



National Executive Report

Canadian Federation of Students
May 9 - November 20, 2001



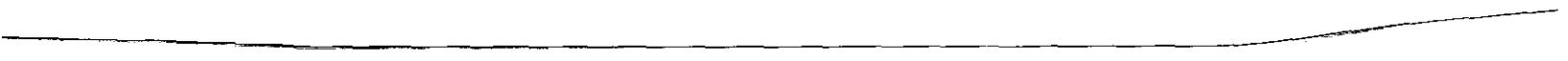


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CAMPAIGNS AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Canada Student Loan Program

The Federation undertakes extensive campaign, research, and government relations work on the Canada Student Loan Program (CSLP). In what follows, an account is provided on the advocacy work undertaken by the Federation over the past six months on the CSLP. As was reported in detail in the May national executive report, direct lending came into effect August 1, 2001. This fall was the first cycle of high volume provision of the CSLP by private service providers, Edulinx and BDP. Performance was lackluster and dominated the majority of the communication between the Federation and the CSLP department.

MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Former National Chairperson Michael Conlon and National Chairperson Ian Boyko met with new Director General of the Canada Student Loan Program, David Cogliati on September 10, 2001. The meeting was initially called by the Federation as an introductory session for the new Director. In light of the problems associated with the service by Edulinx, the meeting was moved up by a week in order to respond to the Federation's concerns. Contrary to the guarantees issued by Edulinx during the bidding process, CSLP representatives maintained that the service standard for processing loans was not two days, but seven days due to the additional steps involving government. Government representatives agreed to investigate cases where the delay was more than seven days, as reported by several Federation members. The Federation also advocated for a reassignment of the responsibility of holding documentation past the disbursement date. Edulinx holds applications until the disbursement date, and then ships the application to HRDC to be processed. Currently, students must wait while HRDC and Public Works conduct their work on the application. Instead, the Federation has suggested that Public Works have responsibility in the final processing step. If this were the case, students would not have to wait an additional three to four days for the loan deposit.

Boyko and Conlon stressed to Cogliati the ongoing misery caused by the 1998 changes to the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act. Cogliati indicated that Human Resources Development Canada is seriously reconsidering the legislative changes, and may return to the Standing Committee to review the impact of the law. Federation representatives also asked for an update on the harmonisation efforts between the CSLP and the provinces. Harmonisation is the term used to describe the integration of the federal and provincial portions of a student's loan. This summer, both Saskatchewan and Ontario signed harmonisation agreements with the federal government. In

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addition, the Federation clarified its desire to see further harmonisation only if the outcome is a better programme for students, one that synthesises the best qualities of the provincial and the federal loan systems. Cogliati indicated that there were currently negotiations with Alberta and New Brunswick, but that agreements were still far from complete.

Federation representatives also attempted to gauge the new Director's opinion regarding income contingent loan repayment schemes (ICLR). Cogliati's predecessor Thomas Townsend maintained an openness to ICLR schemes despite their lack of support in the post-secondary education sector. Cogliati stated that he has been directed by the HRDC Standing Committee to investigate ICLR schemes. As a result, the Federation is scheduling lobby sessions with the Committee members.

NATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP ON STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

A key component of the Federation's perennial government relations work is membership in the National Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance (NAGSFA). NAGSFA is responsible for advising the federal government on Canada Student Loan Program (CSLP) policy. In previous years NAGSFA met biennially, however, in the past 18 months meetings have occurred quarterly to address the transition from risk-shared loans to direct lending.

Through NAGSFA the Federation played a leading role in convincing the government to implement the direct lending model and to abandon the public-private partnership under risk-shared loans. Direct lending of student loans by the federal government ended the practice of giving Canada's chartered banks a *de facto* veto on CSLP policy. The introduction of the new model also brought a new administrative regime to the negotiation, collection, and consolidation of student loans. As previously reported, loans issued to students at public institutions are now processed by Edulinx.

Operationally, Edulinx disbursed over 300,000

loans during September. Edulinx set up kiosks on a majority of campuses to process loan documents. However, during the rush period in September students were provided with wildly varying estimates of when they would have access to their funds. Typically they were told seven business days, but in some case students were told three weeks. This processing time is at odds with the information supplied to NAGSFA during the bidding process. It was clearly stated during the consultative phase of the contracting out process that loans would be processed in 48 hours. Edulinx made such claims with the endorsement of HRDC. However, the reality students experienced in September was far from the expectation set in motion by HRDC. What HRDC officials neglected to tell NAGSFA members was that the 48-hour period was merely the time that Edulinx committed to have the documents processed. Once documents were processed by Edulinx, it was still a further 3-5 working days before funds were deposited. Further delays were experienced as a result of the events of September 11.

At the October 22, 2001 NAGSFA meeting Federation representatives asked for an accounting of the discrepancy. However, in the interim between the signing of the contract and the September rush period, senior management within HRDC had turned over and the new management team conveniently eschewed any knowledge of earlier commitments.

That said, the Federation has worked actively with HRDC official to reduce processing time where possible. At the behest of the Federation, for example, Edulinx will now accept loans for processing prior to the "do not disburse before" date. Once such loans are processed they will proceed to HRDC for disbursement and be ready to be deposited into the students' account on the exact date specified on the loan document. Under the original model the service provider would hold the loan and processing would not commence until the disbursement date. This modification should allow students to receive their loans 3-5 days faster than they might have otherwise. The Federation is also participating in an advisory panel for Edulinx in order to generate other

efficiencies in the disbursement and administration of the program.

In terms of policy initiatives, HRDC is considering a change to the definition of default. Currently a borrower is in default if they are in arrears of 90 days. The proposed change would increase that to 270 days. The Federation has long argued that 90 days is an unreasonably short period given that those in default are disqualified from debt reduction measures like interest relief. A final proposal for changes will be coming back to NAGSFA within six months.

The current loan year ushered in changes for same sex couples. In accordance with recent Supreme Court rulings the CSLP, like all federal programs, is "modernising benefits" to reflect same sex couples in the evaluation and disbursement of student loans. A further change being contemplated is eligibility for convention refugees. Convention refugees are refugees who have been granted asylum in Canada but have yet to complete the formal process for Canadian citizenship. At previous NAGSFA meetings there was a consensus that such a change should receive speedy assent through the regulatory process. However, at the October 22, 2001 meeting, work on eligibility for convention refugees seemed to have mysteriously ground to a halt. In the absence of a cogent explanation, the events of September 11 make the timing of this delay dubious.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES AND THE STATUS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The Federation presented before the Standing Committee on May 29, 2001. The Federation was invited to make proposals for the Committee's report to the Minister of Finance. National Chairperson Ian Boyko submitted several recommendations including: the diversion of funding from Registered Education Savings Plans and the Millennium Scholarships to a Canada Student Grants Program; the establishment of national standards; the creation of a federal post-secondary education portfolio; and the abandonment of the 1998 changes to the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act.

On October 30, the Federation was invited again to appear before the Committee to discuss the implementation of the new direct lending model for the Canada Student Loan Program. The Federation was represented by National Deputy Chairperson Anthony. Also in attendance were David Cogliati, Director General of the Canada Student Loan Program and representatives of Edulinx and BDP.

The Federation reiterated its desire to see Edulinx forfeit the responsibility to hold applications until the "do not disburse before" date. Director General Cogliati agreed with the Federation and stated that this situation will be remedied by the time January 2002 disbursements begin.

Constitutional Challenge to the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act

The Federation's challenge to the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act is now in the final pre-trial phase. On December 6, 2000 the Federation filed, with the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, affidavits and supporting materials outlining our case against the Act. In late February, the federal government filed its response material. In its response the federal government deposed a single affiant, Katalin Deczky an employee of Human Resources Development Canada. Ms. Deczky's affidavit offers no substantive response to the Federation's constitutional arguments against the law. Rather, the federal government outlines policy measures undertaken since 1998 such as interest relief and debt reduction. In lieu of a defense of the law itself, the federal government appears to be arguing that these modest policy initiatives cancel out the right of Canada Student Loan borrowers to avail themselves of the protection afforded by the bankruptcy law. The Federation filed reply materials to refute the governments' defense this past May.

On November 16, 2001, counsel for the Federation cross-examined the federal

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government's sole affiant. The federal government has indicated that they will cross-examine all three of the Federation's affiants on December 13, 2001. When the examination phase is complete a trial date will be set and the case will likely be heard in the spring or summer of 2002. An expanded review of the Federation's case is available from the National office.

Private Education Industry

For the past four years the Federation has sent an observer to the Education Industry Summit in Toronto. This year Federation Researcher Michael Conlon attended the October 10 meeting. The Summit is the premier networking and information exchange of the education industry "community". Typically, delegates are either from companies offering private training or commercial education products as well as venture capitalists looking for investment opportunities in the education industry.

The 2000 summit attracted over 500 delegates and was marked by a growing enthusiasm for imminent and massive profits in private on-line education. Though very few companies have ever turned a profit in on-line learning, venture capital has always been readily available for such companies. However, this year the summit discussions were a sober re-assessment of the potential of on-line learning. Attendance dipped to about 80 delegates and the event was scaled back. Over the past 12 months capital has dried up and infrastructure costs for on-line education remain prohibitive.

In contrast to the euphoria that characterized the previous Summit's presentations, this year on-line learning was virtually rejected as the primary focus for the education industry. As one participant put it, "this industry may have to accept the reality that on-line learning may never be able to compete with face to face instruction". In offering an assessment of the industry, high tuition fees and high start up costs were listed as the primary reason for the high rate of failure among private on-line training firms. A strategic discussion also took place about the need to use the "brand" of reputable public institutions to lend credibility to private educators. Ostensibly, public institutions accept bribes from private colleges in exchange for

the publicly funded prestige of the university or college. This practice is not only encouraged but also mandated by Industry Canada. For example, in 1998 Industry Canada provided over \$700,000 in grants and low interest loans to private education provider Learnsoft Corporation on the condition that it secure an affiliation with a "recognized [public] university".

The bankruptcy of ITI, a high profile Internet training college, was also alluded to in discussions. Ironically, the founder and chair of the Education Industry Summit, Charles Ivey, was also the founder and Chief Executive Officer of ITI. ITI recently filed for bankruptcy and, in Nova Scotia, the provincial government earmarked \$1 million in public funds to ensure that students who had already paid tuition fees could finish their programs. ITI had been officially affiliated with Dalhousie University in Halifax.

In addition to discussing the state of on-line learning, other sessions focused on the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) as well as one session titled *Channeling Public Dollars into Private Education*. During the GATS session, officials from Industry Canada were on hand to provide an update on negotiations and to assure the "education sector" that Industry Canada was working as hard as they could to liberalise trade in education. Officials from the OECD also made a presentation in which they suggested that Canada continue on the path of trade liberalisation in education. OECD officials stressed that the health and vitality of industry depends on agreements like the GATS. In the second session Industry Canada officials walked delegates through the process of securing public money for private education in Canada and the United States. Subsidies to the private education industry run into the billions of dollars and officials from Industry Canada encouraged delegates to think 'outside of the box' when it came to applying for public subsidies. He identified several unconventional avenues for delegates to pursue, including technology infrastructure programmes.

The subtext of all of these deliberations was the

ongoing work of the education industry to undermine the “monopoly” of public education. The fiscal and operational “efficiencies” of the private sector were constantly trumpeted over the stale “inefficiency” of the public sector. Delegates applauded the private university legislation in Ontario and hoped to build on that ‘success’. On the whole, however, a noticeable sense of frustration and even resignation crept into many interventions about the strength and resiliency of public education. Simply put, the education industry is unlikely to ever see the profits they hope for as long as Canada has a strong, affordable system of public post-secondary education.

In addition to monitoring the education industry through conferences such as the Education Industry Summit, the Federation is currently engaged in a substantial research project designed to track the level of public fiscal support for private education. When completed, this research will be a compendium of public support for private education as well as an empirical analysis of the quality and affordability of private for-profit education. This inquiry into private education and training in Canada will be completed in February 2002.

Information Deficit: Canadian Solutions

In response to the burgeoning effect of the internet on Canadian culture, research, and education, the University of Calgary and Heritage Canada organized a working conference under the banner of *Information Deficit: Canadian Solutions*. The conference, held in Calgary October 29 to November 1, brought together librarians, archivists, artists, students, non-governmental organizations, and government officials to discuss public policy and the Internet.

The Federation was asked to participate in the conference as well as to sit on the advisory board charged with developing a policy paper at the conclusion of the meeting. The Federation was represented at the conference

by National Researcher Michael Conlon. The first two days of the conference consisted of discussions on the threats and opportunities that the Internet presented for culture and education. Much of the discussion focused on the need to protect Canadian content on the Internet. There was also wide-ranging discussion about the use of technology in the classroom and the role of the private sector in public education.

The policy paper reflected the plurality of views brought together for the conference. Several themes shaped the final document. First, it was agreed that if Canadian culture was to survive on the Internet and elsewhere it is critical that the federal government continue to play a leadership role in funding and regulation. Second, government policy on the Internet must address and remedy current socio-economic divisions in Canada, divisions that are reflected in access to the Internet. It was agreed that any policy that seeks to increase Internet access must also be part of a larger programme of skills and literacy. As well, there was a consensus that the Internet is a useful classroom tool but should not be used as a replacement for face-to-face instruction. Finally, panelists agreed that private Internet solutions were no answer for the crisis in public education.

Millennium Scholarship Foundation

On August 13, 2001, National Chairperson Ian Boyko met with representatives of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation (MSF) to review the preliminary results of research conducted under the Foundation’s new research project *Does Money Matter? In the summary for Reasons High School Graduates do not Pursue Post Secondary Education*, evidence suggests that indeed, money does matter. The most commonly reported reason for not continuing to higher education was “Do not have enough money.” This response was reported highest amongst high school graduates in British Columbia (32.4%), with Québec reporting the lowest frequency (13.2%). It should be noted that

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for Québec residents, post secondary education is by far the most affordable in Canada. Tuition fees have been frozen for fifteen of the last twenty years, and colleges (or “CEGEPs”) are free.

Unfortunately, the data used for the *Reasons* study is somewhat dated. Author Kelly Foley employed exit data from the high school graduating class of 1991. Some of the deepest federal and provincial cuts to post secondary education funding came after 1991, and in 1991 dollars, tuition fees are approximately 60% more expensive today. It stands to reason that the results of the *Reasons* study understate the circumstances that would have faced a more recent graduating class. Nevertheless, Foley’s results are a damning statement about accessibility to Canadian post secondary education.

Comments suggesting the opposite were uttered by Millennium Scholarship Foundation CEO Norman Ridell at the most recent public hearings of the government caucus on post secondary education. Ridell’s remarks ignored the national trends from the *Reasons* study and instead emphasised the findings in the province of Québec, the only province where graduates generally did not report lack of financial resources as a barrier. In addition, Ridell suggested that the federal government should “think twice” about reinvesting into needs-based financial assistance.

The Federation responded swiftly with a letter to the members of the post-secondary education caucus registering our disagreement and disapproval of Ridell’s remarks. In addition to responding with a letter, Federation representatives undertook to meet with each of the members of the post-secondary education caucus at the Edmonton hearings. During meetings with government MPs Federation representatives questioned the efficacy and credibility of the Foundation’s contribution to the challenge of student financial assistance. It was stressed that the abject failure of the Foundation should not be taken as a harbinger of all non-repayable student financial assistance. Indeed, the well-documented failings of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation model has afforded

the Federation an opportunity to propose a system of grants funneled through the CSLP.

Boyko and Ontario Chairperson Joel Duff also attended the Millennium Foundation’s annual public meeting in Toronto on September 21, 2001. The Federation addressed the formal meeting of the Foundation and renewed its demand that the Foundation audit the provinces of Ontario and Nova Scotia. The Foundation has the power to audit all of the provinces that entered into an agreement with the Foundation. The contract binds provinces to spend the Millennium Bursaries in the area of student financial assistance. Though Foundation officials concurred that Ontario and Nova Scotia were delinquent in their handling of the funds they declined to commit to an audit. The meeting was also the first public presentation of the results from studies carried out under the sponsorship of “*Does Money Matter?*”

Beginning in November, provincial lobby sessions with Millennium Scholarship Foundation Student Liaison Sheamus Murphy were scheduled. Several of the Federation’s key criticisms regarding the Foundation have yet to be properly addressed, namely the undemocratic appointment of students to the board of the Foundation, and its slow transition to a clearinghouse for private scholarships. The latter suspicion was confirmed this summer when the Foundation announced that it would accept private funds (from the Canadian Association for the World Petroleum Congress) for distribution.

Progressive Conservative Roundtable on Post-Secondary Education

Progressive Conservative MP Loyola Hearn (St. John’s West) hosted a roundtable on post-secondary education on July 20, 2001 in Ottawa. Canadian Alliance MP Val Meredith (Surrey-Whiterock) and Progressive Conservative Senator Norman Atkins co-chaired the meeting.

The Humanities and Social Sciences Federation of

Canada (HSSFC), the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), and other interested parties joined National Chairperson Ian Boyko in making presentations about the status of post-secondary education and research. There was a general consensus amongst the participants that education is a right, and should be properly funded. Boyko stressed that the solution to the chronic under-funding of post secondary education was the restoration of transfer payments to the provinces, preferably in the form of a dedicated funding envelope. Boyko articulated the need for a Post-Secondary Education Act that would legislate national standards for accessibility, mobility, and quality. The Federation's model for a national system of needs-based grants was presented, and was well-received by all participants.

The Federation, the HSSFC, and the CAUT outlined the serious problems associated with the trend towards public/private partnerships in research. The point was made that the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) mandated such partnerships, diverting public dollars towards research that often lacks public accountability. In addition, the CFI further exacerbates the gap between humanities and social science funding and that of the sciences.

Throughout the meeting, Boyko countered Meredith's rhetoric regarding the imperative to increase the "flexibility" of the Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP). The Canadian Alliance repeatedly justifies its position in favour of Income Contingent Loan Repayment Plans (ICLRs) by framing changes to the CSLP in terms of "flexibility" or "flexible repayment schedules". Boyko made the Federation's opposition to income-contingent loan repayment schemes clear, and was not challenged by Meredith, Hearn, or Atkins.

Public Education Network

The Public Education Network (PEN) is comprised of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), Québécois labour and teacher's groups, and the Canadian Teacher's Federation.

On August 15, the Network sent a delegation consisting of National Chairperson Ian Boyko and Jim Turk from the CAUT to the University of Toronto to establish the mandate of the Office for Public Education. The Office was conceived by PEN as an arms-length centre for research to bolster the campaigns of the Network and to create a space for credible interdisciplinary research in defense of public education. The Office will operate out of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) under the supervision of four interested academics and the Network's membership. With the exception of transportation to meetings, there is no cost for the start-up of this project.

PEN and the academics at the Office have tentatively scheduled an open forum for January 10, 2002. The forum would be an opportunity for member researchers to present recent research to the group. It will also act as a medium for member unions in PEN to present their campaigns in order to familiarise all partners with the advocacy work of PEN. Presumably this opportunity to explore the strengths of all the members in the coalition will give direction to future research, and clarify the interplay between advocacy and the arms length nature of the Office for Public Research.

Standing Committee on Finance

As in past years, the Federation was invited to produce a submission for the Standing Committee on Finance during the 2001-2002 budget consultations taking place this fall. The submission was submitted at the end of August and National Chairperson Ian Boyko appeared before the Standing Committee on October 30, 2001. The Standing Committee is an all-party committee that travels across Canada and holds hearings on the federal budget. At the conclusion of consultations and hearings, the committee chair writes a report that is submitted to the Minister of Finance. In past years the committee has made outlandish recommendations

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for tax cuts. Typically, the Finance Minister positions himself as a moderate by rejecting more radical tax cuts. However, the committee has often brought forward Federation proposals in their report. For example, the committee recommended that the allowable amount for scholarships and bursaries be raised from \$500 to \$3000. At the time, the Federation was the only organisation calling for such a measure.

The Federation's 2001-2002 submission focuses on the November 2000 federal election promises regarding access to post secondary education. It recommends termination of the Registered Education Savings Plan and Canada Education Savings Grant programmes in favour of a national system of needs-based grants; abandoning the discriminatory changes to the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act and credit checks conducted on Canada Student Loan applicants; the creation of a Post Secondary Education Act; increased public funding for social science and humanities research coupled with the restructuring of the Canada Foundation for Innovation; and the return to block purchasing seats in public institutions for retraining, as well as eighteen months of training leave to be paid for by the employer.

During his appearance before the committee Boyko stressed that the federal government should retreat from its irresponsible programme of tax cuts in the wake of the uncertainty spawned by the events September 11. Boyko also reminded members of the committee that in past years the surplus had been underestimated and most economists agree that the surplus for this fiscal year should be at least \$8 billion. In that context, prudent and substantial investment in post-secondary education should be a priority in the committee's recommendations. Boyko also outlined the Federation's research into Registered Individual Learning Accounts (RILA) in Britain. Though some government officials favour such a scheme, Boyko argued that the British model demonstrates that such schemes only serve to privatise education and subsidise those least in need of skills and training.

In addition to appearing before the committee, the Federation also undertakes extensive government relations work in the period leading up to the budget. On August 1, the Federation met with Human Resources Development Canada Minister Jane Stewart. National Chairperson Ian Boyko attended on behalf of the Federation as part of the Public Education Network (PEN).

Boyko outlined for the Minister the inequities associated with the Registered Education Savings Plans (RESPs) and accompanying Canada Education Savings Grants (CESGs). Boyko also explained how the fundamental design of the programmes does nothing to assist families who are most in need. The Minister was provided with the Federation's research demonstrating the significant cost of the two programs. The Minister was also presented with figures for the cost and distribution of a needs-based system of national grants that could be administered through the Canada Student Loans Program as a non-repayable portion of the loan.

In addition, Boyko reiterated the Federation's strong opposition to the 1998 changes to the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, encouraging the Minister to reconsider the changes.

The Canadian Labour Congress made a compelling case to the Minister about the pitfalls of introducing a retraining strategy based on a worker-driven plan for funding (RILAs). Learning Account models are similar to RRSPs or RESPs, relying on contributions of individual workers with government top-ups. The model in Britain proved to be a failure: only 25% of people utilising the accounts were working people in need of basic labour skills upgrades. This private contribution scheme will duplicate all of the user-pay inequities associated with the RESPs, and is considered by labour groups the worst-case scenario for financing skills training. Minister Stewart was responsive to the concerns of PEN regarding Learning Accounts, but was non-committal to alternatives.

On November 8 National Chairperson Ian Boyko and Researcher Michael Conlon met with David Brodie, Finance Minister Paul Martin's top adviser

on post-secondary education. Most of the issues contained in the Federation's brief to the Standing Committee on Finance were explored in the meeting. Brodie strongly hinted that the only post-secondary education measure in the upcoming budget would be more funding for the indirect cost of research. The Association of Universities and Colleges Canada (AUCC) has made the issue of indirect cost the core of their government relations strategy.

Ostensibly, the indirect cost of research refers to increased infrastructure cost that comes with federally-funded research projects. In past budgets the federal government has increased funding for research without concurrently increasing funding for the building maintenance, staffing, and new technology costs that invariably accompany a research project. Brodie canvassed the Federation for its view of such funding and Federation representatives suggested that, while no position had been taken against the funding of such costs, such an expenditure was more of a distraction than a solution to the crisis in post-secondary education. It was also the Federation's view that the excessive gratitude that AUCC shows for the smallest gesture by the federal government will actually set the cause of those fighting for high quality, accessible education backward. The Federation will be meeting with Brodie after the budget is tabled to review any new measures and begin the cycle of budget government relations anew.

Trade Liberalisation and Post-Secondary Education

The recent expansion of international free trade agreements to cover trade in services has serious implications for the future of post-secondary education. Ongoing negotiations of such agreements are conducted largely in secret and without adequate public scrutiny or input.

Since the introduction of the North American Free Trade Agreement, all three participating countries – Canada, the United States of America

and Mexico – have been forced to eliminate domestic legislation and regulations that govern economic policy and environmental protection under trade dispute mechanisms. While education has not yet been subject to such provisions, the extension of free trade principles to services puts public education funding and standards at risk.

In February 2001, the Federation produced a fact sheet entitled *How the GATS Threatens Public Education*. That fact sheet has recently been updated and will be distributed to member locals at this national general meeting. In addition, the Federation produced posters to draw attention to the potential threat of GATS on public services in Canada. In order to augment this ongoing campaign and research work a new web page has been created adjacent to the main web page. The page, entitled *Stop GATS!*, contains research, announcements of upcoming events, and international updates.

LEGAL OPINION ON THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TRADE IN SERVICES

The federal government denies that public education is threatened because a provision of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) supposedly guarantees that public services that are exercised solely under "government authority" and not "in competition" are not subject to the GATS. However, the GATS does not provide any specific detail or definition of what they consider to be fully in the exercise of government authority. As with other trade agreements, disputes and discrepancies of this kind are settled by un-elected trade tribunals of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Based on the ambiguity of the clause upon which Canada relies, the Canadian Federation of Students has repeatedly asked the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade to obtain an independent legal opinion on whether or not Canada can actually exclude public education from the sanctions of the GATS. However, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade refused this request and the Canadian Federation of Students, in concert with our partners at the Canadian Association of University

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Teachers and the British Columbia Teachers Federation, sought a legal opinion from the firm of Gottlieb and Pearson.

Gottlieb and Pearson analyzed the portions of the GATS that Canada has agreed to as well the meaning and strength of the clause upon which Canada is relying to protect public education. They found that the clause was not only ambiguous but that the Canadian system of post-secondary education may not satisfy the conditions for exclusion. In a comprehensive analysis, Gottlieb and Pearson concludes that because "private education co-exists with public education" it will be difficult for Canada to argue that education is offered solely under government authority. In addition, the proliferation of private education providers in Canada makes it even more difficult for Canada to argue that education is not provided on a commercial or competitive basis. Gottlieb and Pearson note that the WTO has consistently interpreted the government authority exclusion in a narrow manner and go on to conclude that "the GATS meaning of competition is much wider than has been articulated by Industry Canada"(12). In short, Gottlieb and Person conclude that the clauses provide little if any grounds to protect public education from the dictates of the GATS.

COALITION WORK TO OPPOSE THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TRADE IN SERVICES

On October 26, National Chairperson Ian Boyko met with International Trade Minister Pierre Pettigrew as part of the Public Education Network (PEN). PEN representatives expressed displeasure at Canada's readiness to continue GATS negotiations at the upcoming meeting of the World Trade Organisation without properly addressing the concerns of the education sector. Boyko asked if the department had considered the implications of the DeVry Institute's new public funding arrangement in Alberta in the context of the National Treatment or Government Authority clauses in the GATS. Neither the minister nor his lead negotiators claimed any awareness of the deal

between the government of Alberta and DeVry. This prompted a promise of further investigation and a future meeting between the department and PEN representatives.

Although the Federation and the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) have been advocating for the protection of public education from trade liberalization agreements for a number of years, other potential partners in the post-secondary education sector have been silent on the issue until recently. With the release of the legal opinion on the implications of GATS and education, the Association of University and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), which represents university and college presidents across the country, has publicly stated that it too has concerns about the GATS.

The Federation was recently contacted by the AUCC to attend a meeting in early December with CAUT and the Association of Community Colleges of Canada (ACCC), to discuss strategies for working cooperatively on this issue.

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

From November 9 to 13, 2001, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) held a Ministerial meeting in Doha, Qatar. At that meeting, governmental representatives from 142 member countries, decided to proceed with negotiations on all twenty current WTO trade agreements. Although a new round of negotiations for the GATS began in March 2001, the recent decision to proceed with full negotiations will likely result in GATS negotiations' being accelerated.

COMMON FRONT ON THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

The Common Front on the World Trade Organization (CFWTO) is a coalition of national organisations that aims to educate the public and generate support and awareness about the WTO and specifically, the threat it poses to public services, the environment, and human and labour rights. Members include student, labour, cultural, environmental, human rights and citizens organisations. The Federation

has been a member of the coalition since it began and currently holds a seat on the Steering Committee.

In early 2001, the CFWTO began to develop a campaign plan to increase awareness about the impact of WTO policies. Particular attention was given to the threat posed by the WTO to public services and the undemocratic nature of WTO decision-making. Federation member locals were encouraged to participate in local activities associated with the cross-country caravan, provincial and municipal lobbying efforts, and a national day of action on November 9. November 9 activities took place in over 25 communities across Canada, including a rally and march in Ottawa, at which National Chairperson Boyko spoke.

GROUP OF 20 PRE-MEETING WITH FINANCE MINISTER PAUL MARTIN

Prior to the Group of 20 meeting in Ottawa in mid-November, the Federation met with Finance Minister Paul Martin to discuss issues pertaining to the G-20 meeting in Ottawa. National Chairperson Boyko and National Deputy Chairperson Anthony represented the Federation at the meeting. Among the issues discussed were the impact of September 11 events on federal post-secondary education funding and a global education fund that would promote worldwide basic education.

The Federation highlighted concern that post-secondary education would be neglected in the upcoming federal budget. The Federation outlined its concerns that a weakening economy, shrinking surpluses and increased spending on military and security measures would conspire to undermine the importance of social programme spending, and in particular, post-secondary education, in the eyes of the federal government. The Federation re-stated the urgency of federal investment to increase core funding for universities and colleges to assist counter-acting privatisation.. The Federation explained that in a context of a weakening economy, access to post-secondary education was critical. The Federation noted that stability begins with

ensuring that all Canadians have access to basic rights and services.

Minister Martin presented the proposal to establish a global education fund that would ensure access to basic education worldwide. The Federation supported the proposal with the caveat that education at all levels be included in the fund. Additionally, the Federation challenged the Minister to make the fund fully public-financed, rather than funded through public-private partnerships. The Minister has committed to future discussions on this issue in advance of the Group of 8 meeting in June 2002.

National Opinion Coalition

In March of this year the Canadian Federation of Students joined National Opinion Coalition with Vector Research. The Coalition is a co-operative polling group that conducts 4 polls per year. Each partner is allotted several questions per poll and members then agree upon a broader set of public policy questions of interest to all participating organizations. There are several standing questions each poll about voting preference and the standing of each of the 5 major parties. In addition, members are kept abreast of public policy developments and the results other major national and international polls. During the past year the Federation has garnered polling data on private universities, trade liberalization, and Registered Education Savings Plans \. The coalition also has an archive of polling data that allows the group to track the evolution of public opinion on particular issues. For example, the coalition was able to determine that support for trade liberalisation of health care and education dropped after the Summit of Americas in Quebec City.

The coalition also allows the Federation to gauge public support for campaign demands. The monthly meetings of the coalition provide the Federation with an opportunity to vet the arguments and wording of our public policy initiatives with communications professionals. The Federation's membership ends in March and the National Executive is recommending that membership be renewed.

Aboriginal Issues Awareness Campaign

WHERE'S THE JUSTICE FOR ABORIGINAL STUDENTS

For the last few years, the Federation has been highlighting some of the discrimination that Aboriginal people, and especially Aboriginal students, face. In fall 1999, the Federation produced a "Where's the Justice?" poster that described a number of unresolved cases in which Aboriginal people were denied rights.

At the May 2001 National General Meeting of the Federation it was resolved to adopt the British Columbia "Where's the Justice?" campaign. Accordingly, the Federation has produced stickers and posters incorporating the theme. The posters will be distributed to member locals at this meeting.

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION: A PRIORITY

At the National Aboriginal Caucus general meeting in March 2001, a campaign was developed with the theme "Aboriginal Education: Canada's Priority" to draw attention to the additional barriers that Aboriginal students face when attempting to access post-secondary education. At the May 2001 national general meeting of the Federation it was resolved to produce materials with this theme to be distributed across the country. Currently, information is being collected that will be utilized to create background materials to accompany the existing stickers.

UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

On May 24, National Chairperson Ian Boyko and Aboriginal Caucus Representative on the National Executive Representative Anthony Nelson represented the Federation at a roundtable hosted by the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development (or "Rights and Democracy"). The purpose of the roundtable, held in Montréal, was to discuss the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The declaration contained 45 articles and

was developed by a UN working group on indigenous populations. To date, only a few governments have expressed a willingness to adopt the document as drafted, while other governments would like to see significant revisions to most of the articles. The governments of Japan and the United States have expressed a fundamental disagreement with the philosophy of such a declaration and are unwilling to consider the document.

Canada's stated position has been disappointing. Although it claims to agree with most of the concepts outlined by the articles, it will only adopt two of the forty-five clauses. The International Centre for Human Rights and Democracy has reaffirmed its commitment to pressure the Canadian government into adopting the Declaration without further delay. Assembling non-indigenous groups is part of the Centre's strategy to broaden the support for federal recognition of First Nations' right to self-determination. Groups that participated in the roundtable, including the Federation, signed an open letter to the federal government in support of the UN Declaration. The letter called upon the government to immediately adopt the Declaration, and to endorse it at the August World Conference on Racism in Durban, South Africa. To-date, the federal government has done neither. The letter was released publicly at a press conference on June 20, at which the Federation was amongst an exclusive list of speakers.

CAMPAIGN TO FREEZE AND REDUCE TUITION FEES

Between 1990 and 1998 the federal government cut transfer payments to the provinces for post-secondary education by close to 20%. During that same period, tuition fees increased by 126% and student debt rose from an average of \$8,000 in 1990 to an average of \$25,000 in 1998. The cumulative effect of massive fee hikes and declining federal funding has been a sharp decline in the participation rates of low and middle income Canadians in post-secondary education. To take but one example, at the University of Guelph students from homes of under \$40,000 per annum declined from a high of 40% in 1987 to 16% in 1998.

On February 2, 2000 the Federation's Access 2000 campaign culminated in a highly successful national day of action. Access 2000 highlighted the burgeoning crisis in post-secondary education and shifted public opinion about tuition fees and federal funding. In addition to a featured editorial in the Globe and Mail by the Federation, CBC's Counterspin and many other major media outlets made access to post-secondary education their lead story.

In 2000-2001, years of effort by the Federation culminated in tuition fee rollbacks or freezes in a majority of provinces. While the Federation has been successful in generating support for tuition fee reductions across the country, some of the provinces that had committed to reducing tuition fees have begun to step away from their commitments. The goal of this campaign is to ensure that where tuition fees have been frozen or reduced, that governments continue to honour their pledge to ensure access to higher education. In provinces without tuition fee freezes, the Federation intends to bring significant pressure to bear on those governments. At the July 2001 National Executive meeting the Federation resolved to implement a campaign strategy by organising a provincially-focused national day of action on February 6, 2002. Provincial components will be encouraged to undertake province-specific lobbying, research and mobilizing strategies under the banner of the common goal of tuition fee freezes and reductions across Canada. In what follows, an overview of organizing work thus far is provided. A brief history of past work undertaken on tuition fees is also included.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

In British Columbia, tuition fees have been frozen consistently since 1995. Each year the Federation has campaigned to win public support to maintain the tuition



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fee freeze and to ensure that compensatory funding was provided to all institutions. Last year, the Federation successfully campaigned for a fully funded five per cent reduction in tuition fees.

In May 2001 a provincial election was held which resulted in the BC Liberal Party replacing the New Democrats as the governing party. The BC Liberals campaigned on support for the tuition fee freeze and reduction as well as a promise to review the tuition fee freeze. However, since that time the current Premier Gordon Campbell and his Liberal government have implemented an agenda that prioritises tax cuts over public programme spending. In this context, the government has begun a less than subtle campaign to undermine support for the progressive regulation of tuition fees by initiating discussion on the “hidden costs” of the tuition fee freeze.

As a first step in the government’s “review”, selected groups within the post-secondary education sector were asked for written submissions. The Federation’s submission, entitled *The Evident Benefits of Lower Tuition Fees*, detailed the positive social and economic impacts of the tuition fee freeze and stated the necessity of further tuition fee reductions accompanied by increased government funding as a means of increasing access to post-secondary education in British Columbia. The Federation’s position was emphasized in the submission of other organisations.

As a second step in the review, the Ministry of Advanced Education created a web page to solicit public opinion on the tuition fee freeze. The four questions for discussion were biased against the freeze. The Federation developed a mirror website to allow individuals to access the government’s survey from the Federation’s BC website (www.cfs.bc.ca) with suggested responses. Between October 28 and November 19, over 700 responses to the government’s survey were submitted through the Federation’s website, with over 99% expressing support for the tuition fee freeze.

As a third step in the review, Minister Shirley Bond met with stakeholder groups to discuss the “hidden costs of the tuition fee freeze.” On

November 1, representatives of the majority of students’ unions in the province and of the Federation participated in a half-day meeting with the Minister which was designed to elicit feedback on the tuition fee freeze. Twenty-nine of the 31 representatives expressed unwavering support for the tuition fee freeze and reduction.

The outcome of the government’s review process will be made public in late November.

Preparations for the February 6 Day of Action are well underway in BC. In August, the BC general meeting resolved to focus implementation of the national campaign on a further reduction of tuition fees, increased funding for post-secondary education, and the protection of public education under international trade agreements. Campaign materials produced include “Reduce Tuition Fees” buttons attached to informative rave cards with facts about reducing tuition fees. In addition, a thirty-second radio ad was produced and aired throughout the province. Mini-board posters will be displayed in communities throughout the province in December to February.

A petition campaign calling for a further reduction in tuition fees has been launched in the lead-up to February 6. Additional materials including posters, handbills, factsheets and an organising manual are being produced. The Federation and CIEA are conducting a province wide poll to further determine support for the reduction in fees.

The Federation is working closely with coalition partners on the campaign to reduce tuition fees. Given the recent change in government, many social justice organisations have renewed their commitments to working in coalition with other progressive organisations. To this end, letters requesting support for the February 6 Day of Action were sent to hundreds of coalition partners and labour organisations in late October. In addition, representatives of the Federation are making presentations to various organisations to seek endorsement of the campaign. On November 18, BC National Executive Representative Anita Zaenker made a presentation to members of the Post-secondary Caucus of the Canadian Union of Public Employees at its National Convention in Vancouver.

SASKATCHEWAN

Despite pledging during the 1999 provincial election to improve access to education and even to eliminate tuition fees for the first year of university, the provincial government has since taken a passive approach to the issue of tuition fee regulation. Policy decisions have been left to individual post-secondary institutions, resulting in wild variations and unpredictability in tuition fee levels. After freezing fees in 1999-2000, the University of Regina increased fees in 2000-2001 by 6.5 per cent, and in 2001-2002 by 9 per cent. The University of Saskatchewan has increased fees this year by 15 per cent, making percentage increases in the province the highest in the country for two consecutive years' running.

However, in response to the lack of government direction on tuition fees, the Federation has enlisted the support of administrators in calling for a tuition fee freeze and increased funding for education. The Federation will be joined by administrators from the University of Regina in an upcoming lobby session with the provincial government. Because issues such as farmers' aid, highways, and health care dominate the public policy agenda, it will also be important to build inter-campus and community coalitions, in preparation for the February 6 day of action.

MANITOBA

Manitoba has never had legislation enshrining tuition fee policy. Throughout the 1980's, tuition

fees rose dramatically, as elsewhere in the country. Then, as a result of Federation campaigns calling for a tuition fee freeze that culminated in a mass day of action in 1992, the provincial government responded with a cap of 5 per cent on tuition fee increases. This cap helped reduce average tuition fee increases until it was eliminated in 1995, leaving the province without policy or legislation on tuition fees. Despite the Federation's mass days

of action each year from 1995 to 1998, the provincial government allowed universities to continue increasing tuition fees, to implement differential fees for international students and to allow the implementation of much higher fees in some professional programmes, such as Medicine and the Master's of Business Administration. Throughout this period, the Federation worked closely with both opposition parties and coalition partners in labour and social justice organizations to expose the provincial Progressive Conservative government's lack of

vision and poor policy decisions. The province responded to these criticisms by creating the Council on Post-Secondary Education. The Council's first task was to create a policy on tuition fees. The Federation, including individual member locals, called on the Council's tuition fee policy committee to create legislation enshrining a tuition fee freeze, and encouraged like-minded presentations by coalition organisations such as faculty associations and campus labour unions. However, the end product fell far short of expectations, did not include any reference to a

Tuition Fees in Canada: A Pan-Canadian Perspective on Educational User Fees

Fact Sheet

The User Pay System: What Can You Afford?

The user pay system of funding the post-secondary education system is a 20 year old model of post-secondary government funding. It is a model of high and widening inequality, based on the individual fee as a means of financing student education.

In 1995, 1996 and 1997, the average of 19% of post-secondary students in Canada had no tuition fees. In 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002, the average of 10% of post-secondary students in Canada had no tuition fees. In 2003, the average of 5% of post-secondary students in Canada had no tuition fees.

Tuition Fees in Saskatchewan, 1995-2002

Year	Percentage of Students with No Tuition Fees
1995	19%
1996	19%
1997	19%
1998	10%
1999	10%
2000	10%
2001	10%
2002	10%

Student Debt in Escalating

The report on the rise of student debt is a result of funding cuts for post-secondary education. The results of the 1995-1996 survey of post-secondary students in Canada show that 10% of students had no tuition fees in 1995, 10% in 1996, and 10% in 1997.

Access to Funding

Access to funding for post-secondary education is a key issue for the Federation. The Federation is working to ensure that all students have access to funding for their education.

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tuition fee freeze, and was rarely referred to by the government.

When it took office in fall 1999, the new government implemented its campaign promise to reduce tuition fees by 10% for the 2000-2001 academic year. In the following provincial budget, a fully-funded tuition fee freeze was implemented. International students were excluded from these measures, and no concrete steps were taken by the provincial government to prevent the implementation of much higher fees in professional programmes such as dentistry. In the 2001 budget, there was also a modest overall operational funding increase for colleges and universities, and a funding increase for the provincial grant programme, which was reinstated in 2000. In response to pressure by the Federation, a new Ministry of Advanced Education has been created and, shortly after the 2001 budget announcement, legislation was enacted to protect students' access to financial assistance, especially bursaries and grants.

However, throughout summer 2001, the Winnipeg Free Press published several articles promoting the views of the senior administration of the University of Manitoba that the tuition fee freeze was hampering the institution's ability to balance its budget and provide high-quality education. However, other university representatives have been more supportive of the tuition fee freeze and further fee reductions. In early October, Louis Visentin, President of Brandon University, publicly called for lower tuition fees and more public funding for post-secondary education. University of Winnipeg President Constance Rooke has spoken publicly in support of the tuition fee freeze, despite recommending a 2.5% tuition fee increase in the 2002-2003 budget estimates proposal for the University of Winnipeg. Although it is widely accepted that the tuition fee reduction and freeze are the main reasons for significant increases in enrolment at all post-secondary institutions in the province both this year and last, this effect on provincial fee policy has gone largely unreported by the mainstream media.

On October 24, 2001, "The Great Tuition Fee Debate", sponsored by the Federation, took

place at the University of Winnipeg. Anita Zaenker, BC National Executive Representative, debated the *pro* side of the thesis "Canada can and should eliminate tuition fees". Minister of Advanced Education Diane McGifford moderated the debate, which was well-attended and received positive campus and mainstream media coverage.

The new national tuition fee fact sheet and a provincial newsletter have been distributed to members on campuses. "Reduce Tuition Fees" buttons, informational rave cards, and other campaign materials designed to build towards the February 6 day of action will be distributed on campuses and to coalition partners in December and January. Provincial organizing to-date for the winter day of action has focused on counter-acting government reticence to further reduce fees and negative media messaging by building on the broad public support that exists in the province for universal measures such as tuition fee reductions. Campaign tactics will reflect this focus on demonstrating community support. On campus, efforts have focused on raising awareness about the particulars of tuition fee policy, assisting member locals in building local action committees, linking provincial policy issues to the struggle against corporate globalisation and privatisation, and distributing general campaign materials.

ONTARIO

Tuition fees in Ontario have never been frozen, but they had been regulated insofar as the Ontario government had the authority to establish the maximum level at which tuition fees could increase. In the mid-1990s federal government cuts to post-secondary education provided the impetus for the Ontario government to approve double-digit tuition fee increases for students. Statistics Canada, which considers only at average undergraduate arts tuition fees, has shown that tuition fees in Ontario are now the second highest in Canada.

The Federation's Access 2000 campaign focused on the need to freeze and reduce tuition fees in the province. At that time, the Federation secured a commitment to freeze and reduce tuition fees from both provincial opposition parties. The campaign culminated on a Canada-wide day of

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action on February 2, 2000. Immediately afterward, a public opinion poll showed that 82% of Ontarians supported a freeze on tuition fees. In the 2000-2001 provincial budget, the government was compelled to bow to public pressure by capping average tuition fee increases at two percent for the subsequent five years.

Unfortunately, at the same time, the Ontario government also de-regulated tuition fees for all graduate programmes, and certain professional and post-diploma programmes. The resulting tuition fee increases have, in some cases, produced hikes of upwards of 300 percent. Emerging evidence suggests that the policy of de-regulating tuition fees for medical school has significantly altered the demographic composition of first and second year medical school classes, whereby students from middle and lower socio-economic backgrounds have been displaced by students from significantly more privileged socio-economic backgrounds.

The Federation's experience over the past two years shows that the Ontario government is susceptible to public pressure. The governing party has lost both of the past two by-elections in the province. Additionally, public opinion surveys conducted since February 2000 have consistently shown wide support for a freeze and reduction in tuition fees. Recently in a public opinion poll of voters from the suburbs of Toronto where support for the governing party has traditionally been strong, 82 percent of respondents indicated their support for a reduction in tuition fees. Also, the vast majority said they would prefer to send their children to a public college or university as opposed to a private institution. Nevertheless the privatisation of post-secondary education remains the cornerstone of the government's post-secondary education policy.

The Federation has been meeting regularly with members of the opposition parties in the Ontario legislature and both parties have either publicly or privately indicated their support for freezing and reducing tuition fees. The Federation has been working on a proposal to have a private member's bill to freeze tuition fees introduced into the legislature during the fall session. At the same time, some members of the opposition have

expressed their reluctance to make bold commitments to reducing tuition fees during a period of economic instability.

On October 16, Ontario Premier Mike Harris announced his resignation, taking effect as soon as the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party selects a new leader. It is expected that the leadership race will take place in the spring, followed by an election call shortly thereafter. In early November, Ontario Finance Minister Jim Flaherty presented a revised economic outlook for the province suggesting that provincial revenue will decrease by at least \$1.3 billion while at the same time he announced the acceleration of tax cuts for corporations. Flaherty also used the economic downturn as an alibi for the government's underfunding and privatisation of post-secondary education. Tuition fees increased at a record rate in Ontario over a period of prolonged and unparalleled economic boom. As a result, increasing numbers of Ontarians are dissatisfied with the government's performance in the areas of education and health care.

Given the political terrain in Ontario, the Federation's broad-based and publicly visible campaign to freeze tuition fees will shape the discourse of the upcoming provincial election. The research, education and mobilization undertaken through the campaign will create pressure on the government while bolstering the confidence of opposition Members of Parliament to publicly endorse the call to freeze tuition fees. The ongoing campaign to freeze tuition fees will be buoyed by a significant mobilization on the February 6 national day of action. The February 6 day of action is part of a comprehensive strategy in the lead-up to the next provincial election campaign.

To help member locals educate and mobilise their respective memberships, the Federation has produced "Freeze Tuition Fees" buttons and rave cards containing additional information about tuition fees. The Federation has also produced large posters that can be placed prominently in windows that state: "Proud to be a part of the 82% majority...I support a tuition fee freeze." These posters will be supplemented with

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additional fact sheets. The Federation has produced a substantial policy paper that has been presented to all three parties in the provincial legislature. Research is underway on the College Charter initiative that could result in massive tuition fee increases and other regressive changes at Ontario colleges. Finally, the Federation will undertake a mailing to all student groups across Ontario that will contain a "Freeze the Fees" organising kit to encourage non-member student associations to actively join the campaign.

QUEBEC

In the 1960's, as part of the nation-wide expansion of post-secondary education, the government of Québec created college-level institutions known as CÉGEPs. Because expanding French-language post-secondary education was a critical issue within Québec at that time, the CÉGEPs were established to expand access. Consequently, tuition fees were never imposed on students attending these institutions. In the late 1960's, tuition fees at all other post-secondary institutions were frozen, ostensibly as a first step towards the ultimate elimination of tuition fees. Four years after the freeze was implemented, the participation rate of women students in Quebec were more than double the rate in the rest of Canada.

For the next twenty years, tuition fees were frozen in Quebec and by the late 1980's that province had the lowest tuition fees in Canada. Each time the government threatened to de-regulate tuition fees, the provincial organization in existence at that time, the Association nationale des étudiantes et étudiants du Québec (ANEEQ) mobilized to stop the initiative. However, in the late 1980s ANEEQ fractured and lost its capacity to mobilize in a united campaign. The government stepped in and de-regulated tuition fees in 1990.

The subsequent years saw large-scale tuition fee increases each year, though tuition fees were never imposed on CÉGEP students. By 1994 two graduate students' unions had joined the Federation and students throughout Quebec had begun to work together. In 1995, the Canadian Federation of Students launched a national day of strike and action on January

25. One of the largest demonstrations of that campaign took place in Montreal. Significantly, on January 25 of that year, the Québec government announced that tuition fees would again be frozen for the 1995-96 academic year.

In the fall of 1996, students throughout Québec mobilized in response to the government's threat to allow tuition fees to increase. A wave of mobilizations and occupations took place with the demand that tuition fees be frozen. As a result, the government pledged to maintain the freeze on tuition fees for Québec residents only. This tactical move by the provincial government (announced just before the Christmas break) undermined the momentum of the campaign. Since then, tuition fees have been frozen for Québec residents, but students from outside the province pay significantly higher fees. The situation for out-of-province students now mirrors the situation faced by international students studying in Canada, who pay disproportionately higher tuition fees than domestic, Canadian students.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Tuition fees in Newfoundland were briefly abolished in the early 1960's as part of the Newfoundland and Labrador government's effort to expand access to higher education in the province, especially among the province's rural community. By the end of the decade, tuition fees had been re-imposed. Tuition fees were not regulated again until the end of the 1990s. During the 1990's alone, tuition fees increased by over 250 percent.

The Federation's ongoing campaign to freeze tuition fees culminated in victory in the spring of 2001. The government announced a 25 percent reduction in tuition fees over the subsequent three years. The first 10 percent reduction was implemented in fall 2001. While this measure was a welcome step, some students were excluded from the reduction. Medical students, international students and college students benefited only from a tuition fee freeze, not a reduction.

The Federation has been campaigning to extend the tuition fee reduction to all students and has

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raised this issue several times in meetings with government. However, since the initial reduction was implemented in fall 2001, social spending in the province has been drastically cut. The Federation is concerned that the change in economic circumstances may be used by the provincial government as an excuse to renege on its initial pledge. In recent meetings between Federation representatives and the Minister Responsible for Post-Secondary Education, the government has hinted that the money is no longer available to invest in the tuition fee reduction.

The Federation's current campaign will build on the current level of public support to press the government to honour its promise to reduce tuition fees for all students. The Federation will be distributing "Reduce Tuition Fees" buttons and other materials to mobilize students and producing tuition fee fact sheets for distribution in January 2002.

NOVA SCOTIA

Nova Scotia has the highest tuition fees in Canada, nearly doubling those in British Columbia. The current provincial government in Nova Scotia has adopted a particularly regressive approach to post-secondary education. In addition to exorbitant user fees, the government has eliminated loan remission and has absconded with Millennium Scholarship funds earmarked to reduce student debt. As detailed earlier in this report, the Federation has consistently been calling for the Millennium Foundation to audit Nova Scotia in order to hold the provincial government accountable for misdirecting funds that should have been earmarked for reducing student debt.

The provincial government has been discussing the possibility of re-introducing another form of the loan remission program that was eliminated in 2000. Federation representatives have been lobbying for a grants system that would significantly reduce the financial need of students attending public colleges and universities. There are also indications that the government is considering de-designating public institutions from federal and provincial loan eligibility on

the basis of institution-wide default rate objectives. To date, the Federation has met with government representatives to outline our strong opposition to any form of de-designation for public institutions. The Federation is also coordinating lobbying efforts with faculty associations and boards of governors.

For February 6, organising committees have been struck in Halifax and Sydney. Initial materials have been produced, including posters and "Freeze Tuition Fees" buttons. The campaign will be launched with coalition partners at a media event, and regular opinion editorials and features will be submitted to the campus press and community magazines. Efforts will be made to broaden participation in the campaign to include college, university, and high school students, as well as faculty and community members. The campaign will culminate in rallies in the two cities.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Tuition fees were frozen at the University of Prince Edward Island in 2000 following a very successful mobilisation for the Federation's ACCESS 2000 campaign. Members in Prince Edward Island organised two events on the national day of action. On February 2, 2000 a macaroni and cheese lunch was served in conjunction with a teach-in on tuition fees and accessibility. In the evening a panel discussion was held with the Students' Union president, the University president, the Minister of Education and the opposition critic for education. During the panel discussion the Students' Union president challenged the university president to freeze tuition fees. He responded by suggesting the university would need at least \$1 million to fund a tuition fee freeze. When the provincial budget was announced several weeks later, over \$1 million of new funding was set aside for post-secondary education. The Students' Union was then able to hold the president to his commitment to freeze tuition fees. Despite continued organising on the issue the next year, tuition fees rose in 2001-2002, this time by six percent.

Organising for this year's tuition fee freeze campaign is well underway in Prince Edward

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Island. The Federation has been actively exposing the problems caused by increasing tuition fees, including the student debt crisis. On Halloween, students at the University of Prince Edward Island held a successful media event in which they carried a coffin around campus to signify that students are increasingly buried in debt due to skyrocketing tuition fees. The committee has also been busy planning events for January and has produced "Freeze the Fees" buttons in the lead-up to the February 6 day of action. Local 31 recently met with the Minister of Education to discuss pressing post-secondary education issues, and has been discussing strategies for publicising the need for a tuition fee freeze with the leader of the opposition.

SOLIDARITY WORK

It has been the long-standing practice of the Federation to work in coalition with other group and organisations on issues of interest and concern to students.

Campaign against Violence and Racism

Within days of the events of September 11, acts of intolerance and racism were reported on campuses across Canada. In response, the Federation issued a statement calling for tolerance and understanding among students, faculty and administrators.

On September 22, the Federation was alerted that the Department of Citizenship and Immigration was likely preventing international students from certain countries from pursuing specific programs of study. Immediately, the Department of Citizenship and Immigration was contacted to determine the accuracy of these reports. However, despite frequent contact with the Department and a number of Members of Parliament in the past two months, it remains unclear whether such a policy actually exists. The Federation is pursuing a meeting with Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Elinor Caplin to discuss the regulations for international students wishing to study in Canada.

In early October, the Federation joined the September 11 Peace Coalition, a coalition comprised of several national organisations devoted to peace and global justice. The Coalition is calling on the federal government to: find peaceful solutions to the current war in Afghanistan; prosecute those involved in racist attacks in Canada; and reverse new measures being taken to curtail individual freedoms in this country. The Coalition called for a National Day of Action for Peace on November 17. Peaceful demonstrations took place in over 20 communities across Canada, including Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, Victoria, and Winnipeg. The largest demonstrations took place in Victoria, Vancouver and Toronto.

Child Care and Children's Poverty

CAMPAIGN 2000

Campaign 2000 is a cross-Canada public education campaign that seeks to build Canadian awareness and support for the 1989 all-party House of Commons resolution to end child poverty in Canada by the year 2000. Campaign 2000 began in 1991 out of concern over the lack of government

progress in addressing child poverty. Campaign 2000 urges all Canadian elected officials to keep their promise to Canada's children. The Federation has been a member of Campaign 2000 since July 1999.

CHILD CARE ADVOCACY ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

For many post-secondary students, the responsibility of supporting children restricts their ability to pursue post-secondary education. Therefore, the Federation is an advocate for accessible, high quality childcare.

For several years the Federation been a member of the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada. The Association is a non-profit organisation committed to accessible, high quality, non-profit childcare services for Canadians. Founded in 1983, the Association promotes the development of a broad consensus of support within all regions of Canada to pursue childcare issues at the federal level.

In January, the Federation became a member of the Association's Council of Child Care Advocates. The Council brings together regional and sectoral representatives with a mandate to establish overall advocacy policies, initiatives, strategies and projects to guide the work of the Association. In September, the Council met in Toronto to discuss plans for the coming months and to share information about the implementation of the "Early Childhood Development Initiative" across the country. The Initiative is a proposal to address the serious shortage of trained early childhood development professionals. In this regard, the Initiative highlights the impact of cuts in post-secondary education funding that have resulted in the elimination of a number of early childhood development programmes. The Initiative also links the low number of people entering the profession with the poor pay and working conditions of those currently working in the field.

Economic Literacy and Trade Liberalisation

ALTERNATIVE FEDERAL BUDGET

Since May 1996, the Federation has been an active participant in the Alternative Federal Budget (AFB) project. The Budget, first released in 1994, was developed by CHOICES, a coalition for social justice based in Winnipeg, and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. Through the release of its annual alternative budget and accompanying workshops throughout the year, CHOICES works to increase economic literacy within Canada by drawing attention to the alternatives available to the federal government when preparing its budget. For example, the Alternative Federal Budget has made proposals to reduce Canada's debt through a system of progressive taxation, rebuild Canada's social safety net, and create national standards for health care, social assistance and post-secondary education.

The past eighteen months have seen significant changes in the scheduling and release of the federal government budget. In previous years, the federal government released an annual budget in February. However, prior to the federal election in November 2000, the government released a budgetary update and has not released a full budget since that time. As the scheduling of the AFB is largely dependent upon the timing of the actual budget, the AFB has also not released a full budget in nearly two years.

In October, Finance Minister Paul Martin announced that a federal budget would be released on December 11, 2001, to respond to the difficult economic situation that currently exists. On November 19, 2001, the AFB Steering Committee met to finalize its own plan to release an alternative mini-budget. The document is not intended to be a fully developed Alternative Budget, but rather a brief document to highlight the critical issues that ought to be addressed in light of changing economic circumstances. The AFB

piece highlights that accessibility of post-secondary education during times of economic slowdown is an important feature of any alternative vision for federal government spending.

COMMON FRONTIERS

Common Frontiers is a multi-sectoral working group that proposes, through a combination of research, analysis and action, an alternative to the social, environmental and economic effects of "economic integration" in the Americas. Common Frontiers brings together student, labour, human rights, environmental, church, economic and social justice organisations. The Federation joined Common Frontiers in January 2001 and has held a seat on the Steering Committee since that time.

Following the successful organization of the Peoples' Summit of the Americas in Québec City in April 2001, the Steering Committee of Common Frontiers has met three times to discuss future work. The Steering Committee decided that work to oppose the Free Trade Area of the Americas should continue. The primary focus for the next four months will be preparation for the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in February 2002.

COUNCIL OF CANADIANS

Founded in 1985, the Council of Canadians is a citizens' watchdog organisation, comprised of over 100,000 members and more than 60 Chapters across the country. The Council lobbies Members of Parliament, conducts research, and runs national campaigns aimed at putting some of the country's most important issues into the spotlight: safeguarding social programs, promoting economic justice, renewing democracy, asserting Canadian sovereignty, advancing alternatives to corporate-style free trade, and preserving our environment. The Federation works with the Council on a number of campaigns, especially those related to international trade.

The annual general meeting of the Council of Canadians was held in Red Deer, Alberta from October 26 to 28, 2001. At the meeting, it was resolved that the Council of Canadians would oppose Bill C-36, the "anti-terrorist" act. The

Federation contributed to the debate on this issue by emphasizing that the bill is racist and would serve primarily to allow further repression of basic civil rights. In other areas, such as its core campaign against corporate globalisation, the Council resolved to maintain its current level of activity and direction. National Deputy Chairperson Anthony represented the Federation at the meeting.

SOLIDARITY NETWORK

The Solidarity Network, composed of over fifty national and regional organisations, has its roots in the 1987 campaign 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 students, social justice groups, labour organisations, and regional coalitions devise common strategies against funding cutbacks to social programmes, and to coordinate support for campaigns organized by Network members or like-minded groups. The Federation is represented on the Executive of the Solidarity Network by National Deputy Chairperson Jen Anthony.

Since May, the Executive Committee of the Solidarity Network has met several times. Its key areas of work include the monthly production of the Solidarity Network News, fundraising for the Network, planning for the annual Solidarity Assembly and supporting the campaigns of its member groups.

The Solidarity Assembly, which brings together the Network's national and regional coalition members, is scheduled for January 17 to 20 in Edmonton. At every Assembly, time is allocated for member groups to speak about, and request support for, their ongoing campaign work. Additionally, the Assembly will include a discussion of strategies and tactics in building local, regional, national and international campaigns. Preparation work will also begin for the upcoming World Social Forum, an international forum that meets to provide an alternative global vision to that provided by the World Trade Organisation and other international bodies.

Health Care Issues

ROMANOW COMMISSION AND THE CANADIAN HEALTH COALITION

The Canadian Health Coalition is dedicated to preserving and enhancing Canada's public health system for the benefit of all Canadians. Founded in 1979, the coalition includes groups representing students, labour, seniors, women, consumers, and health care professionals from across Canada. The Federation is a long-standing member of the coalition and holds a seat on its Steering Committee.

In April 2001, the federal government announced the launch of the Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada to be headed by former Saskatchewan Premier Roy Romanow. The Commission is purportedly mandated to recommend policies and measures to ensure the long-term sustainability of a universally accessible, publicly funded health system - a health system which offers quality services to Canadians, and strikes a balance between investments in prevention and health maintenance, and care and treatment. While the Commission will also undertake dialogue with Canadians on the future of Canada's public health care system, Romanow has publicly floated the spectre of user fees and limited private health care as possible solutions to the so-called health care crisis. Universal health care has been the cornerstone of social policy in Canada for the past thirty years and any concessions to the principle of universality will likely have strong negative ramifications for other social programmes in Canada, including education. Currently, the Commission is in the process of undertaking research and collecting submissions, which will be used to produce a preliminary report, to be released in early 2002.

On October 12, nearly 100 national and regional organisations gathered in Ottawa to develop strategies for participating in the Romanow Commission. At that meeting, a statement that included the 'recognition of the highest attainment of health as a fundamental right throughout life and the necessity of preserving public health through active measures of promotion,

prevention, and protection including such determinants as housing, food safety, income, education, environment, employment and peace'. The Federation supported the statement and will hold a seat on the Campaign Steering Committee that was created to coordinate action plans arising from the meeting.

The National Executive intends to submit a brief to the Romanow Commission that will focus on the links between a person's level of education and their health. The brief will also highlight the urgency of creating additional spaces for training health care professionals in colleges and universities across the country. Finally, the Federation will emphasise the importance of the principle of universal access to social programmes like health care and education.

Public Services

CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES

During the 1990s, in an attempt to eliminate the transmission of HIV/AIDS through the blood supply, the Canadian Blood Services (formerly Red Cross) began screening potential blood donors. As part of the screening process, it adopted a questionnaire that inquired about, among other things, a donor's sexual history. The questions sought to highlight the sexual preference of the donors, rather than their safe sex practices. Many member locals that had hosted blood donor clinics on campus expressed concern that the questions perpetuated misinformation about the transmission of HIV/AIDS, with potentially dangerous consequences. At that time the Federation adopted a campaign to lobby Canadian Blood Services to change its donor screening criteria.

In fall 2001, the Federation was invited to participate in a conference to examine the blood donor selection process. The conference, entitled: *Blood-Borne HIV and Hepatitis: Optimizing the Donor Selection Process* took place in Ottawa from November 7 to 9, 2001. Consisting of a series of nearly 30 presentations over a two-day period, the conference examined the current non-laboratory donor selection process, including the associated

public health, legal and ethical questions. The Federation presented a brief containing the following four recommendations:

- in the interest of public health, Canadian Blood Services should act responsibly to transmit accurate messages;
- the screening process should be clear and simple, and terminology should be explicit;
- the safety of the blood supply should be paramount and thus screening must be based on high-risk behaviours, not on misnomers; and
- Canadian Blood Services should adhere to the principle of non-discrimination.

At the conclusion of the presentations, a neutral Consensus Panel developed a statement that described screening practices and recommended possible improvements. Although the human rights issues that have plagued the screening process were not specifically acknowledged, the draft statement reflected a number of the Federation's concerns. Importantly, the panel identified the need to clarify certain terms, especially in relation to defining sexual activity. The deliberations of the conference and the final Consensus Panel statement will be published in *Transfusion Medical Review* in the coming year.

COALITION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

From January 28 to 30, 2001, the Federation attended the Public Broadcasting in a Private Age forum that was organized by the Canadian Media Guild, the union that represents the journalists, producers and staff of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. The purpose of the forum was to develop ideas and strategies to ensure the continued viability of the CBC.

Following the forum, the Federation accepted an invitation to participate in the Coalition for Public Broadcasting. In September, Federation National Chairperson Ian Boyko and Deputy Chairperson Jen Anthony met with representatives of the Media Guild to discuss the support that the Federation could provide to the Coalition and the work that it would undertake. The first meeting of the coalition will be held in December or January.

Women's Issues

CANADIAN WOMEN'S MARCH COMMITTEE

The Canadian Women's March Committee was created to coordinate the activities of Canadian organisations participating in the World Women's March in 2000. The World Women's March involved organisations from around the world demanding improvements to the living conditions of women and children. As a national organisation, the Federation had representation on the Canadian Women's March Committee and the Federation's call for better access to higher education was a prominent feature of the campaign. Several Federation member locals participated in the World Women's March activities that culminated on October 15 last year with over 40,000 women and men participating in a march on Parliament Hill.

Following the success of last year's events, the Committee resolved to continue meeting and to maintain the network created during the World Women's March. The Committee agreed that in order to realize the goals of the World Women's March, further effort was required. The Committee has participated in a variety of campaigns since last fall, including the campaign against trade liberalization agreements and the campaign for peace and global justice. It is expected that the Committee will also participate in the Federation's national campaign to freeze and reduce tuition fees.

NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC) is the largest women's organisation in the country, with over 650 member organisations, including the Federation. The NAC annual general meeting took place October 12 to 14, 2001, in Hull, Québec. The Federation was represented by National Deputy Chairperson Anthon, and Manitoba Organiser, Elizabeth Carlyle served as a parliamentarian. At the meeting NAC resolved to continue to prioritise the

Solidarity Work

campaign against trade liberalization agreements, highlighting the potential impact of such deals on public services like education and health care. At the meeting, Jaime Matten, Women's Representative on the Federation's National Executive, was elected to the position of Vice-President (Young Women).

International Solidarity

CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT BURMESE STUDENT LEADER MIN KO NAING

The International Centre for Human Rights and Democracy, Canadian Friends of Burma and the Burmese Students' Democratic Organisation have undertaken a campaign to free prominent student leader Min Ko Naing.

As chair of the All Burma Students' Union, Min Ko Naing was active in the pro-democracy actions of 1988. He has been a political prisoner in Burma since being sentenced to a ten-year term in 1989. Despite having served the sentence in its entirety, the Burmese government has not released him. Since January 2000, the Federation has participated in the campaign by distributing postcards to member locals across the country.

To mark Min Ko Naing's birthday on October 18, the Federation endorsed a statement from the Canadian Friends of Burma, the All Burma Federation of Student Unions, All Burma Student Democratic Front, Democratic Party for a New Society, National League for Democracy, and Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) calling for his release and the release of the estimated one thousand other student leaders that remain imprisoned in Burma.

MAQUILA SOLIDARITY NETWORK

The Maquila Solidarity Network (MSN) is a Canadian organisation promoting solidarity with groups organizing to improve wages and working conditions in maquiladora factories and export processing zones. This organizing work is

currently being undertaken in Mexico, Central America and Asia. Working to improve wages and working conditions in the maquiladora zones also benefits Canadian workers who often face downward pressure on their own wages in a global economy where firms can threaten to move production to regions where labour is less costly.

In the fall of 1999, the Network began a "No Sweat" campaign to encourage the development of "No Sweat" policies in workplaces and public institutions, including universities and colleges.

Last year, students at the University of Toronto successfully campaigned to win a "No Sweat" policy on their campus. In October, the National Executive resolved to participate in the campaign by distributing materials to members, collecting signatures on a petition calling for mandatory clothing labeling,

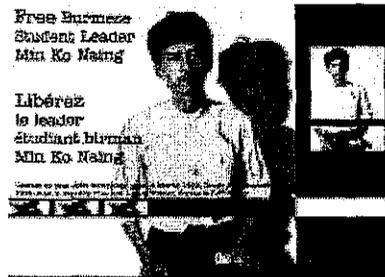
and providing a link to MSN on the Federation's website.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS

The International Union of Students was founded more than 50 years ago with the purpose of promoting universally accessible, publicly funded and democratic post-secondary education.

"Education is a Right, Not a Privilege" serves as its motto. The Federation has been member of the International Union of Students since 1992, held the position of Secretary for Women's Rights and Equality from 1992 to 2000 and currently holds the position of Treasurer on the Executive Secretariat.

The International Union of Students is based in Prague, Czech Republic, where it thrived for more than thirty years in its building on 17th November Street. The street was named to commemorate the massacre of students and others protesting fascism and the beginning of World War II. However, since the decline of the eastern bloc, the International Union of Students 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 14th World Festival of Youth and Students in August 1997. At that time, the Federation renewed its commitment to contribute to the revitalisation of the International Union of Students and to strengthen solidarity among national unions of students.

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, the International Student Council proclaimed November 17 as the International Students' Day. The proclamation was supported by all the wartime, anti-Nazi allied leaders.

This year, member unions of the International Union of Students around the world responded to the events of September 11 by organising forums, marches, vigils and anti-racism campaigns. Accordingly, International Students' Day was marked by an international day of action for Global Peace and Social Justice and by the demonstrations against the G-20, International Monetary Fund and World Bank meetings in Ottawa, Canada.

Highlights of November 17 events held around the world by member unions of the International Union of Students include a cross-country day of action for peace and justice across Canada, a day of action for solidarity and peace organised by the National Union of Students of Switzerland, a national statement by the All Burma Federation of Student Unions, a regional conference and continent-wide day of action in Latin America, a day of action in Nepal, a regional conference hosted by the All-Africa Students' Union, and a national event in Chad.

Urgent Action Campaigns

Through its growing communications network, the IUS publishes an email news bulletin featuring updates and urgent calls for action from students' organisations around the world. Federation member locals are encouraged to participate in letter-writing campaigns and other efforts to oppose repression and human rights abuses. The IUS also shares information on pressing cases with the youth office of Amnesty International and a handful of other international human rights organisations.

As a result of international pressure from organisations such as the IUS and its member unions, 25 political prisoners in the Western Sahara, currently occupied by Morocco, were released in early November 2001.

Further measures are underway to ensure that IUS

member unions without regular access to the Internet are able to participate more effectively in urgent action appeals.

Campaign Against Trade Liberalisation

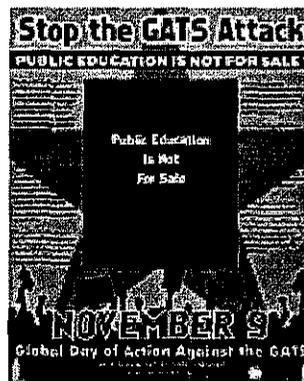
The IUS participated in the international campaign to oppose a new round of GATS negotiations. Member unions were provided with campaign materials and many organised mass events on

November 9, the Global Day of Action for the Stop the GATS campaign.

Another part of the ongoing campaign of the IUS against corporate globalisation is a research project on globalisation and its impacts on post-secondary education. The finished document will include an analysis of global trade talks and their impact on post-secondary education, an assessment of the campaign against the imposition of tuition fees in Europe, as well a documentation of the link between the privatisation of education in Zimbabwe and the subsequent 3000 percent tuition fee hikes in the country.

Campaign to Oppose Racism

From August 31 until September 7, in Durban,



Solidarity Work

South Africa, the United Nations held an international conference dedicated to opposing racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerances.

The conference was the first large-scale anti-racism gathering ever hosted by the United Nations. Despite negative depictions of the conference by commercial media as divided and fractious, government delegations and non-governmental organisations achieved a high degree of consensus on key issues such as the link between racism and poverty, the need for debt cancellation for the world's poorest countries, and a commitment from governments to take action against racism and poverty. At the Conference, Abner Mosaase of the South African Students Congress represented the International Union of Students.

“A Woman’s Place is in Her Students’ Union” Campaign

A campaign kit to help students’ unions implement measures to encourage women’s involvement in every aspect of the student movement will be available for review by member unions of the International Union of Students in early 2002. The launch of the final campaign kit and promotional materials will take place in conjunction with an international youth and students’ leadership conference for women, in August 2002. The conference will be organized in conjunction with Tara International, a leading women’s rights organisation. The IUS will be one of several partner organisations to coordinate the event.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Membership Stability and Growth

For the past five years, the Federation has experienced a level of membership stability unprecedented in its twenty-year history. Since 1996, only two member locals have withdrawn from the Federation and one of those – 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 eight 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. In Alberta, the University of Calgary Graduate Students' Association rejoined the Federation in April and the Alberta College of Art and Design Students' Association is applying for prospective membership at this national general meeting.

With over 60 member locals, it is almost impossible to satisfy all of the Federation's members all of the time. The National Executive works to ensure that concerns raised by any member locals are addressed. Recently, the elected leadership at three member locals expressed concern with their students' union's membership in the Federation. The National Executive is attempting to resolve these concerns.

The following non-member students associations have requested to attend this national general meeting: the University of Toronto Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students; the University of Toronto Students Administrative Council; and the University of Windsor Students' Alliance.

Applications for Prospective Membership

The Alberta College of Art and Design Students' Association is comprised of approximately 900 full and part-time students enrolled at the Alberta College of Art and Design, in Calgary Alberta. The Alberta College of Art and Design was a member of the Federation from 1983 to 1990. Since then, the Students' Association has participated intermittently in Federation campaigns, including Access 2000.

On November 6, 2001 the Association's council voted overwhelmingly to apply for

Membership Development

prospective membership in the Federation. At this national general meeting, the Association's application for membership will be considered.

2001-2002 Member Local Handbook Kit

Most member locals produce handbook/dayplanners each year for their members. These documents provide an excellent opportunity to present the work of the Federation not only locally, but provincially and nationally. To assist locals with the inclusion of provincial and national information, the Federation produces a Member Local Handbook Kit that provides text and camera-ready graphics, which member locals can use to raise the profile of the Federation's campaigns and programmes, as well as current issues affecting post-secondary education.

The 2001-2002 Member Local Handbook Kit was distributed shortly after the May semi-annual national general meeting. For the past two years, the Federation has also produced CD-Rom format logos, ISIC images and photos for use at each member local. Producing local-specific CDs allows the local to use the images throughout the year to create local promotional materials, since each CD contains ISIC images that are created specially for each member local. This year, the look and design of the CDs were greatly improved, but a small number of member locals experienced difficulties with the specific text format employed. A solution has since been found that will allow all member locals to use the text, regardless of their specific computer equipment.

Common Handbook Project

Member locals in British Columbia have coordinated a Common Handbook project since the mid-1990s, in response to the fiscal burden the production of a quality handbook posed for many member locals. The common handbook significantly reduces the unit cost of handbooks for member locals and ensures consistent profile of local, provincial and

national work of the Federation. Each book contains a common Federation section, a customized local section and a calendar section that includes significant dates. The volume of books produced allows for higher quality paper, more colour pages and fewer advertisements while achieving economies of scale in writing and editing, design, printing and binding. These economies of scale have enabled some students' unions to eliminate local advertising from their handbook. Other locals chose to continue to solicit local advertising and thereby reduce their costs even further. This flexibility has proven to be a particularly attractive feature of the project.

In response to the interest generated by the Common Handbook project among member locals outside of British Columbia, the November 2000 national general meeting resolved to significantly expand the project throughout the organization.

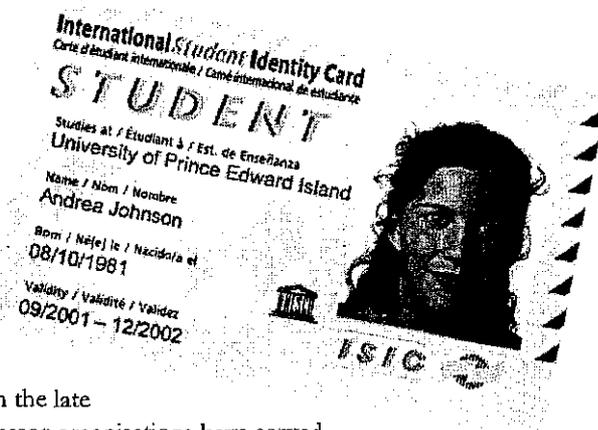
This year, fifteen member locals participated including two locals from outside British Columbia. To-date, six member locals from Ontario, and four member locals from the Maritimes have expressed an interest in participating in the Common Handbook Project for the 2002-2003 year. Under the proposed plan, member locals would be able to take advantage of economies of scale by producing common calendar pages and other information sections common to most local unions. While the option of producing a common cover is available, member locals may also choose to design their own cover and absorb the additional expenses. Strategies to secure national advertising are being developed.

However, by expanding the project, additional expenses will be incurred to ensure that the handbooks reflect the unique characteristics of each province. In order to make the project as successful as previous years, it will require the participation of a critical number of medium and larger student associations. At this meeting member locals will be discussing the project and will be developing strategies to expand participation and lower costs.

PROGRAMMES

International Student Identity Card (ISIC) and Studentsaver

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, Social and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). The UNESCO logo appears on the face of the Card. Since its creation in the late 1960s, the Federation and its predecessor organisations have served as the Canadian agent for the Card.



Subject to the approval of the ISTC, the agent in each country sets the price for the card in that country. The Federation currently charges \$16.00 for the Card, a price that has remained unchanged for close to a decade. For individual Federation members, the Federation covers the cost of cards issued from the membership fees paid by those members. A portion of the fees collected for all the cards issued in Canada is paid to the International Student Travel Confederation.

Because only full-time students are eligible for the ISIC, the Federation also produces and distributes the Studentsaver Card. Studentsaver allows part-time students access to many of the discounts available with the ISIC.

DISTRIBUTION IN CANADA

Prior to 1993, roughly 15,000 cards were issued each year in Canada. Also in 1993, student discounts requiring the ISIC as proof of student status were secured on major domestic air travel routes. This resulted in an immediate and substantial 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, a limited discount was secured with Greyhound Bus Lines of Canada. In 1999 that discount was expanded to provide ISIC holders with a 25 per cent discount on all domestic Greyhound tickets.

By the end of the 2001 issuing year, annual distribution had grown to more than 150,000 cards. Unfortunately, card sales have declined significantly since September 11 as a result of reduced student air travel.

Programmes

PRINTED ISICS

In summer 1998 the International Student Travel Confederation launched the “new generation” ISIC, a higher quality version of the Card with an updated appearance. Prior to 1998, the personal data on the ISICs was either handwritten or typed using a typewriter. The new version of the card allowed for the data to be either hand-written or computer-generated. However, the ISTC also made clear its intention to eliminate the option of issuing hand-written cards by no later than 2002 or 2003 and encouraged its members to start investing in printers for producing the computer-generated data labels for the cards.

For the Federation, the effort to switch to computer-generated labels has been a financial and logistical challenge. Currently, there are more than 75 Federation offices, member student unions and non-member student unions in Canada that issue the ISIC. The Card data label printers cost roughly \$600.00. Since 1999, the Federation has purchased 60 of the printers, 54 of which are currently deployed in ISIC issuing offices. Two printers remain in stock, three are permanently broken and one was “lost” by Air Canada. The offices that have yet to receive printers are primarily those that issue under 200 cards per year or do not have the necessary hardware required by the printer.

While finding the funds to purchase printers was a challenge, an even bigger challenge has been to keep the printers operational. First, the reliability of the particular printers recommended by the ISTC has been a problem. Within months of being deployed several printers ceased to function and were returned to the Federation. In most cases, these printers have been fixed and re-deployed. Second, Cardmaster, the software developed by the ISTC to produce computer-generated labels, has not worked as well as was hoped. The ISTC believes that much of the difficulty with the software can be attributed to Cardmaster being programmed for use with the European English version of Windows 95, rather than the North American English Version. Most of the difficulties

are relatively minor, such as the printer advancing an extra label each time it prints. Consequently the ISTC has no plans to develop a North American English version of the software.

At the previous general meeting it was reported that the Federation had received a grant from the ISTC to develop a new system for producing computer-generated cards. At the time, it was hoped that the new software would be available for use by September, 2001. Unfortunately, the development process has been slower than anticipated and the software was not ready this past September. It is hoped that the software will be available in January.

The biggest challenge, however, has been providing the on-going technical support required with the equipment and software, especially in communities where no Federation provincial office is located. Some of the problems that arise are easily solved over the telephone; others prove more difficult and require the printers to be shipped back to either the national office or the closest provincial office.

FUTURE TECHNOLOGY

In order to automate card distribution even further, the Federation purchased two Fargo Pro-L card printers in April 2000. Unlike the label printers, which only print labels to be manually placed on the ISIC, these printers print digital photos and the cardholder’s information directly onto the card. To-date, the card printers have only been used at special promotional events. Ultimately, it is hoped that some locals will arrange for the ISIC to become the official student card at their institutions, employing the card printer technology.

PROMOTION

In recent years the Federation has worked to increase its promotion of the International Student Identity Card. Since 1999, a variety of high quality ISIC images, customised for each member local association, have been included on the Federation’s annual handbook kit compact disk distributed to member locals. This past summer more images than ever were included in the kit.

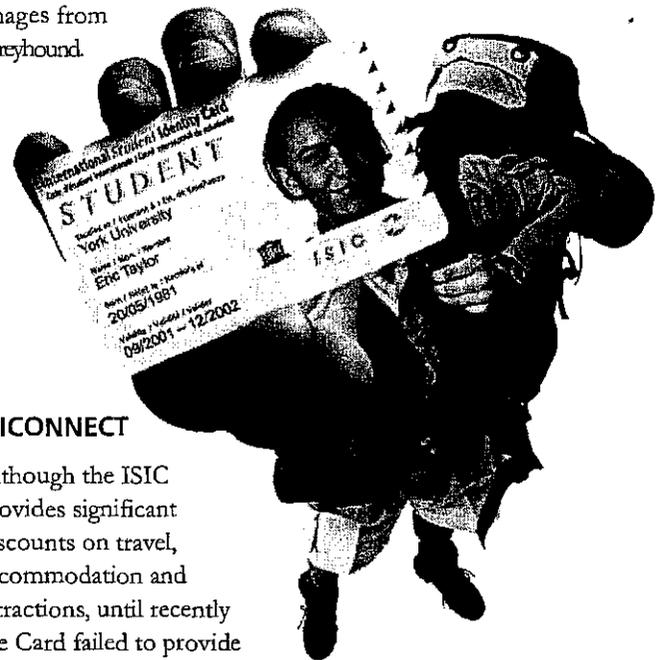
The Federation also promoted the ISIC in the Studentsaver promotional materials. On the roughly 2,500 stickers and window decals distributed to businesses offering Studentsaver/ISIC discounts, there appeared both an image of the Studentsaver Card and the International Student Identity Card. Although Studentsaver discounts had always been available with the ISIC, it is only recently that the Federation has been promoting this widely. The section of the web site listing student discounts has also been revised to make it clear that the discounts are available with the ISIC in addition to the Studentsaver Card.

Each year, the ISTC produces a variety of marketing materials for its members to use to promote the ISIC. Such materials have included 11" x 17" posters as well as larger posters, stickers and a compact disk containing numerous electronic images for ISTC members to develop their own promotional materials. In the past, ISTC members were able to order the specific materials that they wished to use. If a particular promotional material did not fit a member's marketing strategy, the member simply did not have to order that particular material. Historically, the Federation has ordered large quantities of the 11" x 17" posters and used its colour printer/copier to customise the posters for each local that issues the ISIC.

Unfortunately, this year the ISTC altered the distribution system for its promotional materials. Instead of each member customising their order, the ISTC now only ships the materials in pre-packaged "promotional kits". This change has forced the Federation to order excessive quantities of other printed materials in order to receive a sufficient supply of posters. The National Executive is currently developing a strategy to utilise the other materials.

Additionally, the National Executive will be using the electronic images provided by the ISTC to develop promotional materials that highlight the discounts the Federation has negotiated with Via Rail and Greyhound Bus Lines. To assist with the

development of these materials, VIA Rail has provided the Federation with access to its marketing material web site. This site contains a number of stock electronic images that VIA uses in its own promotional material. The Federation is attempting to secure similar images from Greyhound.



ISICONNECT

Although the ISIC provides significant discounts on travel, accommodation and attractions, until recently the Card failed to provide travelling students with any communications related discounts. That has now changed. The ISTC has introduced ISICConnect, a complete communications package tied to the ISIC. Initially, the Federation will be selling ISICConnect packages through its Travel CUTS outlets. Should the package prove popular, distribution may be expanded to include selling the package through member locals. The following are the benefits a student receives when purchasing an ISICConnect package.

Pre-Paid Long Distance

Because of the high cost of using a Canadian calling card when overseas, many travelers now opt to purchase a pre-paid calling card in the country in which they are travelling. Unfortunately, most of these cards only work in the country in which they are purchased. If a student is travelling through several countries they are forced to purchase a different calling card for each country. Given that the full value of a calling card will often not be

Programmes

utilised, a student who is travelling in several countries will waste a significant amount of money.

To address this problem, the ISTC has negotiated with telephone companies in over 60 countries to ensure that the ISIC can serve as a calling card in each of these countries. This will enable students to pre-pay for their long distance calls at their local students' union or any Travel CUTS outlet. Additionally, should the value of the card be depleted, more pre-paid long distance may be purchased at any of the several thousand ISTC affiliated offices around the world.

Voice Mail

A student who is travelling for an extended period of time may find it difficult to receive messages from friends and family. Not having a fixed address and telephone number make it difficult for the student to be contacted directly. In order to allow travelling students to receive messages, the ISTC provides a free voicemail box to any student who purchases an ISICConnect package. By dialing a toll-free number, students can get access to their voicemail messages from any touch-tone telephone.

E-Mail

In addition to voicemail, the ISTC has also introduced a free, web-based e-mail account for ISICConnect customers. While there are numerous free, web-based e-mail accounts available, there are some unique features associated with the ISTC's account that will make it very useful for travelling students.

The account will allow students to check any Post-

Office Protocol mail (POP mail) accounts that the student may have. Additionally, if a student does not have access to the Internet, the ISTC uses text-to-speech software that will convert the e-mail to voicemail and allow the student to listen to e-mail messages from any telephone line.

Travel Safe

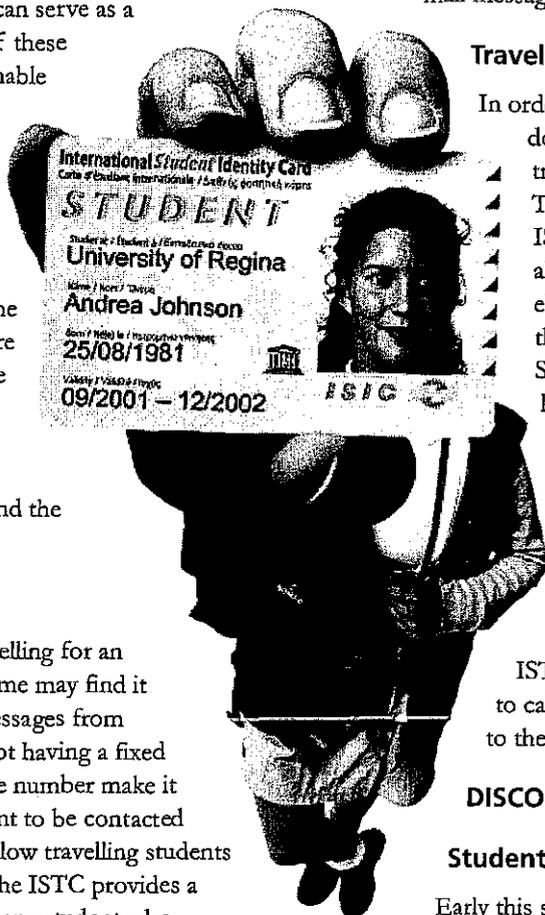
In order to ensure that lost or stolen documents do not ruin a student's trip, the ISTC has introduced Travel Safe as a part of its ISICConnect package. Travel Safe allows students to scan and store electronically any documents that they may require on their travels. Should these documents become lost, the electronic copy can be retrieved from any Internet connection and then taken to the nearest Canadian Consulate for replacement. Should there be no Internet connection through which to retrieve the documents, the ISTC has set up a toll free number to call to have the documents faxed to the nearest consulate.

DISCOUNTS

Student Phones

Early this summer, the National Executive identified cellular telephones as a key area in which to pursue ISIC/Studentsaver discounts.

The Federation has since entered into an agreement with Studentphones, an Irish firm that negotiates deals for students to purchase both cellular telephones and cellular service at highly reduced prices. The Union of Students of Ireland, National Union of Students (U.K) and Union Nationale des Étudiants de France have all reached a similar agreement with Studentphones to provide their members with cellular phone service. All three Unions have expressed satisfaction with the deals that Studentphones was able to secure in their respective countries. Although the deal has yet to be finalised, Studentphones has now reached



an agreement in principle with a telephone company. It is likely that the deal will result in reductions of 10 to 15% in monthly and per minute rates and a substantial discount on the purchase of new cellular phones.

While in the past Studentphones has limited its retail activity to the Internet, the firm has indicated that it would like to open retail outlets in students' union buildings across the country. The Federation will be working with Studentphones to determine suitable locations for these retail outlets.

ISIC AND STUDENTSAVER DISCOUNTS: 2001-2002

The total number of discounts solicited across the country was 2472, more than double the number from the previous year. British Columbia and Ontario continue to lead the country in discount solicitation, though a significant number of discounts were secured in both Québec and Newfoundland and Labrador. Unfortunately, there were several cities where a weakness in discount solicitation persists, including Cranbrook, Calgary, Regina, Brandon and Sault Ste. Marie. The National Executive will be looking at measures to increase the number of discounts in these areas.

For the second year in a row, the Federation compiled all of the discounts in a national discount guidebook. 240,000 copies of the 2001-2002 Studentsaver Guide, with the Studentsaver card

affixed to the cover, were printed and distributed to member locals. An additional 80,000 copies of the booklet, with an "ISIC 2002 Canadian Benefits Guide" cover were printed and distributed to Travel CUTS outlets, VIA Rail and non-member issuing offices.

While all the booklets were printed and bound by the third week in August, only the ISIC 2002 Canadian Benefits Guide was delivered by the printer on time. Most member locals did not

receive their shipments of the Studentsaver booklets until some time after Labour Day because it took close to two week for the Studentsaver cards to be affixed. Apparently the printer did not have a realistic understanding of how long it would take to affix the cards to the booklets, because it had outsourced the work. By the time the National Executive learned of the delays, it was too late for the Federation to take over the work of affixing the cards.

As a result of the delay, many opportunities to insert Studentsaver booklets into local handbooks were missed. A number of member locals have reported receiving materials after orientation week and having many unused books that are now more difficult to distribute.

National Student Health Network

HISTORY OF THE NETWORK

The Early 1980s

In the early 1980's, only a few students' unions offered extended health plans to their members. Generally, the plans were offered by small, local insurance brokers, and no broker represented more than a couple of students' unions. These brokers had neither the understanding of the student market, nor the bargaining power necessary to offer plans at reasonable prices. Indeed, most health plans offered prior to 1987 were more expensive and provided fewer benefits than any of the plans that students' unions currently offer their members. Ultimately, the high cost, combined with the low quality of these early student health plans, led the members of the Federation to create the National Student Health Network in 1985.

The Mid-1980s to the Mid 1990s

Almost immediately, the Network became the country's premiere provider of student health and dental plans. As a result of the Federation's knowledge of the student market, the Network was able to design plans that fit both students'



Programmes

needs and budgets. Soon, almost every Federation member, and even the vast majority of non-members, that offered their members health and dental plans did so through the Network created by the Federation.

As more students' unions opted to offer health plans through the Network, the Federation was able to dramatically reduce the cost of the plans. In some cases, students' unions were able to both improve the coverage they offered their members and reduce the price to as much as one-half the cost of their previous plan. Further, the cost per year of a plan offered through the Network was approximately equal to the monthly cost of a comparable plan if a student were to seek coverage on their own.

In addition to reducing the costs, many features now regarded as standard with health plans were introduced by the Network at this time. Pay-direct cards, dental plans, accidental death and dismemberment insurance, and a tutorial benefit, for students whose ability to function in their normal course load was impaired by accident or illness, were all introduced during this period. Additionally, the Network negotiated with the insurance companies a feature that provided students who already had comparable coverage from another source the ability to "opt-out" of their students' union's plan.

Later, recognising that many students, especially mature students, might have a spouse and/or children who would benefit from coverage under the health plan, the Federation provided students with the ability to opt their children or partners, including same sex partners, into the plan. At the time, the Federation was among the first group insurance providers to recognise same sex relationships. By the early 1990's, these innovations, coupled with the Federation drastically reducing the cost of plans, led to the Network essentially becoming the country's only provider of extended health and dental insurance for students.

The Late 1990's

Unfortunately, the Federation's market dominance was not permanent. In 1995, the Network's broker

since its inception abruptly ended its relationship with the Federation and attempted, often through questionable means, to acquire the clients of the Network¹.

The resulting legal and commercial wrangling created a window of opportunity for other brokers to enter the student market. The first firm to successfully do so was Gallivan and Associates, then a small Waterloo Ontario based firm, which acquired the health plan of the Trent Students' Union in 1995, and the University of Calgary Students' Union in 1996. Ultimately, Gallivan would grow to usurp the Federation's place as the country's largest provider of health and dental insurance for students.

The success of Gallivan in acquiring students' union's health plans emboldened several other firms to begin soliciting student business. Shortly after Gallivan acquired the plans at Trent and University of Calgary, Campbell and Company (since merged with a larger, national firm), also based in Waterloo, Ontario began acquiring the plans of several students' unions in Atlantic Canada.

At approximately the same time, the Alliance pour la santé étudiante au Québec began offering extended health and dental plans to students' unions throughout Québec. While Campbell and Company only acquired a few plans, the Alliance acquired the plans of most students' unions in Québec. An associated firm—studentcare.net/works—acquired the plans at the University of British Columbia, the University of Northern British Columbia, the University of Saskatchewan, Brandon University and Queen's University creating a network comparable to that of Gallivan's.

The growth of Gallivan and the Alliance combined with the Federation's former broker re-emerging in the student market with his post-Federation creation, Campus Trust, heavily divided the client base in the industry. Within the new, highly fragmented market, the Federation was reduced to the role of a bit player, providing plans for only a handful of students' unions. The Network, which once generated a quarter of a million dollars a year for

the other activities of the Federation, drained tens of thousands of dollars in resources each year.

The Present

While the Federation currently provides significantly fewer plans than most of its competitors, due to some internal restructuring the Network's operations no longer result in a net loss each year. However, although the Network is no longer a drain on the Federation's financial resources, it does consume a considerable amount of the organisation's time given its limited usage by Federation members.

NETWORK PARTNERS

Among the providers of extended health and dental insurance in Canada, the Federation is unique in that it is the only provider that believes that there should be no need for individuals to purchase health insurance. A state funded medicare plan should cover all health associated costs. It is only because the country's current medicare system is inadequate that the Federation stepped in to provide students with extended health and dental coverage at an affordable price.

While the Federation is a reluctant provider of student health insurance, its involvement gives the Federation the opportunity to have a positive impact on the industry. Recently, the Federation has been making commercial decisions that allow its unique philosophy within the industry to become more prominent. No decisions better reflect this shift in commercial strategy than the decisions regarding with whom the Federation does business.

Heath-Lambert Benefits Consulting

The Federation retains the services of Heath-Lambert Benefits Consulting to negotiate with carriers and analyse claims data on behalf of the Federation. Heath-Lambert is the Canadian division of Heath International, the world's largest benefits consultant. Although it may seem a

strange fit, the choice of Heath-Lambert makes a fair amount of sense. The bulk of the firm's clients, especially in Canada, are public sector organisations such as school boards and the staff of various provincial and federal ministries. Additionally, the Director of the firm's Toronto office has, in the past, served on several public health boards and been active in several causes for which the Federation has also worked.

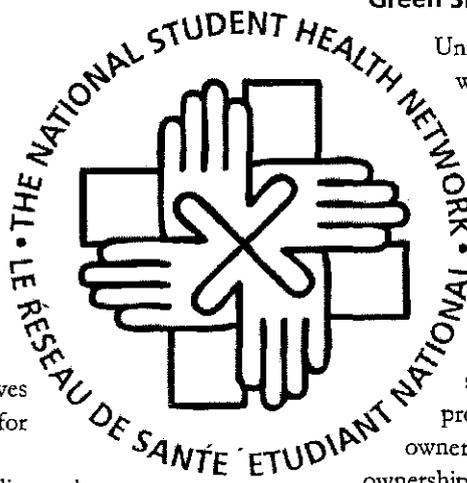
Green Shield

Until recently, insurance carriers were owned by their individual policyholders and did not issue shares for purchase by the general public. In 1998, the federal government introduced changes that allowed insurance carriers to list on stock exchanges and allow the public to buy and sell shares in the company. The process of moving from ownership by policyholder to

ownership by shareholder is referred to as de-mutualisation. Most of Canada's large insurance company's have now completed de-mutualisation processes.

As a result of de-mutualisation, insurance companies have become less focused on customer service and more focused on their annual profits. The largest of Canada's insurance carriers, Sun Life, had a profit in excess of \$1 billion in its most recent fiscal year and, as a rule, the insurance industry is second only to the banking industry in terms of annual profit.

Historically, the Federation provided plans offered by five carriers: Sun Life; Canada Life; Seaboard Life; Great-West Life; and Clarica. All of these firms recently completed the de-mutualisation process, and de-mutualisation has caused significant rate increases for Network members. This led the Federation to search for an alternative to traditional insurance carriers. Ultimately, it was decided that the Federation should work with an organisation called Green Shield to provide students with less expensive extended health and dental insurance.



Programmes

Green Shield is the only national not-for-profit insurance carrier. Originally created by the Canadian Auto Workers so that its members insurance benefits would not contribute to the profit of large corporations, Green Shield has grown to rival the country's largest carriers in size, while retaining its not-for-profit status.

Because Green Shield does not focus primarily on increasing its ever expanding profit margin and shareholder value, its rates are consistently lower than those of its competitors. Additionally, the Federation is able to do business with an organisation that shares much of its philosophy. For example, when the Mulroney government proposed legislation that extended the time that pharmaceutical companies were able to offer their drugs without a generic alternative, Green Shield provided the bulk of the funding for the group opposing the legislation.

The Federation is currently in the process of transferring each of its health plans from its current carrier to Green Shield. By the beginning of May, it is likely that only the University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union and the University of Western Ontario Society of Graduate Students will have plans with carriers other than Green Shield.

NETWORK PHILOSOPHY

Most of the Federation's competition attempt to offer health plans that, at first glance, appear to be similar to the Federation's, but at a lower price. However, these plans reduce the premium that students pay by subtly reducing the coverage that students receive.

Historically, the Federation has taken a different approach. Students purchase insurance so that if they become ill or injured they will not be required to pay significant medical costs out of pocket. Therefore the Federation has attempted to make its coverage incredibly broad-based. The following are examples of the differences in approach between the Federation and its competitors.

Formularies

A formulary is a list of drugs that are covered

under a particular insurance plan. If a broker employs a formulary, a student will pay the full cost of any drug not listed in the formulary. Although they may use terms such as "premium stabilisation formula" rather than formulary, each of the Federation's competitors employs a formulary known as the National Formulary. While it is updated periodically, the National Formulary was created approximately thirty years ago and is designed to ensure that the medicine that is most often prescribed to individuals in their late 50's and early 60's is covered under an insurance plan.

Although the use of a formulary can dramatically reduce the cost of a plan, the Federation has resisted the use of formularies, believing that doctors and not insurance companies should determine which medication will best treat an injury or illness. However, this has resulted in the Federation's competitors accusing the Federation of overcharging students.

Managed Health and Dental Care

In order to reduce the claims made against a health plan, and therefore the costs associated with it, some brokers have begun to employ managed health and dental plans. A managed plan only provides coverage if students use a health practitioner who has been approved by the broker. With these plans, brokers are able to pre-select health care practitioners who are most likely to select the cheapest method of treatment.

Historically, the Federation has refused to provide plans on a managed care basis, believing that the selection of a health care practitioner is a matter of personal choice and that forcing students to select from a list of pre-approved practitioners is highly intrusive. Once again, the provision of expanded services has led to the Federation's competitors accusing the Federation of overcharging for its plans.

Generic Drugs

One area in which the Federation is working to reduce the cost of its health and dental plans is by

increasing the use of generic drugs as opposed to brand name versions. Generic drugs contain the same medicinal ingredients as the brand name version but are usually only a fraction of the cost. The Federation is currently working with Green Shield to develop a plan under which pharmacists would be obligated to provide the generic version of a drug if one is available. Once implemented, this system will reduce the cost of claims, and therefore the cost of coverage, without a corresponding reduction in service.

NEW SERVICES

Pharmex

The Federation has launched a pilot-project at the University of Toronto with a "virtual pharmacy" called Pharmex. Prescription drop-boxes have been placed throughout the University of Toronto campus. Students who have been prescribed medication can drop the prescription in the box. Within twenty-four hours, Pharmex will deliver the prescription to the students' homes. If a student is merely renewing a prescription that has previously been filled by Pharmex, they may order the prescription via telephone or the World Wide Web. Pharmex charges a significantly lower dispensing fee than a traditional pharmacy, thereby saving students money on their prescriptions as well as reducing the amount of claims paid out by the plan.

Pooling of Premiums

The Federation currently provides health and dental insurance to a number of smaller students' unions such as the University of King's College Students' Union, the Students' Union of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and the University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society. Because only a small number of students are enrolled in the plan, one or two students developing a serious illness or injury can easily result in the claims paid out by the carrier exceeding the premium it collects. Until recently, the Federation has been unable to offer much relief to smaller students' unions unless there was another students' union nearby with an identical plan design.

With Green Shield, each year the Federation will be provided with a single renewal amount that will be equivalent to the total amount of premium that Green Shield wishes to receive from Network members. The Federation will then be responsible for setting premiums at each campus so that the total premium collected matches Green Shield's request. Green Shield will continue to provide the claim history on a campus-by-campus basis to assist the Federation in setting the rates.

This system will allow the Network to pool several small student's unions plans together, even if the coverage is dramatically different. In this manner, smaller students' unions will be protected from a sudden massive rate increase. This "pooling of premiums" will be attempted, on a trial basis, with several Ontario graduate students' unions in the upcoming academic year.

POOLING OF PREMIUMS: PROGRESS TO DATE

Local 7-Nova Scotia School of Art & Design / Atlantic School of Theology

Local 7 and the Atlantic School of Theology have a joint plan. This year there has been a smooth transition from Canada Life to Green Shield. The Network and Heath were able to provide a modest change to the plan design in order to improve the dental benefits. The Network is working on a locally provided opt-out system for 2002.

Local 8-University of Winnipeg Students' Association

Local 8 had a smooth transition to Green Shield. This year Local 8 and the Network are experimenting with two changes to the fee collection of health plan premiums. First, refunds of the administration fee are not being provided to students who opt-out. Second, an extra fee is being charged for part-time students who opt-in. So far the Network has not received any negative feedback as a result of the changes.

Local 11-King's College Students' Union

Local 11 is in its second year with Green Shield; the plan is running smoothly.

Programmes

Local 19-University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union

Local 19 is the only member of the Network not with Green Shield for the 2001-2002 year. Plans to be online with Green Shield for Sept 2002 are underway. This fall Local 19 implemented a new drug delivery system through Pharmex. Most likely Pharmex will assist with cost containment, though it is currently too early to know.

Local 20-Nipissing University Student Union

Local 20 had a smooth transition to Green Shield.

Local 27-Queen's Society of Graduate and Professional Students

Local 27 attended the Network User Group meeting for the first time this year. It has switched carriers to Green Shield, and the transition has gone well so far.

Local 44-University of Victoria Students' Society

Local 44 has changed carriers to Green Shield. Currently there are difficulties convincing the University of Victoria's administration to release required information. Specifically, the University believes that it may not be permissible to release gender and birth date information under BC's privacy protection legislation. Gender and birth dates are important because they assist in preventing fraud.

Local 47-University of Western Ontario Society of Graduate Students

Local 47 switched to Green Shield for September 2001. There has been a great deal of work to ensure that the specialized drug formulary that was developed when the plan was with Canada Life is maintained by Green Shield. This effort was completed last week.

Local 48-University of Windsor Society of Graduate and Professional Students

Local 48 joined the Network this year. They have a history with Green Shield, so transition has been simple. On September 25 and 26, Local 48 ran a

successful referendum to add a dental program, extended health benefits, and accidental death and dismemberment.

Local 89-University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Local 89 shares a health plan with Local 44, but offers its own dental program.

Local 94-University of Ottawa Graduate Students' Association des étudiant(e)s diplômé(e)s

This is the first year that Local 94 has worked with the network; previously the Local worked exclusively with Heath Lambert. Local 94 VP-Internal Mark Spooner attended the 2001 User Group meeting. Local 94 has also experienced a smooth transition to Green Shield.

Northern College-South Porcupine Campus

Northern College had a smooth transition to Green Shield.

Royal Road's University

Royal Road's joined the Network this summer. Royal Road's is pooled with Locals 44 and 89 in a Victoria-wide plan. While there were numerous challenges with start-up, most have been resolved.

NEGOTIATION WITH OTHER BROKERS

The Federation has arranged to have Heath-Lambert, at the request of a member local, send a representative to negotiate on its behalf with its existing broker. In this manner, the Federation will ensure that its competitors are not harming the interests of any of the Federation's locals.

Student Work Abroad Program (SWAP)

Over the past two years, the Federation has made a concerted effort to expand the destinations it offers with its Student Work Abroad Programme. However, the process of establishing a reciprocal work exchange programme can be rather time-

consuming. Often, the Federation will be dealing with government officials unfamiliar with the concept of reciprocal work exchange programmes. As a result, it can often take several years to educate bureaucrats in other countries about the benefits of such programmes.

Fortunately, the Federation enjoys a strong relationship with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and is able to quickly receive government approval when attempting to ensure that students from other countries will be granted Canadian work visas. The following are updates on the most likely destinations to be added to the Federation's Student Work Abroad Programme. Of course, it remains to be seen whether heightened security and tighter immigration laws will delay the launch of any of these new destinations.

ITALY

The Federation has partnered with the Italian students' travel bureau and is working to establish a reciprocal work exchange programme. Although the Canadian government has indicated a willingness to allow Italian students to pursue short-term work opportunities in Canada, current Italian labour laws preclude the short term hiring of non-Italian citizens. The Federation's partner organisation is currently seeking to have students on work exchange programmes exempted from this law. It is hoped that the Federation will be able to offer Italy as a SWAP destination in September, 2003.

SPAIN

The Spanish government has expressed some reservations about the ability of the country's casual labour market to absorb several hundred Canadian students each year. However, the government has also recognised that Spanish students would benefit greatly from being able to participate in a work exchange programme in Canada. As a result, it

is likely that a small pilot project will be undertaken in September, 2002.

NETHERLANDS

On two separate occasions, the Federation has been able to offer the Netherlands as a SWAP destination. Each time, the programme ended in failure as a result of strict work visa regulations established by the Dutch government. Fortunately, the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade has been intervening on behalf of the Federation. Although all the new regulations have not been finalised, it is very likely that the Federation will be offering the Netherlands as a SWAP destination by September, 2002.



MEXICO

The Mexican government has agreed to offer student work visas to Canadian students. However, there is concern that there will be lengthy delays between a student receiving a job offer from a Mexican firm and the Mexican government issuing a work permit to that student. As a result, the Federation has opted to delay the launch of SWAP

Mexico until these logistical difficulties are eliminated.

COSTA RICA

The Costa Rican government has agreed to offer student work visas to Canadian students. However, the Federation's partner organisation does not yet have support services in place for Canadian students hoping to work in Costa Rica. It is hoped that SWAP Costa Rica will be launched in the summer of 2002.

GHANA

The Federation has received preliminary approval for the programme from the government of Ghana. The Federation is still working with its partner organisation in Ghana to ensure that the necessary support will be in place for Canadian

Programmes

students.

SWAP Ghana is more complicated and will likely be more expensive because the orientation provided by the Federation's partner organisation to students upon their arrival will likely be four-to-five days rather than the standard 24-48 hours. British students have been participating in a similar programme for several years and the Federation has been advised by its partner in Britain that the longer orientation period is required to ensure that students are sufficiently familiar with local customs.

OTHER ISSUES

Issuing of Canadian work visas

Recently, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade approached the Federation about the possibility of the Federation directly approving work visas to students from the United States, rather than having staff at Canadian consulates in the United States undertake this work. Initially, the Federation indicated that it did not have the necessary staffing resources to undertake this additional work.

However, given the increased scrutiny under which Canada's immigration laws have been placed, it is unlikely that the department is still interested in such a proposal.

International Association of work exchange programmes (IAWep)

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 Steering Committee of the International Student Travel Confederation.

2001-2002 Students' Union Directory

The Federation has published the Students' Union Directory since 1981. It is a unique document containing information about the various students' unions across the country. Over the years the

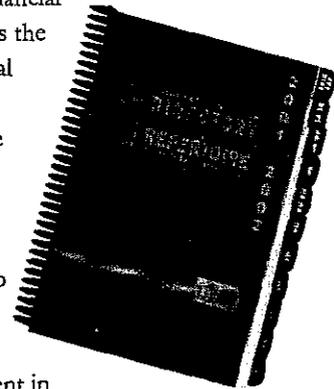
Directory has been expanded to include information on government contacts, social justice organizations and campus newspapers and radio stations. Tabs have been added to allow easier access to designated sections and the glue binding has been replaced with coil binding. The same data-entry and design company hired for the previous two years was re-hired to produce this year's directory.

The 2001-2002 Directory includes a section, added last year, on Student Financial Assistance offices across the country as well as federal government contact information. As was the case last year, local students' union information includes email addresses and web site information.

Students' unions across Canada have been diligent in forwarding local information to the Federation for inclusion in the Directory. As a result, the Directory has been expanded by nearly twenty pages. Finally, the metal coil binding used last year has been replaced with a plastic coil binding that will help extend the life of the Directory.

In the last year a number of member locals have expressed interest in receiving an electronic version of the Students' Union Directory. In this regard, the National Executive is exploring options for both web-based and CD-Rom formats. Given the costs associated with collecting the data, the Federation is working to ensure that a private sector company would not be able to use the Federation's research to produce a competing publication.

In an attempt to increase sales and distribution of the Directory, the cost of the publication was substantially reduced in 1999-2000. The Federation has maintained the lower price and has also promoted the directory more aggressively. As a result, over the past two years, sales of the Directories to member locals have more than doubled.





Canadian Universities Travel Service Board Composition

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

At-Large Member	Elizabeth Carlyle
At-Large Member	Joey Hansen
National Executive Representative	Jen Anthony
National Executive Representative	Ian Boyko
National Executive Representative	Jess Turk-Browne
Staff Representative	Robert Keddy
Staff Representative	Monica Miller
Travel CUTS President (non-voting)	J. Rodney Hurd

Financial Issues

2000-2001 FISCAL YEAR RESULTS

The company ended the fiscal year quite strongly. Gross sales reached nearly \$220 million – a ten percent increase over the previous year. Unfortunately, higher than anticipated costs have meant that the company was not able to match the record profit of the previous year. However, the company did achieve its targeted profit level.

2001-2002 FISCAL YEAR

Unfortunately, the events of September in the United States of America have had a dramatic impact on the company's finances. Industry-wide, sales in North America are at about seventy-five percent of their normal levels. Although an accurate picture of the short-term effects of September 11 on the company will not be known until after the company's second quarter ends on December 31, it is anticipated that the company's sales for the quarter will be significantly less than the budgeted amount.

Compounding the problem is recent bankruptcy of Canada 3000, the country's second largest airline. The demise of Canada 3000 will result in Air Canada or its subsidiaries providing the only domestic service to most Canadian destinations. It remains to be seen whether Air Canada's new monopoly will have an effect on the continuation of domestic Student Class Airfares.

Operational Issues

UPDATE ON CANADIAN OFFICES

The downturn in the travel industry has affected the company's short and medium range plans. The company's senior management is currently drafting revised expansion plans.

UPDATE ON UNITED STATES OFFICES

During the 2000-2001 year, the company's operations in the United States of America generated a small profit for the first time. Unfortunately, the events of September 11 in the US have meant that the operations will likely sustain a significant loss in the current fiscal year.

UPDATE ON UNITED KINGDOM OFFICES

For the last several years high rents at the company's Regent Street office, the largest office in the UK, have resulted in the company's UK operations losing a small amount of money each year. However, in the last twelve months, there has been a significant decline, industry-wide, in sales in the United Kingdom. This has exacerbated the UK operations' financial difficulties. The CUTS Board is currently reviewing options to mitigate the losses in the United Kingdom.

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 2001-2002 term:

Aboriginal Students' Representative	Anthony Nelson
Alberta Representative	Monique Tuffs
British Columbia Representative	Anita Zaenker
Francophone Students' Representative	Marie Lyne Laliberté
Graduate Students' Representative	Joel Duff
Manitoba Representative	Krishna Lalbiharie
National Chairperson	Ian Boyko
National Deputy Chairperson	Jen Anthony
National Treasurer	Jess Turk-Browne
Newfoundland-Labrador Representative	Keith Dunne
Nova Scotia Representative	Mike MacSween
Ontario Representative	Rick Telfer
Prince Edward Island Representative	Vacant
Québec Representative	Geneva Guerin
Saskatchewan Representative	Roberta Lexier
Students of Colour Representative	Rob Mealey
Women's Representative	Jaime Matten

In September, Ardath Whynacht resigned from her position as Nova Scotia Representative for the 2001-2002 term. Subsequently, Nova Scotia locals elected Mike MacSween as the Representative for the remainder of the 2001-2002 term.

Earlier this month, Geneva Guerin was elected as the new Québec Representative on the National Executive. She replaces Linda Charbonneau who had been elected last spring by the member locals in Québec to be the Representative.

The position of Prince Edward Island Representative on the National Executive has been vacant since the previous national general meeting. A by-election for the position will be conducted at this national general meeting.

Federation Staffing

A few changes to the composition of the Federation's staff complement have occurred during the past six months.

Internal Affairs

Immediately prior the national general meeting in May, Allison North was hired as the Newfoundland and Labrador Organiser for the Federation. Allison is a former Newfoundland and Labrador Chairperson of the Federation. In July, Theresa Sabourin was hired to fill the vacant Maritimes Organiser position for the Federation. Theresa previously held several elected positions at Local 44 and on the British Columbia Executive of the Federation. In September, Michael Conlon was hired as a Researcher in the Federation's National Office. Michael previously served as President of Local 89, as Chair of the Federation's National Graduate Caucus and as National Chair of the Federation.

The National Executive is planning to advertise and hire for the vacant Government Relations Coordinator and Communications Coordinator positions within the next two months.

No Logo . . . Yet

The May 2001 national general meeting resolved that a new Federation logo be developed in which the text of the names "Canadian Federation of Students" and the "Fédération canadienne des étudiantes et étudiants" are the same size and, if an acronym is used, the French version of the acronym be "FCÉE".

At its meeting in July, the National Executive resolved to seek ideas and submissions from the member locals and, in the event of insufficient options, to commission a logo from a graphic design firm. The call for submissions was announced to the member locals in early September.

To-date a few submissions have been received, but less than was hoped would be. At its upcoming meeting in January, the National Executive will review those submissions and determine whether there is a need to pursue other options.

National Office Space

In 1991, the Federation secured space for its national office at 170 Metcalfe Street, in Ottawa. For the subsequent five years, the Federation

occupied roughly 40 percent of one floor of the building. In 1996, the Federation closed its "Programs" office in Toronto, consolidating all national operations (other than the National Student Health Network) in Ottawa. In order to accommodate the additional functions in Ottawa, the Federation entered into a five-year lease to occupy an entire floor of the building (roughly 5,000 square feet).

The Federation exercised its option last December to renew the office lease for the subsequent five-year period: July 2001 to June 2006. Unfortunately, the lease came due at a time when office space in Ottawa was extremely scarce and therefore expensive. Consequently, the lease was renewed at a rate nearly double that which the Federation had previously been paying. The National Executive will be considering options, such as subletting a portion of the space, to address the increased financial burden placed on the Federation,

Bylaw / Policy Manual

At the May 1994 national general meeting, it was resolved to issue customised binders to each member local and provincial office, containing the Federation's constitution, bylaws, standing resolutions, operational policies and issues policies. Instead of providing each local with a new, complete set of standing documents after each national general meeting, only the amended portions would be issued for insertion into the applicable sections of the manual.

Each member local and provincial office was asked to maintain the binder by ensuring that any outdated sections were replaced with the current versions. Amongst other things, the manual is intended to ensure that member locals have the necessary documents to be active and effective members of the Federation. Unfortunately, since the manuals were first issued in 1995, many binders have been lost or have become incomplete and out-of-date. At this national general meeting, new binders and standing documents will be issued to each member local and provincial office.

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 \$2.3 million – an amount slightly smaller than the budget of the Federation's larger member locals. Four months have now passed since the close of the 2000-2001 fiscal year. During this time a more detailed picture of the previous fiscal year has emerged; however, some revenue figures, such as those for membership fees, are not yet finalised.

MEMBERSHIP FEES COLLECTION

Membership fee collection for the 2000-2001 fiscal year has been positive. At this point \$1,472,727.41 in membership fees have been collected, roughly 109.1% of the amount budgeted for the year. A small portion of 2000-2001 fees remain outstanding.

PROGRAMME AND TRAVEL CUTS REVENUE

ISIC Revenue

During the past year, the Federation generated gross revenue of \$25,000,368.26 in ISIC sales. From this amount, the Federation spent close to \$20,689,754.36 to purchase the cards from the ISTC and to pay commissions to Travel CUTS, VIA Rail and the other organisations that issue the cards on behalf of the Federation. In addition, there were a number of other administrative and promotional expenses for the Card. Finally, some revenues were used to fund joint costs of the ISIC-Studentsaver expenses related to the community-based discount programme.

During the past year, some of the costs associated with the discount programme were significantly higher than had been projected. For the 2000-2001 fiscal year, the Federation expanded the promotional efforts for the programme. The Canada-wide discount guidebook was reintroduced after an absence of several years.

Unfortunately, the printing and shipping costs for the guidebook were higher than anticipated. Fortunately increased ISIC sales offset some of the additional costs associated with the expansion of the Studentsaver programme.

National Student Health Network

The Federation and Health Benefits Consulting share in equal proportions the

commission paid by members of the National Student Health Network. Commission levels are set as a percentage of the premium paid by plan members. Because the Federation was able to negotiate lower than anticipated rates with several of its plan members, the Federation earned slightly less than the projected administrative fee revenue. Fortunately, this reduction in revenue was offset by lower than anticipated expenses for the Network.

As a result, the Federation revenue generated was sufficient to offset the expenses the Federation incurred to operate the Network.

Students' Union Directory

Gross sales of the Students' Union Directory totaled \$7,605, up from \$6,736 in 1999-2000. To-date, \$6,751.56 of the amount has been collected.

Student Traveler Magazine

Net revenue for the Student Traveler was \$57,679, slightly more than \$20,000 above projection.

Revenue from Travel CUTS

Net finders' fee revenue was \$552,998, approximately 20% higher than projected.

For the 2000-2001 fiscal year, spending in most areas was close to budget projection with only a few exceptions such as membership drives, campaigns and general meeting expenses.

During the 2000-2001 year there were membership drives at University College of Cape Breton Students' Union, University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association and University of Calgary Graduate Students' Association and a membership re-affirmation referendum at Carleton University Graduate Students' Association. Expenses for the membership referenda campaigns were \$44,943. The expenses for the membership campaigns at the University College of Cape Breton Students' Union and University of Calgary Graduate Students' Association were particularly high because the total expense was assumed by the national budget solely, rather than being offset in part by a provincial budget of the Federation.

One of the key campaign expenses for the year consisted of costs associated with efforts to promote post-secondary education during the November 2000 federal election. Significant funds were also expended highlighting the threat to public post-secondary education by international trade agreements. Additional campaign resources were also directed towards a variety of awareness campaigns.

2001-2002 Fiscal Year

Though it is far too soon to predict the extent, the events on September 11, 2001 in the United States of America will have a significant negative impact on the Federation's budget for the current fiscal year and likely for years to come. The Federation derives roughly 30 percent of its income directly from Travel CUTS through the finder's fee. In addition, another 15 percent is generated from the sale of International Student Identity Cards. Any significant reduction in travel will reduce both finder's fee revenue and ISIC sales revenue.

In addition it will be necessary to make a larger capital investment in Travel CUTS than in most years. The Federation invests money in CUTS through the purchase of new shares in order to provide sufficient funds for the orderly growth of the company. In recent years, the capital investment has been more modest because CUTS has been generating a profit. However, a decline in business could result in losses for the company, thereby requiring the Federation to make a more significant investment.

MEMBERSHIP FEE ISSUES

Fee Adjustments for Consumer price index change

In 1992, the Federation's member locals voted to increase the Federation's national fee 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 for inflation 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	% of Previous Year's CPI	Federation Fiscal Year	Adjusted Fee
1994	n/a	1995-96	\$3.00
1995	102.14	1996-97	\$3.06
1996	101.57	1997-98	\$3.12
1997	101.62	1998-99	\$3.16
1998	101.01	1999-2000	\$3.20
1999	102.58	2000-2001	\$3.28
2000	103.22	2001-2002	\$3.38

As the table illustrates, the Federation's national membership fee for the 2001-2002 academic year is \$3.38 per student per semester. In late January, Statistics Canada released the 2000 CPI figure, thereby allowing for the calculation of the fee for the 2001-2002 academic year. 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 National Executive. It is the National Executive's understanding that the correct, adjusted fee is being collected by the vast majority of member locals.

STATUS OF MEMBERSHIP FEE ADJUSTMENTS

Entering the 2000-2001 year, four member locals were still collecting only the original membership fee of \$2.00 per student per semester, even though it had been eight years since the membership voted that the fee be increased to \$3.00 per student per semester. They were:

- Carleton University Students' Association;
- Marine Institute Students' Union;
- Wilfrid Laurier University Graduate Students' Association; and
- York Federation of Students.

During the 2000-2001 year, Locals 1 and 56 took the necessary steps to implement the adjusted fee for the 2001-2002 academic year. Indications are that both locals will be remitting the correct fee this semester.

In 1996-97 Local 45 indicated to the Federation that the appropriate internal mechanisms had been implemented to collect the adjusted Federation membership fee effective September 1997. However, the correct fee has yet to be remitted to the Federation. Indications are that the current leadership of the Local will be endeavouring to correct the problem during the current academic year.

Local 68 is now the only member local not taking steps to collect the correct base membership fee. In 1993, Local 68 implemented the increase and collected the correct amount in Federation fees for the 1993-94 and 1994-95 years. Unfortunately, during the 1994-95 year, the newly-elected leadership of the Local reversed the adjustment. For the 1995-96 year and all subsequent years the Local collected only \$2.00 per student per semester on behalf of the Federation. As the following chart illustrates, the Local owes the Federation more than \$280,000 as a result.

Academic Year	Fees Owed	Fees Remitted	Balance Owed
1994-1995	121,848.09	121,848.09	0.00
1995-1996	119,688.38	79,792.25	39,896.13
1996-1997	124,273.12	81,224.26	82,944.98
1997-1998	128,671.87	82,481.97	129,134.89
1998-1999	131,409.37	83,170.49	177,373.77
1999-2000	135,321.52	84,575.95	228,119.34
2000-2001	142,332.37	86,788.03	283,663.68
Total	903,544.72	619,881.04	283,663.68

This amount is expected to grow to more than \$365,000 by the end of the year.

APPENDIX I

MEETINGS WITH AND SUBMISSIONS TO GOVERNMENT

MEETING: Alexa McDonough, MP
DATE: May 16, 2001
SUBJECTS: Federation's 2001-2002 Campaigns

MEETING: Norman Ridell, CEO, Millennium Scholarship Foundation (MSF)
DATE: May 18, 2001
SUBJECTS: Millennium Scholarships in Nova Scotia, Private Sector Contributions to the Foundation

MEETING: Standing Committee on Human Resources Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities
DATE: May 29, 2001
SUBJECTS: Accessibility, Registered Education Savings Plans, Grants Programs

MEETING: New Democratic Party Federal Caucus
DATE: June 6, 2001
SUBJECTS: International Trade Agreements

MEETING: Sheamus Murphy, Student Liaison Officer, MSF
DATE: July 12, 2001
SUBJECTS: Millennium Foundation's Research Project and Results

MEETING: Loyola Hearn, MP; Val Meredith, MP
DATE: July 20, 2001
SUBJECTS: Accessibility, student debt

MEETING: Jane Stewart, HRDC Minister
DATE: August 1, 2001
SUBJECTS: Registered Education Savings Plans, Registered Individual Learning Accounts

MEETING: Human Resources and Development Canada
DATE: August 14, 2001
SUBJECTS: Federal Government "Skills Agenda"

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MEETING: Edulinx Corp.
DATE: August 23, 2001
SUBJECTS: Transition, Transparency, Accountability

MEETING: Government Caucus on Post Secondary Education
DATE: August 25, 2001
SUBJECTS: Grants, Federal Funding, Credit Checks on Canada Student Loans, Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, National Standards

MEETING: David Cogliati
DATE: September 10, 2001
SUBJECTS: Transition to Private Service Providers

MEETING: Wayne Easter, MP
DATE: October 2, 2001
SUBJECTS: Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, Millennium Scholarship Foundation

MEETING: Andy Scott, MP
DATE: October 2, 2001
SUBJECTS: Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, Millennium Scholarship Foundation

MEETING: National Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance
DATE: October 22, 2001
SUBJECTS: Private Service Provision, Debt Remission, Harmonisation

MEETING: Dr. Carolyn Bennett, MP
DATE: October 23, 2001
SUBJECTS: Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, Millennium Scholarship Foundation

MEETING: Pierre Pettigrew, Minister of International Trade
DATE: October 26, 2001
SUBJECTS: General Agreement on Trade in Services

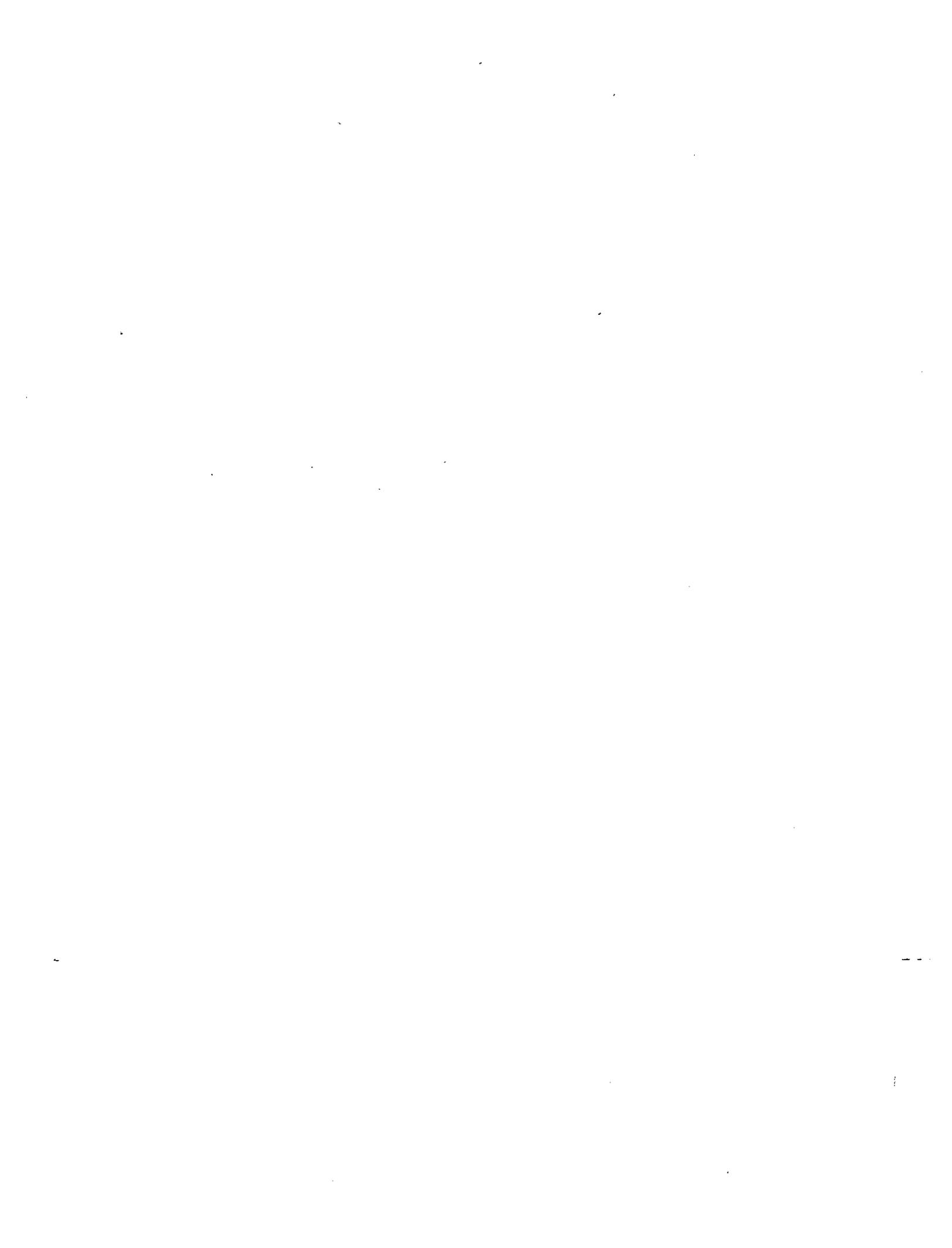
MEETING: Standing Committee on Finance
DATE: October 30, 2001
SUBJECTS: Federation submission to the Standing Committee for Budget 2001

MEETING: Standing Committee on Human Resources and Persons with Disabilities
DATE: October 30, 2001
SUBJECTS: Transition to Private Service Providers

MEETING: Paul Martin, Finance Minister
DATE: November 8, 2001
SUBJECTS: Upcoming Group of 20 Meeting and Aftermath of September 11

MEETING: David Brodie, Assistant to Paul Martin
DATE: November 8, 2001
SUBJECTS: Federation submission to the Standing Committee
for Budget 2001

MEETING: Alexa McDonough, MP; Joe Comartin, MP and
Dick Proctor, MP
DATE: November 9, 2001
SUBJECTS: Canada's position at the WTO Ministerial Meeting
in Qatar



APPENDIX II

MEDIA INTERVIEWS

The following is a list of all media coverage centrally generated at the national level by the Federation between the previous National General Meeting, May 9 to 12, 2001 and the National General Meeting held from November 21 to 24, 2001. For the purposes of this report, media includes television, radio, and print media.

MEDIA OUTLET:	Canadian Press
DATE:	May 14, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Tuition fees and student debt
MEDIA OUTLET:	Ottawa Citizen
DATE:	May 15, 2001
SUBJECTS:	American/International student user fees
MEDIA OUTLET:	Daily Gleaner - Fredericton
DATE:	May 16, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Tuition fee increases at St. Thomas University
MEDIA OUTLET:	CJAM* – University of Windsor
DATE:	May 16, 2001
SUBJECTS:	2001-2002 Campaigns & Government Relations Strategy
MEDIA OUTLET:	Globe & Mail
DATE:	May 22, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Call for a public inquiry into security measures taken at the Quebec City Summit of the Americas
MEDIA OUTLET:	CBC Newsworld
DATE:	May 22, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Call for a public inquiry into security measures taken at the Quebec City Summit of the Americas
MEDIA OUTLET:	Ottawa Citizen
DATE:	May 22, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Call for a public inquiry into security measures taken at the Quebec City Summit of the Americas
MEDIA OUTLET:	City TV
DATE:	May 22, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Call for a public inquiry into security measures taken at the Quebec City Summit of the Americas
MEDIA OUTLET:	Edmonton Journal
DATE:	June 4, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Student representation on faculty hiring committees
MEDIA OUTLET:	CBC Radio – Quebec City
DATE:	June 5, 2001
SUBJECTS:	International student user fees

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MEDIA OUTLET: CBC Television – Toronto
DATE: June 19, 2001
SUBJECTS: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
Education Report

MEDIA OUTLET: Canadian Press
DATE: June 22, 2001
SUBJECTS: Student airline fees

MEDIA OUTLET: Charlatan* – Carleton University
DATE: July 11, 2001
SUBJECTS: Release of Free Trade Area of the Americas texts

MEDIA OUTLET: National Post
DATE: July 11, 2001
SUBJECTS: Council of Ontario Universities equity survey

MEDIA OUTLET: Ottawa Citizen
DATE: July 16, 2001
SUBJECTS: Surveillance of protests and protesters

MEDIA OUTLET: The Varsity* – University of Toronto
DATE: July 16, 2001
SUBJECTS: Release of Free Trade Area of the Americas texts

MEDIA OUTLET: CIUT 89.5FM* – University of Toronto
DATE: July 18, 2001
SUBJECTS: Dr. David Healy case

MEDIA OUTLET: CBC Online
DATE: July 18, 2001
SUBJECTS: Canada Student Loans Program

MEDIA OUTLET: Ottawa Sun
DATE: July 20, 2001
SUBJECTS: Student debt, Progressive Conservative/Canadian Alliance
Roundtable

MEDIA OUTLET: CBC Radio
DATE: July 30, 2001
SUBJECTS: Statistics Canada report on university finances

MEDIA OUTLET: Radio Canada
DATE: July 30, 2001
SUBJECTS: Statistics Canada report on university finances

MEDIA OUTLET: Sun Media
DATE: July 30, 2001
SUBJECTS: Statistics Canada report on university finances

MEDIA OUTLET: Globe & Mail
DATE: July 30, 2001
SUBJECTS: Statistics Canada report on university finances

MEDIA OUTLET: Reuters
DATE: July 30, 2001
SUBJECTS: Statistics Canada report on university finances

MEDIA OUTLET: Globe & Mail Online
DATE: July 30, 2001
SUBJECTS: Statistics Canada report on university finances

MEDIA OUTLET:	Canadian University Press*
DATE:	August 1, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Statistics Canada report on university finances
MEDIA OUTLET:	Times Higher Education Supplement (UK)
DATE:	August 2, 2001
SUBJECTS:	StatsCan report on university finances
MEDIA OUTLET:	Xtra West
DATE:	August 2, 2001
SUBJECTS:	CSLP- modernisation of definition of common-law
MEDIA OUTLET:	Canadian Press
DATE:	August 6, 2001
SUBJECTS:	APEC inquiry report
MEDIA OUTLET:	Saturday Night Magazine
DATE:	August 15, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Corporatisation of campus
MEDIA OUTLET:	Broadcast News
DATE:	August 27, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Statistics Canada report on university tuition fees
MEDIA OUTLET:	CBC Radio – National
DATE:	August 27, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Statistics Canada report on university tuition fees
MEDIA OUTLET:	Southam
DATE:	August 27, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Statistics Canada report on university tuition fees
MEDIA OUTLET:	Toronto Sun
DATE:	August 27, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Statistics Canada report on university tuition fees
MEDIA OUTLET:	Winnipeg Sun
DATE:	August 27, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Statistics Canada report on university tuition fees
MEDIA OUTLET:	New RO – Ottawa
DATE:	August 27, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Statistics Canada report on university tuition fees
MEDIA OUTLET:	Canadian Press
DATE:	August 27, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Statistics Canada report on university tuition fees
MEDIA OUTLET:	Brock Press* – Brock University
DATE:	August 27, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Statistics Canada report on university tuition fees
MEDIA OUTLET:	Globe & Mail Online
DATE:	August 27, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Statistics Canada report on university tuition fees
MEDIA OUTLET:	AM980 News – London
DATE:	August 27, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Statistics Canada report on university tuition fees
MEDIA OUTLET:	CBC Radio – Regina
DATE:	August 27, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Statistics Canada report on university tuition fees

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MEDIA OUTLET: CBC Radio – Saint John
DATE: August 27, 2001
SUBJECTS: Statistics Canada report on university tuition fees

MEDIA OUTLET: CBC Radio – Edmonton
DATE: August 27, 2001
SUBJECTS: Statistics Canada report on university tuition fees

MEDIA OUTLET: CBC Radio – Winnipeg
DATE: August 27, 2001
SUBJECTS: Statistics Canada report on university tuition fees

MEDIA OUTLET: CBC Radio – Vancouver
DATE: August 27, 2001
SUBJECTS: Statistics Canada report on university tuition fees

MEDIA OUTLET: CHQR Radio – Calgary (morning show)
DATE: August 28, 2001
SUBJECTS: Statistics Canada report on university tuition fees

MEDIA OUTLET: CHQR Radio – Calgary (Dave Rutherford show)
DATE: August 28, 2001
SUBJECTS: Statistics Canada report on university tuition fees

MEDIA OUTLET: 570AM CKGL – Waterloo
DATE: August 28, 2001
SUBJECTS: Statistics Canada report on university tuition fees

MEDIA OUTLET: Ottawa Citizen
DATE: August 28, 2001
SUBJECTS: Millennium Scholarship Foundation

MEDIA OUTLET: Globe & Mail
DATE: September 4, 2001
SUBJECTS: Residence crowding

MEDIA OUTLET: Southam
DATE: September 4, 2001
SUBJECTS: Tuition fee increases

MEDIA OUTLET: McGill Daily* – McGill University
DATE: September 4, 2001
SUBJECTS: Tuition fees for out-of-province students in Québec

MEDIA OUTLET: Canadian Press
DATE: September 5, 2001
SUBJECTS: Residence crowding, double cohort

MEDIA OUTLET: Charlatan* – Carleton University
DATE: September 10, 2001
SUBJECTS: Statistics Canada report on university tuition fees

MEDIA OUTLET: Gateway* – University of Alberta
DATE: September 10, 2001
SUBJECTS: Millennium Scholarship Foundation

MEDIA OUTLET: Martlet* – University of Victoria
DATE: September 11, 2001
SUBJECTS: Edulinx performance in loan disbursement

MEDIA OUTLET: Manitoban* – University of Manitoba
DATE: September 17, 2001
SUBJECTS: General Agreement on Trade in Services

MEDIA OUTLET:	Pioneer* – Loyalist College
DATE:	September 26, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Racism on campus
MEDIA OUTLET:	Ryersonian* – Ryerson University
DATE:	September 27, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Online education and e-learning
MEDIA OUTLET:	Manitoban* – University of Manitoba
DATE:	September 28, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Terrorist attacks effect on Federation campaigns
MEDIA OUTLET:	Toronto Sun
DATE:	October 1, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Security policy for students applying to study in Canada
MEDIA OUTLET:	Manitoban* – University of Manitoba
DATE:	October 1, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Federal spending on military vs. education
MEDIA OUTLET:	Canada AM
DATE:	October 2, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Security policy for students applying to study in Canada
MEDIA OUTLET:	Canadian University Press Atlantic Bureau
DATE:	October 2, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Nova Scotia minimum wage
MEDIA OUTLET:	Queen's Journal* – Queen's University
DATE:	October 3, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Security policy for students applying to study in Canada
MEDIA OUTLET:	CKCU* – Carleton University
DATE:	October 3, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Federal spending on military vs. education
MEDIA OUTLET:	Canadian University Press
DATE:	October 6, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Federation's call for an end to racism and violence
MEDIA OUTLET:	Canadian University Press
DATE:	October 10, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Security policy for students applying to study in Canada
MEDIA OUTLET:	The Fulcrum* – University of Ottawa
DATE:	October 11, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Federation's call for an end to racism and violence
MEDIA OUTLET:	Canadian Press
DATE:	October 11, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Federation's call for an end to racism and violence
MEDIA OUTLET:	CTV
DATE:	October 11, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Federation's call for an end to racism and violence
MEDIA OUTLET:	Queen's Journal* – Queen's University
DATE:	October 14, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Security policy for students applying to study in Canada
MEDIA OUTLET:	McGill Daily* – McGill University
DATE:	October 14, 2001
SUBJECTS:	Security policy for students applying to study in Canada

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MEDIA OUTLET: Winnipeg Free Press
DATE: October 24, 2001
SUBJECTS: Prevalence of food banks on university and college campuses

MEDIA OUTLET: Sun Media
DATE: October 25, 2001
SUBJECTS: Security policy for students applying to study in Canada

MEDIA OUTLET: CBC Radio (National)
DATE: October 25, 2001
SUBJECTS: Security policy for students applying to study in Canada

MEDIA OUTLET: CBC Radio (Sudbury)
DATE: October 29, 2001
SUBJECTS: Security policy for students applying to study in Canada

MEDIA OUTLET: Manitoban* – University of Manitoba
DATE: October 29, 2001
SUBJECTS: Security policy for students applying to study in Canada, social spending in next federal budget

MEDIA OUTLET: Reader's Digest
DATE: October 29, 2001
SUBJECTS: Accessibility, federal funding for post secondary education

MEDIA OUTLET: Charlatan* – Carleton University
DATE: October 29, 2001
SUBJECTS: Beverage exclusivity deals

MEDIA OUTLET: Ottawa Citizen
DATE: November 2, 2001
SUBJECTS: Canadian Blood Services Donor Deferral Conference

MEDIA OUTLET: Indymedia
DATE: November 1, 2001
SUBJECTS: Security policy for students applying to study in Canada

MEDIA OUTLET: Toronto Star
DATE: November 13, 2001
SUBJECTS: Group of 20 Meeting in Ottawa

MEDIA OUTLET: Ottawa Citizen
DATE: November 13, 2001
SUBJECTS: Group of 20 Meeting in Ottawa

MEDIA OUTLET: Canadian University Press
DATE: November 14
SUBJECTS: Maclean's University Rankings

MEDIA OUTLET: Herizons Magazine
DATE: November 17
SUBJECTS: Academic Freedom

* campus newspaper/campus radio



