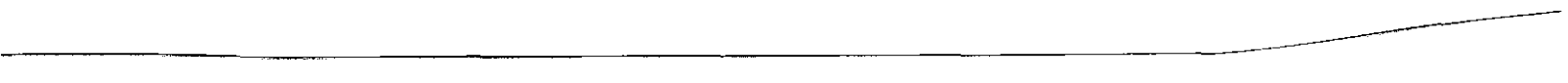




National  
Executive Report

May 18 - November 21, 2000

Canadian  
Federation of Students



# 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.

There is an unprecedented urgency for our ongoing campaign for public education: post-secondary education has been under attack, both through international pressure to cutback on public services and, within Canada, the ideological obsession of a vocal minority with spending the federal budget surplus on tax cuts.

Yet at the same time, the Federation has made tremendous strides in the fight for accessible, public education. Today, a majority of provincial governments have implemented tuition fee freezes and rollbacks. The Federation has been able to win the debate among a majority of Canadians that governments have an obligation to fund post-secondary education, to freeze or reduce tuition fees, and to establish a national system of needs-based grants. More than ever before, the Federation has been effective in moving forward with a progressive agenda for post-secondary education.

During the Federal election campaign currently underway, the Federation has been the most successful non-governmental organisation in raising its issues in the national political arena. Five years ago, Income Contingent Repayment schemes were the cornerstone of the federal Liberal government's agenda for post-secondary education. Today, during the election, the Liberal Party has publicly abandoned ICR schemes for the reasons outlined by the Federation. Only the Reform/Alliance and Progressive Conservative Parties continue to promote this outdated policy initiative. Through the Federation's research and fact sheets however, Federation members have been able to educate the broader community about the dangers of such a policy.

Regardless of which political party wins the election on November 27, 2000, the Federation will have much to do. Translating public support for higher education into government policy will require serious organising in the months ahead.

As we continue to fight for tuition fee freezes and rollbacks, for needs based-grants, and against the corporatisation of our campuses, we have fantastic opportunities. But we also face challenges: private universities are on the agenda in Ontario and the model of globalisation peddled by provincial and national governments is emerging on every campus. Our tasks will be to build on the momentum established through our mobilisations and through our effective work around the federal election to galvanise the support we know exists for a truly accessible post-secondary education system in Canada.

We are confident that we are well situated and well organised to meet those challenges in the months ahead.

The National Executive



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# CAMPAIGNS AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

## Federal Election 2000

During the summer of 2000, most observers felt that the chances of a fall general election were remote. The Liberals were less than four years into a five-year mandate. However, when the fall session of Parliament began in September, it became increasingly clear that Prime Minister would call a fall election. On October 22, Jean Chrétien dissolved the 127<sup>th</sup> Parliament and dropped the writ for a November 27 election.

Despite public claims about the need for a debate about how to spend the burgeoning surplus, expected to reach \$130-billion, the Liberals called an early election to capitalise on both favorable polls and the inexperience of the newly elected Canadian Alliance leader Stockwell Day. Opposition parties, which were involved in logistical and financial planning for a spring election, caught off guard.

Not surprisingly, national political parties spent the early days of the campaign nominating candidates for each riding. In addition, non-governmental organisations, including the Federation, had to execute their election strategies under tight deadlines.

At its meeting held October 6-8, 2000, the National Executive discussed the Federation's election goals and strategies, in the event of a fall election. These deliberations yielded four basic goals to guide the Federation's interventions in the campaign:

- i. increase voter participation and awareness among our membership. Voter participation in federal elections is approximately 75%, but voter turn-out among the 18-24 year old demographic hovers around 50%;
- ii. provide a detailed and thoroughly researched overview of each of the party's platform on post-secondary education. In addition provide members with an assessment of the Liberal government's performance on post-secondary education since the last election in 1997;
- iii. make post-secondary education a priority for each of the major parties and the general public; and
- iv. allocate financial resources to carry out these goals.

The National Executive resolved to provide a weekly update to the members, outlining activities from the preceding week and soliciting suggestions for the week ahead.

In Week One, an Election Kit was assembled and distributed to member locals. The kit included a detailed analysis of the Liberal Party's record on post-secondary education, an overview of each party's platform and local organising and media tips. In addition, the kit contained an updated fact sheet on Income Contingent Repayment Loan schemes (ICRs). Although the Federation successfully fought the

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implementation of such a programme in 1995 and again in 1997, the Canadian Alliance and the Progressive Conservative parties proposed ICRs as the centrepiece of their post-secondary education platforms.

While assembling the Election Kit for the member locals, the Federation also executed its media strategy – to hold political parties to account for their positions on post-secondary education and gain public support for the Federation’s policies. Two days after the campaign kick-off, the Federation captured significant national media attention on the issue of the ‘brain drain’: Stockwell Day claimed that Canada was experiencing a crippling brain drain as a result of high taxes, but the Federation provided media outlets with research to counter this false claim. The Federation also issued a media release challenging Chrétien’s claim that the Liberals, through the Millennium Scholarship Fund, had dramatically improved access to post-secondary education in Canada. The Federation maintained this level of scrutiny throughout the remainder of the campaign: when party leaders made false claims about their post-secondary education positions, the Federation garnered media attention to challenges such claims.

In Week Two, the Federation held a press conference to release the results of a poll on Canadians’ attitudes toward post-secondary education. The poll, conducted in the week leading up to the federal election by Ipsos-Reid as part of the Angus Reid Express omnibus survey, garnered coverage on the front page of *The Globe and Mail’s* election section. The Federation also received substantial national radio coverage.

Also in Week Two, a day after the Liberal Party unveiled its campaign platform (the last party to do so), the Federation released a Report Card on Education, based on the parties’ post-secondary education platforms, their records on education in the House of Commons, and public pronouncements on post-secondary education. The Canadian Alliance received an ‘F,’ the Liberal Party received a ‘D,’ the PC Party received a ‘C’ and the NDP received a ‘B.’ The Federation’s

Report Card secured the Federation significant media in both the campus and mainstream press, including syndicated CBC interviews in more than a dozen cities across Canada.

In Week Three, the Federation produced a series of radio ads, to run on commercial and campus radio stations from November 16 to 26. Two professionally-produced ads were distributed from St. John’s to Victoria. The first ad assessed the Liberal and Alliance plan to spend the bulk of the projected surplus on tax cuts that will mostly benefit wealthy Canadians. The second, customised for Nova Scotia, delivered an uncompromising assessment of the Liberal government’s handling of Millennium Scholarships in that province. The Federation coordinated a national roll-out of the ads in various cities, and received ‘earned’ media in certain regions, including British Columbia and Nova Scotia.

Federation staff also accompanied members of locals 1 and 94 to the English-language leaders’ debate at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. The debate offered a unique perspective into both the party leaders and in particular debate organiser, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. The Federation learned that the consortium of networks organising the Debate deliberately attempted to exclude the presence of youth in the audience. As one producer explained to a representative of Local 1- Carleton University Students’ Association, they did not want “kids” in the audience but preferred instead to invite the corporate and political elite of Ottawa to ensure a “passive audience”. Nevertheless a number of students were able to secure invitations either directly from the CBC or from their administrations, and attended in good faith. At the end of the debate, RCMP officers approached and singled-out these students (by their own admission, on behalf of the CBC), and interrogated them about their identities. The Federation objected to the harassment, and garnered national media attention from *The Globe and Mail*, Much Music and Canadian Press about the related issues of youth cynicism and participation in the election and the parties’ educational policies.

In Week Four, the Federation produced a full-page



newspaper ad that ran nationally in the campus media. The ad was designed to increase voter turnout on campuses and listed the 'Top Ten Reasons for Students to Vote.'

In Week Five the Federation was invited to participate on the CBC Newsworld program "Counter Spin" with host Avi Lewis. The November 24th show was dedicated to student issues in the federal election.

Throughout the campaign, the Federation's web site was updated in a timely way to keep Federation members, the media and the public informed of election activities. All election materials, including the radio ads and Election Kit, were available online, in real audio and PDF format respectively. The media releases were also posted immediately to the site.

The Federation's national strategy was bolstered by the activities of member locals that highlighted post-secondary education issues, showcased the research of the Federation and put post-secondary education on the agenda in their communities. The following is a list of member locals that organised all-candidates debates:

### Atlantic

Local 36 Grenfell College Student Union

Local 95 University College of Cape Breton Students' Union

### Ontario

Local 1 Carleton University Students' Association (also organised students to protest when Stockwell Day came to campus)

Local 93 - Glendon College Student Union

Local 19 University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union (also organised students to protest when Stockwell Day held a fundraising dinner in Toronto)

Local 20 Nipissing University Student Union

Local 24 Ryerson Students' Administrative Council (also organised students to protest when Stockwell Day held a fundraising dinner in Toronto)

Local 30 Students' General Association at Laurentian University

Local 32 Lakehead University Student Union

Local 47 Society of Graduate Students at the University of Western Ontario (also organised students to protest when Stockwell Day spoke in London)

Local 54 University of Guelph Central Student Association

Local 71 Trent Central Student Association

### Prairies

Local 8 University of Winnipeg Students' Association Local 8

Local 9 University of Regina Students' Union

Local 37 Brandon University Students' Union (participated in the protest organised by aboriginal groups to protest the Canadian Alliance's policies on aboriginal issues.)

Manitoba locals participated in the province-wide release of an Education Report Card on behalf of Target Education, a provincial coalition of faculty, university workers and students. They also organised students to protest when Liberal leader Jean Chrétien and Canadian Reform-Alliance leader Stockwell Day visited Winnipeg.

### British Columbia:

Local 5 Capilano Students' Union

Local 18 Douglas Students' Union (New Westminster, David Lam and Thomas Haney campuses)

Local 23 Simon Fraser Student Society

Local 44 University of Victoria Students' Society

Local 61 Malaspina Students' Union

Local 66 Northwest Community College Student Association

Local 75 Camosun College Students' Society

British Columbia locals also participated in demonstrations when Jean Chrétien and Stockwell Day went to Vancouver and Victoria.

Although the Liberals hastily called a federal election in the fall, the Federation was well-prepared and used the campaign to raise the stature of the Federation as the progressive voice

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of Canadian students. Our media strategy was successful in raising the profile of education during the course of the campaign; this complemented the work undertaken at the local level to make post-secondary education an election issue.

This coordinated effort allowed the Federation to penetrate a highly competitive and saturated media landscape. Over the course of the campaign, the Federation had one of the highest profiles of all the Canadian non-governmental organisations.

### Student Financial Assistance

As previously reported, the Canada Student Loan Program (CSLP) is in a period of rapid transition after the withdrawal of the chartered banks from the risk-sharing agreements that expired on July 31, 2000; since March 2000 the Federation has been sitting on a stakeholder task force to advise Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) on the implementation of a new programme by the fall 2000.

The federal government has decided to move to a model of direct financing for the Canada Student Loan Program. Direct financing of the CSLP means that the federal government will raise and disburse student loan funds. The only involvement the banks now have in the programme is an agreement allowing students to deposit their loans at a chartered bank. The new direct financing model was put in place on August 1.

As part of this new direct financing model, the federal government has decided to contract-out the administration of the programme to a private service provider. It is now close to completing this process.

As previously reported, the Federation participated in an interview process for the initial 'short list' of possible providers. On June 14, National Chairperson Michael Conlon attended a day-long consultation on establishing the service requirements and bidding process for the private providers. The Federation re-iterated its position that the programme should be publicly administered, but, in light of recent developments,

made the following recommendations:

- i. the service provider should have no role whatsoever in the development of public policy for the CSLP;
- ii. the service provider should be held to enforceable service standards;
- iii. the business culture of collection agencies made a poor fit for the CSLP and the Federation would vigorously fight the awarding of the contract to a collection agency; and
- iv. the data obtained through the administration of the programme is to remain strictly private and is not to be used for marketing purposes under any circumstances.

In the end, a 147-page document was produced outlining the statement of the program on which providers would be bidding. When the report was finally produced, it contained several elements not discussed at the June 14 meeting. For example, though the federal government has expressed a desire to have two providers, the final document strongly suggests that there would be one provider for public institutions and one for private institutions. The document also opened up the possibility of a separate service provider for aboriginal students.

The statement was filed with the Ministry of Public Works and bidding for the project closed on October 13. A panel of Human Resources Development and Finance officials will meet behind closed doors in early December to select a provider. The federal government is expected to announce the results of the process by early in 2001.

In addition to ongoing advisory work on the CSLP, the Federation has also been carrying out government relations work on student financial assistance in several other venues. On June 13 National Chairperson Michael Conlon appeared before the Standing Committee on Human Resources Development. This all-party committee is charged with overseeing the operation of HRDC and making recommendations to the federal government. The committee convenes an annual consultation with those organisations sharing an interest in the CSLP.

This year the primary focus was on the collapse of the risk-sharing agreements with the banks. Most members demanded answers from HRDC officials about the timeline for the implementation of the new programme.

In addition to these concerns, however, the Federation was able to present basic concerns about the programme, including the changes to the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act and the introduction of credit checks. With the exception of the Canadian Alliance, the MPs in attendance were in general agreement that the programme was better off back in the government's hands. Peter Adams, Liberal Member of Parliament for Peterborough, wrote a letter to HRDC Minister Jane Stewart summarising the concerns outlined at the meeting.

On August 23, National Chairperson Michael Conlon and Government Relations Co-ordinator Michael Temelini met with Human Resources Development Minister Jane Stewart. The one and one half-hour meeting covered a variety of topics. Below is an outline of the agenda and the Minister's response.

### **Policy initiatives after the withdrawal of the banks**

The Federation outlined two policy areas that it felt were directly influenced by the banks' participation in the Canada Students Loan Program: credit checks on student loans and prejudicial changes to the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act*. Both of these policy changes were made to appease the banks under the risk sharing agreements. The Federation argued that both policy changes are based on the premise that students who need credit are either untrustworthy or worse, potential criminals. In both cases, the Federation challenged the government to reverse these changes in the aftermath of the banks' withdrawal from the programme and since they no longer have an influence on policy.

With reference to credit checks the Minister stated that it was not the government's intention to deny student loans to those students who need them most but rather to deter those who 'abuse' credit. The Federation conceded that the programme

needed to be protected from fraud but that credit checks were not going to accomplish that goal. Furthermore, the criminal justice system already serves as a mechanism to deal with credit fraud. In the end, Stewart agreed to review the data at the one year anniversary and evaluate whether or not the regulation is catching those who abuse credit or simply denying loans to those at the bottom of the socio-economic scale who have problems paying back some of their debts. If the data suggests that the credit checks are impeding access to those in the lowest income brackets, the Minister promised to review the policy with an eye to scrapping credit checks.

On the issue of bankruptcy, Stewart and her officials had no tenable explanation to justify the law. The Federation urged her to take account of the misery this law is causing and consider the evidence that the Federation will be presenting before the courts to challenge the law. She agreed to review the Federation's case when it is filed in the courts.

### **The definition of default**

The Federation suggested that the Minister consider changing the definition of default from 90 days to a more reasonable period of time such as 180 days or 260 days. This change would allow students to catch-up on missed loan payments before being disqualified from all other assistance. Currently, if a student is behind 90 days or more their loan is considered in default and they are ineligible for interest relief, loan remission, debt reduction and all other provincial and federal programmes to assist students with repayment. The Federation made it very clear to the Minister that if the definition of default changes, the 'trigger' for these punitive measures must also change. There was a fair amount of agreement and it seems clear that HRDC is considering this change.

### **Private Service Providers**

The Federation reiterated its position that a public programme should be administered by the public sector and not by a for-profit company. That said, the federal government is moving forward with plans to contract out the work. Federation

representatives informed the Minister that we were opposed to a collection agency winning the contract. In addition, the Federation pointed out that some of the American companies that are bidding to administer the programme take an active part in lobbying for regressive changes to loan programmes in the United States. HRDC officials were quick to point out that the service providers would have no input into government policy under the 'fee-for-service' contract.

### **Income Contingent Repayment loan schemes (ICRs) for part-time student loans**

The federal government has started a pilot project offering part time students the choice of ICRs or the traditional loan package. The Federation is concerned that this pilot project is a prelude to the implementation of ICRs for part-time loans. Although the Minister said there was no plan for ICRs for the full-time loan programme, the Federation reiterated its position against ICRs. Federation representatives also reminded the Minister that the Federation had defeated ICRs in 1995 and 1997 and that it was prepared to do so again if necessary.

On October 2, National Chairperson Michael Conlon attended a meeting of the National Advisory Group on Student Financial Aid. HRDC officials set out their legislative agenda for the 2001/2002 academic year. There are several significant changes under consideration. First, as per recent Supreme Court decisions, HRDC is moving to incorporate the recognition of same-sex couples into the needs assessment for student loans. HRDC will also be making administrative changes to the Canada Student Loan Act that changes the definition of common law partners. Second, HRDC is moving to make convention refugees eligible for student loans. Convention refugees are refugees whose claim for asylum has been upheld by the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) but are not yet classified as landed immigrants. The waiting period for official landing status can be as long as one year and, during that period, refugee claimants are not eligible for the CSLP. The proposed changes would provide

access to the CSLP from the moment a claimant is successful at an IRB hearing.

HRDC is also preparing a position paper on the Federation's proposal that the definition of default be changed. Currently a loan is considered to be in default if it goes unpaid for more than 90 days. Once a loan is considered in default a student is ineligible for further student financial aid as well as interest relief and Millennium Scholarships. HRDC is now considering changing the definition of default from 90 to 270 days. The position paper will be available by the end of October. The issue will be reviewed at the April meeting of the National Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance.

Finally, the federal government is considering changing the amount a student can earn while in school before the amount is deducted from the total amount of a student's loan. The current amount is \$600 over an eight-month period. The change proposed in the forthcoming discussion paper is to raise the amount to \$50 per week. The paper will be available later this fall and the changes will be discussed at the April meeting. The meeting also reviewed the implementation of the debt reduction programme introduced in the 1998 'education' budget. HRDC unveiled the income tables that will be used to determine eligibility for debt reduction. The programme reduces a student's debt five years after graduation based on eligibility criteria tied to a complex formula that links monthly payments with monthly income. A report was also presented on the cost of administering the credit checks run by HRDC. The Department estimates that the checks will cost \$300,000 in the upcoming fiscal year.

### **Millennium Scholarship Foundation (MSF)**

Throughout the past summer, the Millennium Scholarship Foundation (MSF) undertook a nation-wide series of consultations on the implementation of the programme. Foundation student liaison officer, Cory Huhn, carried out the consultations. Meetings took place in every

province and the Federation organised a preparation session in advance of each meeting. At every meeting, the Federation presented a brief and the campaign demands as related to the Millennium Scholarship Foundation. In particular, the Federation demanded that an audit of the Nova Scotia government be undertaken to assess whether or not it had fulfilled its contractual obligation with the MSF. Under the agreements signed with the provincial governments, the MSF has the power to demand an audit. Nova Scotia, and to a lesser extent, Ontario has refused to re-invest savings realised from the MSF back into student financial assistance. According to the Federation's calculation, Ontario has spent less than 30% of the money on student aid and Nova Scotia has re-invested none of the savings.

On September 12, National Chairperson Michael Conlon and Women's representative Anita Zaenker attended the inaugural annual general meeting of the Foundation in Calgary. During the course of the meeting, Federation representatives demanded that the MSF undertake the aforementioned audit of the province of Nova Scotia. Furthermore, Federation representatives pointed out the lack of transparency that has punctuated the Foundation's first year. The relative weakness of the provincial agreements opens up the possibility that a change in provincial government could result in MSF funds simply be rolled into provincial budgets, as is now the case in Nova Scotia. The annual report of the Foundation does not even take note that students in Nova Scotia have seen no benefit from the Millennium Scholarships. At the close of the meeting, the Federation participated in media interviews in which the performance of the MSF came under scrutiny.

### **National Professional Association Coalition on Tuition Fees (NPACT)**

The Federation was invited to join the National Professional Association Coalition on Tuition fees. This coalition was formed in November 1999 partly due to the Ontario government's 1998 move to de-regulate tuition fees for all graduate

programmes and certain professional programmes. The Coalition includes the Canadian Medical Association, 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 coalition was created to mount a campaign against the deregulation of tuition fees for professional academic programmes. The Coalition agreed to host a national conference in Ottawa January 27 and 28, 2001. Funding for the conference would be provided by Coalition members on a *pro rata* basis but the CMA indicated that the cost to the Federation could be partially subsidised.

During this past summer, however, it became clear that the original timeline for the conference was unrealistic. It was unanimously agreed that the conference would be postponed until the fall of 2001. In lieu of the conference, it was agreed that NPACT would undertake government relations work through the fall. In addition, materials were produced for the federal election, including a questionnaire asking each party its position on the deregulation of tuition fees.

### **Canadian Consortium for Research**

The Canadian Consortium for Research (CCR) 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.

During the past summer and early fall, the CCR focused its attention on the indirect costs of research, relying heavily on a report produced by Monique Begine. Begine authored a report for Industry Canada on the indirect cost of university research in Canada. Begine's report re-iterated the difficulty in accounting for the cost of research at Canadian universities. The basic problem with calculating such costs is that Canadian researchers use existing research facilities and ancillary

services, such as hydro and janitorial services. These costs need to be broken down in a complex, pro-rated manner to begin to estimate the actual cost that universities incur by undertaking research. That said, Begine's report conclusively demonstrates that recent federal investments in research initiatives in Canada have not sufficiently accounted for the added infrastructure cost such projects generate.

Although some members of the CCR responded enthusiastically to Begine's report, the Federation and the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) expressed serious concern that lobbying for funding to cover the indirect costs of research in the 2001 budget would undermine the more pressing need for core funding. The Federation also expressed concern that the government would be eager to put money into a high visibility portfolio like research, rather than core funding. It was also noted that any monies set aside for the indirect cost of research would be strictly limited to research and infrastructure and not initiatives designed to increase access to education.

Although the CCR did not reach any consensus, the first draft of the CCR's submission to the Standing Committee on Finance focused almost exclusively on the indirect cost of research. After strenuous objections from the Federation and CAUT other members of the Consortium agreed to include a section on funding for the granting councils. Regrettably, when the Liberals tabled their mini-budget October 16, the CCR issued a press release praising the government for its investment in the Canada Foundation for Innovation and for addressing the issue of indirect research.

The discord between the policy goals of the Federation and the CCR are growing and lingering concerns about the decision-making process of the Consortium has prompted the Federation to review its membership in the coalition. Over the next few months the Federation will consult with the CAUT to determine the future of its membership in the CCR.

### Don't Bankrupt a Generation: Charter Challenge on Student Loan Bankruptcy

On December 6, 1999, Annick Chenier, the test case chosen by the Federation, declared bankruptcy and was absolved of all outstanding debts, with the exception of her provincial and federal student loans. Since that time, Federation representatives have been meeting regularly with legal counsel to prepare a constitutional challenge to the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* (BIA) as it pertains to student loans.

As reported in May, the challenge was delayed by the addition of Saul Swartz, Associate Professor at the School of Public Administration at Carleton University. Dr. Swartz has agreed to be the Federation's principal affiant in the case and is currently reviewing the affidavit prepared by the Federation's counsel. Dr. Swartz's testimony will buttress the Federation's claim that the changes to the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* have caused social and economic hardship. This testimony will be crucial in demonstrating that the changes to the BIA are not balanced by a commensurate social good.

The Federation is in receipt of the final draft of all documents to be filed with the courts and the case will be submitted to the courts in early December. The federal government will then have 40 days to respond to the appeal. Once the federal government files a response, it is expected that the matter will proceed to the trial phase within six months, barring any unforeseen circumstances. The case will be assigned to a judge in Ontario Superior Court and a date will be set for the presentation of evidence. At the trial phase, both sides will enter evidence from expert witnesses. Although evidence will be entered in written form, each side has the right to cross-examine witnesses under oath, in person.

### Public Education Network

The Public Education Network/Réseau pour l'éducation publique, (PEN) formed in the late summer of 1998, is a loose coalition of national

organisations representing all levels of public education in Canada and Quebec. Since its inception, PEN has collaborated on support of public education in Canada through active campaigns and information exchanges.

PEN counts among its members the Canadian Association of University Teachers, Canadian Federation of Students, Canadian Labour Congress, Canadian Teachers' Federation, Conseil de l'Enseignement du Québec, Fédération québécoise des professeurs et professeurs universitaires, Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec, Fédération étudiante collégiale du Québec and National Anti-Poverty Organisation (consultative member).

PEN has maintained monthly or bi-monthly meetings of senior representatives, enabling rapid decision-making. At both of the most recent meetings, held on June 13 and September 12, PEN discussed the establishment of the Centre for the Study of the Corporatisation of Education and the development of the "100 Faces of Corporate Rule" campaign. Also, PEN resolved to apply for membership in the Trinational Coalition in Defense of Public Education, a North American coalition with which members of PEN have been in regular contact for more than a year. In fall 1999, the Federation participated in a meeting of the Trinational Coalition. The next such meeting is set to take place in Montreal in October 2001.

### **CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF CORPORATISATION IN EDUCATION**

Last year, PEN resolved to investigate the possibility of creating a Canadian, internet-based clearinghouse for information and analysis on the growing corporatisation of education. The project, originally proposed by the Canadian Teachers' Federation, would be modelled after the U.S.-based Centre for the Analysis of Commercialism in Education (CACE), located at [www.uwm.edu/Dept/CACE](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/CACE).

Since this time, the web site has evolved into a more elaborate project to establish a Centre for the Study of the Corporatisation of Education. After several discussions, it was concluded that such a centre could be housed by York University, in no

small part because of support from a member of the university's faculty. Unfortunately, an initial attempt to obtain agreement for provision of space from the University has been unsuccessful. However, efforts are ongoing.

### **"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 including a poster exposing the 100 most prominent corporate executives in Canada. The poster listed the executives' 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. Since other members of PEN support the project but will not be committing resources, the Federation and the Canadian Association of University Teachers will continue bilateral efforts to develop the campaign.

### **Roundtable on Globalisation: Meeting with Finance Minister Paul Martin**

In advance of the G-20 Finance Ministers meeting in October 2000, Finance Minister Paul Martin invited the Federation to attend a roundtable on globalisation in Ottawa on August 16, 2000. National Chairperson Conlon, National Deputy Chairperson Anthony and Government Relations Coordinator Michael Temelini attended. In addition to the Minister, a number of officials from the Department of Finance as well as the International Monetary Fund and World Bank were present. Twenty other non-governmental organisations were in attendance, including the Canadian Labour Congress, Council of Canadians, Oxfam, and Alternatives. The Federation was the only student organisation invited.

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The Roundtable began with a two-hour discussion on the concerns of the various non-governmental organisations with the liberalisation objectives of globalisation. The Federation presented a brief entitled "Globalisation and Access to Post-Secondary Education", which stated that the fundamental goals of the globalisation conflict with the principles of accessible, publicly funded education. A copy of the brief is available on the Federation web-site.

The second part of the roundtable began with a presentation by Dr. Ravi Kanbur, Professor of World Affairs and of Economics, Cornell University. Kanbur stated that the November 1999 Seattle protest has significantly changed the way economists must understand the concept of 'globalisation.' He conceded that it would be impossible to ignore the problems of liberalised trade and the case for globalisation must be amended with qualifications.

Kanbur explained the underlying philosophy of global trade. According to Kanbur, the fundamental philosophy underlying liberalised trade is that when per capita incomes rise, poverty rates decrease on aggregate. There was no example, he argued, where national poverty levels decreased when national incomes increased. In other words, as long as the economy grows, average national incomes will grow and average national poverty rates will decrease.

However, Kanbur also conceded that underneath these national aggregates or averages there exists a lot of inequality. He cited the example of the growth in Mexico's economy between 1989-1994. Statistics reveal that the national poverty rate fell on average as the economy expanded. Yet, this fall in the poverty rate concealed big contradictions. Poverty increased significantly in certain regions, such as Chiapas, but decreased on average in the cities, like Mexico City. Using this as an example, Kanbur conceded that for any overall average (or aggregate) reduction in poverty rates, entire regions of a country might be emiserised (made poorer). Therefore, according to Kanbur, an alternative supplemental analysis was required to understand the effects of an expanding economy - a disaggregate analysis must be taken into

consideration. Such an analysis focuses not on averages but on specific outcomes of economic expansion. Such a 'disaggregate' analysis points to the inequality of trade liberalisation.

Because trade can also lead to unequal distribution of wealth, Kanbur argued that public policies must reflect these outcomes. Kanbur suggested that unequal distribution of wealth must be met by the development of social safety nets. He also suggested that rather than having standard economic prescriptions, global institutions must allow countries to "proceed at their own pace."

In response, the Federation argued that the aggregate definition of poverty reduction is unsound and inadequate because it assumes that even a minimal improvement in living standards is somehow an overall net benefit to society. This is a highly objectional premise. If an expanding economy makes the wealthy even wealthier and brings the poor only marginally out of poverty, this is hardly a ringing endorsement of globalisation.

Chairperson Conlon argued that the demonstrations at Seattle were not irrational, as some political leaders have suggested, but based on the well-founded analysis that global trade is anathema to the expansion and defence of human rights and social justice. National Deputy Chair Anthony delivered the most compelling reply to Kanbur. If national incomes increase as a result of privatisation, it is not the case that the poor are better off, especially if the poor must spend a larger proportion of their incomes on higher priced privatised public services. Secondly, Anthony asked whether the growing economy discriminates against the traditionally marginalised such as people of colour, aboriginal people and women.

Kanbur conceded on all three points: the Seattle protests were not 'irrational', there is a likelihood that privatised services will cost more than any expected increases in personal wages, and there is no evidence that the economically marginalised are actually better off under liberalised trade and investment regimes.



# NATIONAL GRADUATE CAUCUS

## CAMPAIGN AGAINST FOR-PROFIT THESES DISTRIBUTION

This past summer it became widely known by Canadian scholars that their master's theses and PhD dissertations were being sold commercially by an American web site, [www.contentville.com](http://www.contentville.com). Owned in part by United States television networks NBC and CBS, and Microsoft Corporation, Contentville is the self-proclaimed "ultimate dream store for content." Aside from theses, it also sells screenplays, speeches, magazines, legal documents, transcripts, and books.

Upon becoming aware of the situation, the Federation's National Graduate Caucus (NGC) contacted the National Library of Canada (NLC) to discuss the ramifications of for-profit distribution, and has since maintained on-going contact with NLC director David Balatti.

On August 15, the NGC issued a membership advisory explaining the implications of Contentville and outlining the history of the Canadian Theses Distribution Service (CTDS). The CTDS was established in 1965 as a public service to libraries and researchers. In 1985, under the funding cuts of the Mulroney federal government, the National Library of Canada began contracting out its filming responsibilities to an American company, UMI (now a division of Bell & Howell Inc.).

In UMI's most recent contract with the NLC, UMI used its rights to reproduce and catalogue theses to create an electronic database that enabled on-line (commercial) distribution. As such, UMI was the first company to sell Canadian theses for a profit on the internet.

Aside from the purely legal interpretations of each university's student-NLC contract, which are often ambiguous, a debate has emerged about royalties, students' right to refuse commercial sale of their copyrighted work, and the nature of privatised services vis-à-vis the academic community. Commercial distribution often inflates the cost of a product and, in the case of theses (up to \$69.50US on Contentville) creates a barrier to the dissemination and accessibility of academic research. Furthermore, privatised services typically lack the accountability and transparency required to administer a fair and effective programme to benefit the public.

The Federation's campaign continued on August 17 when the National Graduate Caucus issued a call to all Canadian graduate deans urging them to support the student-driven fight against for-profit theses distribution.

On August 24 the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) wrote to the National Library, encouraging them to sever its relationship with private service providers in favour of establishing a public cost-recovery model of distribution. Later that month, the CAUT published an article in their newsletter *CAUT NOW!*

## National Graduate Caucus

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featuring comments from the Federation. A second letter from CAUT was sent on August 25, calling for a consultative committee to develop the non-profit distribution system that the Federation and CAUT had been advocating.

Under pressure from students and faculty, the NLC agreed to hold a meeting with representatives of the Federation, CAUT, le Conseil national des cycles supérieures (CNCS), the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL), the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS), and the Association of Universities and Colleges Canada (AUCC). At the meeting held on September 16, the Federation and CAUT stated their opposition to for-profit distribution, while identifying short and long-term solutions that would avoid increasing the workload of librarians and library staff already under-resourced by inadequate federal funding.

On September 18, the National Library of Canada finally announced that it would instruct Contentville to remove Canadian theses from the web site. A membership advisory was sent out the same day by the NGC.

Also in the month of September, the Federation co-produced an extensive backgrounder document with CAUT on the Canadian Theses Distribution Service and the Contentville developments. The document was later circulated among graduate deans at the CAGS meeting held in Winnipeg, October 25 – 28. In acknowledgement of the Federation's work on the issue, it was invited to send a representative to sit on a panel devoted to the discussion of electronic theses. During the discussion, NLC director David Balatti opened his speech by noting that the NGC/CAUT backgrounder was an excellent reference piece for the debate, and recommended that all deans review it. CAUT was also invited to sit on the panel, but their representative was unexpectedly delayed by poor weather. As a result, CAUT gave the Federation's representative, Joel Duff, a full endorsement to present the CAUT's position at the panel discussion.

The following day, National Graduate Caucus chairperson Joel Duff met with other interested parties for a second consultation meeting.

Stakeholders discussed the existing contract with UMI/Bell & Howell, and what could be achieved under the next contract. The last agreement expired in 1999 and was bridged for one year to Sept. 30, 2000. The National Library was compelled by the Contentville scandal to enter a six-month contract that will expire on March 31, 2001, instead of entering a new three-year deal.

As an interim measure the Federation and CAUT have suggested signing a two-year agreement with UMI/Bell & Howell until an alternative can be implemented. The Federation also argued that the new contract stipulate a ban on sub-contracted reproduction by UMI/Bell & Howell. For the long term, the Federation and CAUT are calling for the establishment of a permanent advisory body to the Canadian Theses Distribution Service, consisting of representatives from the academic community.

With another consultation meeting scheduled for December 5, the campaign for publicly administered theses distribution will continue.

### **“PUBLIC RESEARCH: NO STRINGS ATTACHED” – THE CONFERENCE**

Pursuant to the National Graduate Caucus' campaign entitled *Public Research: No Strings Attached*, to promote the value of publicly funded research, the NGC will be hosting a conference coinciding with its stand-alone meeting March 9-10, 2001.

At this meeting, public-private partnerships will be critically examined during three panel discussions: Intellectual property/copyright; federal funding; and the report of the Expert Panel on the Commercialisation of University Research. Students, faculty, government bureaucrats and policy-makers, and selected members of private industry will be invited to discuss and debate the corporate agenda that is creeping into post-secondary institutions, threatening research for the public good.

# 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 participates

## 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 Postal Workers, CUPW
- Canadian Union of Public Employees, CUPE
- 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 (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
- Common Front on the World Trade Organisation (M, SC)

## HEALTH CARE

- Canadian Health Coalition, CHC (M, SC)

## ENVIRONMENT

- Sierra Youth Coalition (SYC)

## Domestic and International Solidarity

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### CHILD CARE & CHILDREN'S POVERTY

- 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)

### DISABLED STUDENTS' RIGHTS

- National Educational Association of Disabled Students, NEADS

### 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

- Center for Campus Organizing, CCO
- Continental Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Students, OCLAE
- General Union of Arab Students, GUAS
- International Union of Students, IUS (M, SC)
- National Unions of Students in Europe, ESIB
- United States Students' Association, USSA
- United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO (Federation is registered as a lobbyist on behalf of IUS)

## Domestic Solidarity Work

### WORLD WOMEN'S MARCH 2000 AGAINST POVERTY AND VIOLENCE

The inspiration for the World March of Women Against Poverty and Violence came from the successful Québec Women's March Against Poverty in 1995. The Québec March was organised by the Fédération des Femmes du Québec and drew three contingents of 850 women who marched for ten days to join a rally of 15,000 people in Quebec City. As a result, the women of Québec won nine demands related to economic justice.

Building on the momentum of the Québec Women's March, women at the 1995 United Nations Conference on Women called for a global Women's March to end poverty and violence against women. The March was scheduled to begin on March 8, 2000, International Women's Day, and conclude on October 17, 2000, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

As part of the Canadian mobilising strategy, a number of national events were organised:

- March 8, 2000—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 15, 2000—Rally in Ottawa on Parliament Hill;
- October 16, 2000—Women SpeakOUT!

- October 17, 2000—Canadian Women's Lobby Day; and
- 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.

These events served as a framework for ongoing regional and local organising across the country.

National Deputy Chairperson Jen Anthony, former National Deputy Chairperson Elizabeth Carlyle and Translator Carol Lynn Prébinski represented the Federation on the Pan-Canadian Coordinating Committee of the March.

### 2000 REASONS TO MARCH

The Pan-Canadian Coordinating Committee of the March developed a series of demands to present to the federal government. In consultation with women and women's organisations, these demands were refined into a platform for action. The resulting platform was distributed to participating organisations in September 2000. The Federation endorsed the platform for action at the May 2000 national general meeting, and also made a series of recommendations concerning the demands. The Canadian Women's March Committee then developed a final set of 68 demands, highlighting thirteen as immediate priorities. These thirteen demands were called the "Feminist Dozen." The final list of demands is appended to this document.

On September 7, 2000, National Deputy Chairperson Anthony participated in a press conference to launch the 68 demands. Other speakers included Terri Brown, President of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women and Francoise Davide, President of the Fédération des Femmes du Québec.

Prior to the development of the Canadian demands, 17 international demands were also prepared. During this process, controversy arose with respect to the following demands regarding sexual orientation:

**V-10:** That, based on the principle of equality of all persons, the United Nations and States of the international community recognize formally that

a person's sexual orientation shall not bar them from the full exercise of the rights set out in the following international instruments: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

**V-11:** That the right to asylum for victims of discrimination and persecution based on sexual orientation be adopted as soon as possible.

Because these demands were not unanimously supported there was a danger that these demands would be dropped. To ensure that these demands remained in the final proposal, a compromise was reached allowing the demands to be adopted on a country-by-country basis.

In mid-June, with only 15 countries supporting demands V-10 and V-11, a call for support from social justice organisations was issued. At the July meeting of the National Executive, it was resolved to endorse demands V-10 and V-11. A letter indicating the Federation's support for the demands was sent to the international coordinating committee.

### LOBBY STRATEGY - MEETING WITH MINISTERS

The Pan-Canadian Committee developed a national lobbying strategy to urge government to implement the demands of the March, particularly the Feminist Dozen. The Committee requested meetings with federal ministers responsible for each of the areas relevant to the thirteen demands. The following is a list of ministers with whom Committee representatives met:

- Prime Minister Jean Chrétien
- Minister of Finance Paul Martin
- Minister of Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) Jane Stewart
- Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Hedy Fry
- Minister of Treasury Board Lucienne Robilliard
- Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Elinor Caplan

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- Minister of Health Allan Rock
- Minister Responsible for Homelessness/  
Minister of Labour Claudette Bradshaw
- Minister of Justice Anne McLellan
- Minister of International Cooperation Maria  
Minna
- Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern  
Development Robert Nault
- Minister of Canadian Heritage Sheila Copps
- Minister of Public Works and Government  
Services Alfonso Gagliano

The Federation played an active role in securing meetings with key government ministers and participated in all those relevant to post-secondary education and the specific concerns of young women. In particular, the Federation's representative, National Deputy Chairperson Anthony attended meetings with Prime Minister Chrétien, Finance Minister Martin, HRDC Minister Stewart, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Fry, and President of Treasury Board Robilliard.

### **OCTOBER 15 WOMEN'S MARCH RALLY ON PARLIAMENT HILL**

To coincide with the March, the Federation produced a campaign kit that was distributed to member locals as well as campus-based women's centres. The kits included a list of suggested activities for the March, a campaign backgrounder, international support cards and a Federation World March poster. To date, 4,736,089 have been signed. Member locals are encouraged to continue to collect signed support cards and return them to the Canadian Labour Congress.

As a result of the emphasis placed on the March by the Federation, young women and students were well represented on October 15. Federation activists from Newfoundland & Labrador, Nova Scotia, Québec, Ontario, Saskatchewan and British Columbia were in attendance at the rally on Parliament Hill on October 15. In total, approximately 50,000 people, primarily women, participated in the event.

National Women's Representative Anita Zaenker, spoke on behalf of the Federation at both the student staging area of the March and during the activities on Parliament Hill.

### **WOMEN'S MARCH POSTMORTEM**

On December 7-8, 2000, the member organisations of the Canadian Women's March Committee will be meeting in Ottawa to develop a strategy to maintain the momentum generated by the March. While all member organisations have agreed to continue to work together to see the March demands implemented, the form this coalition would take has yet to be determined.

### **COMMON FRONT ON THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION**

The Common Front on the World Trade Organization (WTO) is a coalition that includes national student, labour, cultural, environmental, human rights and citizens organisations. The Common Front aims to educate the public and generate awareness about the threat posed by the WTO on public services, the environment, human rights and labour rights. The Federation has been a member of the coalition since its inception and currently has a representative on the Steering Committee.

Since the May 2000 national general meeting, the work of the Common Front since has focused on preparation for the 2000-2001 campaign focused on the impact of international trade liberalisation agreements on public services, and in particular the *General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS)*. The campaign was launched on October 4.

Throughout the coming months, the Common Front will be hosting a series of public meetings across the country to galvanise support for the protection of public services from trade liberalisation agreements. Popular materials will be distributed and research will be produced on the sectors affected by the implementation of the GATS.

The Federation and the Solidarity Network recognise the importance of ensuring that the National Action Committee on the Status of

Women can participate in the Common Front. To date, NAC has been unable to participate due to financial constraints that prevent representatives from travelling to Ottawa for meetings. The Federation and the Solidarity Network are working to find ways of overcoming this barrier to NAC's participation.

### **ALTERNATIVE FEDERAL BUDGET**

Since May 1996, the Federation has been an active participant in the Alternative Federal Budget project (AFB). 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 highlight the importance of a progressive taxation system, rebuilding Canada's social safety net and maintaining national standards, environmental protection, and full employment. National Deputy Chairperson Jen Anthony is the Federation's representative on the Steering Committee.

In anticipation of a federal 'mini-budget', the Alternative Federal Budget Steering Committee released a mini-statement on October 12, 2000. The Federation participated in the launch of the Alternative Federal Budget's Reality Check at a press conference in Ottawa. The AFB Reality Check largely focused on the allocation of the federal budget dividend, which was to be split equally between new spending on the one hand and a combination of tax cuts and debt reduction on the other. The report illustrates that only 2% of the federal surplus was actually allocated to new spending with 98% being allocated to tax cuts and debt reduction. The CHOICES coalition has produced a tabloid in response to the federal mini-budget that was distributed to member locals with the Federation's Election 2000 Campaign Kits.

Recently, the AFB coalition 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. In April 2000 the Steering Committee of the Alternative

Federal Budget struck a sub-committee to undertake a review of the AFB process. After consultation with regional and national groups through the Solidarity Network, the sub-committee platform for action was brought to the Steering Committee of the AFB coalition for consideration.

Unfortunately, due to potential funding limitations, the Steering Committee decided that it would be unwise to proceed with the project this year. It was resolved instead to proceed with a similar process to that used to produce the Budget for the past few years.

### **SOLIDARITY NETWORK**

The Solidarity 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 organised by Network members or like-minded groups. The Federation is a member of the Solidarity Network and National Deputy Chairperson Anthony serves as representative on the Steering Committee.

The Network recently organised a very successful Women SpeakOUT! event in Ottawa as one of the activities of the Women's March. Attention is now focused on site selection for the next Solidarity Assembly and work related to the upcoming Free Trade Area of the Americas meeting scheduled for Québec City in April 2001.

### **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, Common Front on the World Trade Organisation, and several other coalitions.

## Domestic and International Solidarity

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### Canadian Labour Congress Youth Committee

The Canadian Labour Congress provides a seat for the Federation on its Youth Committee. National Deputy Chairperson Anthony is the Federation's representative on the Committee. Educating youth and developing strategies to organise young workers are priorities for the Committee. The CLC has established a new youth-oriented segment on its web site ([www.clc-ctc.ca](http://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 its organising effort for the World Women's March 2000 Against Poverty and Violence, the CLC held its Women's Conference in Ottawa from June 11-14, under the theme: 'Rise Up! Act Up!' During the conference the following issues were 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 strategies required to challenge violence against women.

National Deputy Chairperson Anthony and former Ontario National Executive Representative Megan Garipey represented the Federation at the conference.

### 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 face a severe financial crisis. In recent years, the federal government has cut funding for groups like NAC. Instead of providing full operational grants, the federal government now only provides for project-based grants. This unstable funding base makes it difficult for NAC to develop long-term organisational strategies.

National Deputy Chairperson Anthony and National Women's Representative Anita Zaenker

represented the Federation at NAC's Annual General Meeting, National Conference, and Lobby Day held in Ottawa from May 26-29, 2000. Former National Deputy Chairperson Elizabeth Carlyle served as chairperson at the meeting. At the meeting, NAC elected its first Aboriginal President, Terri Brown. Presented at the meeting was the final Phase I Report of NAC's *From Global to Local* research project which examines the impact of globalisation on women's lives.

### COUNCIL OF CANADIANS

The Council of Canadians held their Annual General Meeting from November 3-5, 2000 in Toronto. National Deputy Chairperson Anthony was invited to speak on a panel about youth activism. The Council highlighted the need to work more closely with youth in future. At this meeting, Manitoba Organiser Elizabeth Carlyle was elected to serve on the Council's Board for the 2000-2001 year.

### DEMOCRACY WATCH

The Federation is a member of Democracy Watch which is a coalition focused on improving the accountability of the federal government and other elected representatives and democratic institutions. Members of the coalition are often asked to endorse specific campaign proposals, many of which are based on a civil rights perspective focusing on individual access to democratic processes. However, some campaigns also touch on issues of collective rights and democratic participation.

Over the summer, Democracy Watch requested that the Federation join its Government Ethics Coalition, aimed at tightening restrictions for federal lobbyists, and its Corporate Responsibility Coalition geared toward increasing corporate accountability. At two national executive meetings, the following concerns were raised regarding the demands of the campaigns: that the language used was not sufficient to ensure the desired outcomes; that no differentiation was made between lobbyists working for citizen-based, non-profit organisations and those working for corporations; and that corporate accountability would primarily be based on self-reporting without standards. Because these



concerns were not adequately addressed, the National Executive declined joining either coalition.

### **NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DISABLED STUDENTS**

The Federation is a member of the National Educational Association of Disabled Students. Cory Wright, Local 24 President represented the Federation as a presenter at the NEADS' national conference, entitled *Networking, Educating, Advocating: Delivering Success in the New Millennium*, on November 10-12, 2000 in Ottawa.

### **DONATIONS, LETTERS OF SUPPORT, AND ENDORSEMENTS**

From time to time, the Federation offers support to the campaigns of our coalition partners and workers involved in management disputes. In so doing, the Federation raises awareness, makes the links between social justice struggles and student struggles, and opens doors to further solidarity work. Because a letter by itself is an insufficient form of support, member locals are encouraged to contact labour unions and social justice organisations to organise awareness-raising events in their communities.

### **Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 3261 Strike**

At the May 2000 national general meeting the Federation resolved to provide financial and other support to the striking workers of CUPE Local 3261. The strikers, primarily part-time workers at the University of Toronto bookstore were the lowest paid university bookstore workers in the country. Issues in the strike involved the demand for wages above the Ontario minimum wage, seniority recognition, and a formal process to resolve grievances. Because most of the workers were students under the age of 25, this strike was seen as a critical step toward improving the working conditions for youth and students.

At the July meeting of the National Executive, it was resolved to provide a \$200 donation to Local 3261's strike fund, along with a letter of support. Former Ontario Chairperson Joel Harden and

current Ontario Chairperson Erin George regularly spoke at solidarity rallies and worked to build support from member local student associations in the Toronto area.

The strike was settled shortly before the beginning of the 2000-2001 academic year, with management conceding on all major issues.

### **Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 3903 Strike**

On October 26, York University's 2,100 contract faculty and teaching and research assistants—members of CUPE 3903—began a strike for smaller classes, higher wages, job security for contract faculty and protection from tuition fee increases. The York administration wanted to roll back language that protected teaching assistants from tuition increases and deny the same protection to new teaching assistants. Real wages had declined by 12% over the past ten years and consequently members of CUPE 3903 saw wage issues as being critical. Teaching and research assistants at York University average \$700 per month in wages, while York University President Lorna Marsden receives \$700 per day.

Because protection from tuition-fee increases is such an important issue in this dispute, the outcome of this strike will have ramifications for all students fighting against tuition fee hikes. If the student workers at York are not successful, local administrations throughout Ontario and the provincial government will be more confident to increase tuition fees and expand the scope of de-regulated programmes.

### **Alberta Union of Public Employees Strike**

On May 24, 2000, health care workers in Alberta began a strike in response to the provincial government's Bill 11, which would allow for private health care. On May 25, the Federation sent a letter to Dan MacLellan, President of the Alberta Union of Public Employees, expressing support for the efforts of striking workers. Workers voted to return to the job on May 26 and the Union and its president continue to face excessive fines for an illegal walkout.

## Domestic and International Solidarity

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### University of Toronto Workers' Centre

Recently organised Graduate and Teaching Assistants at the University of Toronto have undertaken to establish a Working Students' Centre on campus. The Centre will provide students with information about their rights as workers and about union organising. At its July meeting, the National Executive resolved to send a letter in support of this effort.

In late November, the Federation was contacted by Working Students' Centre organisers to assist with a fundraising drive currently underway. The Federation has sent a letter of support, encouraging national unions to donate to the much-needed project.

### Memorial University of Newfoundland Faculty Association Strike

After eighteen months of unsuccessful bargaining, faculty and library staff walked off the job at Memorial University of Newfoundland on October 31. The Federation sent a letter of support to Noel Roy, President of the Memorial University of Newfoundland Faculty Association (MUNFA) on November 2. The Newfoundland & Labrador provincial executive worked with Locals 35 and 36 to raise awareness and support for the strike. Workload, wages and equity between faculty members were the critical issues during the strike. On Sunday, November 12, a settlement was reached, and faculty returned to work on November 14.

### Greenpeace's GMO-Free Action Zones on Campus

Greenpeace recently launched a Canadian student campaign for GMO-Free Action Zones on Campuses, aimed at removing genetically modified organisms (GMOs) from campuses and ultimately creating a wider GMO-free environment.

Funding cuts and privatisation in education and research have generated a greater dependence on the corporate sector. As a result, more and more researchers and students are involved in scientific projects that serve the corporate sector and are not necessarily compatible with critical scientific research. Many university researchers patent their

discovery and become partners in private companies thus blurring the line between independent science and corporate science. Consequently, universities are increasingly vulnerable to being transformed into mechanisms for the rapid commercialisation of new products, rather than being objective institutions that can, in the interests of the public, rigorously evaluate the impact of the products they are researching.

The primary target of the 2000-2001 campaign is the removal of Kellogg's products from campuses. In Europe Kellogg's offers GMO-free products but many of their products here use genetically modified ingredients, and there are no options for people who wish to avoid GMOs.

At the October 2000 meeting of the National Executive, it was resolved to endorse the campaign. A letter of endorsement has been sent to Greenpeace. Member locals are encouraged to contact Greenpeace for postcards and other campaign materials.

## INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY WORK

### WORLD BANK BONDS BOYCOTT

The World Bank is one of the most powerful agents of corporate globalisation. The World Bank, along with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), encourages privatisation of government services, requires the weakening of labor laws, and enforces "free trade" policies that sacrifice the rights of working people to the dictates of multinational corporations. Through its devastating "structural adjustment" programs, the Bank has also required poor countries to increase fees for health and education and cut spending on government services.

The World Bank generates about 80% of its revenue from the sale of bonds that are issued through U.S. financial institutions like Citigroup, and its affiliate Saloman Smith Barney. World Bank bonds are purchased by large institutional investors, including city and state governments, universities, churches, mutual fund investors, and

pension funds. A campaign has begun to boycott the purchase of World Bank bonds.

An effective boycott would contribute greatly to the process of fundamentally reforming the global economy. The California cities of San Francisco, Oakland, and Berkeley; the Communications Workers of America; the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America; and several churches have passed bond boycott resolutions, and many others are pending before city councils and other organisations.

At its October 2000 meeting the National Executive resolved to endorse the campaign. A letter of support was sent to campaign organisers.

### **CAMPAIGN TO FREE LEONARD PELTIER**

The November 1999 national general meeting reaffirmed its endorsement of the Campaign to Free Leonard Peltier. The Federation has been involved in this campaign for several years, having produced a poster in the mid-1990s to raise awareness of this Aboriginal activist who remains unjustly incarcerated in the United States. The campaign has generated renewed interest over the course of the United States election. President Clinton has hinted on several occasions that he is considering granting executive clemency to Peltier.

On June 12, 2000, a hearing held at Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary in Kansas, Leonard Peltier was reviewed for parole. The hearing was held to determine whether there was any reason for the Parole Commission to change its 1993 decision to deny Peltier parole. The parole examiner refused to read a report detailing Peltier's recent medical records. Furthermore, the examiner refused to accept or consider the 10,000 letters collected over the last three months from US citizens, human rights organisations, luminaries and members of the international community supporting Peltier's release. Without deliberation or the consideration of any documents presented, the parole examiner recommended that Peltier's sentence be continued until his next full parole hearing in 2008. Those in attendance reported that the examiner wrote the denial while the presentation was still being made.

A vigil demanding the release of Leonard Peltier was held on June 26, 2000 in Ottawa. The event was co-sponsored by the Federation and National Deputy Chairperson Anthony spoke at it. Following the vigil, a number of pamphlets supporting Peltier's release were delivered to the Federation from the National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE).

Within the last month, U.S. President Clinton has confirmed that Leonard Peltier's clemency petition has reached his office and that a decision regarding it will be made very soon. It is expected that this decision will come prior to the inauguration of the next U.S. President in mid-January, 2001.

### **FRIENDS OF BURMA - "8-8-88" ACTION**

On August 8, 1988 (08/08/'88) students in Burma were massacred by the military regime, as part of a campaign of terror that included shutting down all universities and other schools in the country. Between 1988 and 1996, universities were closed sporadically. Despite mass student demonstrations taking place between December 1996 and the present time, the universities have remained closed. This year, the Burmese student movement launched the Open School Campaign calling for universities and other schools to be re-opened, campus democracy, access to education, and other basic rights. Although the regime claims that universities are opening their doors and that more and more students are returning to studies, the Canadian Friends of Burma reports otherwise. According to their October/November 2000 newsletter *Burma Links*, conditions in the universities remain unacceptable: students are forced to take oaths of loyalty to the regime; campuses have been moved from cities to the countryside, near to military barracks; and the academic year has been compressed into three months.

On August 8, 2000, Canadian Friends of Burma held a rally on Parliament Hill calling on the federal government to enforce trade sanctions against Myanmar. National Deputy Chairperson Anthony spoke at the event on behalf of the Federation.

## Domestic and International Solidarity

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### **SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN FOR INDEPENDENCE FOR EAST TIMOR**

Since 1998, the Federation has been actively involved in efforts to support independence for East Timor, especially through the Canadian East Timor Alert Network. Since last fall's successful vote for independence from Indonesia, the Federation has maintained contact with the East Timor Student Solidarity Council, the national student organisation of the newly recognised nation.

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. During the referendum campaign, the ETSSC organised public meetings and demonstrations and conducted voter education, often in the most remote areas of East Timor. These activities were carried out despite a severe shortage of resources and despite the fact that individual members of the ETSSC frequently became targets for the Indonesian military and paramilitary groups. In the period between January 1998 and the announcement of the Consultation results in September 1999, more than 100 students were killed or disappeared.

During its first national congress, held in July 2000, the ETSSC reiterated its international call for solidarity donations such as office supplies, computer equipment, textbooks, and volunteers. A meeting in the East Timorese capitol of Dili for students studying outside of East Timor is planned for the new year. The meeting is being organised by RENETIL, the organisation representing these students, and the Asian Students' Association, in conjunction with the ETSSC.

At the March 2000 meeting of the National Executive, it had been resolved to raise donations-in-kind equivalent to \$2000 US for the East Timor Student Solidarity Council. It had been further

resolved to issue the call on an international scale, through the International Union of Students, and that the Federation co-ordinate this fundraising effort. Throughout the spring and summer, the Federation cooperated with the IUS to solicit donations. So far, a small handful of donations have been received from Federation member locals, and the fundraising efforts of the Federation are ongoing. Prior to the November 2000 National General Meeting of the Federation, the call was re-issued to member locals and other social justice organisations.

### **NON-VIOLENT DIRECT ACTION AGAINST THE CRIMINAL INJUSTICE SYSTEM**

On July 2, 2000, the Federation received an electronic mail message from Bill Capowski, former director of the U.S.-based Centre for Campus Organizing. The electronic message outlined plans for non-violent direct action planned to coincide with the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on August. The demands of the campaign were as follows:

- release Mumia Abu Jamal and all political prisoners, including Leonard Peltier;
- abolish the Prison Industrial Complex;
- abolish the death penalty;
- end police violence;
- empower communities; and
- stop the corporate war on the poor.

At its July meeting, the National Executive resolved to endorse the event.

### **SOLIDARITY WITH THE ALL-AFRICA STUDENTS UNION**

The All-Africa Students Union is a pan-African student organisation representing nearly every country on the continent. The Federation works in solidarity with AASU through the International Union of Students. In 1999, the Federation made a donation toward AASU's work and maintains contact with the organisation.

As part of this solidarity work, the Federation will be providing AASU with a used computer for their offices in Accra, Ghana. The equipment has been donated by the Ontario Component, with some

accessories provided by the national office. The Federation has also volunteered to have AASU's constitution and bylaws translated from English into French.

### **SOLIDARITY WITH THE CONTINENTAL ORGANIZATION OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDENTS**

The Continental Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Students, which was founded in 1969, currently represents all national unions of students in the region. The Federation works in solidarity with OCLAE through the International Union of Students. In April 2000, the Federation sent a delegate to OCLAE's 12<sup>th</sup> Congress of Latin American and Caribbean Students. Since then, communication with the executive and general secretariat of OCLAE has been regular.

As part of ongoing solidarity work with OCLAE, the Federation has solicited from member locals donations of computer equipment and office supplies for the OCLAE offices in Havana, Cuba. An initial donation of office supplies including thermal fax paper will be provided to OCLAE late in November 2000.

Plans among the Federation, OCLAE, the United States Student Association, and the International Union of Students are underway to organise a joint consultation among North, Central and South American, and Caribbean students' organisations regarding the future of the International Union of Students.

### **FOLLOW-UP FROM THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

In October 1998, the United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organisation hosted the World Conference on Higher Education (WCHE). Over 5000 delegates, including two representatives of the Federation, converged upon Paris to deliberate on key issues in post-secondary education.

A statement entitled "Opening the Big Door, the Student Declaration on Equality, Democracy and Quality in Higher Education", was presented in 1998 at the WCHE, as a supplement to the official Declaration of the Conference. "Opening the Big

Door" was developed through a process of consultation, in contrast to some segments of the official Declaration of the World Conference on Higher Education. For example, the official Declaration is peppered with terms like "stakeholder", access to education is defined on the "basis of merit", education is seen as a knowledge and innovation factory, and inordinate emphasis is placed on bringing job skills to market. The Declaration makes mention of the need to improve women's access to education, but no link is made to the devastating effects of social programme cutbacks and privatisation on women's lives. The jargon of "student-centered" decision-making stands in stark contrast to assertions that students need to pay their fair share of the costs of education. The Declaration places conditions on public education while privatisation of funding is deemed inevitable, as demonstrated by the following excerpt from the document: "Higher education should be considered as a public service - although diversified sources of funding, private and public, are necessary". The Declaration reflects the acquiescence of national governments and the United Nations to rely on the private sector for education funding.

The National Unions of Students of Europe (ESIB) was appointed to represent students in the follow-up process. From October 11-14, a meeting took place among the five regional student organisations and the International Union of Students, to discuss follow-up from the 1998 Conference and to prepare for the 7<sup>th</sup> Collective Consultation on Higher Education of UNESCO in late November. The Federation was also represented at this meeting, as there is no regional student organisation for North America.

Among the outcomes of this meeting was a student Declaration to reaffirm the approach taken in "Opening the Big Door". The plan of action that was developed during the meetings included a proposal for a handbook on globalisation, which would serve as a guide to the Declaration and Framework for Priority Action of the 1998 World Conference on Higher Education. Additional follow-up among the student organisations will take place at UNESCO's 7<sup>th</sup> Collective Consultation on Higher Education.

## Domestic and International Solidarity

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In Canada, the Federation sits on the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, along with coalition partners such as the Canadian Association of University Teachers and the Fédération Québécoise des professeurs et professeures universitaires. The Commission discusses and evaluates official Canadian follow-up activities from the World Conference on Higher Education.

### 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 17<sup>th</sup> November Street, named after the 1939 massacre of students and others protesting fascism and the beginning of World War II. However, since the decline of the eastern 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 the effort 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 a March 13-14 Council meeting.

Since the 17th Congress, the Federation has continued to coordinate communication among the Executive Secretariat (ES) 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;
- the 7th Collective Consultation of UNESCO on Higher Education;
- preparations for the next United Nations Youth Unit's World Youth Forum; and
- preparations for the 15th World Festival of Youth and Students.

### Communication with Member Unions and Coalition Partners

Since the 17th Congress held in March 2000, communication between member unions and the Executive Secretariat has improved greatly. The ES receives regular invitations and updates from members and coalition partners, and has been able to respond to several calls for support.

Since May, the ES has delivered messages of support and solidarity to: ESIB, the National Unions of Students of Europe; OCLAE, the Continental Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Students; NUSS-Syria; NANS-Nigeria; FEP-Peru, GUPS-Palestine; AEU-Guatemala; UEUP-Panama; UNEN-Nicaragua; AASU, the All-Africa Students' Union; ETSSC-East Timor; the World March of Women in the Year 2000; Movimiento por las Mujeres Rogelia Cruz (Guatemala); FUPI-Puerto Rico; NUGS-Ghana; GUSPLAJ-Libya; UNEA-Algeria; World Federation of Democratic Youth; ANNFSU-Nepal; ASA, Asian Students' Association; International Union of Socialist Youth; GUSIR-Iraq; FEPE-Ecuador; ZINASU-Zimbabwe; NUSS-Sierra Leone; ACEU-Colombia; KNE/Odigitis-Greece; FEU-Guadalajara; USAS-USA; MDE/180°-USA; NSUM-Macedonia; and YXK-Kurdistan; ZSP-Poland; FEUU-Uruguay; USI-Ireland; VVS-Belgium; and others.

From October 18-22, 2000 in Geneva, Switzerland, the IUS participated in the 39<sup>th</sup> Seminar and Board Meeting of the National Unions of Students of Europe (ESIB).

### WEB SITE

The Executive Secretariat of the IUS has accepted the Federation's offer to move the IUS web site to the Federation server. The IUS' current web site is at <http://www.stud.uni-hannover.de/gruppen/ius/>.

### CAMPAIGNS

#### November 17th – International Students' Day

On November 17, 1939, student resistance to the Nazi occupation in the streets of Prague (capital of what was then Czechoslovakia, now the Czech Republic) inspired the foundation in London and New York of an anti-Nazi student coalition, the International Student Council. In 1941, supported by all the wartime, anti-Nazi allied leaders, the International Student Council proclaimed November 17 "International Students' Day" in London. The International Union of Students, established in 1946, replaced the International Student Council.

Since 1941, the IUS and its member unions and coalition partners have celebrated International Students' Day on November 17. This year, a renewed effort was made to encourage member unions to organise local and national events. A poster, petition to the United Nations calling for the official recognition of November 17 as International Students' Day, and backgrounder were produced and distributed to encourage the celebration of International Students' Day. In Canada, the Federation issued a news release for November 17, and distributed the campaign documents provided by the IUS.

A full report on international activities around the world will be compiled and distributed by the IUS.

#### September 26, 2000 – Protest against the World Bank/International Monetary Fund

On September 26, 2000, a rainbow coalition of organizations participated in mass protests against the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. These mass protests, endorsed by the International Union of Students, were the first major protests in Prague since the so-called Velvet Revolution of 1989. FZS-Germany participated in

the organizing committee for the events, on behalf of the IUS.

INPEG (Initiative Against Economic Globalisation), the Prague-based coalition organizing the S26 protests, condemned the WB/IMF for its policies and projects that have been responsible for worsening the gap between the rich and the poor. The IUS responded to several media inquiries about the S26 campaign, and continues to assist with follow-up, including support for those arrested in Prague. Also, a letter was sent to the Czech President condemning the repression of protests and his government's support for the Bretton Woods institutes.

The Federation sent a letter to Czech President Vaclav Havel, calling on him to lift the ban on protests issued by two districts of the City of Prague prior to S26 events.

#### World March of Women in the Year 2000

The International Union of Students has endorsed the campaign and has sent out several calls to its member unions and coalition partners to participate in the local and national events.

#### Finances and Administration

The financial situation of the International Union of Students has not changed appreciably since May. The organization continues to rely on a tiny handful of member unions and individual donors to operate, and its debts and fines on those debts continue to mount.

During the summer, the ground floor area just outside the IUS Administrative Building in Prague was cordoned off because of falling siding. This prompted the company renting the building to speed up repairs. As of August, the first two floors of the building were operational. Major infrastructure work – such as replacing the heating system, electrical transmitters, and some water piping – is well underway, but further zoning variances are required in order to continue. It is expected that the parts of the building allocated for the IUS will be ready for occupancy by December 2000. In August, the Executive Secretariat received notice of back rent owed to

## Domestic and International Solidarity

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the owners of the land on which the Administrative Building stands. The ES hopes to negotiate a settlement.

In August, electricity and heating in one of the apartments occupied by a member of the ES was cut; however, a settlement was reached and access to the utilities restored. Legal issues relating to the IUS' ownership of the Administrative Building remain unsatisfactorily resolved. Although the IUS is confident that no serious challenge can be made to its ownership of the building on 17<sup>th</sup> November Street, the police investigation into the false contract for the sale of the Building concluded that neither abduction nor bribery had been perpetrated upon IUS Executive Secretariat members. However, because the false contract has not yet been removed from the *Cadastr* (land registry), no payments have been received from Multys, the company renting the building. There is no legal basis now for the IUS to appeal the findings; the remaining avenue to pursue the payment of damages caused by the false contract for the sale of the Building is a civil suit. Other legal issues relating to outstanding debts remain in the courts.

### United Nations

The International Union of Students has improved its profile within the work of the United Nations system. The IUS' status as a major student organization, to be consulted by UN bodies such as the United Nations' Education, Science, and Cultural Organization and the United Nations' Youth Unit, has been re-established. The regional student organizations, AASU, ASA, ESIB, GUAS, and OCLAE have expressed public support for a renewed role for the IUS.

The IUS has participated in the following UN events since May 2000:

- Millennium Forum for non-governmental organizations, May 22-24 in New York;
- World Youth Forum for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 16-19 in Panama;
- International Preparatory Committee meeting for the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, July 3-5 in Hanover; and
- Bilateral meetings with representative of the UNESCO Higher Education Division, and its Youth Coordination Unit, in October 2000.

Recent and upcoming events in which the IUS has participated include:

- World Student Congress to follow up from UNESCO's 1998 World Conference on Higher Education, October 11-14 in Geneva;
- UNESCO 7th Collective Consultation on Higher Education, November 27-29, 2000 in Paris;
- International Preparatory Committee meeting for the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, March 14-16, 2001 in Dakar, Senegal;
- World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, August 5-12, 2001; and
- The United Nations' World Conference against Racism, Xenophobia and Related Intolerances, August 31-September 7, 2001 in South Africa.

## Fulfilment of Directives from Plenary

### DIRECTIVE TO ENDORSE THE "STOP THE IMPUNITY – COLOMBIA DEMANDS JUSTICE" CAMPAIGN

At the May 2000 Semi-Annual National General Meeting, it was resolved to endorse the "Stop the Impunity – Colombia Demands Justice" campaign. The campaign calls for: i) the building of a broad movement of national and international social actors to further the struggle for an end to impunity in Colombia; and ii) for the unmasking of state terrorism in Colombia before national and international public opinion, by way of detailing concrete cases of Crimes against Humanity, with the objective of advancing processes of truth, justice and reparation for the victims. In late May, the campaign endorsement was conveyed to the organisation coordinating efforts in Canada and the campaign petition was distributed to member locals. Throughout the summer, attempts were made to have a representative of the campaign speak on campuses, but due to scheduling and safety concerns about departing and returning to Colombia, a speaking tour was not possible. Through its work in the International Union of Students, the Federation has been able to communicate with Colombian student and youth organisations participating in the "Stop the Impunity – Colombia Demands Justice" and other human rights campaigns in Colombia.



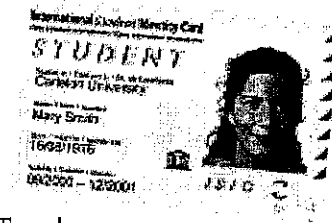
# FEDERATION PROGRAMMES

The Federation operates 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 (ISTC) and endorsed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific 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 1999 and August 2000, close to 160,000 cards were issued, ranking Canada as the fourth largest issuing agent in the world. This year, it is hoped that distribution can reach 180,000.

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

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This year's supply of new cards and data labels did not arrive in Canada and clear customs until Friday, September 8, nearly three weeks after the expected arrival date. As a result of the delay, the Cards had to be rushed to the issuing offices upon arrival and the Federation incurred considerably higher postage/courier charges.

In total, 200,000 cards were received. One hundred thousand were dispatched to Travel CUTS while the rest were retained in stock by the Federation. From its supply, the Federation has shipped roughly 15,000 to its issuing offices since early September.

Unfortunately, the cards were not printed to the Federation's specifications. In May, more than four weeks before the deadline for artwork for the card to be submitted to the International Student Travel Confederation (ISTC), the Federation forwarded the Studentsaver logo to the ISTC with instructions to include the logo on the back of the card. The intention had been to include the Studentsaver logo on the back of the Card to enhance continuity between the Federation's two discount programmes. It was not until the Cards had arrived that the Federation became aware that the Studentsaver logo had not been included. Although the Federation has placed an order for amended cards with the ISTC, it is not clear when the new cards will arrive.

### PROMOTION

In the summer of 1999, 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 promoted the card in the Studentsaver promotional materials. In addition, on the roughly 1,500 stickers and 1,200 window decals distributed to businesses offering Studentsaver discounts, there 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. Most member locals increased their ISIC distribution last year. For example, the Carleton University Students' Association issued 3,440 cards last year, compared to 2,918 cards the previous year. Nipissing University Student Union issued 285 cards last year compared to 115 the previous year, while the Malaspina Students' Union saw the most dramatic increase in distribution, issuing 2,025 cards last year, compared to only 450 the previous year.

### PRINTED ISICs

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 85 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. It was initially anticipated that printers would have to be purchased for the larger issuing offices and that some of the card issuing would become more centralised.

Unfortunately, there appears to be some problems with the Eltron label printers recommended to the Federation by the ISTC. The printers do not appear to be robust enough to handle the amount of labels being issued by some of the Federation's higher volume issuing offices. Within months of being deployed several printers ceased to function and were returned to the Federation.

In addition, Cardmaster, the software developed by the ISTC to produce computer-generated cards, works relatively poorly. The ISTC believes that much of the difficulty with the software can be attributed to Cardmaster being programmed primarily for the European English version of Windows 95, rather than the North American English Version. As most of the difficulties are relatively minor, such as the printer advancing an extra label each time it prints, the ISTC has no plans to develop a North American English version of the software.

Instead, the Federation has received a grant from ISTC and will be developing its own software with which to issue the ISIC. Although the new software will continue to work with the current Eltron printers, it will also allow the Federation the flexibility to search for more reliable printers. Additionally, the Federation will be able to specify particular features to be included in the software. The software is currently in the early stages of development and is expected to be ready for deployment to students unions and Travel CUTS offices by September 2001.

The Federation has also purchased two high-volume card printers. Unlike the other printers, which simply produce printed labels to be affixed to an ISIC, these new printers print the data and a digital photo directly onto the ISIC. Unfortunately, to-date the Federation has been unable to get the card printers to work properly. The ISTC is experiencing similar difficulties with its card printers and is working to address the problem.

### **POSTERS AND OTHER ISIC PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS**

The Federation received a small amount of promotional posters and “wobblers” from the ISTC with the shipment of cards in September. Unfortunately, the posters can not easily be customised for locals because they are the larger versions that are too large to fit in the Federation’s colour laser printer/copier. The previous stock of posters – especially the French version – is almost depleted.

The Federation has ordered additional promotional materials from the ISTC. However, the ISTC has depleted its stock of promotional

materials and has yet to determine when additional materials will be produced. In the interim, the Federation has received a set of electronic images from the ISTC. These images, many of which appear on the ISTC’s promotional materials, will be used by the Federation to create promotional materials that highlight the VIA Rail and Greyhound discounts available with the ISIC.

### **2000/2001 ISIC STUDENT TRAVEL HANDBOOK**

The ISIC 2001 Benefit Guide, formerly called the ISIC Student Travel Handbook, arrived in Canada in late August or early September. Unfortunately, the warehouse to which the cards were shipped did not inform the Federation about the arrival of the booklets and consequently, the Federation’s shipment of booklets to student union offices was not initiated until late September.

Additionally, the ISTC commenced the printing of the guidebooks in late May. As a result, none of the discounts secured this summer by the Federation or member locals appear in the guidebook. It is hoped that by beginning discount solicitation earlier this year, most of the Studentsaver discounts will appear in the 2001-2002 edition of the guidebook. Further, now that the discount database at studentsaver.ca is fully functional, future editions of the guidebook will direct students to the web site for an up-to-date list of all the Studentsaver discounts available across the country.

### **FUTURE ISIC OPTIONS**

At the previous general meeting it was reported that, due to a world-wide moratorium on co-branded ISICs, the Federation had been unable to secure approval to use the ISIC as a college or university student card from the ISTC. The ISTC has since addressed some of the security concerns that led to the moratorium, and the Federation is currently negotiating with the ISTC for approval to establish a pilot project at several colleges and universities. Local 05—the Capilano Students Union, Local 09—University of Winnipeg Students’ Association, and Local 61—the Malaspina Students’ Union have expressed interest in establishing the ISIC as the student card at their respective institutions.

### Studentsaver – Canada’s Original Student Discount Programme

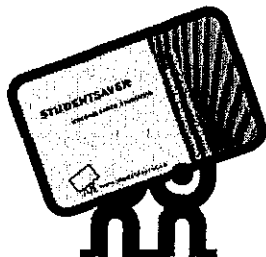
#### HISTORY OF STUDENTSAVER

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 fall 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. However, the Federation learned that it was not permitted 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 would be an inexpensive, easy to distribute alternative, absent of any cardholder data or photograph, and would be available to part-time and full-time students.

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 guidebook 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 when, in an effort to reduce programme costs, the discount guidebooks were eliminated. As an alternative, the Federation began printing the local area discounts for the programme on institution-specific Cards. In addition to reducing production costs, the new cards had the potential of increasing exposure for local discounts. Very few students actually carried their discount guidebooks 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 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 1980s 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 Federation returned to a durable plasticised card for the programme and used other methods to promote the discounts. The change in card format and the development of new methods of promoting the discounts became the basis for the first stage of the re-design of the programme.

The re-design of the programme was necessitated in part by the proliferation of rival discount programmes in the mid-to-late 1990’s. Student Price Card, College Club and numerous local discount programmes were all obtaining discounts from businesses that had previously provided the Studentsaver programme with discounts. To compete with these new, for-profit entrants into the student discount market, a significant amount of time was devoted to improving the programme, allowing it to better compete with its new, well-financed rivals.

#### PROGRAMME RE-DESIGN

##### 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 commencement of discount solicitation, no national discounts were secured. Many national businesses had been approached by other discount programmes prior to the Federation and had already committed themselves. Moreover, the time and approach required to solicit national discounts was not possible given staffing levels in the national office.

At the time, local discount development had also been identified as the priority. It was felt that in the context of the re-designed 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 in which to participate.

Unfortunately, the absence of national discounts was also noticed by many Federation members. While there are many good local discounts in a number of regions, the reality is that Federation members purchase many of their goods and services from national chains – whether telecommunications, clothing, food, music, entertainment or otherwise. To address the lack of national discounts, the Federation aggressively pursued discounts from national organisations and suppliers.

The firm Glaze Holdings was retained to solicit discounts from national organisations and suppliers. Glaze Holdings had previously run student discount programmes in Winnipeg and Montréal.

Though several hundred promotional packages were distributed, national discount solicitation was relatively unsuccessful. Burger King, and *onlineoffice.com*, an internet-based telecommunications provider, agreed to participate in the programme. Glaze Holdings reported that many national businesses expressed interest in the Studentsaver programme, but were already committed to providing an exclusive student discount through a competitor's programme. It is hoped that as these exclusive agreements expire, the Federation will be able to convince some of these businesses to provide students with discounts through the Studentsaver programme.

On a more positive note, Studentmobiles.com, an Irish firm that sells cellular phone service over the Internet, recently contacted the Federation.

Studentmobiles negotiates deals for students to purchase both cellular telephones and cellular service at significantly reduced prices. The Union of Students of Ireland, National Union of Students (U.K) and Union Nationale des Étudiants de France each have an agreement with Studentmobiles to provide their members with cellular phone service. All Unions have expressed satisfaction with the deals that Studentmobiles.com was able to secure in their respective countries. Additionally, the United States Student Association is currently negotiating a deal with Studentmobiles. It is hoped that the deal between Studentmobiles and the Federation will be closed early in the new year.

### Local Discount Solicitation

The local discounts that remain the heart of the Studentsaver programme and, particularly outside major centres differentiate the programme from that of competitors. Local discounts allow businesses in the community to develop an attachment to local institutions and they encourage consumption of goods and services from community-based businesses.

However, as noted earlier, the success of local discount solicitation has varied significantly from region to region in recent years. It had been the practice to provide a flat rate amount to 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.

To improve local discount solicitation the Federation modified the remuneration of local discount solicitors. The base rate for local discount solicitors was eliminated. Discount solicitors received a commission for each discount solicited. However, the commission increases after twenty discounts, increasing the incentive for the solicitor to secure a large number of discounts. In some areas, particularly Toronto, the new incentive scheme assisted in dramatically increasing the number of discounts that were secured.



## Federation Programmes

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Attempts were also made to begin local discount solicitation much earlier this year. Unfortunately, a number of member local student associations did not appoint local solicitors until July. Obviously this delayed local discount solicitation in those regions. To ensure a high volume of discounts, more than one solicitor was appointed in some regions. However, while the number of local discounts increased in many areas, in some communities, such as Sault Ste. Marie, Waterloo and Regina, little or no local discounts were secured.

On a more positive note, many regions substantially increased the amount of discounts that were secured. For instance more than 300 discounts were secured in the greater Toronto area compared to less than 100 the previous year.

### Discount Types and Listings

Studentsaver has historically only accepted discounts that are in place 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. Increasingly, discount providers are looking to provide special and time-limited offers or usage limited offers. This is particularly true in the case of many potential national providers.

As mentioned earlier, in the mid 1990's, discounts were listed on the card leading to a limit on the number of discounts that could be solicited per region. That format replaced the more expensive model of a single card accompanied by a discount booklet. The Federation recognised that moving away from the discount booklet was an unfortunate but necessary step given the financial position of the Federation at the time.

In order to better publicise local and national discounts, attempts were made to complete local discount solicitation in time to include discount listing in member local handbooks. It was also decided to create regional discount books to include information on the Federation and its campaigns, as well as a series of coupons and the discount listings for the region. It was hoped that the sale of coupons and ads would allow the books to be produced on a cost-recovery basis.

Unfortunately, the late start to national and regional discount solicitation, combined with early print deadlines at several member locals, precluded many member locals from including discount lists in their 2000-2001 handbooks.

Production of the Studentsaver guidebook took place in August, with the actual printing and binding commencing in late August. The tipping of the booklets, the act of affixing the cards was not started until the last week of August and was not completed until early September.

The delay in production was attributable primarily to several of the discount solicitors' submitting their discounts late. There were also problems encountered exporting the data from the web site and separating the 2000-2001 discounts from the 1999-2000 discounts. It has since been discovered that a portion of the discounts that had been entered onto the web site is not in the guidebook.

Three hundred and fifty thousand Studentsaver guidebooks were printed. 275,000 of the guidebooks, with the Studentsaver card affixed, were sent to provincial offices and member locals during the last week of August and the first week of September. The remaining 75,000 are to be distributed, primarily at Travel CUTS offices, with ISICs that are sold. At this point, however, the supply for Travel CUTS has yet to reach its retail outlets, though some guidebooks have been sent to other issuing offices.

This year the programme included the option for local discount solicitors to sell coupons in addition to soliciting discount listings. That aspect of the programme was definitely a disappointment as only the Winnipeg guidebook had a significant number of coupons.

Additionally, with fewer national discounts than anticipated, and no regional coupons or advertisements in most areas, the booklets were not produced on a cost-recovery basis this year. However, the large number of coupons in the Winnipeg booklet will provide the Federation with an example of a successful coupon book for local discount solicitors to show businesses.

## Card Distribution

The past year was among the most successful in the history of Studentsaver for card distribution. Unfortunately, the process of placing the cards gummed 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 programme. In order to reduce both the amount of work and the cost involved with printing the cards, the card was affixed to the cover of the Studentsaver regional discount guidebooks.

## Revenue Generation

The Federation's programme is unique among discount programmes in that historically, no revenue has been generated from the programme. Some discount programmes have required all discount providers to pay to participate in the programme. Others allow any business to provide a discount, but require payment if the discount is to be included in the programme's promotional materials. Despite the limited card distribution of these programmes, they have been successful in generating adequate revenue to operate profitably.

In the past, the Federation subsidised advertising and promotional services for any business that provided a discount through Studentsaver. Evidence from comparable programmes indicated that this subsidy was not necessary. It was believed that the Federation could reasonably expect to raise adequate revenue to cover the costs of discount solicitation and the production and distribution of cards and promotional materials.

In early May, a comprehensive fee schedule was developed for the programme. The fee schedule maintained the option of businesses providing a discount at no cost. Costs for advertising or coupons varied based on the population and economic circumstances of a particular region. Unfortunately, lower than anticipated sales of coupons resulted in insufficient revenue being generated to offset the cost of providing the

programme

## The Next Generation Card

The 1999-2000 Studentsaver card was re-designed 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 the redesign was a significant improvement over previous years, it required further improvement for two key reasons. Firstly, one of the Federation's primary competitors, College Club, features a bright orange membership card distinctly visible from a distance. The Federation's card, while more professional looking from up-close, did not carry the same visual impact when viewed from a distance and in promotional materials.

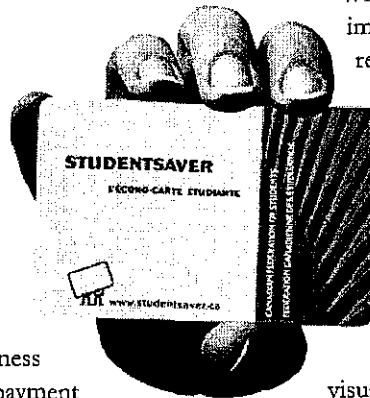
And secondly, the pre-printing of the name of the institution of study in the cards added as much as \$5,000 in direct printing and distribution costs and dozens of hours of staff time to the project.

Further, the material selected for the 1999-2000 Studentsaver Card was not adequately durable. Due in large part to the lack of thickness of the card, it did not achieve the level of professional effect the National Executive sought.

To improve the look of the card, the Federation had its designers, Proximity Design Group, re-design the card. Proximity does most of the Federation's design work including the posters that promoted the discounts in 1999-2000. In order to provide the card with some continuity, Proximity based the appearance of the card on the promotional posters produced the previous year.

## 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 Programmes

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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 moved towards a system whereby the International Student Identity Card clearly entitled 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.

To ensure distribution to students who purchase an ISIC, additional guidebooks were printed to allow the booklet to be provided to non-members who purchased an ISIC.

### FUTURE OF THE PROGRAMME

Obviously, the results of the Federation's attempts to re-design the programme for the 2000-2001 year have been mixed. The design of the card has been greatly improved, and although limited in both quality and quantity, some national discounts have been secured. Further, in attempting to secure national discounts, the Federation has learned a tremendous amount about the business practices of its competitors. Based on the knowledge the Federation has acquired this summer, new strategies for obtaining national are being developed. One possibility may be to work closely with Campus Plus, the advertising company owned by Canadian University Press. Representatives of Canadian University Press have expressed interest in jointly pursuing Studentsaver discounts/Campus paper advertisements from national businesses.

Further, with much of the work of re-designing the programme complete, the Federation can begin discount solicitation for the 2001-2002 year in January 2001. This will improve the quality and quantity of discounts next year, and will ensure that locals have sufficient time to include discount listings in their handbooks.

## National Student Health Network

### 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.

### Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance

Heath Benefits Consulting has negotiated with a single carrier to provide accidental death and dismemberment insurance for all Network members. By pooling all Network members into a single plan, the accidental death and dismemberment insurance premium will be reduced for all plan members for the plan year starting September 1, 2000.



### Extended Health and Dental Insurance

Since the previous general meeting, the Federation has been able to secure preferred rates for extended health and dental insurance from Green Shield, a not-for-profit insurance provider established, in part, by the Canadian Autoworkers. Since then, one Network member, the University of King's College Students' Union, has switched from its existing provider to Green Shield. The change to Green Shield resulted in a \$14.00 per student savings over the proposal provided by the local's previous carrier.

Although it is too early to fully assess the level of service provided by Green Shield to the Network and individual students' unions, preliminary indications are that Green Shield, from an administrative standpoint, is providing service equal or superior to that of the other carriers used by the Network. Throughout the current year, as



Network members renew their coverage, an option to switch from their existing carrier to Green Shield will be provided.

### **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. During the past year, the Network tested the program at the University of Victoria. No major difficulties were encountered and one-time opt-outs are now available for most Network members.

### **Use of the ISIC as the Pay-Direct Card**

One of the advantages that the Network has over other brokers is the ability to combine the benefits of the Network with the other programmes of the Federation. One such possibility is to replace the current "pay-direct" cards with the International Student Identity Card. Currently, most plans provide for a drug card with a magnetic stripe allowing coverage to be applied to prescription drugs at the point of sale. These cards eliminate the need for students to gather prescription drug receipts and submit them to the insurer for reimbursement. As the ISIC also comes with a magnetic stripe, it would be a simple process to encode the student's insurance information on an ISIC, rather than providing her with a separate card for her insurance coverage. By providing plan members with an ISIC, the value of the Network would be greatly increased; as the Federation is the Canadian agent for the ISIC, it is a benefit that only the Network can provide.

The Federation has received preliminary approval from the International Student Travel Confederation for the plan. Representatives of Heath Benefits Consulting are currently meeting with Assure Health and Green Shield, the only producers of pay-direct cards in North America, to ensure that they have sufficient technological resources to produce the ISICs in Canada. It is hoped that the Network will be able to test the use of the ISIC as the pay-direct card on a Network campus in September 2001.

### **Network Computer System**

A growing concern for the Network is the rapidly increasing cost of the technology required to run a national health and dental insurance programme. Most major carriers are either completing or have already completed substantial upgrades to their computer systems. Carriers are now demanding that insurance brokers complete similar upgrades so that information may be more readily exchanged between carriers and brokers. Compounding the problem for the Network is that it currently does business with six different carriers. Each of the carriers has a different computer system and the network's new system must communicate with each of them. The system must also interact with the computer systems of each college and university where the Network has a plan.

Although the process of designing a new system has not yet begun, initial discussions with Heath Benefits Consulting, the Federation's broker, indicate that development of the new system will likely cost several hundred thousand dollars.

### **2000/2001 Student Association 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.

The same data entry and design company hired last year was re-hired to refine last year's information package, update the information and fine tune the design of the Directory. The resulting directory is a more professional, high quality document.

The 2000/2001 Directory included a new section on Student Financial Assistance offices across the country and a notes section was added so that additional information can be stored within the Directory. More local student information was provided than in previous years, with more local e-mail addresses included. Because the response to

## Federation Programmes

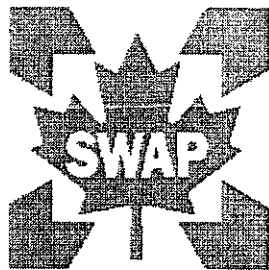
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the Student Association Directory information request from member and non-member unions improved over last year, the Directory expanded by forty pages.

In an attempt to increase sales and distribution of the Directory, the cost of the publication was lowered substantially for the 1999/2000 Directory. Last year's lower price was maintained for the 2000/2001 Directory and the Federation promoted the distribution more rigorously. As a result, the number of 2000/2001 Directories ordered by member locals has nearly doubled over last year's figure: from 92 Directories ordered in 1999/2000 to 179 Directories ordered to-date. Sales among non-member unions have remained constant.

Despite a rise in sales among member locals, more work must be undertaken to improve the sales of the Directory if this programme is to continue to be a viable programme of the Federation. At this meeting delegates will be considering different strategies to increase sales, both among member locals and in the broader public.

### Student Work Abroad Programme (SWAP)



#### STUDENT WORK ABROAD PROGRAMME (SWAP) DESTINATIONS

##### Britain

Britain is the longest standing and most popular SWAP destination. However, until recently, the cost of SWAP Britain was relatively prohibitive for the average student. In addition to travel costs, visa fees and other related expenses, the British government required SWAP Britain participants to have \$2,500 in support funds for living expenses and other costs that might arise during the student's time in Britain. However, Federation representatives have recently convinced the British

government that SWAP participants were able to find work quickly and that requiring students to have \$2,500 in support funds prior to arrival in Britain was excessive. In recognition of this, the British government recently lowered the required level of support funds to \$1,500. In making its decision, the British government cited the success of the Federation and the British Universities North America Club (BUNAC), the Federation's SWAP partner in the U.K., in quickly finding work for Canadian students.

##### Ghana

Recently, the Federation was approached by representatives of the Student and Youth Travel Organisation (SYTO), the International Student Travel Confederation member in Ghana, about establishing a reciprocal arrangement for work abroad programmes. SYTO representatives claimed that many students in Ghana have enquired about the possibility of working holidays in Canada. They also claimed to have negotiated numerous employment possibilities with various non-governmental organisations in Ghana.

SWAP staff are currently undertaking research to determine whether Canadian students would be interested in working holidays in Ghana.

#### ISSUES RELATED TO ISTC MEMBERSHIP

##### Membership in the International Association of Work Exchange Programmes

Since the late 1970's, the Federation and its predecessor organisations have cooperated with other International Student Travel Confederation (ISTC) members on work abroad programmes. In 1997, the ISTC members cooperating on work abroad programmes formed the International Association for Educational Work Exchange Programmes (IAWEP). IAWEP, a subsidiary of the ISTC, works to establish guidelines for the operation of work abroad programmes, and also provides a mechanism for settling disputes between members. Among the criteria for

membership in IAWEP are requirements for members to operate their programmes on a not-for-profit basis, and that the programmes should be student-owned. IAWEP members serve about 50,000 students each year.

However, in the last year, IAWEP has faced significant pressure from large, commercial work abroad programmes to open up its membership to these for-profit enterprises. Many of these enterprises service more students each year than all of IAWEP's members combined. The Federation, along with several other members of IAWEP, expressed concerns that allowing these large, for-profit enterprises into IAWEP would eliminate the spirit of collegiality that currently exists among its members. Fortunately, at IAWEP's most recent general meeting, the efforts of these large commercial organisations were rebuffed and the bylaws requiring members to be not-for-profit organisations were strengthened.

### **International Association of Work Exchange Programmes Steering Committee**

The Federation's Student Work Abroad Programme Director, David Smith was re-elected as chair of IAWEP's Steering Committee. Smith has served as IAWEP Chairperson since it was founded in 1997. Smith also serves on the ISTC's board of directors.



# 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 three 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 eight students' unions have joined the Federation for the first time and another seven 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 continues to improve. Several students' unions in Alberta and New Brunswick ran the Federation's 'No Means No' campus awareness campaign during the past year and participated in the Federation's *Access 2000* campaign.

## Full Membership Applications

### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF CAPE BRETON STUDENTS' UNION

The University College of Cape Breton Students' Union is comprised of the roughly 3,400 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 and in May the Union's application for prospective membership was accepted.

Federation representatives, in conjunction with the Students' Union, began campaigning September 11, 2000. Voting occurred on September 26-28. Voter turnout was steady throughout the campaign, with a final tally of 23 percent of

## Membership Issues

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University College of Cape Breton students voting. This figure is the highest in the history of the Union. The final results were:

- 614 in favour (98.9%);
- 7 votes opposed; and
- 1 spoiled ballot.

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

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

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 November 2000. The National Executive believes 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 May 2001 national general meeting.

## Applications for Extension of Prospective Membership

### UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association is comprised 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. At the May 2000 national general meeting prospective membership was extended to the November 2000 national general meeting. In the fall the Graduate Students' Association conducted a successful referendum to gain autonomy from the University of Manitoba Students' Union. This campaign consumed the local leadership and consequently it was unable to fulfill its obligation to conduct a full membership drive prior to the November 2000 national general meeting.

The Association has requested that its prospective membership be extended until the May 2001

# INTERNAL AFFAIRS

## National Executive

### CURRENT COMPOSITION

The National Executive is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Federation. The following are the current members of the Federation's National Executive for the 2000-2001 term:

Aboriginal Students' Representative	Richard Aisaican
British Columbia Representative	Jaimie McEvoy
Francophone Students' Representative	Margaret Bryans
Graduate Students' Representative	Ian Boyko
Manitoba Representative	Robert Marriott
National Chairperson	Michael Conlon
National Deputy Chairperson	Jen Anthony
National Treasurer	Joey Hansen
Newfoundland-Labrador Representative	Leanne Patey
Nova Scotia Representative	Vacant
Ontario Representative	Vacant
Prince Edward Island Representative	B.J. McCarville
Quebec Representative	Claire Gilbert
Saskatchewan Representative	Mark Cooper
Students of Colour Representative	Rob Mealey
Women's Representative	Anita Zaenker

In late September, Nova Scotia National Executive Representative Jenn Stephen resigned her position. A by-election for the position will be conducted at this 19<sup>th</sup> National Annual General Meeting. In early November, Megan Garipey resigned as Ontario National Executive Representative. A by-election for that position will be conducted at the Ontario Component general meeting scheduled for early in the new year.

## Federation Staffing

### STAFF CHANGES

Several changes to the composition of the Federation staff have occurred since the previous meeting in May.

Shortly after the meeting, Raj Sharan resigned from his position as Newfoundland and Labrador Organiser. Raj had been employed on contract with the Federation since fall 1998.

## Internal Affairs

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In June 1999, Internal Coordinator Lucy Watson applied for and was granted a one-year leave-of-absence in order to work as the Organiser based in the Federation's British Columbia office.

In July, the Federation advertised for the vacant Manitoba Organiser position and, in mid-August, Elizabeth Carlyle was hired for the job. Elizabeth is a former Manitoba Representative on the National Executive, a former Chairperson and a former National Deputy-Chairperson of the Federation.

In late August, Translator Carol-Lynn Prebinski applied for and was granted a leave-of-absence until mid-November. On November 22, Carol-Lynn informed the Federation that she would not be returning. Carol-Lynn had worked for the Federation for since 1989 in the capacity of Translator. She was the Federation's longest-standing national employee and, over the years, made a strong contribution to the Federation's development.

In order to help compensate for several vacancies in the national office this fall, the National Executive and CUPE 1281 agreed in late August to the creation of a short-term Administrative Assistant position. Margaret Cameron was hired in early September and will be in place until mid-December. Margaret is the immediate past president of Local 92-Student Association of George Brown College and is currently a student at Carleton University.

In early September, Health Plan Coordinator Todd Buttenham, who had been with the organisation since 1995, finished his employment with the Federation. In order to deal with the vacancy, the National Executive and CUPE 1281 agreed to an emergency hiring process. On September 15, 2000, Tom Rowles was hired. Tom brings extensive experience in the retail sector to the position of Health Plan Coordinator, as well as background in the student movement from the 1980's.

In early October 2000, Johanne Laurent resigned as Financial Coordinator for the Federation. Laurent first worked for the Federation as its General Meeting Coordinator for the November 1994 national general meeting and was

subsequently hired as Financial Coordinator in April 1995.

Also in October, the Federation contracted with a communications specialist, Sarah Schmidt, to execute the Federation's election campaign strategy. Schmidt will be wrapping up her work with the Federation in early December.

### FILLING OF 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.

With the gradual improvement of the Federation's finances during the 1999-2000, the National Executive resolved to commence with the hiring of some of the vacant positions. In April, the Government Relations position was filled and in July the Manitoba Organiser position was filled.

In August, the Federation advertised seeking applications for the vacant Maritimes Organiser position and Newfoundland and Labrador Organiser position. Unfortunately, due to other work, such as the membership drive at the University-College of Cape Breton and the referendum to clarify membership at Local 78, it was not possible to immediately schedule interviews. Earlier this month, the Federation endeavoured to schedule interviews with the preferred applicants for the Maritimes Organiser position; however, it was determined that some of those individuals are no longer available. Nevertheless, the National Executive will be endeavouring to have someone in place before the start of the new year.

### 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. While a proposal for a comprehensive staffing structure is currently being developed, it is not anticipated that the Federation will have the financial resources to implement the proposal until such time as the Federation's finances have improved.

### **National Office Space**

In 1991, the Federation secured office space for its Ottawa office at 170 Metcalfe Street. For the subsequent five year years, the Federation occupied roughly 40 percent of one floor of the building. In 1996, in recognition of its expanded operations, the Federation entered into a five-year lease to occupy an entire floor of the building (roughly 5,000 square feet). The lease expires on June 30, 2001; however, the Federation has a five year renewal option that must be exercised by December 31 this year.

At the time the current lease was signed, the vacancy rates for office space in Ottawa were relatively high and, therefore, the Federation got a reasonably favourable lease rate. However, if the Federation exercises its option to renew, the rent for next five years will be based on current market rate, not on the amount that is currently charged. This would likely result in a significant increase in the Federation's annual rent.

At this point, the National Executive has not yet reached a decision on whether the renewal option will be exercised or whether other options, including the purchase of space, will be pursued.



# TRAVEL CUTS

## CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES TRAVEL SERVICE BOARD COMPOSITION

The current membership of the Travel CUTS Board is as follows:

At-Large Member/Vice Chair	Elizabeth Carlyle
At-Large Member	Fiona Robertson
National Executive Representative	Jen Anthony
National Executive Representative/Treasurer	Michael Conlon
National Executive Representative/Chair	Joey Hansen
Staff Representative/Secretary	Robert Keddy
Staff Representative	Monica Miller
Travel CUTS President (non-voting)	J. Rodney Hurd

## 1999-2000 Fiscal Year Performance

The 1999-2000 was the company's strongest year yet, with gross sales falling just short of \$200 million. As a result of the increased sales, the company posted a net income of approximately \$1.9 million, also the largest ever.

## UPDATE ON OWNER'S INVESTMENT/ISSUANCE OF NEW SHARES

In 1996, the travel company issued \$250,000 worth of shares, but at the time the Federation was only able to pay for \$50,000 worth of shares. During the 1998-99 fiscal year the Federation was able to make a payment of \$110,000, leaving the Federation with a \$90,000 liability.

During the 1999-2000 fiscal year the Federation committed to invest \$390,000 in the company. However, throughout the course of the year, it became clear that the company would require significant financial resources in order to finish some long-term projects—such as the modifications to the fare database—that were near completion. As a result, the National Executive resolved to invest an additional \$210,000 bringing the total investment to \$600,000. With this purchase, the Federation has now paid for all outstanding shares.

## PROPOSAL TO ISSUE SHARES FOR PURCHASE BY OTHER INVESTORS

The November 1999 national general meeting resolved that a study be undertaken on the feasibility of creating a non-voting class of shares for purchase by Federation provincial components and member locals. Unfortunately, the Federation's auditors and legal counsel are of the opinion that external factors facing the Federation and Travel CUTS make it impossible for shares to be issued to outside investors at this time.

## OPERATIONAL ISSUES

### UPDATE ON DOMESTIC OFFICES

Since the previous general meeting, the company has opened four new offices. In British Columbia, the new Langley office is located near the Langley campus of Kwantlen University-College. In Ontario, new offices opened on Clarence Street and Richmond Road in Ottawa, and in the Mountain Equipment Co-op on King Street in Toronto. In Nova Scotia, a new office was established on Barrington Street in Halifax, a short distance from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. Additionally, a new telephone reservation centre is being established in Vancouver.

The company's senior management is still attempting to locate suitable office space in Charlottetown and Thunder Bay. Establishing an additional office adjacent to the northwestern section of the University of Toronto campus is under investigation. Additionally, the company is in the process of developing expansion plans for its operation in Québec.

The Board's long-range plan for the company calls for the opening of eight to ten new Canadian offices a year for the next five years.

### UPDATE ON FOREIGN OFFICES

#### United Kingdom

Unfortunately during the 1999-2000 fiscal year, for the first time since its establishment, the company's U.K. operation lost money. The loss can be attributed primarily to a reduction in commission income. Airlines throughout Europe have reduced the level of commission that travel agents are paid for selling tickets. Exacerbating the problem has been a massive increase in the rent paid by the company's administrative office on Regent Street. In order to reduce costs, the company's management in the U.K. is searching for suitable office space to replace the Regent Street office.

#### United States of America

The company's United States operations are continuing to experience substantial staffing turnover. With both the company's offices located in California's "Silicon Valley", employees

frequently leave to pursue positions with one of the numerous high-tech firms in the area. For example, a travel agent recently left the Palo Alto office after being employed for only two weeks, because a software firm offered her a receptionist position with a starting salary of \$45,000 per year.

The constant staff turnover continues to hamper attempts to open offices in San Diego and Seattle. Unfortunately, high overhead costs mean that the United States operation will not become profitable until more offices can be opened.

### AIRLINE NEGOTIATIONS

The company's senior management has spent much of the past year undertaking negotiations with Air Canada to renew the deal for Student Class Airfares with the airline. Air Canada has requested that the company meet certain financial and technological conditions prior to the renewal of the contract. While Travel CUTS is able to meet the financial conditions, there is still work to be done to fulfill the technological conditions.

### AIRFARE DATABASE

For the past twelve months, the company has been working to improve the speed and functionality of its fare database. The database contains approximately 1.5 million fares and is the largest fare database of any travel agency in Canada. While the high number of fares allows the company to consistently offer affordable fares to a wide variety of destinations, it also makes the database slower and costly to modify.

It is anticipated that the new database will be operational by the end of summer 2001 and that its final cost will be slightly more than \$2 million.

### COMPETITION

For many years, Travel CUTS was the only travel company which specialised in student travel. In recent years, however, Travel CUTS has faced increasing competition within the student market. These changing conditions will be closely monitored in order to ensure that Travel CUTS continues to be responsive to student needs and thereby retain its dominance within an increasingly competitive environment.

### FLIGHT CENTRE

Flight Centre, the world's largest discount travel agency, has recently opened a number of offices in Vancouver and Toronto. Flight Centre is expanding rapidly, and is about to open offices in Calgary, Edmonton and Ottawa. Flight Centre sells about \$2 billion (US) in travel each year and has a tremendous amount of buying power. While Travel CUTS' student fares are generally lower than the advertised Flight Centre fare, Flight Centre offers a lowest fare guarantee and will reduce its fares to match Travel CUTS.

Although its lowest fare guarantee often results in Flight Centre selling tickets at a loss, the guarantee is also increasing the amount of flights it sells. This provides Flight Centre with a stronger negotiating position, which in turn allows for greater reductions in fares.

### INTERNET-BASED TRAVEL RETAILERS

The past eighteen months have seen the launch of a number of web sites devoted in whole or in part to selling travel. Most of these sites are funded by extraordinarily wealthy individuals or organisations and have tens of millions of dollars in start-up capital: Ted Turner, Microsoft, and an alliance of the four largest airlines in the United States have all started web-based travel agencies during this period. While only one site, *priceline.com* has made a profit selling travel on the internet, each of these sites sell several hundred million dollars worth of travel each year. As post-secondary students are the most internet-savvy demographic group in North America, all of these sites are targeting students as potential clients.

To combat this threat to CUTS dominance in the Canadian student market, the company has started to develop its own e-commerce capabilities. However, with the average start-up cost of an e-commerce travel website being \$20 to \$25 million, Travel CUTS is still several years away from being able to launch its own e-commerce site. In the interim, the company's senior management is currently developing strategies to deal with Internet based competitors.



# 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 roughly \$2 million – an amount slightly smaller than the budget of the Federation's larger member locals. Though the final audited figures have yet to be determined, it appears that for the second straight year the Federation realised a healthy surplus, due to slightly higher than projected revenue combined with some savings on the expenditure side.

### 1999-2000 MEMBERSHIP FEES COLLECTION

Membership fee collection for the 1999-2000 fiscal year has been generally positive. At this point all but a few locals have remitted the membership fees collected on behalf of the Federation for the year. To-date, the Federation has collected \$1,282,710 in membership fees, an amount roughly seven percent higher than projected. An additional amount of approximately \$50,000 is still outstanding.

### EXPENDITURES

In general, spending for the year has been maintained within the budgetary targets, with the exception of a few spending areas. The most significant of these was Capital Expendures, in large part because the Federation had to replace its server in the national office a year earlier than anticipated. The Federation also incurred slight overruns in Communications, International Affairs and the May 2000 National General Meeting. The overruns in these areas were more than offset by underspending in several other areas, including Research, Legal, National Executive Meetings, and the November 1999 National General Meeting.

## 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 close to a twenty per cent rate of return on its investment, far greater than it would have received through nearly any other instrument of investment. For the 1999-2000 fiscal year, the Travel CUTS Board proposed, and the National Executive agreed, to an investment of \$600,000.00 in new shares.

**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 (CPI) is announced by Statistics Canada. Notice is sent to member locals immediately thereafter.

The following table shows the adjustments that 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 2000/2001 academic year is \$3.28 per student per semester. Each year, the National Executive is faced with the challenge of trying to ensure that all member locals arrange with their respective institutions for implementation of the adjustment prior to fee collection commencing for the new academic year. In the first few years after the adoption of the CPI adjustment, the success rate was quite low. However, with each passing year more and more locals make the adjustment as a matter of course with less prodding by the Federation.

**STATUS OF MEMBERSHIP FEE ADJUSTMENTS**

Entering the 1999-2000 year, six member locals were still collecting only the original membership fee of \$2.00 per student per semester, even though it has been seven years since the membership

voted that the fee be increased to \$3.00 per student per semester: They were:

- 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 Society of Graduate and Professional Students;
- Local 56-Wilfred Laurier University Graduate Students' Association; and
- Local 84-York Federation of Students.

During the year, three of those members implemented the increase. In early fall 1999, Local 48-University of Windsor Society of Graduate and Professional Students implemented the change. Collection of the adjusted fee commenced with the winter 2000 semester. Local 24-Ryerson Students' Administrative Council and Local 47-University of Western Ontario Society of Graduate Students instituted the change in time for the 2000-2001 academic year.

The National Executive is hopeful that, of the remaining locals, at least one will institute the change during the upcoming year. The leadership of Local 1 has informally indicated an interest in correcting the problem before the end of the current academic year.



# APPENDIX I

## MEETINGS WITH AND SUBMISSIONS TO GOVERNMENT

MEETING: National Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance  
DATE: June 13, 2000  
SUBJECT: Canada Student Loan Program

MEETING: Standing Committee on Human Resources Development Canada  
DATE: June 14, 2000  
SUBJECT: Canada Student Loan Program

MEETING: Canadian Consortium for Research  
DATE: June 24, 2000  
SUBJECT: National Research Lobby Strategy

MEETING: Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade  
DATE: July 14, 2000  
SUBJECT: Council of Ministers of Education Canada

MEETING: Millennium Scholarship Foundation  
DATE: August 15, 2000  
SUBJECT: Cross Canada Consultations

MEETING: Paul Martin, Minister of Finance  
DATE: August 16, 2000  
SUBJECT: Trade Liberalisation Roundtable

MEETING: Jane Stewart, Human Resources Development Minister  
DATE: August 23, 2000  
SUBJECTS: Canada Student Loan Program, Millennium Scholarships and Privatisation of Education

MEETING: National Professional Association Coalition on Tuition Fees  
DATE: September 2, 2000  
SUBJECT: De-regulation of Tuition Fees

MEETING: Jane Stewart, Human Resources Development Minister  
DATE: September 12, 2000  
SUBJECTS: Canada Student Loan Program, Millennium Scholarships and Privatisation of Education

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MEETING: Public Education Network  
DATE: September 12, 2000  
SUBJECT: Privatisation of Education

SUBMISSION: Standing Committee on  
Finance

DATE: September 12, 2000  
SUBJECT: Recommendations to  
Minister of Finance

MEETING: World Trade Organisation  
Common Front

DATE: September 13, 2000  
SUBJECT: Free Trade Area of the  
Americas

MEETING: Millennium Scholarship  
Foundation

DATE: September 14, 2000  
SUBJECT: Annual General Meeting

SUBMISSION: Advisory on On-Line  
Learning

DATE: September 24, 2000  
SUBJECT: Distance Education and "e-  
Learning"

MEETING: National Advisory Group on  
Student Financial  
Assistance

DATE: October 2, 2000  
SUBJECT: Canada Student Loan  
Program

MEETING: Canadian Education  
Industry Summit

DATE: October 12, 2000  
SUBJECT: Private Education Trade  
Fair

MEETING: Prime Minister Jean  
Chrétien

DATE: October 15, 2000  
SUBJECT: Demands of the World  
March of Women

MEETING: Canadian Consortium for  
Research

DATE: November 15, 2000  
SUBJECT: Federal Election Strategy

## APPENDIX II

The following is a list of all media coverage centrally generated at the national level by the Federation between the May 2000 national general meeting and the November 2000 national general meeting. For the purposes of this report, media includes television, radio, and print media.

\* Refers to student press.

DATE	MEDIA OUTLET	SUBJECT(S)
July 31	CBC	Banks pull out of Canada Student Loan Program (CSLP)
	Canadian Press	Banks pull out of CSLP
	Flush Magazine (online)	Banks pull out of CSLP
	CBC (radio) - Ottawa	Banks pull out of CSLP
	CBC (radio) - Montreal	Banks pull out of CSLP
	CBC (radio) - Vancouver	Banks pull out of CSLP
	CBC (radio) - Regina	Banks pull out of CSLP
	CFRA Radio	Banks pull out of CSLP
	CKWW Radio - Vancouver	Banks pull out of CSLP
	Canadian University Press*	Banks pull out of CSLP
	Charlatan*	Banks pull out of CSLP
	McGill Daily*	Banks pull out of CSLP
	Manitoban*	Banks pull out of CSLP
	Fulcrum*	Banks pull out of CSLP
	CTV Newsnet	Banks pull out of CSLP
August 6	Agent Magazine*	Corporate Donations
August 14	Halifax Chronicle Herald	Millennium Scholarship Fund in Nova Scotia
August 16	CBC (radio)	Globalisation Forum
	CFMT-TV	Globalisation Forum
August 17	Charlatan*	All Premiers' Conference
	Canadian University Press*	All Premiers' Conference
August 18	New Catholic Times	Funding for post-secondary education and tuition fees
	The Manitoban*	Faculty renewal
	Agent Magazine*	Corporatisation on campus

## Appendix II

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DATE	MEDIA OUTLET	SUBJECT(S)
August 22	Canadian University Press*	Universities buying furniture made in Canadian prisons
August 28	CFRA Radio	Statistics Canada report on tuition fees
	Chronicle of Higher Education	Statistics Canada report on tuition fees
	Ottawa Citizen	Statistics Canada report on tuition fees
	Canadian Press	Statistics Canada report on tuition fees
	Charlatan*	Statistics Canada report on tuition fees
	Gauntlet*	Statistics Canada report on tuition fees
	Globe and Mail	Statistics Canada report on tuition fees
	Moncton Times	Statistics Canada report on tuition fees
	Fredricton	Statistics Canada report on tuition fees
August 29	CPAC	Statistics Canada report on tuition fees
August 30	Canadian University Press*	Sodexho-Marriott campaign
August 31	McGill Daily*	Corporate donations
September 2	Canadian University Press*	Changes to CSLP
September 3	The Link*	Ontario Student Assistance Program
September 4	Charlatan*	Protest of Tory convention
September 7	Ottawa Citizen	Article attacking the Federation
September 11	Ottawa Citizen	Response to Ottawa Citizen article of September 7
September 12	Canadian University Press*	Federal/Provincial health deal
	Gauntlet*	Federal/Provincial health deal
September 14	CHEP radio	Millennium Scholarship Fund (MSF) General Meeting
	Canadian University Press*s	MSF General Meeting
	Gauntlet*	MSF General Meeting
	Chronicle of Higher Education	MSF General Meeting
	The Varsity*	MSF General Meeting
	The Manitoban*	MSF General Meeting

DATE	MEDIA OUTLET	SUBJECT(S)
September 14	McGill Daily* Times Supplement The Ubysey*	MSF General Meeting MSF General Meeting MSF General Meeting
September 19	The Picaro*	Mount Saint Vincent University students membership in the Federation
September 20	Chronicle of Higher Education  Maclean's Magazine	Upcoming Commonwealth Ministers of Education meeting in Halifax Scholarships - need versus merit
September 21	Canadian Press Caper Times*	Changes to CSLP General Federation activities
September 23	Canadian Press The Picaro*	Changes to CSLP 2000/2001 Campaign priorities
September 24	Caper Times*	Membership Drive at UCCB
September 28	Canadian University Press*	Private Universities: Ontario & National Implications
October 2	Charlatan*	Millennium Scholarship Foundation in Nova Scotia
October 6	Gauntlet*	Millennium Scholarship Foundation
October 10	Canadian Press	Changes to the Canada Student Loan Program
October 11	McGill Daily*	Private College Proposed at McGill
October 14	QR77 Radio Calgary	Millennium Scholarship Foundation
October 20	Canadian University Press*	Possible Fall Election
October 20	Our Times Magazine	Student Debt
October 24	CTV National  Global TV  RDI-TV (Montreal)  CIII-TV  CFRB-AM (Toronto)	Brain Drain and Canadian Alliance Brain Drain and Canadian Alliance Brain Drain and Canadian Alliance Brain Drain and Canadian Alliance Brain Drain and Canadian Alliance

## Appendix II

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DATE	MEDIA OUTLET	SUBJECT(S)
October 24	Canadian Press	Brain Drain and Canadian Alliance
	Ottawa Sun	Brain Drain and Canadian Alliance
	Edmonton Sun	Brain Drain and Canadian Alliance
	Metro (Toronto)	Party Platforms on education
	Brock Press*	Canadian Alliance's education platform
	Western Gazette*	Brain Drain and Canadian Alliance
October 25	Canadian University Press*	Party Platforms on education
	Canadian University Press*	Voter participation among youth
	McGill Daily*	Voter participation among youth
October 26	CBC (Halifax)	Voter participation among youth
	CHUO*	Party Platforms on education
October 28	Carillon*	Liberal mini-budget
	Canadian University Press*	Youth participation in election
October 30	Dalhousie Gazette*	Liberal mini-budget
October 31	Globe and Mail	Ipsos-Reid Poll
	New RO-TV (Ottawa)	Ipsos-Reid Poll
	CFMT	Ipsos-Reid Poll
	CITY-TV	Ipsos-Reid Poll
	CHRO-TV	Ipsos-Reid Poll
	RDI (Montréal)	Ipsos-Reid Poll
	CFRA-AM	Ipsos-Reid Poll
	CKLW-AM (Windsor)	Ipsos-Reid Poll
	Talk Radio 570 (Ottawa)	Ipsos-Reid Poll
	The Fulcrum/CUP*	Ipsos-Reid Poll
	Eyeopener*	Ipsos-Reid Poll
	Ryersonian*	Ipsos-Reid Poll
November 1	CHOU*	Ipsos-Reid Poll
	Canadian Press	Liberal Party platform
	Canadian University Press*	Liberal Party platform
November 2	McGill Daily*	Endowed chairs
	www.essential talk.com	Election Report Card on Education
	www.novanewsnet*	Election Report Card on Education
	Brock Press*	Ipsos-Reid Poll
November 3	Western Gazette*	Ipsos-Reid Poll
	CBC (Charlottetown)	Election Report Card on Education

DATE	MEDIA OUTLET	SUBJECT(S)
November 3	CBC (Quebec City)	Election Report Card on Education
	CBC (Montreal)	Election Report Card on Education
	CBC (Ottawa)	Election Report Card on Education
	CBC (Toronto)	Election Report Card on Education
	CBC (Winnipeg)	Election Report Card on Education
	CBC (Regina)	Election Report Card on Education
	CBC (Calgary)	Election Report Card on Education
	CBC (Edmonton)	Election Report Card on Education
	CBX-AM (Edmonton)	Election Report Card on Education
	RDI (Montréal)	Election Report Card on Education
	CBW-AM (Winnipeg)	Election Report Card on Education
	CBCT-FM (Charlottetown)	Election Report Card on Education
	Canadian University Press*	Election Report Card on Education
	The Varsity*	Liberal Platform on education
November 4	CBC (Sydney)	Election Report Card on Education
November 6	Globe and Mail	PC Party and Election Report Card
	Canadian Press	Canadian Alliance Education Platform
	CBI-AM (Sydney)	Election Report Card on Education
November 7	Winnipeg Free Press	Education as election issue
	Chronicle of Higher Education	CMEC meeting in Halifax
November 8	Canadian Press	Youth participation in election
November 9	Globe and Mail	Youth and Election Debate
November 10	Canadian Press	Youth and Election Debate
	Maclean's	Student debt
	McGill Daily	Youth participation in election

## Appendix II

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<b>DATE</b>	<b>MEDIA OUTLET</b>	<b>SUBJECT(S)</b>
November 13	Algonquin Times*	Election Report Card on Education
November 14	The Varsity	Party platforms, Youth participation in election
	The Argosy*	Party platforms
November 16	CBC (Cape Breton)	Election radio ads
	CBC (Vancouver)	Election radio ads
November 18	CKY-TV (Winnipeg)	Election radio ads
November 22	U of T Bulletin	Election platforms
	Ubyssy*	PC Party platform on education



# APPENDIX III

## NEWS RELEASES AND MEDIA ADVISORIES

Following is a list of press releases, media advisories, and membership advisories produced by the National Office between May 18, 2000 and November 21, 2000.

- News Release: Saturday, June 3, 2000  
"Students in Windsor to Protest Global Trade"
- News Release: Wednesday, June 21, 2000  
"Aboriginal Day: Students Call for Justice on Gustafsen Lake and Dudley George"
- News Release: Wednesday, August 9, 2000  
"Students to Premiers and Chretien: Social Programmes Need Help"
- Media Advisory: Monday August 28, 2000  
"University Tuition Fees-2000-2001"
- News Release: Monday, August 28, 2000  
"Graduate Tuition Fees Rise by 14% in 2000-2001"
- News Release: Wednesday, September 13, 2000  
"First Annual Millennium Scholarship General Meeting"
- News Release: Tuesday, October 17, 2000  
"Students Demand Restored Funding to Education in Fall Budget"
- News Release: Wednesday, October 18, 2000  
"Federal Budget Helps Wealthiest Canadians and Ignores Students"
- News Release: Monday, October 23, 2000  
"Students Dispute Chretien's Claims About Millennium Scholarship"
- Media Advisory: Tuesday, October 24, 2000  
"Education Issues in the Federal Election"
- News Release: Tuesday, October 24, 2000  
"Canadian Alliance Wrong About 'Brain Drain': Report"
- News Release: Tuesday, October 31, 2000  
"Canadians Disapprove of Liberal Performance on Education: Poll"
- News Release: Thursday, November 2, 2000  
"Students Grade Party Platforms"
- News Release: Wednesday, November 15, 2000  
"Reality Check: Tories no Friend of Students"
- News Release: Thursday, November 16, 2000  
"Students Launch Election Radio Ads"

## Appendix III

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- News Release: Friday, November 17, 2000  
“Canadians Recognise International Students’ Day”
- News Release: Tuesday, November 21, 2000  
“Is Canadian Alliance Brainless on ‘Brain Drain’? Education  
Ministers”
- Media Advisory: Friday, November 24, 2000  
“Students’ Perspective on Conference of Commonwealth”

# APPENDIX IV

## World March of Women - Demands to the Federal Government of Canada

### THE FEMINIST DOZEN

1. Restore federal funding to health care and enforce the rules against the privatization of our health care system, beginning with Alberta.
2. Spend an additional 1% of the budget on social housing.
3. Set up the promised national child-care fund, starting with an immediate contribution of \$2 billion.
4. Increase Old Age Security payments to provide older women with a decent standard of living.
5. Use the surplus from the Employment Insurance Fund to increase benefits, provide longer payments periods and improve access, as well as improve maternity and family benefits.
6. Support women's organizing for equality and democracy by:
  - a. allocating \$50 million to front-line, independent, feminist, women-controlled groups committed to ending violence against women, such as women's centres, rape crisis centres and women's shelters;
  - b. recognizing and funding the three autonomous national Aboriginal women's organisations to ensure full participation in all significant public policy decisions as well as provide adequate funding to Aboriginal women's services, including shelters, in all rural, remote and urban Aboriginal communities;
  - c. funding a national meeting of lesbians to discuss and prioritize areas for legislative and public policy reform;
  - d. providing \$30 million in core funding for equality-seeking women's organizations, which represents only \$2.00 for every woman and girl child in Canada—our Fair Share.
7. Fund consultations with a wide range of women's equality-seeking organizations prior to all legislative reform of relevance to women's security and equality rights, beginning with the Criminal Code, and ensure access for women from marginalized communities.
8. Implement progressive immigration reform to: provide domestic workers with full immigration status on arrival; abolish the "head tax" on all immigrants; include persecution on the basis of gender and sexual orientation as grounds for claiming refugee status.
9. Contribute to the elimination of poverty around the world by: supporting the cancellation of the debts of the 53 poorest countries; increasing Canada's international development aid to 0.7% of the Gross National Product.
10. Adopt national standards which guarantee the right to welfare for everyone in need and ban workfare.
11. Recognize the ongoing exclusion of women with disabilities from economic, political and social life and take the essential first step of ensuring and funding full access for women with disabilities to all consultations on issues of relevance to women.
12. Establish a national system of grants based on need, not merit, to enable access to post-secondary education and reduce student debt.
13. Adopt proactive pay equity legislation.

