



AGENDA

Budget Committee

May 2002 National General Meeting

1. PREPARATION FOR COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS

a. Ratification of the Committee Chair(s)

Standing Resolution 1, Section 4, *Committee Chairperson* states that:

As its first order of business each standing general meeting committee shall either:

- a. ratify as the committee chairperson(s) the National Executive member(s) appointed to the committee; or
- b. elect a committee chairperson from within its membership.

b. Roundtable Introductions

c. Review of the Committee Agenda

d. Review of the Committee's Terms of Reference

Committee members should be familiar with the responsibilities of the Budget Committee as established in the Federation's Standing Resolutions. Standing Resolution 1, Section 3 a) *Budget Committee* states that:

The **Budget Committee** shall:

- i. develop a draft budget for the upcoming fiscal year for submission to the closing plenary of the semi-annual general meeting;
- ii. review and recommend budget adjustments for the remainder of the fiscal year to the closing plenary of the annual general meeting;
- iii. assess the availability of funds for proposed projects and/or purchases, including donations; and
- iv. undertake long-term financial planning for the Federation.

2. REVIEW OF FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS AND ISSUES

a. Overview of Current Financial Realities/Pressures (In-camera)

b. Review of 2001-2002 Budget and Year-to-date Statements

The Committee will review the 2001-2002 budget and the comparative year-to-date statements of revenue and expenditures.

c. Presentation of Draft Budget

The first draft of the 2002-2003 budget has been prepared by the National Executive. The Committee will receive an orientation to the draft budget.

3. REVISION OF 2002-2003 DRAFT BUDGET

The Committee will revise the draft of the 2002-2003 budget for submission to the closing plenary.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

5. ADJOURNMENT





AGENDA

Campaigns and Government Relations Committee

May 2002 National General Meeting

1. PREPARATION FOR COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS

a. Ratification of the Committee Chair(s)

Standing Resolution 1, Section 4, *Committee Chairperson* states that:

As its first order of business each standing general meeting committee shall either:

- a. ratify as the committee chairperson(s) the National Executive member(s) appointed to the committee; or
- b. elect a committee chairperson from within its membership.

b. Roundtable Introductions

c. Review of the Committee Agenda

d. Review of the Committee's Terms of Reference

Committee members should be familiar with the responsibilities of the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee as established in the Federation's Standing Resolutions. Standing Resolution 1, Section 3 b) *Campaigns and Government Relations Committee* states that:

The **Campaigns and Government Relations Committee** shall:

- i. assess the recent and ongoing national campaigns of the Federation;
- ii. recommend to closing plenary at the semi-annual general meeting a campaigns strategy which includes but is not limited to goals of the strategy;
- iii. implementation of the strategy shall include:
 - research and information compilation to be undertaken
 - contact with government
 - membership mobilisation
 - media strategy
 - coalition work; and
- iv. review and recommend adjustments to the campaign strategy for the remainder of the academic year to the closing plenary of the annual general meeting.

2. REVIEW OF CURRENT CAMPAIGNS

Review of 2001-2002 Campaigns Strategy

The Federation's 2001-2002 Campaigns and Government Relations strategy focused on freezing and/or reducing tuition fees. As part of the campaign, the Federation organised a day of action to highlight the need for lower tuition fees. The national mobilisation focused primarily on provincial governments. In all ten provinces, thousands of students participated in activities for the Day of Action.

The Committee will review the 2001-2002 Campaigns Strategy.

3. DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS PLAN

a. Presentation of Draft 2002-2003 Campaign Strategy

The Campaigns Strategy forms the basis for the Federation's campaigns and government relations work for the year to follow. Each year, prior to the May national general meeting, the National Executive prepares a draft Campaigns and Government Relations Strategy, which is presented to the general meeting for consideration.

A presentation about the issues addressed in the draft strategy will be provided.

PAGE 2 — CAMPAIGNS & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE AGENDA

41st Semi-annual National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students
Wednesday, May 8 to Saturday, May 11, 2002

b. Revision of Draft 2002-2003 Campaign Strategy

The Committee will revise the draft of the 2002-2003 campaigns strategy for submission to the closing plenary.

4. PRESENTATION OF THE NO MEANS NO CAMPAIGN

Since the early 1990s, the Federation has undertaken the "No Means No" campaign to raise awareness about the prevalence date rape amongst college and university students. A presentation about the No Means No campaign will be given.

5. MOTION REFERRED FROM NOVEMBER 2001 NATIONAL GENERAL MEETING

At the November 2001 national general meeting, it was resolved to include the following motion on the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee agenda for consideration at the May 2002 semi-annual national general meeting:

MOTION

Local 89/Local 47

Whereas a disparity exists in the proportion of female to male students pursuing careers in science and engineering; and

Whereas a disparity exists in the proportion of female to male students graduating with undergraduate degrees who continue on to graduate degrees and professional programs; therefore

Be it resolved that an awareness campaign titled "Women in Post-Secondary Education: Equal Minds, Equal Education" be undertaken;

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to launch campaigns to encourage women to pursue careers in science and engineering; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to launch campaigns to encourage women to pursue graduate studies and professional programs.

6. MOTION REFERRED FROM OPENING PLENARY

The following motion will likely be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee by the opening plenary.

Proposal to Support Online Canadian Media

2002/05:N08 MOTION

Local 47/

Be it resolved that *rabble.ca* be sponsored at a rate of \$20 per month commencing June, 2002.

Be it further resolved that \$100 be contributed to 'straightgoods.com' for a six-month sponsorship period commencing September, 2002.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

8. ADJOURNMENT



AGENDA

National Education and Student Rights Committee

May 2002 National General Meeting

1. PREPARATION FOR COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS

a. Ratification of the Committee Chair(s)

Standing Resolution 1, Section 4, *Committee Chairperson* states that:

As its first order of business each standing general meeting committee shall either:

- a. ratify as the committee chairperson(s) the National Executive member(s) appointed to the committee; or
- b. elect a committee chairperson from within its membership.

b. Roundtable Introductions

c. Review of the Committee Agenda

d. Review of the Committee's Terms of Reference

Committee members should be familiar with the responsibilities of the National Education and Student Rights Committee as established in the Federation's Standing Resolutions. Standing Resolution 1, Section 3 c) *National Education and Student Rights Committee* states that:

The **National Education and Student Rights Committee** shall review and make recommendations to closing plenary on proposed amendments to the issues policy of the Federation, as proposed by Committee members and member locals on plenary floor.

2. CURRENT POLICY ISSUES DISCUSSION

a. Tuition Fees

Average tuition fees in Canada have increased by 126% in the last 10 years. While some provincial governments opted to freeze fees in recent years, others have refused to act and have allowed fees to rise dramatically. As a result, access to post-secondary education varies widely across the country. Federation Researcher Michael Conlon will provide an overview of the impact of rising tuition fees on access to post-secondary education.

b. Income Contingent Student Loan Repayment Schemes

An 'income contingent' repayment loan scheme is not a student-aid plan but a funding model for post-secondary education. It is based on the belief that the individual is the primary beneficiary of a post-secondary education and should bear the full cost. The idea of implementing an income contingent repayment scheme has most recently been triumphed by Ross Finnie, adjunct professor at Queen's University. A presentation about income contingent repayment schemes will be given.

c. World Bank/International Monetary Fund and Post-secondary Education

The World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) were founded after World War II, with the goals of economic reconstruction and the stability of major exchange rates. In contrast to these initial efforts, since the 1980s the institutions have focused on imposing macro-economic stabilisation and structural adjustment programmes on developing countries (as a condition for the renegotiation of their external debt). In the area of education, World Bank/IMF measures have included conditions such as limiting access to post-secondary education by increasing tuition fees and implementing stricter entrance requirements, and encouraging more private funding of education at all levels. Although no structural adjustment programmes have been imposed on Canada, the influence of these institutions is notable, for the impetus they have lent both to short-term measures to reduce government investment in public programmes and to privatisation and commercial models for service

PAGE 2 — NATIONAL EDUCATION & STUDENT RIGHTS COMMITTEE AGENDA

41st Semi-annual National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students
Wednesday, May 8 to Saturday, May 11, 2002

delivery. A presentation about the impact of the World Bank and International Monetary fund on post-secondary education will be given..

3. MOTIONS REFERRED FROM OPENING PLENARY

The following motions will likely be referred to the National Education and Student Rights Committee by the opening plenary:

a. Proposal to Amend User/Tuition Fees Policy

2002/05:N04 MOTION

Local 78/

Be it resolved that the *User/Tuition Fees* policy be replaced with the following policy under the heading *Tuition Fees*:

Preamble

Education is a fundamental right of every human being without distinction of race, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, political belief, economic, and social condition. User fees, in the form of tuition fees and ancillary fees constitute a barrier to accessing post-secondary education.

In 1948, the Government of Canada signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that states, "Everyone has the right to education". In 1976, Canada signed the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights that states, "Higher education shall be made equally accessible to all, on the basis of capacity, by every appropriate means, and in particular by the progressive introduction of free education".

The cost of post-secondary education and increasing debt levels are significant factors in the decision students make about whether or not to continue their studies beyond high school. Students from lower income households are much more likely to be affected by financial issues when deciding to pursue or not pursue their education beyond high school.

Students participating in post-secondary education may face considerable financial barriers, including housing, transportation, and user fees. In addition, many students may forgo job earnings to attend a post-secondary institution. Of these, user fees account for the greatest up-front, universal barrier to obtaining a post-secondary education in Canada.

It is the responsibility of governments to fully fund post-secondary education. In the absence of adequate funding, post-secondary institutions often rely on private sources, such as user fees.

Policy

The Federation believes that a universally accessible post-secondary education system will only be achieved once financial barriers to obtaining that system are eliminated. In particular, this requires that post-secondary education be entirely publicly funded, user fees are non-existent, and students have access to student financial assistance for living expenses in the form of non-repayable grants. ?

In the case where tuition fees do exist, the Federation supports their elimination beginning with tuition fee freezes, followed by progressive reductions. The Federation opposes the differentiation of fees on the basis of program, country or province of origin or student status, or for any other reason. The Federation supports reduced or rebated tuition fees for post-resident graduate students. ?

The Federation opposes the justification that increased student financial assistance can offset the effects of higher tuition fees. In particular, the Federation opposes any form of income contingent student loan repayment schemes, as they are designed to facilitate a system of individual fees in which students pay the full cost of post-secondary education, and invariably result in massive tuition fee increases.

b. Proposal to Amend Funding Education Policy

2002/05:N05 MOTION

Local 78/

Whereas much of the Federation's Issues Policy regarding funding and responsibility for post-secondary education can be consolidated into fewer policies; therefore

Be it resolved that the Issues Policy entitled *Canada Health and Social Transfer* be struck;

Be it further resolved that the following be added to the issues policy entitled "Funding Education" as a subsection entitled *Transfer Payments*:

Preamble

NATIONAL EDUCATION & STUDENT RIGHTS COMMITTEE AGENDA — PAGE 3

41st Semi-annual National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students
Wednesday, May 8 to Saturday, May 11, 2002

On April 1, 1996 the federal government implemented the Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST), which combined the federal transfer payments for post-secondary education and health (Established Program Financing, EPF) with transfers for social assistance and social services (Canada Assistance Plan, CAP). Not only was the change accompanied by deep funding cuts, but also the very nature of federal responsibility for higher education shifted.

Without minimum funding amounts designated for post-secondary education, provincial governments have used disproportionate sums of the CHST to increase health care spending at the expense of education spending. Virtually none of the recent increases in transfer payments have been spent on post-secondary education, and the federal government has no recourse with provincial governments. Without accountability for federal spending, there can be no guarantee of national standards for accessibility, quality, comprehensiveness, transferability, and mobility.

Policy

The Federation supports transfer payments that contain a specific and adequate portion for post-secondary education.

The Federation opposes block transfer payments that contain no minimum allotment for post-secondary education, such as the Canada Health and Social Transfer.

The Federation supports transfer payments for post-secondary education that are calculated on a per student basis, rather than by a province's general population.

The Federation supports the establishment of a federal Post-secondary Education Act to regulate minimum transfers to the provinces for post-secondary education.

↑ out

c. Proposal to Delete Portability Policy

2002/05:N06 MOTION

Local 78/

Whereas the Federation's Issues Policy already includes a description of academic portability within the issues policy entitled *Pan-Canadian Principles*; and

Whereas the clauses within the Issues Policy entitled *Portability* are redundant; therefore

Be it resolved that the issues policy entitled *Portability* be struck.

d. Proposal to Adopt Policy

2002/05:N07 MOTION

Local 11/

Whereas a full policy of non-discrimination of students must be enforced at all educational institutions within Canadian society; and

Whereas under the current structure of transfer payments, students in provinces that are net importers of students are unjustly discriminated against with respect to per student funding within Canadian society; therefore

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted under the heading *Canada Health and Social Transfer*.

The Canada Health and Social Transfer should be recalculated to ensure that provinces that are net importers of students receive a net increase in the post-secondary education section of the funding, reflecting those provinces' roles in educating out-of-province students.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

-Bring up Detrimental Restructuring

5. ADJOURNMENT



AGENDA

Organisational Development Committee

May 2002 National General Meeting

1. PREPARATION FOR COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS

a. Ratification of the Committee Chair(s)

Standing Resolution 1, Section 4, *Committee Chairperson* states that:

As its first order of business each standing general meeting committee shall either:

- a. ratify as the committee chairperson(s) the National Executive member(s) appointed to the committee; or
- b. elect a committee chairperson from within its membership.

b. Roundtable Introductions

c. Review of the Committee Agenda

d. Review of the Committee's Terms of Reference

Committee members should be familiar with the responsibilities of the Organisational Development Committee as established in the Federation's Standing Resolutions. Standing Resolution 1, Section 3 d) *Organisational Development Committee* states that:

The Organisational Development Committee shall:

- i. review and make recommendations to closing plenary on the national structure of the Federation, including:
 - the National Executive;
 - the national staffing;
 - the national office; and
 - all other national structures of the Federation;
- ii. review and make recommendations to closing plenary on the national programmes of the Federation;
- iii. review the development of the 'profile' of the Federation within member local associations;
- iv. review and make recommendations to closing plenary on the national communication tools of the Federation;
- v. review and make recommendations on development of new members;
- vi. review and make recommendations to the closing plenary on proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws, Standing Resolutions and Operations Policy.

2. REVIEW OF FEDERATION PROGRAMMES

a. Canadian Students' Union Directory

For more than twenty years, the Federation has published the Canadian Students' Union Directory. This Directory includes contact information for more than 250 students' unions at Canada's colleges, institutes and universities. It lists students' union directors and employees, information on campus media, enrolment numbers, information on students' union fees and contact information for other campuses. There are also listings for various centres on campus including women's centres, aboriginal students' centres and international students' centres. In addition, the Directory includes contact information for government, social justice organisations, and Canadian University Press.

Publication of the Students' Union Directory continues to be subsidized by the Federation, despite more aggressive promotion and increased sales in the last few years.

The Committee will discuss the results of the Students' Union Directory survey completed during Opening Plenary and develop a strategy for increasing Directory sales and reducing costs for the Federation.

PAGE 2 – ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

41st Semi-annual National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students
Wednesday, May 8 to Saturday, May 11, 2002

b. National Student Discount Program

Through its membership in the International Student Travel Confederation, the Federation is the licensed authority for International Student Identity Card (ISIC) distribution in Canada. The card, which costs \$16.00 for non-members is available free to members of the Federation. In the past few years, the Federation has endeavoured to increase the number of cards distributed to members by increasing promotional activities on campus.

Each year, member locals solicit discounts from local and regional businesses. At the end of the solicitation period, the Federation compiles discount information into a booklet and member locals distribute it. The booklet comes with a Studentsaver card that allows members, not possessing an ISIC to have access to the discounts.

The Committee will discuss the results of the Discount Program survey completed during Opening Plenary and develop a strategy for ISIC distribution for the 2002-2003 year.

c. Review of 2002-2003 Member Local Handbook Kit and Common Handbook Project

Each year the Federation produces a Handbook Kit to assist with member locals with the production of students' association handbooks/dayplanners. The kit contains information about Federation campaigns, research and programmes, as well as image-ready graphics. The 2002-2003 Handbook kit will be distributed to member locals shortly after the general meeting. The Committee will examine the 2001-2002 Handbook kit and discuss possible changes for the 2002-2003 year.

For the past few years, most of the British Columbia locals have published their annual handbooks through a common handbook project in which portions of the handbook are generic and regional and national advertising is centrally pursued. Last year, two locals outside of British Columbia joined the pool and this year several more will be participating. A presentation on the project will be made.

d. National Student Health Network

For more than fifteen years, the Federation has operated the National Student Health Network. Initially, the Network was the only student-focused health plan in the country but the 1990s saw a dramatic increase in the number of players. An update on the status of the Federation's health plan network will be provided.

The Committee will develop a strategy for increasing participation among Federation member locals in the National Student Health Network.

e. Online Student Housing Database

In many communities in Canada, housing is rapidly becoming less available and more expensive. Students are particularly affected by the housing crisis that is developing. Many member locals currently operate student housing registries to help members locate appropriate housing.

The Committee will discuss whether the Federation should develop a national online housing registry.

3. MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Federation is best described as "a partnership of students' unions". Member locals pool resources with each other to undertake work at the provincial and national levels.

In the same way that member locals promote the work that they undertake at the local or campus level, member locals have developed means to entrench the profile of the work that they undertake provincially and nationally with other students' unions under the Federation umbrella. The Membership Awareness Strategy seeks to formalise practises that member locals can undertake to increase the profile of the work they do at the provincial and national level.

The Strategy is divided into a preamble and two main components: Raising Awareness Among Elected Officials; and Raising Awareness Among Membership on Campus (each with a checklist of reminders for member locals' convenience).

The Committee will review the Membership Awareness Strategy and discuss implementation strategies.

4. MOTIONS REFERRED FROM NOVEMBER 2001 NATIONAL GENERAL MEETING

At the November 2001 national general meeting, it was resolved to include the following motion and subsequent amendment on the Organisational Development Committee agenda for consideration at the May 2002 semi-annual national general meeting.

Proposal to Develop Workshops

MOTION

Local 84/Local 32

Be it resolved that workshops be developed relating to issues of gender and feminism to be held during women's constituency group meeting time for delegates.

MOTION TO AMEND

Local 24/Local 44

Be it resolved that Motion 2001/11:xx be amended to read:

Be it resolved that educational workshops be developed relating to issues of gender and feminism and their relevance to male identified member delegates to be scheduled at a time to be determined by the National Executive; and

Be it further resolved that this educational workshop be facilitated by individuals external to the Federation who have experience facilitating workshops on these issues and who have a background in anti-oppression training.

5. MOTIONS REFERRED FROM OPENING PLENARY

The following motion will likely be referred to the Organisational Development Committee by the opening plenary.

a. Proposal to Change Francophone Constituency Group Meeting Composition

2002/05:N01 MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTIONS

Local 09/Local 38

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 10, Section 5 be amended to include:

Francophile members present at a general meeting of the Federation who are not members of the Francophone Constituency Group shall be permitted to attend all meetings of the Constituency Group with full participation rights but not voting rights.

b. Proposal to Adopt Alberta Component Standing Resolution

2002/05:N02 MOTION

Local 61/

Be it resolved that the following be adopted as Standing Resolution #32, Alberta Component:

Alberta Component

The name shall be known as the Alberta Component, hereinafter referred to as the Component.

1. Membership

The members of the component shall be all Federation member local associations in the province of Alberta. Each member association shall be entitled to one (1) vote within the Component.

2. Steering Committee

The affairs of the Component shall be managed by a Steering Committee.

a) Composition

The Steering Committee shall be composed of the Alberta Component Representative on the National Executive and one representative from each member local association in Alberta.

b) Term of Office

The term of office for a local representative shall be one (1) year commencing upon ratification to the Steering Committee, and expiring at the Steering Committee scheduled the closest to one (1) year after the Steering Committee meeting at which the member was ratified.

3. Duties of the Steering Committee

PAGE 4 – ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

41st Semi-annual National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students
Wednesday, May 8 to Saturday, May 11, 2002

a) **Collective Duties of the Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee shall manage the affairs of the Component, implement campaigns and programs of the Federation in Alberta, and be responsible for the administration of Federation provincial resources in Alberta.

b) **Duties of the National Executive Representative**

The National Executive Representative shall oversee the keeping of accounts of all receipts and disbursements of the Federation, and shall deposit all monies or other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the Federation.

c) **Duties of Local Representatives**

Local Representatives shall be responsible for coordinating the implementation of Federation campaigns and programs at the local level.

c. Proposal to Change Prospective Membership to Trial Membership

2002/05:N03 MOTION

Local 61/44

Whereas to describe prospective membership everyone calls it "trial membership";

Whereas prospective membership is sometimes mistakenly called "perspective membership";
therefore

Be it resolved that "prospective membership" be replaced with "trial membership" in all applicable Bylaws, Standing Resolutions, and Policies.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

7. ADJOURNMENT

2002-2003 Campaigns and Government Relations Strategy

1. Post Secondary Education: Reduce the Fees Until It's Free

Context

In the early to mid-1990s, the federal government made massive cuts to post-secondary education transfer payments to the provinces. Most provinces passed the cost of those cuts on to students in the form of higher tuition fees. In response, the Federation focused much of its campaigns and government relations work during the past five years on halting tuition fee increases and restoring federal transfer payments for post-secondary education.

The Federation's efforts have met with some success. Tuition fees in British Columbia were frozen between 1996 and 2002. In Newfoundland and Labrador, fees for university students were frozen for two years and a second 10% tuition fee reduction has been promised for the 2002/2003 year. Fees for all other students have been frozen since 1999. Manitoba reduced fees a year ago and fees will remain frozen for the 2002/2003 academic year. Tuition fees in Québec have remained frozen (for Québec residents) for close to a decade.

In addition, the federal government has ceased cutting and has restored a small portion of the funds cut from transfer payments.

Unfortunately, some provinces such as Ontario and Nova Scotia have continued to raise fees and have deregulated some graduate, professional, and college fees. BC recently deregulated tuition fees resulting in fee hikes of up to 100%. In addition, the hard-fought freezes and reductions that have been won in some provinces are under attack by those who would have students shoulder more of the funding burden.

These regressive policy measures in some province have come despite the mounting evidence that increased user fees are denying access to low and middle income Canadians. In the past year several important studies have emerged that confirm the Federation's analysis of the effect tuition fee hikes have on accessibility.

Despite these setbacks, the Federation has galvanised public support for freezing and reducing tuition fees. Increased awareness about the effects of tuition fee increases on access has helped shift public opinion. Recent polling indicates that over 80% of Canadians oppose further tuition fee increases and that roughly half support a reduction in fees.

The challenge for the Federation is to maintain the momentum towards lower tuition fees in provinces where freezes and reductions have already occurred and to create pressure in other provinces to reverse recent increases and to re-regulate deregulated fees.

Campaign Goals

The Federation seeks:

- the progressive reduction of tuition and ancillary fees at public post-secondary institutions across the country with the ultimate goal of eliminating tuition and ancillary fees;
- an end to the deregulation of tuition fees;
- to ensure that public post-secondary education is fully-funded;
- restoration of federal government funding for post-secondary education;
- to expose the regional disparity with respect to access to post-secondary education and continue to build public support for the elimination of fees nation-wide in the context of a system of universal needs-based grants and a Universal Post-Secondary Education Act;
- a joint statement from the Annual Premiers conference demanding increased federal funding for post-secondary education; and
- to address the exclusion of marginalised groups from post-secondary education caused by rising tuition fees.

Implementation

While the majority of post-secondary education funding continues to be provided by the federal government, tuition fees are regulated by the provincial governments. Therefore, the national campaign on tuition fees will focus on provincial governments. The campaign will enable member locals to organise actions to coincide with specific provincial events.

The implementation of the campaign will be coordinated locally with supporting research on national and provincial trends in tuition fees and accessibility.

- **Research:** In the early 1990's when massive federal government cuts to post-secondary education resulted in skyrocketing tuition fees, the Federation articulated the view that rising fees would result in reduced access to post-secondary education. Now, in 2001, with fees having increased by an average of 126% nationwide, a wide variety of studies substantiate the view that an increase in fees precipitates declining rates of participation among low and middle income Canadians.

In its latest Education Quarterly report Statistics Canada reports a pronounced drop in participation rates from students who hail from low and middle-income families. For the purposes of this study the cut off for low and middle income is household income of less than \$60,000. The decline in participation rates, recorded in 1999, was the first recorded decrease since Statistics Canada began tracking such data in 1965. In addition, several studies have been undertaken to examine the deregulation of tuition fees in Ontario. In each study, the investigators found a startling decline of students from lower and middle-income homes.

As part of the campaign to reduce tuition fees, a compendium of research will be assembled to chart the correlation between rising fees and declining participation rates at Canadian colleges and universities. In addition, original research will be produced highlighting other adverse effects of tuition fee increases.

The Federation will provide research to member locals describing models of systems of post-secondary education in countries where no tuition fees exist.

- **Government Relations Strategy:** Provincial lobby days will seek tuition fee freezes and reductions, ideally through legislation, a system of needs-based grants, and a Universal Post-Secondary Education Act. Nationally, the Federation will continue to press for the restoration of federal transfer payments for post-secondary education in meetings with federal officials. The Federation will seek strong public infrastructure investments that represent new funding and that do not rely on corporate funds. Finally, coordinated action will be aimed at the annual Premier's Conference to demand a common statement calling for increased federal funding for education in order to reduce tuition fees.

- **Membership Mobilisation:**

Local Actions Fall/Winter 2002: Member locals will be encouraged to organise local events in conjunction with local faculty unions. The Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) recently passed a unanimous motion to stage a campaign on tuition fees. Specifically, CAUT members voted to co-ordinate local events with Federation members. In addition to co-sponsoring events, CAUT has committed to mobilise for events joint student/faculty events. Activities may include, but not be limited to, teach-ins, petition drives, and public forums.

Media Strategy: The Federation has had significant success in raising the issue of tuition fees in the media and contributing to a growing discontent among the general population about exorbitant fees. Continued media coverage will foster growth of this sentiment.

The Federation will develop a centrally coordinated communications strategy that calls public attention to the impact of high tuition fees on accessibility of post-secondary education. In addition to supplying template news releases, a template for op-ed articles will be supplied to member locals.

- **Coalition Work:** Member locals will be encouraged to solicit support through local coalition work.

2. "Lifelong learning = Life-Time Debt":

a. CAMPAIGN AGAINST INCOME CONTINGENT REPAYMENT (ICR) SCHEMES

Context

In 1955, the U.S. economist Milton Friedman devised Income Contingent Repayment Schemes ICR as a way to reduce the role of the state in financing education. Instead of

public funding, Friedman proposed that there be full cost-recovery tuition fees. In order for students to pay for these vastly higher tuition fees, he proposed that they have access to large loans. Finally, he proposed that, in order for repayment of the loan to be manageable, the size of loan payments be based on each individual's level of income after graduation (i.e., income contingent).

Starting in the early-1990s, proponents have sought to gain support for ICR by exploiting the student debt crisis and by playing down the social benefits of an educated citizenry. Rather than being up front about their true purpose -- to shift the cost of education from the state to the individual -- they have tried to "sell" ICR schemes as flexible and fair student-aid plans that would allow student loan recipients to pay off their loans as their income allowed.

Under ICR, borrowers would repay their loans as a percentage of their incomes upon completion of study. Thus, graduates with lower levels of income would repay their loans over a longer period of time, while those in high-paying jobs could repay their loans quickly and avoid interest payments. Those who could afford to pay their tuition fees up front would avoid the high interest rate payment after graduation, and end up paying less for post-secondary education.

Virtually all ICR models that have been considered in Canada and adopted in other parts of the world have had tuition fees increasing significantly. In fact, the ICR scheme is merely a way to ease the impact of fee hikes and hasten the underfunding of education. Most models replace loan plans that are interest-free during the period of study (such as Canada Student Loans) with loans that collect interest from the moment they are provided.

The Federation has helped stop ICR schemes in the past. However, in the recent federal election, the Canadian Alliance Party included ICR schemes in their education platform and there is strong evidence that they are being considered by both the federal, Ontario and Alberta governments.

Campaign Goals

The Federation seeks:

- a halt to government initiatives to implement income contingent repayment loan schemes; and
- to raise awareness among the membership and the public about the dangers of ICR schemes.

Implementation

The Federation will continue to lobby governments that present income contingent repayment loan schemes as a form of "student aid". The Federation will remain vigilant to ensure that ICR schemes do not surface in provincial budgets. In addition, as negotiations to harmonise provincial and federal student loans re-commence in fall 2002, the Federation will lobby the federal government to expressly exclude ICRs as a prerequisite to any harmonisation agreement.

Research: The Federation will continue to monitor the effects of ICR schemes in those jurisdictions outside of Canada where they have been implemented. In addition, the Federation will examine federal and provincial budget announcements to uncover similar methods of downloading the cost of education to students.

National Awareness and Media Strategy: The Federation will continue to distribute its factsheet "Income Contingent Repayment Loan Schemes" to member locals, to the public, to the media and to government officials.

Member locals will be encouraged to approach campus and local newspapers to suggest the publication of articles or features about the problems of income contingent repayment loan schemes and the negative effect of student debt on access.

b. "Grants Not Loans": CAMPAIGN FOR A NATIONAL SYSTEM OF NEED-BASED GRANTS

Context

Canada is one of only three industrialised countries in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) that does not have a national system of student grants. Virtually all European and South American countries, as well as the United States, have grants programs. In Canada, 80% of students require some financial assistance. Three-quarters of those receiving student loans believe they would be unable to participate in higher education without this assistance. However Canada has not implemented a grants system.

A national system of need-based grants would immediately reduce the daunting debt level students carry. Currently, the federal government spends \$1.3 billion each year to administer the Canada Student Loans Program. The Federation estimates the cost of a national grants program to be \$1.2 billion. In addition, for every dollar allocated in grants, savings will also be realised in reduced administrative costs, educational tax credit claims and payments to banks.

Campaign Goals

The Federation seeks:

- the establishment of a national system of grants to replace the Canada Student Loans Program; and
- to raise awareness among students, the general public and decision-makers about the need to address the crisis of student debt in more constructive and direct ways.

Implementation

Government Relations Strategy: The Federation will continue to lobby the federal government and Human Resources and Development Canada for a national system of need-based grants.

Research: The Federation will continue to conduct research into the effects of student debt on accessibility to public post-secondary education and to produce a viable model for national grants to replace government loans.

c. "Part- Loans for Young, Middle Aged, and Elderly Canadians": CAMPAIGN TO REVAMP STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PART TIME STUDENTS

Context

On February 12 of this the federal government release its long awaited skills and learning policy paper entitled *Knowledge Matters*. Though short on details, *Knowledge Matters* includes a substantial section on encouraging Canadians to study throughout their working lives. The paper also notes the role that part-time learning must play in addressing Canada's "skills deficit".

Despite the rhetoric of *Knowledge Matters*, very few use the Canada Student Loan Program (CSLP) part-time program. In 1999, for example, of over 200,000 part-time students only 4705 used the CSLP.

There are several likely reasons for the low participation. First, low "pick-up" of the program is due to the onerous burden that interest payments place on part-time students. Unlike full time students, part-time students must pay compound interest on their loans during the time of study. In addition, the part-time loan program needs assessment only considers education costs such as tuition fees and textbooks. Students are responsible for all living costs during the time of study. Finally the income threshold for part-time eligibility is excessively high. In order to qualify for the program a single person must earn less than \$26,000 per year. All of these factors combine to make the program dysfunctional and underused.

Campaign Goals

The Federation seeks:

- to eliminate the in-study interest on part-time student loans
- to have living expenses included in the assessment of part-time loans
- to reform the needs assessment process to insure that more prospective students are eligible for the program
- to increase the portion of non-repayable assistance available to students through Canada Study Grants. In addition to increasing the amount of loans income should also be adjusted so that more prospective students are eligible.

Implementation

Government Relations Strategy: The Federation will submit a comprehensive proposal to Human Resources Development Canada to revamp the part-loans program. In addition the Federation will prepare a brief and appear before the national committee struck to implement *Knowledge Matters*.

Research: The Federation will outline the increased participation in the program that our proposal will generate.

National Awareness and Media: The Federation will issue a news release calling on the federal government to revamp the part-time loans program in line with *Knowledge Matters*.

3. "Keep the Public in Post-secondary Education"

a. Campaign Against Private Post-Secondary Education

In December 2000, the government of Ontario passed legislation approving the establishment of private, degree-granting post-secondary institutions, including for-profit and not-for-profit operations. For the first time in the history of public education in Canada, privately-owned and operated enterprises will be allowed unregulated degree-granting status. While private colleges have existed in Canada for the past two decades, the introduction of private, degree-granting institutions represents a significant change in public education in Canada. The Alberta government recently bestowed for-profit, degree-granting status upon Devry Institute—the first in Canada.

There are already thousands of registered privately-funded vocational schools across the country, some of which call themselves "colleges." These vocational schools are actually privately-owned businesses operated as commercial for-profit enterprises. With the changes in Ontario and elsewhere, these companies could become legally recognised universities.

Government policymakers argue that private universities and colleges increase the choices available for students. However, that choice is only available for those who can afford it. By conservative estimates, the total annual cost of a private, for-profit post-secondary degree will be \$40,166 to \$160,664 for a four-year undergraduate degree.

There is a growing reliance on the private sector to replace public services. The introduction of private institutions is merely one aspect in the gradual erosion of public services. In recent years there has been a growing trend to implement public-private partnerships in all new federal infrastructure and research investments. This is also the case in many provinces.

Campaign Goals

The Federation seeks to:

- raise awareness among the membership and the public about how private, for-profit post-secondary institutes are profiting with the use of public funds and precipitating the decline of public education;
- raise awareness among the membership and the public about the implications of the privatisation of education;

- end the designation of private, for-profit post-secondary institutions as eligible to receive funds through provincial student loans programs, the Canada Student Loan Program, and other sources;
- halt the establishment or expansion of private degree-granting institutions; and
- oppose the linking of funding to key performance indicators.

Implementation

Research: Research will be conducted on the ways in which private, for-profit post-secondary institutes restrict access to post-secondary education. This will include an analysis of user fee increases, declining funding for public institutions, demographic trends in access to higher education, and expenditure of public funds to subsidise private enterprises offering post-secondary education. In addition, a tabulation will be prepared on the public subsidies flowing to the for-profit education industry.

Research will be undertaken on the history of private education, the development of public education, and the threats to accessibility and quality of education posed by private post-secondary institutions.

Government Relations Strategy: Pressure will be exerted on federal and provincial governments to end the designation of private, for-profit post-secondary institutions as eligible to receive funds through provincial student loans programmes and the Canada Student Loan Program. Governments will also be pressured to prevent the expansion of the private post-secondary education system.

Pressure will be exerted on provincial and federal governments to reject the establishment or expansion of private institutions. Government representatives will be furnished with the Federation's rationale for rejecting private post-secondary education.

Membership Mobilisation: Member locals will be encouraged to:

- distribute materials exposing private, for-profit education;
- organise public forums dedicated to raising awareness among the membership and the public of private, for-profit education; and
- organise letter-writing/fax/email campaigns directed at government, demanding an end to private, for-profit education.

National Awareness and Media Strategy: In fall 2002 the Federation will release its research and call on the federal government to bar private institutions from the Canada Student Loan Program.

Coalition Work: Member locals will be encouraged to:

- build on-campus coalitions, including representation from groups such as faculty unions, support staff unions, teaching assistant/graduate assistant/research assistant unions, student service centres, and public interest research groups (PIRGs); and
- work with off-campus coalition partners to solicit support for the campaign opposing the privatisation of social programs and public services and to share information.

b. "Don't Trade Away Our Rights – Stop the GATS": CAMPAIGN AGAINST AGREEMENTS ON TRADE IN SERVICES

Context

In recent years, the scope of free trade agreements has expanded rapidly. During this time, trade in services has played an increasingly significant role in the accords that are currently in effect and that are being negotiated. In particular, areas such as education, health care, and municipal services are the new targets of multinational corporations that see public services as opportunities for exploiting new profit markets and compromising national policies that promote and protect citizen rights to core social services.

In 1995, the Government of Canada became a signatory to the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) through its membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO). The

GATS – which forms the basis for any new trade in services – potentially covers all services, except those "provided in the exercise of governmental authority" if they are also "supplied neither on a commercial basis nor in competition with one or more service suppliers."

Because public education and private education co-exist in Canada, this provision does not protect the public system from inclusion under GATS. Essentially, GATS regulations threaten to infringe on the ability of governments and municipalities to provide services, including public education, to residents.

Recent organising in opposition to free trade agreements has emphasized mobilising citizens to participate in demonstrations that are held in conjunction with meetings of national governments. In an attempt to avoid protests such as those that coincided with the WTO meeting in Seattle in 1999 and Québec City in April 2001, the next meeting of the WTO will be held at a currently undisclosed location sometime in 2003.

Campaign Goals

The Federation seeks to:

- raise awareness among members and the public about the potential impact of trade agreements concerning services on post-secondary education; and
- halt the threat posed to post-secondary education by international free trade agreements.

Implementation

Beginning in fall 2002, the Common Front on the World Trade Organization (CFWTO), of which the Federation is a member, will be organising a series of public events across the country to examine the impact of the GATS on public services. The Federation will simultaneously launch provincial and national initiatives to implement the campaign locally.

Research: Research into the specific effects of the GATS on post-secondary education will be undertaken. In addition, the Federation will join the Trade Initiative Research Project (TIRP). TIRP is a consortium of progressive researchers who meet quarterly to review government trade agreements and the global literature devoted to analyzing and critiquing global trade agreements.

Government Relations Strategy: The Federation will lobby the federal government to end all trade in services negotiations.

The Federation will lobby municipal politicians to pass resolutions demanding that international trade agreements not interfere with locally provided services. Where appropriate, meetings will be arranged with provincial and federal officials to focus on the links between trade liberalisation and post-secondary education.

Finally, the Federation will continue to monitor international organisations such as the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) and attend meetings as observers to gather strategic information about trade liberalisation.

Membership Mobilisation:

- **"Stop the GATS!" Teach-In Events:** Member locals will be encouraged to participate in CFWTO public awareness events, and community organising activities that support such actions.
- **International Student Statement on Trade Liberalisation:** The Federation will lead the efforts to develop an International Student Statement on Trade Liberalisation. This statement will be drafted by the Federation and members of the Organisation of Caribbean and Latin American Students (OCLAE). Member locals will be encouraged to pass resolutions supporting the statement and to forward those resolutions on official letterhead to the national office of the Federation.
- **International Student Day of Action Solidarity Campaign, November 17, 2002:** On Sunday, November 17, 2002, students throughout the Americas will be participating in a Day of Action against the privatisation of post-secondary education. The day of action will cap a week organising for the Hemispheric Student Day of Action Against the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). The date for the Hemispheric Day of action will coincide with the meeting of Latin American Finance Ministers in Quito, Ecuador this fall. In order to

support the organising initiatives of students in South and Central America, members will be encouraged to show solidarity through a coordinated fax-out of signed copies of the International Student Statement on Trade Liberalisation to the Canadian government and each of the embassies of the 33 other countries of the Americas. Member locals will also be encouraged to mobilise student support for the hemispheric Student Day of Action against the FTAA. The Federation will provide fax information and will set up a web link for individual students to send faxes to the various ministers of international trade. The Federation will provide local and provincial resources, such as fact sheets on the impact of the FTAA on post-secondary education, for use in local organising.

The Federation will support students and coalition partners mobilising against trade in public services negotiations at the WTO meetings in 2003.

National Media Strategy: The Federation will use the media attention surrounding the World Trade Organisation meeting in November to generate interest in post-secondary education issues.

The Federation will develop a centrally-coordinated communications strategy that calls for the exclusion of education from international free trade agreements.

Coalition Work: National coalition work will be conducted through participation in the Common Front on the World Trade Organization. Provincial components will be encouraged to work with provincial anti-free trade coalitions.

4. CHARTER CHALLENGE TO TEN-YEAR BAN ON STUDENT LOAN BANKRUPTCY

Context

Recent amendments to sections 178(1)(g)(ii) and 178(1.1) of the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* R.S.C. 1985, c.B-3 make student loans non-dischargeable for a period of ten years after a student has ceased full or part-time studies. These provisions create a distinction between student debtors and consumer debtors in general.

Section 178 violates historic and evolving notions of fairness and justice that are guaranteed by section 7 of the *Canadian Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms*. First, the most recent amendments to section 178 did not receive adequate public consultation. Second, these amendments have resulted in an unequal application of the law. In fact, the federal government has acknowledged that high student loan debt may limit former students' access to credit as well as their ability to follow chosen careers.

The Federation has adopted the position that the recent amendments to the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* are unconstitutional and will continue to challenge the provisions.

Campaign Goals

The Federation seeks:

- repeal of the ten-year ban on student loan bankruptcy; and
- tangible measures to relieve student debt.

Implementation

Government Relations Strategy: Pressure will be exerted on the federal government to voluntarily review and repeal its decision to implement any restrictions to students' rights to avail themselves of reasonable protection from debt under the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act*. The *Charter* challenge to effect the repeal of the ten-year ban on student loan bankruptcy will continue.

National Awareness and Media Strategy: A communications strategy around the various stages of the challenge will be developed and implemented. Member locals will be encouraged to gather names and contact information of students and recent graduates willing to discuss the student debt crisis with the media.

5. NATIONAL SYSTEM OF STANDARDS FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Context

For more than a decade, the Federation has called for the establishment of a national system of standards for post-secondary education and research. The Federation proposes that a Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Research be established and that a Universal Post-Secondary Education Act, based on the principles of the Canada Health Act, be developed and implemented.

Currently, the Canada Student Loans Program, the Millennium Scholarship Foundation and training programmes fall under the purview of Human Resources and Development Canada, while university research and new initiatives in the area of on-line learning fall under the mandate of the Ministry of Industry. As a result, the federal government lacks a coherent national vision for post-secondary education and research.

Campaign Goals

The Federation will continue to seek the establishment of:

- a Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Research;
- a Universal Post-Secondary Education Act;
- national standards for quality and accessibility in post-secondary education and research; and
- national policy on intellectual property and academic freedom.

Implementation

Research: The Federation will draft an act of parliament on post-secondary education and research.

The Federation will conduct research on federal aboriginal education funding which will include an analysis of funding over the past five years. This research will be distributed before the 2002 annual general meeting.

Coalition Work: The Federation will work with other post-secondary education sector organisations to develop and present a draft act.

Government Relations Strategy: The Federation will exert pressure on the federal government to take an active role in establishing accountability and equity in post-secondary education among the provinces.

National Awareness and Media Strategy: The Federation will develop a communications strategy that illustrates the need for national standards in post-secondary education and research. The Federation will continue to expose the drastic disparities in accessibility and quality of post-secondary education among the provinces, focusing on such areas as the Millennium Scholarship Fund, tuition fees, and student debt, and will demonstrate how federal inaction has led to these disparities.

