March:

The Student March was organised by local coalitions in Seattle, and assisted by the Ad Hoc Student Coalition. The Federation coordinated buses which brought Victoria- and Vancouver-area students to Seattle. Several thousand participated in the Student March, which then joined the Labour March.

The Labour March:

Led by the American Federation of Labour – Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), the Labour March was approximately 100,000-strong. Its stated goal was to raise awareness about the threats posed by the WTO. The midday rally preceding the March included speakers such as celebrated Indian activist Vandana Shiva and representatives of United Students Against Sweatshops.

The March successfully demonstrated the level of concern that exists in America and internationally about the implications of the trade talks. In fact, the march was thought to have played an important role in prompting remarks by U.S. President Bill Clinton that concerns about trade agreements were legitimate and serious.

Shut-Down:

On Tuesday, November 30, activities began early in the morning as the Direct Action Network locked-down all the major arteries into the downtown area. Activists literally locked down to platforms in 13 major intersections surrounding the Paramount theatre and Convention Centre, where the official WTO meetings were taking place. Each lock-down platform was surrounded by a protective ring of protesters, designed to prevent immobile activists from being trampled. Few official WTO delegates were able to gain access to the Paramount Theatre or the Convention Centre.

Overall, the tens of thousands of voices of dissent speaking in Seattle were well coordinated. The Direct Action Network, a member of the Ad Hoc Student Coalition, successfully shut down the official WTO events. Unfortunately, despite constant liaising with the Seattle police for months to ensure that safety reigned, police violence became as much the issue as the WTO. The riot police used tear gas, smoke bombs, concussion bombs, rubber bullets and pepper-spray. The actions of the police spread from the downtown area to residential areas.

Newfoundland/Labrador Representative Jen Anthony, National Deputy Chairperson Elizabeth Carlyle, and other Federation activists, joined the blockades to help protect those locked-down at intersections. A curfew was imposed on the entire downtown area and debriefing meetings of the Ad Hoc Student Coalition were cancelled because the venue, Seattle Central Community College was closed on "Mayor's and Governor's orders."

Mass arrests on December 1

On December 1, in defiance of police barricades, the protests continued. Anthony and Carlyle participated in a march and sit-down rally, and were arrested that morning on charges of failure to disperse. They were released late on December 2. Not until January 3 were the charges dropped. In mid-December, hundreds of complaints about police brutality and discrimination were compiled and submitted by the American Civil Liberties Union. Updates on the status of the complaints are not currently available.

Follow-up

Efforts to promote awareness about the issues related to and the success of the events in Seattle included:

- producing an article in *Student Issues 2000*, the Access 2000 campaign tabloid, about the WTO;
- developing backgrounders for member locals that link the funding crisis in higher education to global trade liberalisation;
- encouraging member locals to host WTO-related events in the lead-up to February 2; and
- solidarity work with the Autonomous University of Mexico students' General Strike Council.

A16 DAY OF ACTION AGAINST STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT

A meeting of the Ad Hoc Coalition took place on January 18, 2000, to review the 'Battle in Seattle'. During this telephone conference call, it was agreed that the Coalition would continue its work, primarily on a project-to-project basis. The April 16 day of action against the International Monetary Fund, in Washington, DC, was identified as the next focus for the coalition.

The Federation provided regular updates on the campaign to member locals, and encouraged their participation. In February, the Federation endorsed the *Fightback* Conference held in Delaware as preparatory event for the April 16 mass protests. At its March-April 2000 meeting, the National Executive endorsed the demands issued by the *50 Years is Enough!* coalition, the main group coordinating the A16 day of action in Washington. Federation member locals and individual members across the country, participated in the *50 Years is Enough!* campaign by mobilising in their communities and by sending delegations to Washington. More than 30,000 people attended events in Washington. A media advisory was issued, and the Federation received national and local media attention.

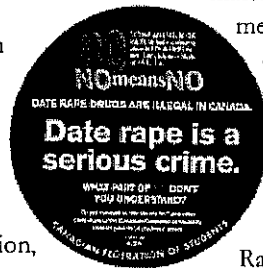
Thanks in part to jail solidarity tactics, nearly all of the approximately 1,350 protesters who were arrested over three days of protest in Washington were released. Police brutality, discrimination, and mental abuse similar to that reported during the WTO protests in Seattle have been documented. Follow-up work to expose these abuses is ongoing.

THE COMMON FRONT ON THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

Since the November 1999 meeting of the National Executive, the Canadian Common Front against the World Trade Organisation has met three times, once in Seattle, and twice in Ottawa. At the January meeting, a proposal to hold a pan-Canadian people's summit on global trade liberalisation, preceded by a grassroots education, consultation, and mobilisation process was considered. The Federation is supporting efforts spearheaded by the Solidarity Network to develop

Campaigns and Government Relations

a proposal for this summit, which may be held in conjunction with the next Solidarity Assembly, during fall 2000. One of the main themes of discussion within the Common Front is the threat of the WTO to public services and education. In February, the Federation sent a mailing to all member locals containing the report of the Canadian Union of Public Employees on privatisation, which features an analysis of the effects and dangers of global trade deals. In addition, regular updates on the struggle against trade liberalisation have been distributed to members, primarily via the Federation's electronic listserves.



UPCOMING EVENTS

As part of the plethora of groups and events focusing on global trade, the Federation is participating in mobilising for several major events in the coming months: the June 2000 meeting in Windsor, Ontario of the Organisation of American States; the October 2000 meeting of the countries of the Free Trade Area of the Americas; and the April 2001 NATO meeting in Victoria, BC.

"NO MEANS NO" Campaign Against Date Rape

BACKGROUND

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.

In 1998-99, numerous incidents of date rape involving the use of Rohypnol took place on Canadian campuses and in communities across Canada. Despite the concerns raised by the Federation and other organisations in campus and mainstream media and in correspondence to federal and provincial officials, Canadian officials and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police 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.

RECENT WORK BY THE FEDERATION

Last summer, thousands of *No Means No* stickers and coasters were printed. Requests for these materials from both member locals and non-member student unions and community organisations, have been constant, to the extent that a new print run of stickers and coasters was ordered in May 2000. At the May 2000 semi-annual national general meeting, it is expected that locals will receive the latest version of the Date

Rape: No Means No and Rohypnol campaign kit, which will include the following materials: drink coasters, posters, stickers, a fact sheet, a sample news release, news clippings, and a checklist to assist in organising the campaign at the local level. Member locals may receive the No Means No Fact Sheet in electronic (PowerPoint) format for presentation upon request.

On November 22, 1999, the Federation sent a letter to Hedy Fry, the Secretary of State responsible for the Status of Women; Allan Rock, Minister of Health; and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, calling for a national campaign to raise awareness about sexual assault and date rape drugs. The letter was also copied to relevant provincial departments and ministries.

On May 13 and May 3, respectively, Hedy Fry and Allan Rock responded. Both letters outlined changes to legislation concerning date rape drugs, noting that on April 1, 1998, such drugs were added to Canada's list of controlled substances. This enables peace officers to seize the drugs and lay charges for importing, possession, and trafficking. Although neither committed to undertaking a campaign to raise awareness about the issues, both Fry and Rock acknowledged the Federation's efforts, stating:

"Several Canadian post secondary institutions have undertaken programs to educate students on ways of reducing the incidence of "date rape", and I certainly encourage this." (Rock)

"I commend your organization for drawing public attention to date rape drugs [...]" (Fry)

"Undoubtedly, your campaign will continue to raise awareness of this situation." (Fry)

Campaign Against Discrimination by Canadian Blood Services

BACKGROUND

At the May 1998 national general meeting, a motion was passed to renew the Federation's ongoing campaign against homophobic questions included in the blood donor-screening questionnaire of the Red Cross (currently Canadian Blood Services). Instead of basing questions on high-risk activities such as unprotected anal and vaginal sex, the questions fallaciously imply that gay men are at higher risk for HIV/AIDS. The campaign was renewed at the May 1999 national general meeting.

RECENT WORK BY THE FEDERATION

Throughout the year, several student unions and transgendered, lesbian, gay and bisexual student groups have implemented the campaign by undertaking activities such as leafleting during blood donor clinics, sending letters to CBS Chief Executive Officer Lynda Cranston and to federal Health Minister Allan Rock.

The Federation received a response letter, dated December 8, 1999, from Lynda Cranston, Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Blood Services. Cranston's letter responds to concerns expressed by the Federation over the homophobic questions included in the blood agency's donor screening questionnaire.

Cranston wrote that other groups, such as the Canadian AIDS Society, have raised similar concerns to those of the Federation. Further: "CBS is establishing a Steering Committee that will look at this whole issue of deferral by risk factor and risk behaviour, with particular focus on the issues around sexual practice and transmission of viruses." Cranston extended an invitation to the Federation to participate in this process, and commits to sending a letter to this effect.

However, Cranston also deflected responsibility for the problematic aspects of the questionnaire, stating that the Donor Screening Questionnaire is "a regulated document, and any changes to it are

therefore not only time-consuming, but involve very detailed proposals that need to be submitted to the regulator, Health Canada."

On March 8, 2000, a letter containing similar statements was received from federal Minister of Health Allan Rock. Minister Rock's letter concluded by stating that "it is not considered prudent to relax current blood donor screening criteria".

On March 1, 2000, a letter from K.J. Fyke, the chairperson of the board of directors of Canadian Blood Services was received, inviting the Federation to participate in national consultations taking place in Saint John, New Brunswick on April 18 and 19, 2000. Jen Anthony, Newfoundland and Labrador Representative on the National Executive, presented a brief on behalf of the Federation at the hearings.

At this meeting, it was announced that CBS would be holding a Consensus Conference in fall 2000 to examine the HIV deferral criteria. In addition, a recommendation-making panel has been established to deliberate on potential changes to the blood donor screening questionnaire and process. It was also announced that a seat has been made available on the Conference steering committee for the Federation. However, students would not be represented on the decision-making panel because the Federation has taken a stance on the issues, and the panel is intended to be "neutral." A formal invitation to sit on the steering committee has not yet been received, but one is expected shortly. The National Executive intends to continue to press for a seat on the panel as well.

HIV/AIDS and Aboriginal Communities

At the May 1999 national general meeting, it was resolved that "a campaign be conducted, in conjunction with the current campaign against the Canadian Blood Services' discriminatory practices, highlighting the problem of Human Immunodeficiency Virus in Aboriginal communities."

At the July 1999 meeting of the National Executive, National Aboriginal Students' representative Troy Sebastian was assigned to consult with the National Aboriginal Caucus to

seek further clarification regarding the goals of the campaign. At the March-April 2000 meeting of the National Executive, Sebastian reported that the current members of the Federation's National Aboriginal Caucus did not have a sense of the goals of the campaign, and that it was not currently a priority for the caucus.

"Sexuality: No Absolutes" Campaign

At the May 1999 national general meeting, it was resolved to produce and distribute a "Sexuality: No Absolutes" poster no later than August 1999.

Between May and November 1999, discussions among the members of the National Executive assigned to implement the campaign and the Transgendered, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual * constituency group co-commissioners about the goals and messaging of the campaign remained inconclusive. By August 1999, draft text for campaign materials had been prepared, but without agreement within the constituency group and the necessary campaign strategy, implementation could not proceed.

After further clarification and refinement of the campaign by the Transgendered, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual * constituency group, the November 1999 national general meeting resolved that the national campaign strategy include a supporting component focusing on increasing awareness about the fluidity of sexuality, exposing the ramifications of denying human rights based on sexual practices and supporting the questioning of self-identity and examination of personal views and assumptions.

Since the November 1999 national general meeting, work has been ongoing to develop campaign materials in conjunction with the co-commissioners. No materials have yet been completed.

Status of Directives from the Membership

"WHERE'S THE JUSTICE FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE?" CAMPAIGN

The May 1999 national semi-annual general meeting resolved that an "awareness campaign be conducted in conjunction with the Access 2000 campaign, highlighting the effects of treaty negotiations in Aboriginal communities."

At the October 1999 meeting of the National Executive, it was resolved to incorporate the spirit of this directive into a campaign countering the mainstream media's fomentation of racism and ignorance in response to the dispute over aboriginal fishing and other treaty rights.

As part of this new campaign, an awareness-raising poster highlighting injustices against aboriginal people and featuring a call for justice, was produced and distributed at the November 1999 national general meeting. The campaign received positive reviews at the March 2000 general meeting of the Federation's National Aboriginal Caucus. It was resolved by the caucus to encourage further development of the campaign, to encompass issues such as systemic racism in law enforcement and emergency service delivery (such as incidents reported recently in Saskatoon and Winnipeg), and ongoing campaigns for public inquiries into the police shooting of Dudley George at Ipperwash Provincial Park and the paramilitary intervention against Aboriginal people at Gustafsen Lake.

DIRECTIVE REGARDING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

At the May 1999 national general meeting, it was resolved that "a call be issued for a system by which international students can pay their tuition fees in instalments and without...timeline restrictions."

At the July 1999 meeting of the National Executive, the directive was discussed and responsibility was assigned. At the last two meetings of the National Executive, the directive has been discussed. As a result of discussions with the International Students' Commissioner, the National Executive determined that the directive from November 1999 to produce a fact sheet on issues affecting international students should take precedence. A preliminary version of the fact sheet was included in *Missing Pieces*, and work to fulfil the directive is ongoing.

"FOOD BANKS ARE NOT THE SOLUTION" CAMPAIGN

The November 1999 national general meeting resolved to undertake a postcard campaign alerting the federal government of their failure to uphold their responsibility to provide basic necessities, such as food, to post-secondary students and other members of the community. It was further resolved that up to \$1,500 be allocated toward the printing costs of this campaign.

Since November, the University of Victoria Students' Society has produced campaign postcards. However, due to problems with the messaging of the campaign materials, it was resolved at the March-April meeting of the National Executive that the materials be re-worded and reprinted, in consultation with the National Anti-Poverty Organisation. It was further resolved that the Federation would contribute \$750 towards the costs incurred by local 44, and that the remaining amount would be dedicated to printing the amended version of the postcards. Finally, it was resolved that a backgrounder would be produced as part of a 'Food Banks are not the Solution' campaign kit.

COMMUNICATIONS

Media Coverage

Media coverage of student issues has been intensive over the past six months. There were over 200 centrally-generated interviews and information requests: an average of nearly two interviews for every business day since the November 1999 national general meeting.

In late November and early December the Federation was a key source for national media following the historic protests in Seattle against the trade liberalisation agenda. National and local coverage of the successful campaign to shut down the launch of the Millennium Round of trade negotiations included several interviews about the increasing reliance of universities and colleges on corporate funding.

In late January, the Federation helped break the story that Canada's big banks stood to benefit to the tune of \$100 million, in addition to the regular payments received under the terms of the student loans risk-sharing agreements. Not just students, but Canadians generally, were outraged. Centrally-generated media coverage included a premiere news item in the Globe and Mail, a feature spot on CBC Newsworld, syndicated interviews on CBC national and local radio across Canada, and coverage on CTV. In total, hundreds of news items were aired in print, radio, web, and televised media, including national and local call-in shows on the banks' involvement in the student loans programme. Although the threat of a for-profit student loan programme remains, the Federation succeeded in pressuring Human Resources Development Canada to cancel risk-sharing agreements with the banks.

Later that same month, the Federation helped break a second major story: the Millennium Scholarship scheme was exposed in Ontario as more of a government public relations exercise than an aid programme for students. The Federation received intensive coverage from all major national and local media outlets. This coverage focused on the story that some students in Ontario would not gain by accepting a scholarship, thanks to the fact that the province was using Millennium Scholarship funds to replace funding to its loan-forgiveness programme. In some cases, students would even end up worse off, because Millennium Scholarships were taxable after the first \$500, whereas the loan remission they might receive if the scholarship were turned down would not be taxable. At a news conference in Ottawa on January 25, all major national media were present as the Federation and an Ontario student announced that she would be giving back her Millennium Scholarship. Since 1995, the Federation has campaigned for a higher tax exemption for students receiving bursaries, fellowships, and other awards. The increase from

\$500 to \$3000 in the tax exemption, announced in the federal budget the following month, is an important victory for students.

Leading up to the February 2, 2000 day of strike and action, media across the country were primed for the mass mobilisation. On the days before, during, and shortly following February 2, Federation spokespeople appeared in prime spots on two major national networks, CBC and CTV. In addition to several live feeds from Toronto, Ottawa, and Halifax, national coverage continued on national newscasts throughout the evening and night, and rotated regularly on CTV-1 and CBC's all-news station. CBC's French-language network aired several radio interviews nationally, and ran television coverage of the campus shutdown in Moncton. This intensive national coverage was complemented by countless local airings of syndicated interviews, local content on nightly newscasts, and largely positive print media coverage. The success of the campaign in reaching Canadians was clear: in several cases, unsolicited readers vigorously defended the principles of access to education, in response to disparaging editorials and articles in certain newspapers.

The combination of media interest in Millennium Scholarships, student loan programme changes, the February 2 day of strike and action, and globalisation issues provided the Federation with widespread and credible coverage over a sustained period. The dynamism of the Federation's campaigns also enabled a critical breakthrough into the televised media, resulting in several interviews of note on CTV-1, CBC Newsworld, and CBC's *Counterspin* and *Straight from the Hip*.

2000/2001 Students' Union Directory

The Students' Union Directory has been published by the Federation since 1981. It is a unique document containing information about the various student unions across the country. Over the years the Directory has been expanded to include information on government contacts and social justice organisations and more detailed information about the Federation.

In an attempt to increase sales and distribution of the Directory, the cost of the publication was lowered substantially for the 1999/2000 year.

Despite a rise in sales that did not meet expectations, the low price has been maintained. The National Executive resolved at its April meeting to become more rigorous in promoting the directory to both member locals and other organisations.

The same data entry and design company hired last year has been rehired to redesign the information package, collect and enter the information and to update the design of the Directory. The Federation is also investigating the possibility of producing an electronic version of the directory on compact disc.

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 service of the Federation, is designed to provide this information to members. Items in the kit include:

- a letter from the National Chairperson;
- 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 summary of the year's campaign strategy, and contact information.

Member locals are encouraged to include the contents of the kit into their local handbooks or dayplanners.

This year, the kit will feature a different letter from the National Chairperson for each component to better reflect the issues faced by students in each province.

The success of this year's Member Local Handbook Development Kit is dependent on member locals' integrating Federation information throughout their dayplanners, in sections such as the introduction, services guide, calendar pages, frequently-used contact information, and campaigns and government relations summaries.

Again this year, the handbook kit will be available on CD Rom, as well as on the Federation's web site. Distribution of the kit will take place in June, 2000.

Web Site

Since September 1996 the Federation has operated a bilingual web site at www.cfs-fcee.ca. The site contains information on the Federation's campaigns, research, and programmes. National media releases are posted on the listserve as well. The site is linked to many member local and coalition partner web sites.

At the July 1999 National Executive meeting, a review of the Federation's website was undertaken, and it was agreed that the site required upgrading, in order for it to act as a resource for both members and the media.

In December, the Federation launched a completely redesigned web site that would act as a renewable resource for the membership. The new site features colourful design, a simpler site map, and more interactive features such as an electronic petition. The site is also easier to update, ensuring that both the campaigns and communications sections remain timely and topical.

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

Listserve

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 November 1997, currently has 122 subscribers;

- a National Executive and staff list – established in November 1996, has 40 subscribers;
- a lesbian / gay / bisexual / transgendered students' list – established in April 1999, has 18 subscribers, or triple what it did six months' ago;
- a National Graduate Council list – established in 1994, has 83 subscribers;
- a student artists' list – established in April 1999, has 31 subscribers, or nearly triple what it did six months' ago;
- a students of colour list – established during the spring of 1996, has 25 subscribers; and,
- a women's list – established during the winter of 1996, has 70 subscribers, or nearly double what it did six months' ago;
- an aboriginal students' list – established in April 2000, has 17 subscribers.

All listserves are managed from the national office.

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 government.

Distribution of the 1999-2000 manual took place at the November 1999 national general meeting. The kit included letters encouraging involvement of international students and students of colour in Federation activities, and a copy-ready version of the Access 2000 fact sheets.

The 2000-2001 Organising Manual is expected to be distributed to member locals by fall 2000. This year's manual will include the usual features, as well as a special World Women's March 2000 organising segment.

Generic Informational Materials

The beginning of term is a crucial time for promoting involvement in the student movement: most students chart their course of study and involvement in campus life during the first three weeks.

Communications

To ensure that students are aware of their membership in the Federation and actively participate in the work of the student movement, each year, materials are produced for general distribution to members and non-members.

During the late summer, each member local receives, from the national office, Student Saver cards and brochures for distribution to members. These promotional materials also profile the Federation's campaigns and other programmes such as the International Student Identity Card.

The 2000-2001 Organising Manual will include a copy-ready version of the 'CFS proud' poster, tailor-made for each member local. An updated design of the Federation's long-standing *Declaration of Student Rights* poster is currently in the production stage.

SOLIDARITY WORK

The Federation often works in formal and informal coalition with a variety of organisations. The following is a list of the Federation's regular coalition partners:

(M) Denotes those organisations of which the Federation is a member

(SC) Denotes those organisations with steering committees in which the Federation participate

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

- Canadian Association of University Teachers, CAUT
- Canadian Consortium for Research, CCR (M)
- Public Education Network, PEN (M)

FUNDING AND EMPLOYMENT

- Canadian Auto-Workers, CAW
- Canadian Labour Congress, CLC
- Canadian Labour Congress—Youth Committee (M)
- Canadian Union of Public Employees, CUPE
- Canadian Union of Postal Workers, CUPW
- Communications, Energy, and Paperworkers' Union, CEP
- National Anti-Poverty Organisation, NAPO
- National Farmers' Union, NFU
- National Federation of Nurses' Unions, NFNU
- National Union of Public and General Employees, NUPGE
- Solidarity Network, formerly Action Canada Network (M, SC)
- Solidarité populaire Québec, SPQ
- United Food and Commercial Workers, UFCW
- 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

Solidarity Work

- Common Front on the World Trade Organisation, formerly listed as 'Roundtable' (M)

HEALTH CARE

- Canadian Health Coalition, CHC (M, SC)

CHILD CARE

- Campaign 2000 (Endorsed by Federation)
- Canadian Campaign Against Child Poverty, CCACP (Endorsed by Federation)
- 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 (M)

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

- National Action Committee on the Status of Women, NAC (M)
- Pan-Canadian Coordinating Committee, World Women's March 2000 Against Poverty and Violence (M, SC)

GAY, LESBIAN, AND BISEXUAL RIGHTS

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

PEACE

- Canadian Peace Alliance, CPA (M)

CANADA-BASED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS

- Canadian Friends of Burma
- Amnesty International
- Citizen's Action: Social Watch (M, SC)
- East Timor Alert Network (M)
- Intercede, for the Rights of Domestic, Caregivers, and Newcomers
- Maquila Solidarity Network (M)
- Oxfam
- Roundtable on the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (M)
- World March of Women 2000 (M, SC)

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- All-Africa Students' Union, AASU
- Asian Students' Association, ASA

- Continental Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Students, OCLAE
- General Union of Arab Students, GUAS
- International Union of Students (M, SC)
- Student Coalition Against the World Trade Organisation, formerly Ad Hoc Student Coalition for Fair Trade (M)
- Unions of Students in Europe, ESIB
- United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO (Federation is registered as a lobbyist on behalf of IUS)

New Coalition Memberships

SOLIDARITÉ POPULAIRE QUÉBEC (SPQ)

Solidarité populaire Québec, based in Quebec City, is the counterpart to the Solidarity Network, and serves as a network for social justice organisations in Québec. The Federation approached the SPQ to solicit its participation in Access 2000. The January 2000 meeting of the National Executive resolved to create a link on the Federation's web site to the web site of Solidarité populaire de Québec.

PAN-CANADIAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF THE MARCH 2000.

At the previous national general meeting, the World Women's March 2000 Against Poverty and Violence was endorsed. Currently, the Federation has a seat on the Pan-Canadian Coordinating Committee for the World Women's March 2000 Against Poverty and Violence. This steering committee is composed of approximately 25 women's organisations and organisations representing women's interests, from provinces and territories excluding Quebec, which has its own organising committee. The Committee works closely the international coordinating committee, headquartered in Montreal.

Domestic Solidarity Work

WORLD WOMEN'S MARCH 2000 AGAINST POVERTY AND VIOLENCE

The World Women's March 2000 Against Poverty and Violence was spearheaded by the Fédération des femmes du Québec, to follow-up from the

1995 Women's March Against Poverty in Quebec and the 1995 United Nations' Conference on Women in Beijing.

The March is punctuated by several national events in Canada, in addition to the many, ongoing local events across the country and around the world:

- March 8—International launch of Women's March 2000;
- May 26 - 28, 2000—Annual General Meeting of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women;
- June 11 - 14, 2000—Canadian Labour Congress Women's Conference;
- October 14 - 15, 2000—Canadian Association of Sexual Assault Centres conference;
- October 15, 2000—Mass events across the country and in Ottawa;
- October 17, 2000—Finale, including protest in New York at the United Nations, on the occasion of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

The Federation has been represented on the Pan-Canadian Coordinating Committee of the March by National Deputy Chairperson Elizabeth Carlyle and Translator Carol Lynn Prébinski.

Early in January 2000, the Secretary of State for the Status of Women Canada confirmed that a \$50,000 grant would be provided to the Committee to assist in organising the march, and that further funds may be available in the 2000-2001 fiscal year. However, these funds are inadequate for the work of the Committee. In order to ensure the effectiveness of the March, the Canadian Labour Congress has allocated a staffperson and other resources towards the March, and has continued its role of coordinating fundraising efforts. Other sources of funding have included donations from Committee members to the costs of printing promotional materials. The Federation donated \$500 and received materials that have since been distributed to provincial components.

The Committee has compiled a comprehensive list of demands, based on those developed by the international organising committee, and produced materials for distribution (posters, postcards,

background information and a "2000 Reasons to March" video). Until late June 2000, the Committee is seeking feedback on this list of demands. A website for the March has been established at www.clc-ctc.ca/campaigns/womensmarch. At this national general meeting, the membership will consider endorsing the current demands.

In addition, the National Executive is encouraging member locals to establish local Women's March 2000 committees, in cooperation with campus women's centres, sexual assault crisis centres, and other relevant groups. Locals are also being encouraged to allocate resources to the committees in addition to those already allocated for women's services.

ALTERNATIVE FEDERAL BUDGET

Since May 1996, the Federation has been an active participant in the Alternative Federal Budget project. The budget, first released in 1994-95, was developed by CHOICES, a coalition for social justice based in Winnipeg, and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. The annually-released budget document and accompanying workshops that are conducted throughout the year address priorities such as: a progressive taxation system; rebuilding Canada's social safety net and national standards; environmental protection; and full employment.

Researcher Denise Doherty-Delorme and National Deputy Chairperson Elizabeth Carlyle are the Federation's representatives on the Steering Committee.

On January 13, the Alternative Federal Budget's Economists' Roundtable took place in Ottawa, and was broadcast nationwide by the Canadian Parliamentary Affairs Channel (CPAC). On February 1, the Federation participated in the launch of the Alternative Federal Budget 2000 in Ottawa.

Member locals and provincial components have received several AFB documents since the last national general meeting: popular documents (tabloids), pre-budget newsletters, and a précis on Federal Budget 2000. Other items, such as the framework document, are available upon request.

Solidarity Work

Recently, the AFB has been evaluating the effectiveness of the project in achieving its two primary goals: promoting economic literacy and participation, and promoting the alternatives contained in the Budget document itself. All member organisations of the Steering Committee, including the Federation, have committed to participating in the 2000-2001 process, and to developing a renewal strategy for the AFB. The National Executive has resolved to continue participating in the AFB, but with an increased emphasis on supporting economic literacy work and the community involvement process.

The AFB will be holding a review session to consult with national groups on June 14 in Ottawa.

At this national general meeting, delegates will evaluate the Federation's participation in the AFB.

FEDERATION'S WORK WITH THE SOLIDARITY NETWORK

The Solidarity Network, formerly the Action Canada Network, is comprised of over fifty organizations. It has its roots in the 1987 struggle to oppose the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Canada and the United States. The Network has since evolved into a forum for action in which social justice groups, labour organisations, and regional and provincial coalitions devise common organising strategies, and 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 February 2, 2000 Day of Strike and Action. The Solidarity Network provided assistance in coordinating coalition support for the Access 2000 campaign.

The Federation participated in the most recent Solidarity Assembly, held in Saskatoon from February 25 - 27, 2000. The Solidarity Assembly brought diverse groups together to discuss common issues ranging from economics to elections. The Federation's participation in the Solidarity Assembly was noted in a recent issue of *Briarpatch* Magazine.

CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS

The Canadian Labour Congress, Canada's national federation of labour unions, is a longtime ally. The Federation works with the CLC in the Public Education Network, Solidarity Network, Citizen's Action Social Watch, Alternative Federal Budget, Canadian Labour Force Development Board, East Timor Alert Network, Canadian Roundtable on the World Trade Organisation, and several other venues.

The CLC endorsed the Access 2000 campaign in May 1999, and included English and French versions of Access 2000 fact sheets and a letter requesting endorsements in its December 1999 general mailing to 15,000 groups and organisations.

Canadian Labour Congress Youth Committee

The Canadian Labour Congress provides a seat for the Federation on its Youth Committee. This seat is currently filled by National Deputy Chairperson Carlyle. Educating youth and developing strategies to organise young workers are this year's priorities for the Committee. The CLC has established a new youth-oriented segment on its web site (www.clc-ctc.ca), and a youth-oriented newsletter called *Next in Line*.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE OF THE CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS

The Canadian Labour Congress periodically holds conferences on different topics, such as racism in the workplace, workers with disabilities, aboriginal solidarity, and women's rights. As part of the World Women's March 2000 Against Poverty and Violence, the CLC is holding its Women's Conference in Ottawa from June 11-14, 2000.

"Rise Up! Act Up!" is the theme of the conference, at which the following issues will be examined: the impact of current economic and social policies, nationally and internationally, on women's lives at work, in unions, and at home; the causes and diverse impact of poverty on women; and, the strategies required to challenge violence against women and poverty.

The March 2000 meeting of the National Executive resolved that a two-person delegation be sent to the Women's Conference of the Canadian Labour Congress. It was resolved that a delegate be selected from the National Executive, and that any additional delegates be selected by the Women's Constituency Group at this national general meeting. In addition, member locals and provincial components are encouraged to send delegations.

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, continues to suffer through a very severe financial crisis. In recent years, the federal government has not only cut funding for groups like NAC. Formerly, the federal government provided operational funding, now only project grants are available.

In 1999 NAC was able to recall staff laid off for six months in 1998-1999, but the organisation continues to require more stable, long-term sources of funding.

The Federation works on a regular basis with NAC, in particular on the World Women's March 2000, lobby efforts for the restoration of operational funding for women's organisations, and international issues such as the liberation of East Timor and structural adjustment. NAC President Joan Grant-Cummings, whose term will finish in June, provided the keynote speech at the November 1999 national general meeting, and spoke at the Ottawa rally on February 2.

Another project related to the Federation's membership in NAC is a survey issued by Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action (CFAFIA). CFAFIA is organising the Canadian element of the research, which is a follow up from the 1995 United Nations' Women's Conference held in Beijing. The January 2000 meeting of the National Executive resolved to respond to a CFAFIA survey on how structural adjustment policies such as social spending cutbacks have affected women

around the world. The survey has since been distributed to provincial components.

The Annual General Meeting, National Conference, and Lobby Day of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, will be held in Ottawa from May 26-29, 2000. The March 2000 meeting of the National Executive resolved to send a delegation of two to the NAC events. Any additional delegates may be selected by the Women's Constituency Group at this national general meeting.

CANADIAN COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT COALITION

The Canadian Community Reinvestment Coalition, an Ottawa-based organisation calling for reforms to the financial services sector, has over 100 member organisations representing a total of 3 million Canadians. The CCRC's main demands include the creation of a grassroots Financial Consumer Organisation with power to help reform financial services in Canada, no mergers of Canada's "Big Five" banks, and more enforceable regulations to protect consumers.

In mid December 1999, the CCRC provided an update to member organisations. Highlights included several reports (Toronto Dominion and Canada Trust bank merger), project updates, and new research and analysis of federal legislation.

Democracy Watch is an organisation linked to the CCRC and dedicated to consumer and citizen advocacy on issues such as electoral campaign financing. In late January, a request for feedback on the Democracy Watch proposal for a financial consumers' organisation was requested. At the March meeting of the National Executive, the latest version of the coalition's proposal for a financial consumer organisation was formally endorsed.

Another campaign of Democracy Watch is the *Money in Politics* project, a report including recommendations for changes to legislation governing federal elections. As a result of policies enacted by the federal Progressive Conservative government, federal legislation is reviewed every five years, and the reviews for 1999 include the election laws. Although this review was to have

been completed earlier in the current session of parliament, the process was delayed due to debate on key issues such as campaign financing. Although the Federation has had several discussions at general and national executive meetings, a request to sign on to the reforms proposed by the CCRC was declined initially. This was to provide time for further discussion but eventually the Federation determined that its concerns had not been adequately addressed. Two of these concerns were the proposal to limit donations to political parties and candidates by grassroots organisations and the focus on individual—as opposed to collective—action in the majority of the recommendations.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DISABLED STUDENTS

The Federation is a member of the National Educational Association of Disabled Students. NEADS is inviting presenters for its national conference, to be held November 10 - 12, 2000 in Ottawa. The title of the conference is: *Networking, Educating, Advocating: Delivering Success in the New Millennium*, and the deadline for submitting suggestions for presenters is June 16, 2000.

At this national general meeting the Students with Disabilities constituency group will consider the call for speakers.

CANADIAN HEALTH COALITION'S 'MEDICARE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN' CAMPAIGN

On Tuesday March 7, 2000, the Canadian Health Coalition hosted a national gathering to discuss efforts to mobilise Canadians for the protection of Medicare against privatisation. On the day, occupations of Members' of Parliament offices were organised in cities across the country, including Montague (PEI), Halifax (NS), Moncton (NB), Montreal (QC), Ottawa (ON), Toronto (ON), Winnipeg (MB) and Vancouver (BC).

These activities were part of the Health Coalition's 'Medicare Emergency Action Plan' campaign. The Plan included a the March 28, Medicare lobby day in Ottawa and a further lobby blitz of Members of Parliament in their home ridings, from April 15 -

30 to pressure the Chrétien government for a more aggressive strategy to stop Alberta Premier Ralph Klein's health care privatisation bill (Bill 11). Although Klein's bill has sparked the largest grassroots protests in Alberta's modern history, he has not backed down from his plan to allow for-profit health care.

As part of its efforts to raise awareness about the threat to Medicare posed by Bill 11 and by other provincial and federal policy decisions, the Health Coalition also distributed a popular tabloid entitled the 'Six Point Plan to Save Medicare'. Although the Federation has not been directly involved in implementing the campaign, information has been distributed to member locals.

DONATIONS, LETTERS OF SUPPORT, AND ENDORSEMENTS

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 organise solidarity pickets and awareness-raising events in their communities.

Calgary Herald Strike

Workers at the Calgary Herald, unionised in the Communications, Energy, and Paperworkers' Union (CEP), have been locked out for months in a bitter labour dispute. Management at the Herald, which is owned by Conrad Black, has been aggressively recruiting journalism students as a form of scab labour. In late March, the Federation received a request for support from the CEP, one of the unions that had been supportive of the Federation's *Access 2000* campaign, especially in Ottawa. Despite opposition from the journalism department, the Calgary Herald and the administration of Carleton University had planned to allow the Herald on campus to recruit journalism students for summer internships.

On March 28, in coordination with information picketing on campus organised by the Carleton University Students' Association, a letter condemning the Herald's presence on campus was sent to Carleton University President Richard Van Loon and copied to the CEP. Due to this kind of solidarity action few applications for internships were received by the Herald.

Canadian Peace Alliance

The Federation has been a long-time participant in Canada's peace movements, through its domestic and international solidarity work.

Founded in 1985, the Alliance is an association of 200 Canadian organisations, including labour, students', faith, women's, and environmental groups, working for peace and disarmament.

In the new year, the Federation was approached by the Alliance to collaborate in a project called *the People's Commission on Global Security: Canada's Role*.

This project is designed to raise awareness about and seek public input into Canada's role in international peacekeeping efforts. The Alliance intends to organise a series of public hearings on foreign and security policy.

In March the National Executive, endorsed the Project and agreed to distribute information about the project to member locals.

Support for ISTS/Tel Av technicians

In September 1999, technicians at the language interpretation firm ISTS/Tel Av went on strike over stalled contract negotiations. The main concerns from the technicians' Communications, Energy, and Paperworkers' Union surround seniority, training, and other non-monetary contract terms. At that time, the Federation issued a letter of support for the union, and informed ISTS/Tel Av that it would not use its interpretation services for the November 1999 national general meeting, or any other event, until the labour dispute was resolved to the satisfaction of the workers.

The boycott of ISTS/Tel Av continues, and an alternative company was engaged for this national general meeting.

The Manitoban

The Manitoban, the student newspaper at the University of Manitoba, recently came under attack from the University of Manitoba Student Union (UMSU). In an effort to stifle *The Manitoban*, UMSU had given 30 days' notice to the student newspaper that it would be evicted from its current space in the student centre. Staff, volunteers, and supporters of the student paper staged an occupation of the UMSU office to protest the eviction notice.

As stated in the policy manual, the Federation supports the Statement of Principle of the Canadian University Press. Of particular relevance in this case is the principle that student papers have the right to operate free from editorial control resulting from financial controls or pressure from student unions or campus administrators.

On March 26, a letter of support was sent to *The Manitoban*. In addition, an email update was sent to member locals, encouraging them to write letters of support to the student newspaper. On Thursday, March 30, it was learned that *The Manitoban* had just settled with UMSU, and that the eviction notice had been retracted.

Bill C-440: A Bill to De-fund Abortion

The Federation received an urgent call to action on March 22, to protest Bill C-440, a federal bill sponsored by Jim Pankiw, MP (Reform). The bill proposes that only "medically necessary" abortion services be fully state-funded, and that user fees be charged for other abortion services. A letter was sent to Mr. Pankiw and copied to relevant federal ministers on March 27, stating the Federation's support for a woman's right to make her own reproductive choices and have access to state-funded abortion services.

Bill C-23: A Homophobic Definition of Marriage

An urgent call to action was received on March 23, from Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere (EGALE), of which the Federation is a member. EGALE was calling for letters be sent to federal Liberal Minister of Justice Anne McLelland, to

protest the exclusively heterosexual definition of marriage included in the federal government's proposed Bill C-23. The Federation sent a letter to the Minister on March 25, stating the Federation's support for the rights of same-sex couples.

Regroupement Autonome des Jeunes

The Regroupement Autonome des Jeunes was one of the key groups involved in coordinating protests against the Quebec government-sponsored Youth Summit and the Alternative Youth Summit in Quebec City in February. Currently, RAJ has approximately \$15,000 in debts to cover, related to the flurry of activity this year. The Quebec component has worked closely with RAJ in recent months, and proposed that a donation be approved by the National Executive. At its March meeting the National Executive approved a donation of \$100.

Bill C-20 - The Clarity Bill

Federation policy that states "The Federation recognises the right and legitimacy of people living in Quebec to hold referenda on self-determination and to exercise the results of the referenda".

In December 1999, the federal government introduced Bill C-20, *A Bill on Clarity*, ostensibly to set out the criteria under which Québec must conduct a referendum before the federal government would recognise a vote. The Bill implies that the people of Québec are less democratically inclined than those people in the rest of Canada and explicitly threatens "changes to the borders of the province," in the event of a vote to secede. In effect, the bill codifies the option of partition.

A motion was passed at the January meeting of the National Executive, to send a letter to the Prime Minister expressing opposition to Bill C-120. It was further resolved that member locals be encouraged to write similar letters. The letter was sent on January 14, and suggested that the Bill served to divide English Canadians and the Québécois at a time when both groups were united in their strong support for increased funding for education, health care and other social programmes.

FULFILMENT OF DIRECTIVES FROM PLENARY

Endorsement of the National Childcare Campaign

At the November 1999 national general meeting, Jamie Cass from the Canadian Union of Public Employees made a presentation on the need for universal, publicly funded child care in Canada. She spoke on behalf of a coalition of organisations loosely organised to press for a national child care strategy.

At the November 1999 national general meeting delegates resolved to endorse and actively encourage local participation in the child care campaign. Postcards supporting the campaign were distributed to member locals at that national general meeting.

The Federation has been actively participating in the campaign at the national level for the past several years. In addition, the campaigns of several organisations working primarily or exclusively on child care and child poverty issues relating to the year 2000 federal budget (Child Care Advocacy Coalition of Canada, Campaign 2000 and the Campaign Against Child Poverty) have been endorsed by the Federation. As a member of the Child Care Advocacy Coalition, the Federation recently received a detailed report outlining the Coalition's vision for renewing the child care advocacy movement beyond this year's federal budget. Copies are available from the national office. Also, work to support the efforts of opposition parties (NDP and Bloc Québécois) to expose the federal government's record on child care and poverty is ongoing. Encouragement to actively participate in all of these aspects of the campaign for child care and against poverty was included in Federation updates by email and fax preceding the delivery of the 2000 federal budget.

Support for the Campaign for an Inquiry into the Standoff at Gustafsen Lake

In June of 1995, members of the Shuswap nation gathered near Gustafsen Lake, British Columbia to practise a traditional Sundance ceremony. A conflict ensued with a local rancher, and the

RCMP, the military and the government all intervened. By the time the Shuswap defenders left the Sundance camp on September 17, 1995, some 77,000 rounds of ammunition had been spent. Helicopters, armoured personnel carriers, video surveillance, M-16s and land mines were used by the RCMP – making this Canada's largest non-war-time military operation.

After a 10-month trial that included police officers' openly admitting to a "smear and misinformation 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 1998 national general meeting, a motion was passed unanimously to campaign in support of an inquiry into these incidents. Since then, the main elements of the motion have been implemented. A news release was issued, member locals were encouraged to participate in the call for an inquiry, a letter was written to appropriate federal authorities, and information about the campaign has been incorporated into the "Where's the Justice for Aboriginal People?" campaign. The campaign was reviewed during the February 2000 meeting of the Aboriginal Caucus, and it was suggested that the campaign for an inquiry into the standoff at Gustafsen Lake continue to be incorporated into the "Where's the Justice for Aboriginal People?" campaign.

Support for the 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 protesters in the Ipperwash Provincial Park, unceded Stoney Point First Nations land. For years, the Toronto-based Coalition for an Inquiry into the Death of Dudley George has been calling for a provincial inquiry.

It was reported at the November 1999 national general meeting that National Deputy Chairperson Elizabeth Carlyle had received a telephone call from Pierre George, brother of Dudley, who

expressed concerns that the coalition was focusing too heavily on his brother's death and not enough on the issue of the outstanding land claims for which he had been fighting. It was agreed to discuss the issues he raised with the Dudley George coalition and to meet with him to discuss the issue further. The general concerns raised by George have been conveyed verbally to Ann Pohl of the coalition. However, since the initial call in August 1999, no further contact with George has been possible.

The campaign was reviewed during the February 2000 meeting of the Aboriginal Caucus, and it was suggested that the campaign for an inquiry into the death of Dudley George continue to be incorporated into the "Where's the Justice for Aboriginal People?" campaign.

Support for the Campaign to Free Leonard Peltier

At the November 1999 national general meeting, it was resolved that the Campaign to Free Leonard Peltier be endorsed and that member locals be encouraged to join the campaign. The Federation has been involved in this campaign for several years, having produced in the mid-1990s a poster in support of efforts to free the imprisoned Aboriginal activist and of respect for Aboriginal rights. More recently, in July 1999, postcards produced by the Campaign were distributed to provincial components and member locals.

As U.S. Presidential elections draw near, the campaign to free Peltier, who remains incarcerated in the U.S., has gathered momentum. President Clinton has hinted on several occasions that he is considering granting executive clemency to Peltier. In light of these developments, the Free Leonard Peltier campaign in Canada held a strategy meeting of labour and social justice organisations in Toronto on April 6, 2000. Although the Federation sent regrets to the meeting, support for the campaign is ongoing.

Directive to Support the Oxfam International Education Now Campaign

The November 1999 national general meeting resolved that the Oxfam International's campaign

Education Now be endorsed and that member locals be encouraged to support the campaign. At the November 1999 national general meeting, representatives of Oxfam were invited as guests, campaign materials were distributed, and the endorsement was conveyed.

Directive to Support Expansion of Hate Crime Laws

The November 1999 national general meeting resolved that a letter be written in support of the private member's bill introduced to Parliament by MP Svend Robinson to include sexual orientation in Canada's hate crime laws and that member locals be encouraged to do the same. No action has been taken on this directive.

Directive to Oppose Police Brutality

The November 1999 national general meeting resolved that the Montreal Urban Community Police be condemned for its attacks on free speech, free assembly and its repression of political activities. It was further resolved that member locals be encouraged to write letters to the Montreal Urban Community Police and Montreal City Hall officials, condemning the actions of the police and to send letters of support to Local 91, the students at Comité d'action politique à l'université du Québec à Montréal, and the students and faculty at Université du Québec à Montréal.

At the January 2000 meeting of the National Executive, this directive was assigned to Quebec representative David Battistuzzi. At the March meeting, Battistuzzi reported that the Quebec Component continued to participate in the activities of the Montreal-based Citizens Opposed to Police Brutality (COPB), but that no letter had been written. National Deputy Chairperson Elizabeth Carlyle also reported that an up-to-date file on police brutality was kept in the national office, and that it would be useful, as a future project, to compile a systematic account of police brutality against student activism and citizens generally.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY WORK

SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN FOR INDEPENDENCE FOR EAST TIMOR

Since last year's referendum vote in favour of independence, the tiny nation of East Timor has been flooded with foreign experts, consultants, and aid agencies. Despite the flurry of attention, East Timor's biggest problems remain unsolved: at least one hundred thousand refugees continue to languish in refugee camps in West Timor and elsewhere, many under threat of Indonesian military and militia violence; Indonesian government control has been replaced by foreign aid agencies that are not accountable to the people of East Timor; unemployment is at 99%, and East Timorese workers are routinely paid as little as \$3 US per day while working 72-hour weeks; and infrastructure such as hospitals, clinics, schools, and roads remain in shambles.

The East Timorese are intent on shaping their own future: already, East Timorese workers in one of the floating hotels housing foreign aid workers and government representatives staged a one-day strike for better working conditions. Local non-governmental organisations persevere in their struggle to provide advocacy and services based on local needs. Students and youth are training to provide accountable, local security. East Timorese farmers are struggling to develop the country's capacity for food subsistence and export markets.

As part of its participation in the Canadian delegation to East Timor in July/August 1999, the Federation worked closely with the East Timor Student Solidarity Council (ETSSC), the central organisation of students from the University of East Timor (UNTIM). Since it emerged as an open body in June 1998, the ETSSC has focused on empowering ordinary East Timorese in political and community development. The Council has organised public meetings, demonstrations and dialogues and conducted voter education, often in the most remote areas of East Timor. These

activities were carried out despite a lack of resources and frequently serving as a target for Indonesian military and paramilitary groups. Between January 1998 and the announcement of the referendum results during the fall of 1999, more than 100 students were killed or disappeared.

The ETSSC has launched a project proposal entitled *Framework 2000* to provide for capacity-building workshops and establish Community Study Groups. The ETSSC is currently involved in various community activities, including teaching in primary schools. As part of these efforts, a request was sent to the Federation, for donations such as office supplies, computer equipment, textbooks, and personnel (volunteers).

In March the National Executive resolved to raise in-kind donations equivalent to \$2000 US for the East Timor Student Solidarity Council. A call for donations from member locals and other organisations was included in an April 2000 solidarity update, sent to the Federation's members' listserve and to selected coalition partners. It was further resolved that the Federation issue the call on an international scale, through the International Union of Students, and that the Federation coordinate this fundraising effort. So far, no concrete commitments have been received, but interest has been expressed by a handful of organisations.

SUPPORT FOR THE CAMPAIGN FOR A REFERENDUM FOR A FREE ACEH

Last fall's successful vote for independence by the people of East Timor has given new confidence to other groups that continue under the dominion of Indonesia's military regime. Among the most active is the Sira-Aceh movement for a referendum to decide the question of independence for the island of Aceh. The student movement, representatives of which met with a Federation representative last August as part of the activities of the Canadian delegation to observe conditions prior to the referendum in East Timor, forms the backbone of these liberation efforts.

On April 24, 2000, a letter condemning the continued repression of the Sira-Aceh liberation movement was sent by the Federation to

Abdurrachman Wahid, the President Republic of Indonesia, and copied to the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs. Communication with the Sira-Aceh independence organisation Banda Aceh, and the various other coalitions calling for a referendum is ongoing.

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 the 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 more than thirty years in the historic IUS building on 17th 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 bloc, the IUS has struggled financially and organisationally to the extent that communication was severely curtailed and most member organisations, including the Federation, were largely inactive from 1994 until the World Festival of Youth and Students in August 1997.

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 students' unions around the world.

The 17th Congress of the IUS was held from March 15-19, 2000, preceded by the Council meeting that was scheduled for March 13-14, 2000. As the member organisation of the Executive Secretariat with the greatest ability to coordinate the Congress, the Federation undertook the bulk of tasks associated with planning the meeting: mailings; logistical tasks; coordinating travel and the registration process; development of proposals and other documents; and regular communication

Solidarity Work

with members, the host organisation, and within the Executive Secretariat. All four organisations actively fulfilling their responsibilities on the Executive Secretariat worked hard to make the Congress a success.

However, several irregularities in securing travel visas and subsidised air fares resulted in approximately half of the registered member organisations' inability to participate in the meeting. In addition, lack of consultation leading up to the Congress, unpredictable changes in the meeting agenda made by the host organisation, and communication and technical problems added to the failure of the Congress to carry out some of the necessary constitutional changes. Although most delegates appreciated the opportunity to discuss the future of the IUS after so many years of dormancy, and all organisations present committed themselves to contributing to the process of revitalisation, the Congress fell short of the expectations of the Executive Secretariat.

The primary success of the 17th Congress was twofold: to provide a concrete, exclusive, formal venue in which to discuss the future of the organisation, and to create an opportunity for face-to-face discussion.

Since the 17th Congress, the Federation has continued to coordinate communication among the Executive Secretariat and member unions. It also continues to facilitate the participation of the IUS in key coalition and United Nations' events, including:

- the 12th Congress of the Continental Organisation of Latin American and Caribbean Students, held from April 1-5, 2000;
- the Millennium Forum of the United Nations, May 22-27, 2000;
- preparations for the next UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education;
- preparations for the next United Nations Youth Unit's World Youth Forum and Festival.

DONATIONS, LETTERS OF SUPPORT, AND ENDORSEMENTS

Support for Peruvian Students' Campaign for a Fair Election

On the heels of the recent presidential election in Peru, the Federation received a call for support

from the Federación de Estudiantes del Perú (FEP), a member of the International Union of Students. Early election results from polling on April 9, 2000 indicated a victory for incumbent Alberto Fujimori, but opposition leader Alejandro Toledo and non-governmental organisations have alleged serious electoral violations. Fujimori swept into power in Peru by staging an "autocoup" in 1992, and his two terms of office have been tainted by accusations of autocratic, military rule and support for policies that have exacerbated social and economic inequities. He had existing election rules altered to allow himself to run for a third term.

Because Fujimori did not achieve an absolute majority of votes (50% plus one), a runoff vote has been planned. As part of the campaign for election fairness, FEP organised a mass march on Wednesday, April 19. Tens of thousands of Peruvians turned out to call for a second runoff vote. The FEP's campaign materials stated, a runoff vote, while it would give voters an opportunity to reaffirm their vote, was inadequate in addressing the allegations of electoral fraud against Fujimori.

On April 14, in addition to an email message supporting FEP's efforts, the International Union of Students sent a letter of support for the campaign for free and fair elections and for an end to electoral corruption at the hands of Fujimori and the Peruvian military. On April 18, the Federation wrote a letter outlining its concerns to President Fujimori, and copied it to FEP. It was also copied to the Embassy of Peru, located in Ottawa, with a request to meet to discuss the issues raised. Although no meeting was arranged, the Embassy contacted National Deputy Chairperson Elizabeth Carlyle, and a telephone discussion on FEP's day of action provided an opportunity to emphasise the campaign demands.

FULFILMENT OF DIRECTIVES FROM PLENARY

Campaign in Support of Mexican Students

In April 1999, after revelations that the Zedillo Government was to repeal the country's zero

tuition fee policy and implement vast tuition fee increases at the behest of the World Bank, students and the post-secondary education community at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) began a campus-wide strike. Eventually, the federal government and UNAM agreed not to implement tuition fees; however, most strikers remained dissatisfied with the policy orientation of the Mexican government and university administration. The strike continued until early February 2000, when Mexican police and federal agents took aggressive steps to destroy strike barricades and disband thousands of striking students. Nearly 600 student strikers were arrested, among them much of the leadership of the UNAM General Strike Council (CGH).

As part of the Access 2000 campaign, the CGH endorsed the Federation's demands and pledged to hold a solidarity event on February 2. However, the event was cancelled due to the renewed repression and mass arrests taking place in Mexico at the time.

In the following week, solidarity protests and rallies in support of the CGH and its demands for the immediate release of all detained strikers took place in several Canadian cities.

Federation representatives in Ottawa met with the Mexican Ambassador to Canada to express concerns about the detained Mexican students and the regressive policies of the Mexican government and the World Bank. Follow-up letters were to the Ambassador, Mexican President Zedillo, Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Lloyd Axworthy, Canadian opposition critics, and the CGH.

In Ontario, a delegation of students, including Ontario Chairperson Joel Harden met with the Mexican Ambassador at the Embassy in Toronto. As well, a lively picket was organised to demand the release of the detained students.

In late February, the British Columbia component produced postcards to Axworthy and the Ambassador, in support of the demands of the CGH. These were distributed to provincial offices in early March. Communication with the CGH has been ongoing in recent weeks. Currently, 98 students remain in detention.

As part of its role within the International Union of Students, the Federation subsidised travel costs for a

CGH representative to participate in the 17th Congress of the IUS. At this meeting, a statement of support for the Mexican students' demands was adopted. It has been translated into English by the Federation.

Directive to Organise Tour of Striking Mexican Students

On July 29, the Federation sent a letter of support to striking Mexican students. This letter followed efforts in January 1999 to support school teachers arrested in Mexico. A further letter of support was sent in September 1999.

At the Federation's invitation, Dulce Carolina Sanchez Campos from the UNAM Consejo General de Huelga (General Strike Committee) addressed the November 1999 National General Meeting.

At that meeting, delegates resolved that a cross Canada tour of at least one Autonomous University of Mexico student should be organised the following January on a cost recovery basis. It was further resolved that member locals be encouraged to host speaking engagements on their campuses, raise money to offset the costs of the tour and raise money for the strike.

It was determined that a ten-city, two-week tour would cost approximately \$6000. Then-Campaigns Coordinator Pam Frache and National Deputy Chairperson Elizabeth Carlyle solicited sufficient commitments for tour stops and funds, and contacted the UNAM General Strike Council. However, after the strike was disbanded by police and military intervention in early February, it became difficult to communicate with the CGH and to coordinate the tour. By the time of the March National Executive meeting the National Executive determined that the tour was no longer possible. As a gesture of continued support, a \$100 donation to the CGH was approved at the March meeting, in addition to a \$200 donation approved by the National Graduate Council at its February meeting.

In mid-March, the Federation was able to facilitate the participation of the David Mourino Carrillos, a representative of the CGH, in the 17th Congress of the International Union of Students. This

provided a much-needed opportunity to discuss and build support for the Mexican students' struggle against globalisation and structural adjustment. Carrillo's participation also provided an opportunity to promote the CGH's First Annual Meeting in Defence of Free and Public Education, an international conference held during the fourth weekend of April 2000.

In early April 2000, further contact was made with the General Strike Council, during the 12th Congress of the Continental Organisation of Latin American and Caribbean Students (OCLAE). It was also learned that there are two other democratic bodies representing students at the National Autonomous University of Mexico: the CEC (Student Coordinating Committee) and the CE (Student Coordination). Due to this new information, the donations approved by the National Executive and the Graduate Council have not yet been forwarded to the CGH, in order to provide an opportunity for further discussion.

Directive to Seek an Exemption in Trade Agreements for Public Services

The November 1999 national general meeting resolved that the federal government be lobbied to seek an exemption for publicly funded social programmes within existing trade agreements.

Within the framework of the trade deals currently entering into a new round of negotiations within the World Trade Organisation, the General Agreement on Trade in Services pertains most to public services. Canada signed onto GATS during the 1994 Uruguay Round of negotiations and included, as did many other countries, a schedule of dozens of specific commitments, or areas that would fall under the agreement. The text of the agreement itself contains a clause stipulating that government procurement (publicly funded and administered services and programmes) are exempt from the agreement. In spite of these technical explanations of GATS, however, the threat posed to public programmes by global trade is undiminished. The combination of weak-willed government protection of social programmes, the ongoing privatisation and commercialisation of public programmes, and the overall bent of the WTO towards "ratcheting up" liberalisation in all

markets, make education, health care, utilities, and social services vulnerable. This directive has been incorporated into all the Federation's current work on globalisation.

Directive to Develop International Issues Policy

The November 1999 national general meeting resolved that a policy on International Issues that does not refer to specific countries or regimes be developed. A draft policy was developed and has been served as notice of motion to the May 2000 semi-annual national general meeting.

Directive to Condemn Role of NATO in Bombing of Chechnya

The November 1999 national general meeting resolved that the role of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in creating the climate that precipitated the bombing of Chechnya be condemned, that the bombing of Chechnya be condemned and that member locals be encouraged to participate in actions opposing the aggression of NATO and Russia. Although several member locals participated in the campaign to condemn NATO's role in the bombing of Chechnya, no centrally coordinated action has been undertaken.

Directive to Support Embargo on Indonesia

Last fall, it was revealed that, despite denials by the Canadian government, millions of dollars in military exports (of supplies, not weapons) had been approved from Canada to Indonesia. Despite the severity of the violence in the fall, and despite the current conditions of repression for the East Timorese, these exports have continued without interruption. Last fall at least 100,000 East Timorese remain refugees in Indonesian West Timor. Many are too afraid to try to leave, and threats and violence at the hands of the Indonesian military and their militias continue in the camps.

Since the referendum, East Timorese NGOs have established several priorities: acquiring farming equipment and basic mechanical supplies to drive the economy (farming, transportation networks, basic infrastructure rebuilding); teaching people

(for example, the East Timor Student Solidarity Council is helping teach school-age children, many NGOs are desperate for books and other teaching supplies); establishing an international tribunal to bring perpetrators of genocide to justice; constructive healing, including facilities for personal and community medical care, counselling and therapy. One of the main strategies for international support has been to encourage supportive organisations to pressure their governments to impose a full trade embargo on the Indonesian government, still dominated by the military despite a change in leadership, and to funnel foreign aid directly to established, local, non-governmental organisations.

The November 1999 national general meeting resolved that the Canadian government be pressured to establish an embargo on Indonesia. It was further resolved that support be provided to organisations attempting to gather forensic evidence for the purposes of prosecuting perpetrators of human rights offences.

On April 3, 2000, Federation representatives met with Donovan Hammersley, Senior Advisor to Raymond Chan, Secretary of State for Asia Pacific. During the meeting with Hammersley, which preceded the mid-April visit to East Timor of a Canadian delegation led by Chan and including Member of Parliament Svend Robinson (NDP), the Federation called for:

- the establishment of a formal and complete embargo against the Indonesian military regime;
- aid to NGOs that were established prior to last fall's referendum vote; and
- funding and political support for a thorough international tribunal process to bring perpetrators of genocide to justice. The Indonesian government, under new President Abdurrachman Wahid (or Gus Dur), has launched a tribunal on East Timor. However, Wahid's public statements that one of the engineers of the atrocities, General Wiranto, for example, would essentially be absolved of any legal/criminal responsibility for the genocide do not inspire confidence in the process thus far.

Although the amount and type of Canadian foreign aid to East Timor remains undetermined,

Hammersley stated that 'pouring money into such a small place is not the answer'. Federation representatives refuted the argument that East Timor would be unable to cope with an influx of aid money, and urged the federal government to assess the most immediate needs of East Timor and respond accordingly. On the issue of a tribunal, Hammersley was noncommittal about what Canada would call for—but he did say that the reports of the massacre after the vote left no doubt that some kind of process had to be initiated to bring the perpetrators to justice. A follow up letter was sent to request a meeting upon Chan's return.

FEDERATION PROGRAMMES

The Federation runs several programmes to make students' lives and student unions' work easier. Because these programmes are run for students by students, the programmes can be responsive to the changing needs of the membership of the Federation. Periodically, the Federation reviews its programmes.

International Student Identity Card

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.) The Federation, and its predecessor organisations, have served as the Canadian agent for the Card since its creation in the late 1960s.

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. A portion of the fees collected for all the cards issued in Canada is paid to the International Student Travel Confederation.

DISTRIBUTION IN CANADA

In 1993, student discounts requiring the International Student Identity Card as proof of student status were secured on major domestic air travel routes. This resulted in a substantial, ongoing increase in Card sales. Demand for the Card received another boost in 1997 when a major student discount requiring the Card was secured with VIA Rail. In 1998, the Federation secured a discount on Greyhound Bus Lines of Canada. Although the Greyhound discount was originally fairly limited, the Federation has worked with Greyhound to expand the discount. ISIC holders now receive 25% off on all Greyhound tickets.

Prior to 1993, roughly 15,000 cards were issued each year in Canada. Between September 1998 and August 1999, close to 145,000 cards were issued, ranking Canada as the fifth largest issuing agent in the world. This year, the Federation is on pace to distribute 160,000 cards.

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

Federation Programmes

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. In fall 1998 the Federation re-assumed responsibility for administering distribution to member and non-member local offices. This fall the Federation re-assumed responsibility for supplying cards to Travel CUTS.

PROMOTION

Last summer several initiatives were introduced to increase the profile of the International Student Identity Card. A variety of high quality ISIC images, customised for each member local association, were included on the Federation's handbook kit compact disk distributed to locals. The Federation also included information about the Card on the 275,000 full-colour Studentsaver Card inserts that were either bound into or distributed with local handbooks. In addition, on the roughly 1,500 stickers and 1,200 window decals distributed to businesses offering Studentsaver discounts, appeared both an image of the Studentsaver Card and the International Student Identity Card. Though Studentsaver discounts had always been available with the ISIC, that fact had never been widely promoted.

These initiatives have had an impact. So far, for the 1999-2000 issuing year, most member locals are well ahead of their last years' pace for cards issued. For example, the Carleton University Students' Association is on pace to issue close to 4,000 cards this year, compared to 2,918 cards last year. Nipissing University Student Union has already issued 238 cards compared to 115 last year.

PRINTED ISIC'S

In an effort to update the quality and appearance of the Card, the International Student Travel

Confederation launched the "new generation ISIC" in summer 1998. While the personal data on the Card can be handwritten, just as it could be on the old Card, equipment and software is now available which allows for the issuing of computer-generated Cards. This year, more than 80 percent of the Cards issued around the world will be printed. The Federation is the largest issuing agent in the world not already issuing most Cards in a computer-generated format.

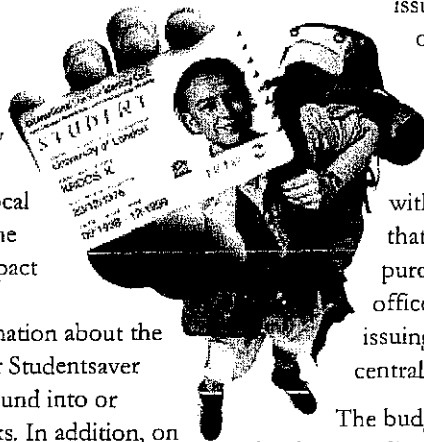
The Travel Confederation has set as a goal to have no more handwritten cards after September 2001. This poses a considerable problem for the Federation, given that over 70 Canadian member

and non-member student unions currently issue the Card and the vast majority of those issue less than 400 cards per year. At roughly \$600.00 per Card label printer, it is well beyond the means of the Federation to supply each office with a printer. The current view is that printers will have to be purchased for the larger issuing offices and that some of the card issuing will have to become more centralised.

The budget adopted in May 1999 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000 allocated funds for the purchase of an initial supply of label printers. Shortly after the general meeting, ten printers were ordered last summer. Unfortunately, due to a backlog of orders, they did not arrive until late September. The printers were subsequently deployed to various high-volume issuing offices in the weeks immediately following.

In late December, the Federation received an additional supply of twelve printers. At this point roughly half of the printers have been deployed. The remainder will be deployed this summer in time for the start of the 2001 issuing year, September 1.

The National Executive is also recommending that funds be allocated in the 2000-2001 national budget for the purchase of an additional supply of printers. If funding is approved, those printers will be ordered immediately so that they will be



available for installation in issuing offices prior to September 1.

In addition, the Federation recently purchased two high-volume card printers. Unlike the other printers, which simply printed labels to be placed on the ISIC, these new printers print digital photos and data directly onto the card. One of the printers will be placed, on a trial basis, in an office issuing a large volume of cards. The other will be used for Federation promotional tables and events.

POSTERS AND OTHER ISIC PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

After lengthy delays the Federation finally received its supply of year 2000 promotional materials from the International Student Travel Confederation. Specifically, the Federation received 500 copies of each of five posters from this year's series. The Federation also received 1,000 window decals and 1,000 ISIC footprints. Distribution of these promotional materials has been ongoing, as requests are received. The Federation will also be developing promotional materials that highlight the VIA Rail and Greyhound discounts. These materials will be sent to campuses in late August for member locals to conduct promotional campaigns during orientation week.

2000/2001 ISIC STUDENT TRAVEL HANDBOOK

Copies of the ISIC Student Handbook are typically distributed during the fall to member and non-member locals serving as issuing offices. Some copies of the Handbook are also sent to member locals that do not issue the Card. This year the handbooks arrived from the ISTC in early October and were distributed to member and non-member locals shortly thereafter.

FUTURE ISIC OPTIONS

At the previous general meeting it was reported that the ISTC had redesigned the card to allow the ISIC to be 'co-branded' to serve as a college or university's student card. At that time, the Federation was considering at least one institutional co-branding option. Unfortunately, since the previous general meeting, a number of

difficulties have arisen with institutions in Europe and South America where co-branded ISICs serve as the student cards. As a result of the difficulties, the ISTC has placed a temporary moratorium on new ISIC co-brands. This moratorium will be in place until the ISTC can assess the success of its co-branding experiment.

Studentsaver – Canada's Original Student Discount Programme

In 1981, when the Federation was being formed, initial plans called for each individual member to be issued an International Student Identity Card as a Federation membership/discount card. In fact, in the fall of 1981 close to 30,000 cards were issued to the first wave of individual members from the eight student unions that had passed Federation membership referenda the previous spring, prior to the official founding of the Federation.

It was quickly realised that the Federation did not have the resources and the associations did not have the capability to issue International Student Identity Cards to every individual Federation member. Most importantly, the Federation learned that it was not allowed to distribute the ISIC to part time students.

During that first year in existence, the Federation resolved to create a second discount card – the Studentsaver Card – which was to be an inexpensive, easy-to-distribute alternative, absent of any cardholder data or photograph, and that was to be available to part-time and full-time students. It was also intended to serve as a membership card, clearly indicating that the bearer is a member of the Federation.

Although the Card discount solicitation methods and promotion have undergone minor revisions, the programme remained relatively unchanged for most of its history.

Last year, in an effort to revitalise what had become an outdated programme, the Federation began to significantly redesign Studentsaver. The revitalisation process continues in the coming year.

CARD REDESIGN

The Studentsaver Card was first issued in fall 1982 as a plastic card similar to a credit card. The discounts available with the Card were published in a national guide book that was produced and distributed with the Card. By the mid-1980s the number of discounts had grown substantially necessitating a change to separate and smaller Eastern and Western Canada discount guide books.

The programme remained relatively unchanged until the early 1990's. Then, as an alternative to the costly guide books, the Federation began printing the local area discounts for the programme on institution-specific Cards. In addition to reducing production costs, the new wallet-sized cards had the potential of increasing exposure for local discounts. Very few students actually carried their discount guide books with them. It was hoped that by having the discounts printed on the Card, students would be more familiar with them.

In order to accommodate the list of the discounts, the card was changed to a foldout card with four panels. Even with the expanded size of the card, however, it could only accommodate approximately 40 discount listings. As a result, the number of discounts across the country dwindled from close to 2000 in the late 1980's, to less than 500 by 1998. The folding format also made card distribution less effective. As loose inserts in handbooks, the cards were often tossed directly in the garbage with other advertisements without being looked at. Many students who did keep their Cards found them too bulky to keep in their wallets.

In January 1999, the National Executive decided to return to a durable plastic card for the programme and to use other methods to promote the discounts. The new generation cards have achieved mixed results. Early reports suggest that the credit card-sized and professional look has increased use and retention of the cards. Unfortunately, the card material has not held up as well as was anticipated, with inks wearing off inside wallets.

THE NEXT GENERATION CARD

The 1999/2000 Studentsaver card was redesigned to bring the card closer to the look and approach of the International Student Identity Card while maintaining a distinct visual identity through a varying colour scheme. For the first time in the 1990's, the 1999-2000 Studentsaver Card featured a location for the cardholder's name and institution of study on the front of the card. Moreover, the institution of study was pre-printed on the cards.

While last year's design was a positive first step, the design of the Card requires additional improvements. One of the Federation's primary competitors, Collegeclub, features a bright orange membership card distinctly visible from a distance. The Federation's card, while more professional-looking from up-close, does not carry the same visual impact when viewed from a distance. Additionally, the printing of the institution of study added as much as \$5,000 in direct printing and distribution costs as well as dozens of hours of staff time to the project.

In March, it was resolved that the 2000/2001 card be redesigned to achieve a greater look of professionalism and to achieve a more striking colour scheme. This will include the development of a distinct logo for the programme. It is hoped that the new logo will increase students' awareness of the programme and enable them to more easily identify businesses that provide Studentsaver discounts.

The 2000/2001 card will continue to prominently feature references to membership in the Canadian Federation of Students, but will no longer include a space for individual name or place of study on the front of the Card. The Card will be made from a more durable plastic or plastic-like material and finished with a strong varnish or laminate.

Further changes are planned for the 2000/2001 Card. Instead of a foldout listing discounts, a regional discount guide will be produced. Each guide will feature a list of all the discounts in the region. Further, businesses that wish may, for a cost, purchase space for coupons to be inserted into the guide.

The solicitation of businesses to take out coupons in the book will require an extra effort by regional discount coordinators and careful coordination of the production and distribution of materials by the National Executive. Local discount solicitors will continue to secure discounts in their community. These will then be grouped into batches of regional discounts.

The booklet will accommodate a greater number of discounts, offer greater exposure to discount providers, and allow the Federation to generate advertising revenue to offset the costs of offering the programme. The National Executive resolved that no advertising or discount be provided by any business or product against which a recognised boycott campaign is underway.

To help offset the cost of the improvements to the programme, the National Executive resolved to develop an advertising schedule for the programme. The schedule has been designed to generate adequate revenue to offset the cost of providing the programme. Advertising/discount packages are tailored for national or regional discount providers. Local businesses will still be provided with free discount listings. Also, the advertising rates have been structured to make it feasible for progressive, low margin, and small community businesses to afford some type of coupon or additional advertisement in the booklet.

Although the implementation of these changes is time-consuming, it is expected that the Cards, discount guidebooks and other promotional materials will be sent to campuses in early August.

DISTRIBUTION AND PROMOTION OF CARDS

In past years the Studentsaver Cards were often not received on campus until early September because they could not be printed until after the completion of discount solicitation. As reported in November 1999, the 1999/2000 Cards were printed and shipped in late June, while discount solicitation was still underway.

The past year was among the most successful for card distribution. Where possible, the Studentsaver Card was gummed onto a one-page Studentsaver insertion in local student union dayplanners or handbooks. Some 275,000 full-colour insertions were printed and close to half of them were bound into local handbooks.

Unfortunately, the process of gumming the cards to a sheet in students' union handbooks did not work for all member locals.

Moreover, the process created a substantial amount of work and difficulties in printing and shipping and added thousands of dollars to the cost of the program.

The creation of the Discount Guide prevents the Studentsaver from being bound into local

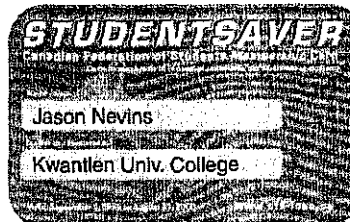
handbooks. The National Executive is currently developing strategies to ensure that Card distribution remains high.

DISCOUNT SOLICITATION

Studentsaver has historically only accepted discounts that are ongoing for the term of the program and that are tied to presentation of the card at the time of purchase. This type of discount works well for many businesses and for students; however, it does not work in all situations. Discount providers, especially national ones, increasingly are looking to provide special, time-limited, or usage-limited offers.

Currently, discounts are listed in promotional materials, in student handbooks, and on the Federation's web site. The Federation has received criticism in the past year for failing to adequately alert members to the discounts available through the program, in particular at the time cards were distributed. While a number of member locals had published discount lists in their handbooks, many did not. The publication and distribution of regional discount booklets will help to solve this problem.

In March, the National Executive resolved that local and national discount solicitation be substantially completed early enough that all member locals are able to include discount lists



Federation Programmes

in 2000/2001 handbooks. It was also resolved that regional coupon/discount listing books be produced on a cost-recovery basis. These booklets will include information on the Federation and its campaigns, in addition to a series of coupons and the discount listings for the region.

Local Discount Solicitation

In July 1999, in an effort to better support member locals' discount solicitation efforts, and to combat aggressive competition, the National Executive directed that new and better materials be produced.

Changes for the 1999/2000 Card included the production of a full-colour Business Guide and an improved discount contract with two carbonless copies: one for the discount provider; and one for the discount solicitor. The Members' Guide to the program was also redesigned and updated. In an effort to increase the amount of discounts, the National Executive has further revised the discount solicitation materials.

Both last year, and for the 2000/2001 year, the National Executive had hoped to have the discount solicitation materials available to locals by mid-April. Unfortunately, the materials were not completed and distributed until late May last year. Materials for the 2000/2001 year are currently at the printers and will be sent to locals shortly after the meeting.

For the 1999/2000 Card, the quality and quantity of discounts that were ultimately secured varied considerably across the country. The quantity of discounts was particularly poor in large urban areas such as Toronto and Vancouver. In fact, the signed discount agreements for Toronto – a total of only 17 discounts – were not received by the national office until November 1999, well after the prime time for discount promotion. The current approach is to provide a flat rate amount for each local discount solicitor, plus a bonus for each discount beyond a base number. In a number of cases the Federation provided hundreds of dollars for very few discounts. This mixed incentive system has brought mixed results.

In March, the National Executive resolved that remuneration would be based on the number of discounts secured. As well, the National Executive increased the remuneration per discount. The National Executive believes that this will increase the amount of local discounts that are secured.

National Discount Solicitation

In recent years, the Studentsaver program has not featured significant national discounts. In 1999-2000, due to the first stage of program redesign and the late spring beginning to discount solicitation, no national discounts were secured. A number of other discount programs had approached many national businesses prior to the Federation and had already committed themselves. Moreover, the time and approach required to solicit national discounts was impossible given staffing levels in the national office last winter and spring.

At the time, local discount development had also been identified as a priority. It was felt that in the context of the redesigned program, focus in the first year should be on local discounts. While the effectiveness of this strategy varied significantly from region to region, discount solicitors consistently identified the absence of national discounts as a barrier to securing local discounts. Many businesses did not see a discount program that lacked national discounts as a credible program.

The absence of national discounts is also noticed by Federation members. While there are many good local discounts in a number of regions, there are some products and services purchased by many Federation members that are primarily or only available from national retailers. These types of purchases are in the areas such as telecommunications, food, and clothing, and to a lesser extent music and entertainment.

There are a great many advantages to the Federation's program that are enticing to national companies. The Body Shop, as one example, last year indicated that had the Federation contacted it sooner, it would have participated in the Federation's program over that of Price Club.

In January, the National Executive identified the solicitation of national discounts for the 2000/

2001 Card as an important part of ensuring the viability of the programme. In February 2000, the firm Glaze Holdings was retained to solicit national discounts. Response from national retailers has been very positive thus far, and the National Executive hopes that national discounts and advertising will help offset the cost of the improvements to the programme.

COMPETITION

The loss of discounts in major urban areas is primarily attributable to competition from other discount programs headed by profit-seeking entrepreneurs. In recent years, competition to the Studentsaver programme developed primarily 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 has been unable to compete, and has lost its share of national discounts.

Last year, a newer programme called Collegeclub.com emerged. Based in San Diego, California, Collegeclub offers a student discount programme primarily to attract students to its website. Collegeclub then generates revenue by selling advertising space on its website, which also features a variety of clubs, dating services, chat rooms, and trivia.

While Student Price Club has maintained a strong hold on national discounts in Canada, Collegeclub has been very effective at securing discounts at independent businesses throughout Vancouver, where Collegeclub likely offers more than 200 discounts. However, either from lack of interest or effort, Student Price Club or College Club appear to offer few local discounts outside of major urban centres.

In addition, the Federation has been approached by the Canadian University Press (CUP) to consider a joint programme such as an on-line magazine to win back advertisers. CUP, which groups many student newspapers across the country, runs student-owned services for its members. Over the past two years, there has been a sharp rise in web advertising and a proliferation

of commercial magazines on campuses that are offered free to students. CUP fears that these businesses have and will continue to distract CUP's readership and divert advertising revenues from student papers to these glossy magazines and flashy websites. CUP feels that its national advertising cooperative, Campus Plus, and its member papers face serious threats to their survival. Similarly, as a provider of programmes for students, by students, the Federation is confronting the same trends. The Federation and CUP are currently developing a joint strategy for dealing with these large, well financed, for-profit businesses.

PROMOTION

The most significant complaints received regarding the 1999/2000 program focused on discount promotion. While a series of bright attractive posters featuring regional discount listings were produced, they were not available early enough to adequately support the program for the 1999-2000 year.

Window decals are also a key component of Studentsaver; however, in the past year many businesses did not place in their windows the stickers they received. In the coming year, discount solicitors will carry window decals and offer to place them in the business' window at the time the discount is secured.

The Federation's redesigned website provides another exciting prospect for Studentsaver in the form of ongoing discounts and discount solicitation. The website can be updated from any computer connected to the internet. Future options may allow discount solicitors to immediately submit discounts through the Federation's website. Either way, the standard September to September discount timeline will no longer be required.

Improving Studentsaver will also require a strong commitment to the programme from member locals. Locals will have to take greater responsibility for ensuring discounts are solicited, that cards and discount booklets are distributed and that discounts are promoted.

In past years, promotional materials and discount provider instructions have been sent in a large

mailing at the close of the discount solicitation period. This is often weeks or months after the discounts have been solicited. Discount providers receiving the package may have experienced turnover, or may simply not pay attention to the package and therefore fail to post the stickers and other materials.

To combat these problems, materials for discount providers are being produced earlier this year. This will enable discount solicitors to post the materials at the time the discount is secured and to review with the provider the process for accepting discounts.

For the 2000/2001 Card, it is expected that promotional materials, including posters, will be shipped with the discount booklets in August. These materials can be used on campus and in the community.

ISIC SUPPORT

A common difficulty for discount solicitors, particularly in major centres, is that some students in the community are not members of the Federation and, therefore, do not receive the discount card. As a result, some businesses are reluctant to provide discounts. In the past year, however, the Federation has moved towards a system whereby the International Student Identity Card clearly entitles the holder to any discount provided through Studentsaver. This has two potential benefits. First, it makes all full-time students in Canada eligible for the discounts and reduces the problem of non-members not receiving discounts. Second, if national discounts provided through Studentsaver are good enough, it has the potential to increase the distribution of the ISIC card, or to help offset any loss in ISIC distribution that may result from the airline mergers.

In March, the National Executive decided that the coupon, booklet/discount listing would be provided to non-members who purchase an International Student Identity Card.

National Student Health Network

MEMBERSHIP

At the previous meeting, it was reported that the National Executive was optimistic about the possibility of expanding membership in the Network. While no new members have joined the network since the previous meeting, Local 46, the College of the North Atlantic Students' Association will be holding a health plan referendum in the early fall.

PLAN IMPROVEMENTS

In order to compete with larger brokers with significantly more financial resources, the National Executive has continued work on a number of improvements to the plan since the previous general meeting.

One-time opt-outs

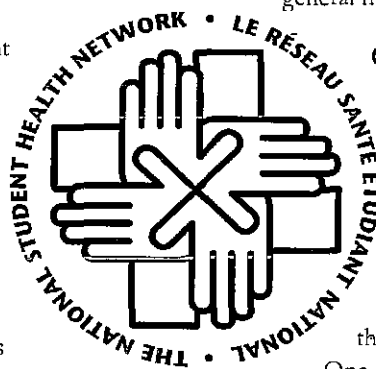
In response to concerns about the need to opt out of the plan each year, the Network has developed a computer program that will require a student with other extended health coverage to opt-out of the plan only once during the course of their academic career.

One-time opt-outs, which were tested this year at the University of Victoria, are now available to all Network members.

Availability of Network Forms on the Federation Website

With the increasing popularity of the internet as a means of exchanging information and receiving services, all of the forms that students are required to fill out will be available for down-loading on the Federation's web site. Students will then be able to fill out the forms at home and minimise the stress of opting out of the plan or waiting on reimbursement for medical or dental expenses.

The Federation has also begun developing a computer program that will allow students to fill



out the forms directly on the web site, thereby eliminating the line ups to opt-out. The Federation has already negotiated an agreement with several insurance companies to waive the proof of coverage for students who opt-out on the web. This will allow local plan administrators to devote more time to marketing the plan on their campus.

Finally, in order to ensure that students will be able to find the site with ease, the Federation has registered the domain name www.studenthealth.org. When students go to this address they will immediately be redirected to the Network's page on the Federation's web site.

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INTERNAL AFFAIRS

National Executive

CURRENT COMPOSITION

The following are the current members of the Federation's National Executive.

Aboriginal Students' Representative	Troy Sebastian
British Columbia Representative	Rob Fleming
Francophone Students' Representative	Margaret Bryans
Graduate Students' Representative	Joy Morris
Manitoba Representative	Rob Marriott
National Chairperson	Michael Conlon
National Deputy Chairperson	Elizabeth Carlyle
National Treasurer	Joey Hansen
Newfoundland-Labrador Representative	Jen Anthony
Nova Scotia Representative	Penny McCall Howard
Ontario Representative	Mike Blower
Prince Edward Island Representative	B.J. McCarville
Quebec Representative	David Battistuzzi
Saskatchewan Representative	Mark Cooper
Students of Colour Representative	Janelle Ho Shing
Women's Representative	Anita Zaenker

Federation Staffing

OVERVIEW

Since 1972, the Federation's national staff have been unionised 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 organised under a collective agreement, essentially a common contract with varying job descriptions and a pay scale. 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 to such items as wages, benefits, hours of work, and discipline.

Internal Affairs

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 formal complaint, against the employer.

Under the provisions of the collective agreement between the Union and the Federation, one of the at-large members of the National Executive serves as the Staff Relations Officers. National Treasurer Joey Hansen has filled this position since prior to the May 1999 national general meeting.

CURRENT STAFF

The following are the current, regular staff of the Federation directly funded by the Federation's national budget:

Campaigns Coordinator

Pam Frache (on leave)

Discount Programmes Coordinator

• Philip Link

Financial Coordinator

Johanne Laurent

Government Relations Coordinator

Michael Temelini

Health Plan Coordinator

Todd Buttenham

Internal Coordinator

Lucy Watson

Researcher

Denise Doherty-Delorme

Translator

Carol-Lynn Prebinski

In addition, there are several Federation employees who are employed by provincial components of the Federation.

STATUS OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND-LABRADOR ORGANISER POSITION

In May 1998 the national general meeting voted to supplement the Newfoundland and Labrador Component allocation in order to fund a temporary organiser position for the province. Following successful negotiations with CUPE 1281 to allow for the creation of the temporary position, Rajat Sharan was hired on a six-month contract in October 1998. In May 1999 Sharan's contract was extended for an additional year.

The National Executive has entered into negotiations with the Newfoundland and Labrador Component to cost-share a permanent position. It is hoped that these negotiations will be concluded shortly.

DEPARTURES SINCE THE PREVIOUS NATIONAL GENERAL MEETING

In April, Monique Landa retired as Translator for the Federation. Landa had worked for the Federation since January, 1994.

In December 1999, Manitoba Fieldworker Kemlin Nembhard applied for and was granted a four-month leave of absence from her staff position. This spring, shortly before her scheduled return date, Nembhard informed the Federation that she was resigning from her position. Since June 1994, Nembhard has been employed in a variety of positions within the Federation; Interim Fieldworker (Manitoba-Saskatchewan); National General Meeting Harassment Advisor; and Manitoba Fieldworker.

STAFF LEAVES-OF-ABSENCE

In February, Pam Frache applied for and was granted a one year leave-of-absence from her position. Currently, Frache is employed as the Campaigns and Government Relations Coordinator with the Ontario Component.

PERMANENT OFFICE STAFF

In April the Federation commenced the process for filling the positions of Government Relations Coordinator and Communications Coordinator.

Michael Temelini was hired at the beginning of May as the Government Relations Coordinator. Temelini was a member at Local 79 and has an extensive history with the Federation. He served five terms on the National Executive, three as Graduate Representative and two years as Quebec Representative. Temelini was instrumental in developing the Quebec component in 1994. He has recently completed a contract with the Canadian Union of Public Employees as a Communications Coordinator in CUPE's national office.

A second round of interviews will be conducted for the Media Relations Coordinator position following the national general meeting.

TEMPORARY OFFICE STAFF

In order to help compensate for several vacancies in the national office this spring, the National Executive and CUPE 1281 agreed in early May to the creation of a short-term General Meeting Coordinator position. Cathy Anstey was hired in early May and will be in place until mid-June. Anstey was a member of Local 1 and served two terms on the students' union executive as the Vice-President Internal.

ADDRESSING CURRENT STAFF VACANCIES

In January 1999, the National Executive resolved, due to financial constraints, to freeze all hiring for vacant staff positions until the end of the 1998-99 fiscal year. The following positions are currently vacant:

- Campaigns Coordinator
- Communications Coordinator
- Graduate Caucus Coordinator
- Manitoba Fieldworker
- Nova Scotia-Prince Edward Island Fieldworker
- Translator

With the gradual improvement of the Federation's finances the National Executive identified the need to hire the Government Relations Coordinator and Communications Coordinator positions.

STAFF RESTRUCTURING

The workload within the Federation has increased substantially over the past few years. To address the changing needs of the membership and the increasing amount of work the organisation must perform, negotiations to develop a more comprehensive staffing structure are underway. The objective is to create a staffing structure which is representative of the various skills required by the organisation while taking into account financial constraints.

MEMBERSHIP ISSUES

Membership Stability and Growth

For the past few years, the Federation has experienced a level of membership stability unprecedented in its nineteen year history. Since 1996, only two member locals have withdrawn from the Federation, and one of those – the Grenfell College Students' Union – rejoined the Federation within eighteen months. During the same period seven students' unions have joined the Federation for the first time and another six have either rejoined or reactivated their memberships.

The Federation now has as members virtually all public post-secondary students in Newfoundland and Labrador and on Prince Edward Island. In British Columbia, a strong majority of college and university students are members of the Federation, while a majority of Ontario university students belong to the Federation.

Membership in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Québec and Nova Scotia remains steady.

Since 1996, the Federation has had no member locals in either Alberta or New Brunswick. While the prospect for any immediate membership growth in these provinces is remote, relations between the Federation and the provincial student organisations in these provinces have improved. Several students' unions in Alberta and New Brunswick participated actively in the Federation's *Access 2000* campaign, and some ran the Federation's 'No Means No' campus awareness campaign during the past year.

Full Membership Applications

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY SOCIETY OF GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS

The Queen's University Society of Graduate and Professional Students is composed of the roughly 2,000 graduate students enrolled at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. The Society's predecessor organisation, an unincorporated students' union known as the Queen's University Graduate Students' Society, was a founding member of the Federation and, for the decade which followed, actively participated in the Federation.

In 1991 the Society incorporated, becoming the Queen's University Society of Graduate and Professional Students. Shortly after, the Society's executive declared that it was not the same organisation, and therefore it was not obligated to collect the Federation's membership fees. The Federation was confident that the new Society's position was invalid but did not aggressively pursue the issue.

Membership Issues

For most of the eight years since the Society's restructuring, there has been minimal contact between the Federation and the Society. However, in spring 1999 that began to change. In early May 1999 National Chairperson Michael Conlon made a presentation on the Federation to the Society's council. Later that same month, three representatives of the Society attended portions of the national general meeting and in June one representative attended the Ontario provincial general meeting.

In September National Chairperson Conlon made a second presentation to the Society's council. At the same meeting, the council voted overwhelmingly to apply for prospective membership in the Federation. The November 1999 national general meeting unanimously approved the application for full membership.

The Queen's University Society of Graduate and Professional Students actively participated in the Federation's *Access 2000* campaign and on February 2, organised the largest-ever demonstration in Kingston.

In the fall of 1999, referendum dates were set for March 7 and 8. Federation representatives, in conjunction with the Society of Graduate and Professional Students, began campaigning February 21. Voter turnout was heavy both days, with a final tally of 26 percent of Queens' graduate and professional students voting. This figure is the highest in the history of the Society. The final results were:

- 482 in favour (72%);
- 186 votes opposed; and
- 1 spoiled ballot.

The National Executive has reviewed the results of the referendum and is recommending that the Society be accepted as a full member of the Federation at this national general meeting.

Prospective Membership Applications

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF CAPE BRETON STUDENTS' UNION

The University College of Cape Breton Students' Union is composed of the roughly 3400 full and

part-time students enrolled at University College of Cape Breton in Sydney, Nova Scotia. The Union was briefly a prospective member of the Federation in the early 1990's, but never became a full member of the Federation.

Earlier this year, the Union participated actively in the Federation's *Access 2000* campaign. Shortly after the national Day of Action, Federation National Chairperson Michael Conlon made a presentation to the Union's Council on the work of the Federation and the Union's options for joining. In late April, following a second presentation by Conlon, the Union's Council voted unanimously to apply for prospective membership in the Federation.

The National Executive has reviewed the Union's application for prospective membership, as per Bylaw I, Section 4-a, and is recommending that the Union be granted prospective membership.

The addition of the University College of Cape Breton Students' Union to the Federation will constitute the first growth in membership in Nova Scotia in several years.

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association is composed of roughly 2,500 graduate students enrolled at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg.

In September 1999, the Association's Council voted overwhelmingly to apply for prospective membership in the Federation. The Association was granted prospective membership at the Fall 1999 national general meeting held two months later.

Unfortunately, due to a variety of circumstances, the Association was unable to hold a referendum on full membership. The Association has requested that its prospective membership be extended until the November 2000 national general meeting and has pledged to conduct the referendum on full membership in the interim.

Contact with the leadership of the Association has been regular, and the Association recently sent a delegation to the Manitoba Component general

meeting in April 2000. The National Executive feels that the elected leadership of the Association remains enthusiastic in its support of the Federation and, therefore, is recommending that prospective membership be extended until the fall 2000 national general meeting.

Membership Renewals

NORTHWEST COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (LOCAL 66)

The Northwest Community College Students' Association is composed of roughly 2000 students at the six campuses of Northwest Community College in the north coastal region of British Columbia. The Association joined the Federation as a prospective member in 1989 and was accepted as a full member in May 1990.

In 1995, without due notice, the Association decided to hold a de-federation referendum. Because proper notice had not been provided, the Federation chose not to conduct a campaign on continued membership, and informed the Association that the results would not be recognised as valid. Nevertheless, the Association apparently proceeded with a vote. In April 1995, the Association informed the Federation that a referendum had been conducted and that a majority of voters opposed continued membership. At the time, the Association owed roughly \$9000 that it had collected but not remitted to the Federation.

The matter remained unresolved for the next four years. However, in fall 1999 the Association began to take a renewed interest in the Federation and its work. Then, immediately before the BC Component general meeting in January 2000, the Federation and the Association concluded negotiations in which the Association agreed to recognise its membership in the Federation and the lack of validity of the 1995 referendum. For its part, the Federation agreed to forfeit all outstanding membership fees except for \$6000 of the roughly \$9000 owed from the 1994-95 membership year.

The Association participated actively in the *Access 2000* campaign this past winter and is represented at this meeting.

Other Membership Matters

PROPOSED PROVINCIAL FEE LEVY

While there are currently no member locals from Alberta and no applications for membership from Alberta students' unions, there is a possibility that at least one students' union from that province may consider membership in the near future.

In February, a representative of the University of Calgary Graduate Students' Association, former Federation Local 21, attended the general meeting of the Federation's National Graduate Council in Victoria. In mid-April, at the request of the Association's Executive, National Chairperson Michael Conlon made a presentation on the Federation and its recent work to the Association's Council.

While it would be extremely presumptuous to assume that the Association will apply for membership, the National Executive feels that some preparation must be undertaken now.

Currently, there is no Federation Bylaw or standing resolution that establishes an Alberta provincial membership levy for the Federation. Given that the Federation is structured in such a way as to have provincial organising funded by provincial fee levies, the National Executive feels that such a levy should be established before any new full membership application from Alberta is received. Therefore, the National Executive has submitted for consideration at this general meeting a proposal to create a standing resolution establishing a minimum Alberta provincial component fee levy.

INCONGRUENCY 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

Membership Issues

of the Ontario Federation of Students that 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, that did not belong to the national Federation, to either join nationally or withdraw provincially.

In spite of the agreement, the following student associations continue to participate provincially and pay provincial dues without participating nationally and paying national dues:

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

A year ago, the national general meeting resolved that a plan to achieve full congruency of provincial and national membership be developed and implemented in the year to follow. In March, the National Executive wrote the Ontario Component Executive, formally stating the Component's obligation to make its membership congruent with the Federation's membership in Ontario.

In turn, the Ontario Component Executive resolved to inform the two associations that they had to become full national members of the Federation or forfeit their provincial membership. The Ontario Component Executive expects the matter to be resolved within the next few months.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, there is a congruency of membership (all provincial members also belong nationally), but the arrangement is not entrenched in the provincial bylaws or by contract. Indeed, prior to fall 1999, when the Grenfell College Students' Union rejoined the Federation, the memberships were not congruent.

In other provinces, the provincial organisation is an infrastructure within the national Federation. These organisations were either established from the start as Federation infrastructures, such as the British Columbia and Manitoba Components, or were separate provincial organisations, such as the Ontario Federation of Students, that transformed themselves into provincial infrastructures of the Federation.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Students was established in the late 1980's as a separate provincial organisation and has existed as a separate organisation ever since.

However, in recent years the organisation has begun to function more like a provincial division of the Federation than a separate organisation. For example:

- the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Students now elects the Newfoundland Representative on the National Executive and that representative is now a voting member of the provincial executive.
- Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Students representatives attend national general meetings with the same status and with the same level of subsidy as provincial component representatives.
- the provincial organisation coordinates the implementation of national programmes such as the Studentsaver programme and national campaigns such as *Access 2000*.
- the Federation provides the provincial organisation with all of the information and resources that it provides provincial components of the Federation.

Nevertheless, without an entrenchment of congruency, this progress could be lost. The provincial organisation's most recent general meeting in March considered a proposal from the provincial executive to entrench congruency, but rejected it. However, on a very positive note, the meeting voted to rename the organisation the "Canadian Federation of Students - Newfoundland and Labrador".

Implementation of Membership Awareness Strategy

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 Federation prepares materials and resources for use by member locals, relying on the locals themselves to communicate directly with the individual members. 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.

The Strategy was included in the Organising Manual produced and distributed in the fall to member locals and provincial components, as it has been for the past three years.

MEMBERSHIP ADVISORIES

Federation membership advisories contain updates and other key internal information. Since November 1999, four membership advisories have been distributed to member locals by fax and electronic mail, in addition to several *Access 2000* campaign updates.

FINANCES

Budget Management

The annual budget constitutes the monetary targets of the Federation for the fiscal year to follow. The National Executive is responsible for ensuring that the budget is followed as closely as possible.

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 1998-99 fiscal year realised a combined surplus and share purchase in Travel CUTS of \$290,000. An up-to-date picture of the current year's revenue and expenditures will be presented at this meeting for the purpose of setting the 2000-2001 budget.

1999-2000 MEMBERSHIP FEES COLLECTION

This year, membership fee collection has been generally positive. With six weeks left in the fiscal year, slightly more than 80% of projected membership fees have been collected. In most cases, where the total 1999-2000 fees have been received, the actual fees collected have met or exceeded projection. Although 20 percent of membership fees is currently outstanding, this is not necessarily cause for concern. A significant portion of outstanding fees are for summer 2000 and are not expected to be received until July. More significant, however, is the number of member locals which have yet to remit any 1999-2000 membership fees. This included the following:

- Local 20-Nipissing University Student Union;
- Local 31-University of Prince Edward Island Student 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 56-Wilfrid Laurier University Graduate Students' Association;
- Local 64-Acadia Students' Union;
- Local 70-University of Prince Edward Island Graduate Students' Association;
- Local 82-Algoma University Students' Association;
- Local 83-Concordia University Graduate Students' Union;
- Local 86-College of the Rockies Students' Union;
- Local 88-Association des Étudiantes et Étudiants Francophone de l'université Laurentienne;
- Local 90-Saskatchewan Indian Federated College Students' Association; and
- Local 91-Concordia Student Union.

EXPENDITURES

In general, spending for the year has been maintained within the budgetary targets, with the exception of a few spending areas. By far the most significant of these is campaigns and government relations. While all the campaign expenses have not yet been fully broken down, it is anticipated that the campaigns line-item was over-spent by approximately \$35,000. It appears as though the bulk of these expenses were incurred in the form of shipping costs for the distribution of campaign materials to member locals and provincial components. It has been concluded that shipping large quantities of materials from the national office to the membership is financially prohibitive and the possibility of printing materials at different printers across the country is being pursued.

Investment in Travel CUTS

Each year, the Federation invests a portion of its surplus in its wholly owned subsidiary, Travel CUTS. This money is invested in order to allow for the continued, orderly expansion of the company and as a means for the Federation to invest any surpluses it runs. For the 1999-2000 fiscal year, the Federation received a nearly nineteen per cent rate of return on its investment, far greater than it would have received through nearly any other instrument of investment.

For the current fiscal year, the Federation had budgeted for an investment of \$390,000 in additional shares. It looks as though revenues should meet or exceed projection and, therefore, at least \$390,000 should be available for reinvestment into Travel CUTS.

Membership Fee Issues

FEE ADJUSTMENTS FOR CONSUMER PRICE INDEX 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 academic year, by the rate of change in the Canadian Consumer Price Index during the previous calendar year. The adjustment is calculated in

early February when the previous year's Consumer Price Index is announced by Statistics Canada. Notice is sent to member locals immediately thereafter.

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	N/A	1995-1996	\$3.00
1995	133.5	102.14%	1996-1997	\$3.06
1996	135.6	101.57%	1997-1998	\$3.12
1997	137.8	101.62%	1998-1999	\$3.16
1998	139.2	101.01%	1999-2000	\$3.20
1999	142.8	102.58%	2000-2001	\$3.28

As the table illustrates, the Federation's national membership fee for the upcoming 2000/2001 academic year will be \$3.28 per student per semester.

STATUS OF MEMBERSHIP FEE ADJUSTMENTS

Several member locals continue to collect only the original membership fee of \$2.00 per student per semester, even though it has been eight years since the membership voted that the fee be increased.

For the past two years, the National Executive has actively pursued the matter and some progress has been made. This past fall Local 44 began collecting the correct base membership fee. Nevertheless, the following member locals collected only the pre-1992 level of membership fee this year:

- Local 01-Carleton University Students' Association;
- Local 24-Ryerson Students' Administrative Council;
- Local 47-University of Western Ontario Society of Graduate Students;
- Local 48-University of Windsor Graduate Students' Society;
- Local 56-Wilfred Laurier University Graduate



- Students' Association;
- Local 68-York Federation of Students; and
- Local 78-Carleton University Graduate Students' Association.

Uncollected membership fees constitute a significant amount of revenue that should have been collected. As the following chart illustrates, over \$100,000 in fee revenue failed to be collected:

MEMBER LOCAL	1999-2000 FEES (\$2.00 per)	1999-2000 FEES (\$3.20 per)	TOTAL NOT COLLECTED
Local 01	\$52,405.00	\$83,848.00	\$31,443.00
Local 24	\$44,869.89	\$71,791.84	\$26,921.95
Local 47	\$9,821.09	\$15,811.34	\$5,990.25
Local 48	\$3,179.69	\$5,087.50	\$1,907.81
Local 68	<u>\$63,170.49</u>	<u>\$133,072.78</u>	<u>\$49,902.29</u>
TOTAL	\$193,446.16	\$309,611.46	\$116,165.30

Since the November 1999 national general meeting Locals 24, 47 and 48 have all taken the necessary steps to collect the appropriate fee for the coming academic year. Local 1 has indicated that it will be pursuing the matter of increasing the membership fee during the coming year.

The National Executive is continuing to develop and pursue strategies for ensuring the collection of the proper membership fee.

OTHER FEE COLLECTION ISSUES

In May, the University of Ottawa Graduate Students' Association was accepted as a full member of the Federation. Unfortunately, due to a clerical error, the University did not commence collection of Federation fees this past fall. The University was directed to collect both fall and winter fees during the winter semester; however, it collected only the winter semester fees. Therefore, membership fees from Local 94 will fall far short of projection this fiscal year.

Collection of Outstanding General Meeting Fees

For the past year the Federation has been actively pursuing collection of outstanding general meeting delegate fees. Minimal progress has been made since the previous general meeting. The following is a summary of the amounts owed for the previous four general meetings.

GENERAL MEETING	AMOUNT OWED	AMOUNT COLLECTED	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING
May 1998	\$76,971.54	\$68,177.86	\$8,793.68
Fall 1998	\$89,697.42	\$65,137.06	\$24,560.36
May 1999	\$89,232.22	\$58,173.87	\$31,058.36
Fall 1999	\$82,981.96	\$45,059.09	<u>\$37,922.87</u>
			\$102,335.27

Status of the 1998-99 Audit

Each year, as a requirement of the Canada Corporations Act, the Federation has its annual financial statements audited to verify their accuracy and to ensure that the Federation is following generally accepted accounting principles. Normally, the audit is presented to the membership for acceptance each November at the Federation's annual general meeting. Unfortunately, the audit for the 1998-99 year has been postponed and will be presented at the November 2000 national general meeting.

Over the past three years, the Federation has incurred significant costs associated with various legal actions. Several of the actions have been cost shared with provincial components and Canadian Universities Travel Service (Travel CUTS). In the course of preparing the audit, it was discovered that the Federation did not have accurate information on the amounts owed by those provincial components or the Travel Service and that, as a result, the Federation's legal expenses were somewhat overstated.

The problem resulted from the lumping together of the costs for the various actions on common invoices, with no breakdown included of the costs of each action. Work to correct the mistake is underway, but is extremely time-consuming. In the meantime, the Federation's legal counsel is now itemising its invoices to the Federation, including providing breakdowns of such expenses as photocopying and long-distance telephone and facsimile charges for the last several years.

Therefore, work on the 1998-99 audit had to be postponed until the problem from previous years is corrected. The National Executive is confident that the audit will be completed by mid-summer; in time to commence the audit for the 1999-2000 fiscal year.

APPENDIX I

Meetings with and Submissions to Government

MEETING: Industry Canada's Innovation Canada Conference
DATE: December 1-2, 1999
SUBJECTS: Role of education, science and technology in Canada's innovation

MEETING: Human Resources Development Canada
DATE: January 20, 2000
SUBJECTS: Canada Student Loans conference call

MEETING: Norman Riddell, Executive Director, Millennium Scholarship Foundation
DATE: January 28, 2000
SUBJECTS: implementation of the scholarships in Ontario and general problems with the program

MEETING: Member of Parliament, Honourable Jane Stewart, Minister of Human Resources Development; Thomas Townsend, Director General of Learning and Literacy Department, Human Resources Development Canada
DATE: February 2, 2000
SUBJECTS: increasing transfer payments, changes in the Canada Student Loan Program, ten-year ban on student loan bankruptcy, credit checks on student loan applicants

MEETING: Human Resources Development
DATE: February 8, 2000
SUBJECTS: Working Group on Student Financial Information Conference Call

MEETING: Human Resources Development
DATE: February 15, 2000
SUBJECTS: Working Group on Student Financial Information Conference Call

MEETING: Francoise Rioux, Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation, Director of Research
DATE: February 21, 2000
SUBJECTS: implementation of the program in Ontario

Appendix I

MEETING:	Human Resources Development	MEETING:	Donovan Hammersley, Senior Advisor to Raymond Chan, Sec. of State for Asia-Pacific
DATE:	February 22, 2000	DATE:	April 3, 2000
SUBJECTS:	Working Group on Student Financial Information Conference Call	SUBJECTS:	Canadian foreign policy on East Timor and sanctions against Indonesian military regime, attended by National Chairperson Conlon, Internal Coordinator Watson, and Local 1 member Faisal Moosa
MEETING:	Norman Riddell, Executive Director, Millennium Scholarship Foundation	MEETING:	Human Resources Development
DATE:	February 22, 2000	DATE:	April 11, 2000
SUBJECTS:	Implementation of the programme	SUBJECTS:	meeting of National Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance
MEETING:	2000 Federal Budget announcement – Deputy Minister's lockup	MEETING:	Human Resources Development
DATE:	February 28, 2000	DATE:	April 25, 2000
SUBJECTS:	Transfer payments, funding for granting councils, tax credits for scholarships	SUBJECTS:	Consultation on improving communication with stakeholders
MEETING:	Human Resources Development	MEETING:	World Trade Organization and Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
DATE:	March 1, 2000	DATE:	May 4, 2000
SUBJECTS:	Working Group on Student Financial Information Conference Call	SUBJECTS:	Information session on the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS)
MEETING:	Rogério Santana, Cuban Embassy, and students from the Cuban Youth Tour	MEETING:	Human Resources Development
DATE:	March 10, 2000	DATE:	May 5, 2000
SUBJECTS:	meeting with Cuban students	SUBJECTS:	meeting with student loans service bureaus
MEETING:	Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, Prime Minister		
DATE:	Tuesday March 24, 2000		
SUBJECTS:	follow-up to Federal Budget 2000, with coalition partners		
MEETING:	Norman Riddell, Millennium Scholarship Foundation		
DATE:	Thursday March 30, 2000		
SUBJECTS:	implementation of the programme in Nova Scotia		

APPENDIX II

News Releases, Media Advisories, and Membership Advisories

Following is a list of press releases, media advisories, and membership advisories produced by the National Office between November 24, 1999 and May 17, 2000.

NEWS RELEASES AND MEDIA ADVISORIES

Saturday, November 27, 1999 –	“Students crash Chrétien dinner”
Monday, November 29, 1999 –	“Students protest global trade in education”
Thursday, December 2, 1999 –	“Jailing of Federation Representatives Unwarranted”
Monday, December 6, 1999 –	“Students Mourn 10 Years After the Montreal Massacre”
Wednesday, December 8, 1999 –	“Federal Funding for Post-Secondary Education Cut by 50%”
Thursday, January 6, 2000 –	“Charges Against Student Leaders Dropped”
Monday, January 24, 2000 –	“Ottawa to Offer Banks More Money to Manage Student Loans”
Monday, January 24, 2000 –	“Student to Chrétien: I’m giving back my Millennium Scholarship” (Advisory)
Tuesday, January 25, 2000 –	“Student Rejects Millennium Scholarship”
Monday, January 31, 2000 –	“Student Day of Action Gathers Momentum” (Advisory)
Tuesday, February 1, 2000 –	“BC’s Petter to Meet with Students”
Tuesday, February 1, 2000 –	“Student Day of Action: Rally on Parliament Hill” (Advisory)
Friday, February 4, 2000 –	“Student Day of Action an Unqualified Success”
Sunday, February 6, 2000 –	“Students Call for Release of Political Prisoner Peltier”
Wednesday, February 9, 2000 –	“Students Stand in Solidarity with Mexican Students”
Wednesday, February 9, 2000 –	“Rally in Support of Mexican Students” (Advisory)
Monday, February 28, 2000 –	“Federal Budget Leaves Education Grossly Underfunded; Martin Breaks His Word on Spending vs Taxes”
Thursday, March 9, 2000 –	“Students Pleased by Banks’ Withdrawal from Canada Student Loan Program”
Wednesday, March 22, 2000 –	“Students Pleased by University of Prince Edward Island Tuition Fee Freeze”

Appendix II

Sunday, April 16, 2000 – “Canadian Students
in Washington for
A16 Protest Against
Globalisation”
(Advisory)

MEMBERSHIP ADVISORIES

Monday, February 28, 2000 Call for Support for
Mexican Students

Thursday, March 2, 2000 Follow-up from
Quebec Youth
Summit

Friday, March 3, 2000 Graduate Students
Disappointed with
Federal Budget

Friday, May 5, 2000 Federation Launches
Aboriginal Issues
Listserve

NAT'L GENERAL MEETING BACKGROUNDER

National Executive Members

POSITION	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
National Chairperson	Brad Lavigne	Elizabeth Carlyle	Michael Conlon	Michael Conlon
National Deputy Chairperson	Jennifer Story	Jennifer Story	Elizabeth Carlyle	Jen Anthony
National Treasurer	Michael Gardiner Jason Stevens Christie Stephenson	Joey Hansen	Joey Hansen	Joey Hansen
British Columbia Representative	Joey Hansen	Theresa Sabourin Michael Conlon	Maura Parte Rob Fleming	Jaimie McEvoy
Saskatchewan Representative	Marjorie Brown	Jessica Peart	Heath Packman Mark Cooper	*
Manitoba Representative	Elizabeth Carlyle	Chad Samain	Rob Marriott	Rob Marriott
Ontario Representative	Jason Stevens Heidi VanDyk	Heidi VanDyk Claire Gilbert	Mike Blower	Megan Gariepy
Quebec Representative	Christie Stephenson Tasha Bollerup	Tasha Bollerup Deborah Murray Rob Green	Dave Batistuzzi	Dave Batistuzzi
New Brunswick Representative	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant
Prince Edward Island Representative	Melissa Doucette	Melissa Doucette	B.J. McCarville	* BJ
Nova Scotia Representative	Jessica Squires	Jessica Squires	Penny McCall Howard	Jen Anthony
Newfoundland-Labrador Representative	Shawn Musseau	Lou Walsh	Jen Anthony	Leanne Patey
Graduate Students' Representative	Michael Temelini	Joy Morris	Joy Morris	* Ian Boyco
Aboriginal Students' Representative	Penny Kerrigan	Charlene Green	Troy Sebastian	Richard Asaican
Women's Commissioner	Darcie Davison	Anita Zaenker	Anita Zaenker	* Anita
Students of Colour Representative	Cindy Henriques	Janelle Ho-shing	Janelle Ho-shing	* Rob Maley
Francophone Students' Commissioner	Anna Kryzinski	Muhoza Hakizimana	Margaret Bryans	→

* to be elected at May General Meeting

