

# **CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DES ÉTUDIANTES ET ÉTUDIANTS**

**43rd Semi-Annual General Meeting • 43e Assemblée générale semi-annuelle**



## **AGENDA**

**Opening Plenary**

**May 2003 National General Meeting**

### **1. ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL**

The Federation's Bylaws require that not less than one-half of the members of the Federation having voting rights be present in person or by proxy at the general meeting for business to be conducted.

A roll call of the membership will be taken to determine attendance and to confirm that quorum is present.

### **2. WELCOMING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS**

At this time, National Chairperson Ian Boyko will:

- Provide welcoming remarks to delegates;
- Introduce any guests that are present; and
- Give an overview of and general orientation to the meeting.

### **3. RATIFICATION OF PLENARY SPEAKER**

The plenary is the formal decision-making assembly at the general meeting. A Plenary Speaker, the parliamentarian who will preside over the meeting, chairs general meeting plenaries.

#### **a. Consideration of National Executive Recommendation**

The National Executive is recommending that Sylvia Sioufi be ratified as the Plenary Speaker. Sylvia has a long history of involvement with the Federation, having served as an elected director and as a researcher for the Federation. Sylvia has chaired Federation national general meetings on several previous occasions.

#### **b. Overview of Plenary Rules**

The Plenary Speaker will provide a brief overview of Robert's Rules of Order, a system of meeting rules and procedures that the Federation employs for plenary sessions, plenary sub-committee meetings and caucus meetings.

### **4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROXIES**

The Federation's Bylaws enable a voting member that is unable to attend all or portions of a general meeting to appoint another member to act as its proxy for some or all the meeting. The Plenary Speaker will announce all proxies that conform to requirements established in Bylaw II, Section 7 b., Proxy Votes.

### **5. ADOPTION OF PLENARY AGENDA**

The plenary will consider the plenary agenda prepared by the National Executive. Any changes or additions to the agenda may be proposed at this time.

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### **6. ADOPTION OF NATIONAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA**

The plenary will consider the proposed schedule for all four days of the general meeting. Any changes or additions to the agenda may be proposed at this time.

### **7. ADOPTION OF NATIONAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

The plenary will consider the minutes of the previous national general meeting.

### **8. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE**

As per Bylaw V, Section 2 f., the National Executive will present a report to the plenary detailing the work of the Federation undertaken since the previous national general meeting.

Following the presentation, delegates will have the opportunity to ask the National Executive questions on the contents of its report and other activities undertaken since the previous national general meeting.

### **9. RATIFICATION OF NEW MEMBERS**

#### **a. Ratification of Full Membership**

In accordance with Bylaw 1.2-b-vi, the National Executive recommends that the following be ratified as full members:

- Okanagan University College Students' Association-Kelowna;
- Okanagan University College-Penticton Campus Students' Association;
- Graduate Students' Union of Memorial University of Newfoundland; and
- University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association.

#### **b. Consideration of Prospective Membership Application**

Since the previous national general meeting, an application for prospective membership has been received from the Northern Lights College Students' Association. In accordance with Bylaw 1, Section 4-b, the National Executive has reviewed this application and is recommending that the Students' Association be granted prospective membership in the Federation.

### **10. PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS**

#### **a. Introduction of Electoral Officers**

In accordance with Bylaw 6, Section 7 the National Executive has appointed Christine Bourque, Ontario Fieldworker, and Ashkon Hashemi, Ontario Internal Coordinator as Electoral Officers for the elections to be conducted at this meeting.

#### **b. Overview of Election Schedule and Procedures**

The Electoral Officers will provide an overview of the election schedule and procedures at this time.

close → 10 am May 17 426 B  
Leeds

### **11. ADOPTION OF STANDING PLENARY SUB-COMMITTEE AGENDAS**

As per Standing Resolution 1, Section 1, the following sub-committees of the plenary are automatically struck:

- Budget Committee;
- Campaigns and Government Relations Committee;
- National Education and Student Rights Committee; and
- Organisational Development Committee.

The plenary will consider the plenary sub-committee agendas prepared by the National Executive. Any changes or additions to the agendas may be proposed at this time.

**12. CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS SERVED WITH DUE NOTICE**

The Federation Bylaws require that all motions that seek to amend the Federation's Bylaws and Policy Manual be submitted to the National Executive not less than six weeks prior to the general meeting at which they are to be considered. The plenary will consider motions served with due notice.

**a. Motions Submitted by Member Local Associations**

The following motions were submitted by member local associations with due notice for consideration at this meeting. They will require seconders in the opening plenary.

**i. Proposal to Amend Policy on Canada's Health and Social Transfer**

**2003/05:N01 MOTION TO AMEND POLICY**

Local 47/

*MAD NEC*

Whereas the Federation's policy opposing the Canada Health and Social Transfer dates back to 1995 when the act was first imposed; and

Whereas in their proposed Post-Secondary Education Act, the Canadian Association of University Teachers calls for the replacement of the CHST with a National Post-Secondary Education Fund; and

Whereas the Federation has endorsed CAUT's Post-Secondary Education Act; therefore

Be it resolved that the existing Federation Policy on the Canada Health and Social Transfer be replaced with the following policy:

**CANADA HEALTH AND SOCIAL TRANSFER**

**Preamble**

Transfer payments for post-secondary education, health and social welfare were cut drastically in 1994 as a major part of the federal government's deficit reduction strategy. In total, this amounted to more than \$5 billion cut from post-secondary education and training over five years.

**Policy**

The Federation opposes the Canada Health and Social Transfer, a block funding scheme that replaced Established Programs Financing, for the following reasons:

- it undermines national standards; and
- it reduced funding to post-secondary education.

The Federation calls on the Federal government to repeal the Canada Health and Social Transfer and establish a National Post-Secondary Education Fund to provide stable federal cash funding.

The Federation proposes the replacement of the CHST with a set of national social investment funds, separately financed and governed by distinct principles. It is envisioned that, through amendments to the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act, a Post-Secondary Education Fund would be created (along with a Health Care Fund and Income Support). The cash value of the Post-Secondary Education Fund would initially be set at 0.3% of GDP and would rise to 0.5% (about the same level it was in the late 1970s and early 1980s) within two years. To ensure regional equity, cash transfers to the provinces will be allocated on a per capita basis and equalised according to provincial GDP per capita.

**ii. Proposal to Amend Policy on Student Financial Assistance**

**2003/05:N02 MOTION TO AMEND POLICY**

Local 47/

*NEC*

Be it resolved that the section titled "General Policy" under the Federation Policy "Student Financial Assistance" be replaced with:

**Preamble**

In the context of affordable post-secondary education, student financial assistance is an important mechanism for reducing social and economic inequalities in access to post-secondary education. In Canada, 80% of students require some financial assistance. Three-quarters of those receiving student aid believe they would be unable to participate in higher education without this assistance.

**Policy**

The Federation supports:

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- Student financial assistance programmes being universally and equitably accessible to full- and part-time students;
- Student financial assistance programmes that are adequate to the needs of all students, including provision for the extra expenses incurred by some students with dependants, and by students with disabilities and/or special needs;
- The integration and harmonisation of student financial assistance programmes so that students do not suffer from unnecessary confusion, delays, errors, superfluous requests for information, and duplication of administration;
- The public provision of accessible and thorough information on all aspects of student financial assistance programmes;
- Eligibility requirements for student financial assistance that include a definition of independent student status which would not include age; which does not include a waiting period after a student's parent or guardian stops claiming the student on their federal income tax return; and which does not require the student to maintain a minimum income level; and
- An equitable calculation of childcare and other dependent expenses, current non-school debt, housing costs, travel expenses and education-related technological expenses in determining the costs of attending post-secondary institutions for the purpose of determining financial need.

The Federation opposes:

- The use of student financial assistance programmes as a means of justifying higher user fees for post-secondary education;
- Student-funded student financial assistance;
- All user fees for students applying for or benefiting from student financial assistance including, not limited to, application fees and service charges;
- Any delay in disbursement of student financial assistance, as any delay in receipt of these funds has a detrimental effect on needy students;
- Penalising students due to delays in the disbursement of student financial assistance including, but not limited to, course cancellation and the imposition of late fees;
- The treatment of student financial assistance as income in the calculation of eligibility for government assistance programmes;
- Public-private partnership requirements in government funding for student financial assistance and other student financial assistance distribution mechanisms that rely on an institution's fundraising capacity over the characteristics of individual students; and
- Work study programmes as a replacement for needs-based student financial assistance.

Be it further resolved that the section titled "Student Grants" be replaced with:

### **NEEDS-BASED STUDENT GRANTS**

#### **Preamble**

Canada is one of only three industrialised countries 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 programmes. A national system of needs-based grants would immediately reduce the daunting debt level students face.

The Federal government currently spends \$1.3 billion each year to administer the Canada Student Loans Program. The Federation estimates the cost of a national grants programme to be \$1.2 billion. In addition, for every dollar allocated in grants, savings will also be realised in reduced administrative costs, education tax credit claims and payments to service providers.

#### **Policy**

The Federation supports the provision of student aid through a full and adequate system of needs-based student grants.

The Federation opposes:

- Merit-based scholarships as a substitute for a needs-based student grants programme; and
- Individually-driven savings plans for post-secondary education, such as registered education savings plans, as a substitute for a needs-based student grants programme.

Be it further resolved that the "Preamble" to the section titled "Student Loans" be replaced with:

Public student loans programmes are not student-aid plans, but rather are a funding model for post-secondary education. They are based on the belief that the individual is the primary beneficiary of a post-secondary education and should bear the financial burden of the cost of that education. Furthermore, student loans programmes typically provide an alibi to government and college and university administrators to justify further tuition fee increases.

Insofar as the federal and provincial governments have chosen to provide student financial assistance in the form of loans rather than needs-based student grants, the Federation supports the following policies on student loans.

Be it further resolved that the section titled "Student loans" be amended to include:

- The Federation opposes debt management measures that tie debt reduction or "forgiveness" to:
- starting a family;
  - re-locating to isolated, rural or under-serviced communities; and
  - post-graduation professional practice in particular professions or specialties.

### **iii. Proposal to Adopt Policy on Portability**

#### **2003/05:N03 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Local 47/

*NEC*

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

#### **PORTABILITY**

##### **Preamble:**

Over the past two decades, there has been a proliferation of institution-to-institution transfer agreements that are, in some cases, inter-provincial. The increased co-operation of colleges and universities reflects the changing role of post-secondary education in society and a greater need for flexible opportunities for retraining, educational upgrading, and diversity of credentials.

Given the substantial differences in credit transfer systems and in the structure of post-secondary education systems between provinces and territories, it is clear that a pan-Canadian system of credit transfer must be built up over time through an initial focus on developing and enhancing strong provincial/territorial transfer systems.

#### **MOBILITY**

##### **Preamble:**

The evolving characteristics of the Canadian college and university student body where students are generally older, more mobile, and more likely to be forced by work-related or personal reasons to register in more than one institution to complete their diploma or degree work.

Given the changes in educational advantages that accrue from greater mobility, the changing needs of the student body and the growing need for individuals to return to post-secondary education during the course of their working lives, it is important to facilitate mobility for individuals between colleges, between universities, and between colleges and universities in Canada.

In addition, the ability to transfer credits also creates an efficient use of human and institutional resources – students will see a reduction of educational costs through the elimination of time-consuming repetition of studies. However, in Canada, the difficulties experienced by transfer students in having their previous post-secondary experience recognised inhibit mobility and are damaging to students.

##### **Policy:**

The Federation supports the integrity and transferability of course credits between all post-secondary educational institutions.

The Federation supports the increase of joint transfer programs.

The Federation supports the development and implementation of a framework for credit transfer arrangements.

The Federation calls on federal, provincial and territorial governments to ensure that there are no barriers to inter-provincial mobility that unreasonably inhibit access.

The Federation opposes quotas on the number of students allowed to transfer from colleges to universities.

The Federation opposes the downsizing and elimination of university transfer programs at community colleges.

#### **PAN-CANADIAN PROTOCOL ON THE TRANSFERABILITY OF LEARNING**

##### **Preamble**

Governments have established colleges and universities as substantially autonomous bodies where academic decisions are made by the institutions themselves. As admissions standards and credit recognition decisions are made by institutions, this means that cooperation between institutions is required to build credit transfer systems within and between provinces and territories.

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Establishing a pan-Canadian protocol on the transferability of learning would allow colleges and universities to identify common standards and interests; encourage dialogue between institutions and systems that have traditionally operated separately; set or target provincial and national standards; maximise the use of resources; and increase awareness of articulation goals and principles.

### **Policy**

The Federation supports the coordination of provincial credit transfer through the establishment of a pan-Canadian protocol on transferability of learning.

The Federation calls upon the Council of Ministers of Education (CMEC) to coordinate and implement such a protocol.

The Federation supports the establishment of a common course numbering system, electronic information systems, articulation facilitators, and provincial governing boards to oversee credit transfer between public post-secondary education institutions.

## **PRIOR-LEARNING ASSESSMENT**

### **Preamble**

Prior learning assessment and recognition of skills acquired outside of college should also be an element of any pan-Canadian protocol ratified by colleges and universities. Prior learning assessment and recognition allows an individual to get some form of recognition for the skills and knowledge she or he has. Prior learning assessment and recognition would give equal value to learning and skills from school, community work, on the job training and other life experiences. The benefits of prior learning assessment and recognition for colleges and universities include, a better use of limited resources, cost-savings for students and assurances that students can transfer from one place to another.

Lack of recognition of prior learning is most severe with respect to foreign educational attainment and, therefore has a negative effect on educational and employment opportunities for international students, immigrants and refugees.

### **Policy**

The Federation supports the promotion of continued education and skills upgrading through recognition of foreign and domestic prior learning credentials and credit transfer.

The Federation opposes policies that create an unnecessary duplication of prior learning.

The Federation calls on the federal government and the Council of Ministers of Education Canada to establish clearly articulated public policies at federal and provincial/territorial levels which support the recognition of prior learning and the subsequent programming/funding for implementation.

The Federation calls on the Federal government to establish a central coordinating body to gather and disseminate prior learning assessment and recognition information on best practices, research and training.

## **CLEAR PATHWAYS TO LEARNING**

### **Preamble**

In order to effectively plan their educational choices, students need to be assured that all course work satisfactorily completed will be considered for recognition of credit should they be granted admission at another public post-secondary institution. Students also require a process of transferring from one institution to another in Canada that will not result in undue additional costs or in the need to repeat essentially equivalent previous learning experiences.

The lack of consistency in the rules and procedures governing credit transfer among the universities, and at times within an institution, leads to substantial confusion for the student and often results in inconsistencies in the recognition of credits.

### **Policy**

The Federation calls on the Council of Ministers of Education Canada to provide clear pathways for students by ensuring that postsecondary institutions provide accurate and timely information to students in advance of transfer.

The Federation calls for the establishment of a consistent system by all colleges and universities to calculate, record, and retain the graduating or final-year GPA for students.

The Federation calls upon the Council of Ministers of Education Canada to encourage the development of arm's-length agencies to promote cooperation and credit transfer between colleges and universities. The steering committees of these agencies should include democratically selected and accountable student representation.

**iv. Proposal to Amend Policy on Pan-Canadian Principles**

**2003/05:N04 MOTION TO AMEND POLICY**

Local 47/

NEC

Whereas in its proposed Post-Secondary Education Act, the Canadian Association of University Teachers calls for "the establishment of national principles setting standards for the provision of post-secondary education" and proceeds to outline those principles; and

Whereas the Federation has endorsed CAUT's Post-Secondary Education Act; and

Whereas the Federation has existing policy entitled "Pan-Canadian Principles" that includes most, but not all of the principles outline by CAUT; therefore

Be it resolved that the existing Federation Policy on called "Pan-Canadian Principles" be amended to include:

Collegial Governance: Post-secondary education institutions should be governed in a collegial manner that includes meaningful and effective representation from faculty and students.

Academic Freedom: Assure protection of the principle of free and independent academic inquiry and the academic and intellectual autonomy of post-secondary institutions.

**v. Proposal to Participate in International Day of Action and Strike against the FTAA**

**2003/05:N05 MOTION**

Local 91/Local 83

CC

Whereas the Federation has endorsed the international campaign to stop both the Free Trade Area of the Americas and General Agreement on Trade in Services agreements for the negative effects they will have on our education system, as well as on social, environmental and labour standards throughout the Americas and the world;

Be it resolved that the Federation endorse the International Days of Action and Strike against the Free Trade Area of the Americas taking place November 20-23 2003, in conjunction with the Free Trade Area of the Americas meetings in Miami, Florida;

Be it further resolved that provincial components be encouraged to organise local participation in this campaign; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation offer support to provincial components as needed for this campaign, such as providing relevant educational materials.

**vi. Proposal to Promote homes4students.com**

**2003/05:N06 MOTION**

Local 18/

OD

Whereas homes4students, the Federation's online housing service, was created because there is a vacuum in online housing services for students; and

Whereas homes4students is the Federation's newest programme; and

Whereas it is important to promote all Federation programmes, particularly those programmes that are new; and

Whereas member local associations are responsible for promoting the programmes of the Federation; therefore

Be it resolved that member locals be encouraged to promote homes4students in student day planners; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to include links to the homes4students on their websites.

**2003/05:N07 MOTION**

Local 18/

OD

Whereas it is important to promote homes4students to renters; and

Whereas campus housing centres are high traffic areas for students seeking housing; therefore

Be it resolved that member locals be encouraged to foster links/ties with off-campus housing centres in order to promote homes4students.com.

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### vii. Proposal to Adopt Acceptable Partnerships Practice

#### 2003/05:N08 MOTION

Local 05/

OD

Whereas the Federation has endorsed the "six bucks sucks" campaign; therefore

Be it resolved that no partnerships exist with companies or organisations that contradict Federation campaigns.

#### 2003/05:N09 MOTION

Local 05/

OD

Whereas partnerships with companies or organisations that disregard the rights of women, the disabled, first nations, queer people or other marginalized groups should not be endorsed; and

Whereas partnerships with companies or organisations that create products that are harmful to people or the environment, or depend on harmful methods of production should not be endorsed; therefore

Be it resolved that no partnerships exist with companies or organizations that contradict the Federation's Policy, By-laws or mission statement.

### viii. Proposals to Amend Bylaw I

#### 2003/05:N10 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS

Local 78/

OD

Whereas Section 2 of Bylaw I-Membership describes in part the Federation's membership application process; and

Whereas Section 4 of Bylaw I also deals with the membership application process; and

Whereas it would be clearer and more straightforward if all language about the membership application process was consolidated in one section of the Bylaw; therefore

Be it resolved that Section 4 of Bylaw I-Membership be removed and that Sections 1 and 2 of Bylaw I-Membership be amended to read as follows:

##### 1. Types of Memberships

**General Description:** There are two types of members of the Federation, individual members and voting members. Students, or individual members, are represented through the local student association to which they belong. Local student associations representing individual members are called voting members.

- a. Local student associations are eligible to receive the status of voting members in the Federation as provided for in Bylaw I, Section 2, and 3;
- b. Individual members of the Federation will be all students in local student associations that are voting members.

##### 2. Types of Voting Membership Status

###### a. Full Membership

**General Description:** Full membership is the standard form of membership in the Federation.

- i. A local association is eligible to apply for full membership in the Federation if its members have approved by referendum membership in the Canadian Federation of Students, Canadian Federation of Students-Services and the applicable provincial component as described in Bylaw VII-Provincial Components;
- ii. A written application for full membership submitted by an eligible local student association will be considered as a binding contract to accept the rights and responsibilities of full membership in the Canadian Federation of Students, Canadian Federation of Students-Services and the applicable provincial component.
- iii. Within 90 days of the receipt by the National Executive of a written application for full membership, the National Executive will examine the application to see whether it is in order, and will make a recommendation to the voting members of the Federation concerning the application.
- iv. At the next general meeting of the Federation, the full membership application shall be put to a vote and shall require a majority of at least two-thirds of the votes cast to be accepted.
- v. A local association's application for membership, once accepted by the Federation, shall constitute a binding contract to collect and remit to the Federation full membership fees for the duration of the membership;



- vi. Notwithstanding Section 2.a.vii. of this Bylaw, the fees for full member local associations shall be:
  - \$3.00 per semester, or \$6.00 per academic year, per local association individual member of the Canadian Federation of Students/Canadian Federation of Students-Services, pro-rated as per the policy of the member local association; and
  - the applicable provincial component fee.
- vii. Beginning in 1996, the Federation membership fee shall increase on August 1 each year by the rate of increase in the national Consumer Price Index during the previous calendar year.

**b. Prospective Membership**

**General Description:** Prospective membership is a trial membership of limited duration.

- i. A local student association is eligible to apply for prospective membership if it has passed a motion of its members, executive, council or equivalent representative body to apply for prospective membership in the Federation and its applicable provincial component as described in Bylaw VII-Provincial Components;
- ii. A written application for prospective membership submitted by an eligible local student association will be considered as a binding contract to accept the rights and responsibilities of prospective membership in the Canadian Federation of Students, Canadian Federation of Students-Services and the applicable provincial component.
- iii. Within 90 days of the receipt by the National Executive of a written application for prospective membership, the National Executive will examine the application to see whether it is in order, and will make a recommendation to the voting members of the Federation concerning the application.
- iv. At the next general meeting of the Federation, the prospective membership application shall be put to a vote and shall require a majority of at least two-thirds of the votes cast to be accepted.
- v. A local student association's application for prospective membership, once accepted by the Federation, shall constitute a binding contract to pay prospective membership fees, as described in Section 2 b-vi, and conduct a full membership referendum, as described in Section 2 b-viii;
- vi. The fee for prospective membership in the Federation shall be five per cent (5%) of the regular Federation membership fee, notwithstanding that the fee may be reduced or waived by a majority vote of a national general meeting or the National Executive;
- vii. A prospective member association shall have full voting rights in Federation national general meetings, but shall not be permitted to designate a proxy to vote on its behalf, and shall have the same access to Federation resources and materials, except the International Student Identity Card, that a full member association has;
- viii. A prospective member association must hold a referendum on full membership in the Federation, in accordance with Section 5 of this Bylaw, within five (5) months following its acceptance as a prospective member unless an extension is granted by the National Executive of the Federation;
- ix. In the event that the majority of those voting in the referendum support full membership in the Federation, full membership will be granted at the subsequent national general meeting, at which point prospective membership shall cease;
- x. In the event that the majority of those voting in the referendum oppose full membership in the Federation, prospective membership will immediately cease;
- xi. In the event that the referendum fails to achieve quorum, prospective membership will be automatically extended and another referendum on full membership will be held within the subsequent six (6) months in accordance with Section 5 of this Bylaw; and
- xii. In the event that a prospective member fails to conduct a referendum on full membership as required by this Bylaw, the Federation shall have the option to either cancel or extend, by majority vote of a national general meeting, the prospective membership until a referendum on full membership is conducted.

Be it further resolved that all subsequent sections of Bylaw 1 be re-numbered accordingly.

**2003/05:N11**

**MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS**

Local 78/

Whereas Section 5 of Bylaw I-Membership was adopted in 1998; and

Whereas over twenty membership referenda have now been conducted using the procedures established in Section 5 of Bylaw I; and

*\* CRD (not oversight)  
should not be  
able to campaign*

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Whereas the experience from those referenda have served to identify areas in which the procedures need to be modified and improved; therefore

Be it resolved that Section 5 of Bylaw I-Membership be amended to read as follows:

**5. Vote to Federate**

In accordance with Section 2 of this Bylaw, the following shall be the rules and procedures for a referendum in which the individual members of a prospective member local association vote on full membership in the Federation:

**a. Scheduling of the Referendum**

The referendum will be scheduled by the prospective member association in consultation with the Federation.

**b. Referendum Oversight Committee**

The referendum shall be overseen by a committee, composed of two (2) members appointed by the prospective local association and two (2) members appointed by the Federation, that shall be responsible for:

- i. establishing the notice requirements for the referendum in accordance with Section 5-c of this Bylaw and ensuring that notice is posted.
- ii. establishing the campaign period in accordance with Section 5-d of this Bylaw.
- iii. approving all campaign materials in accordance with Section 5-e of this Bylaw and removing campaign materials that have not been approved;
- iv. deciding the number and location of polling stations;
- v. setting the hours of voting in accordance with Section 5-f of this Bylaw;
- vi. overseeing all aspects of the voting;
- vii. counting the ballots following voting; and
- viii. establishing all other rules and regulations for the referendum.

**c. Notice of the Referendum**

Notice of the referendum, that includes the referendum question and voting dates, shall be provided to the individual members of the prospective member association no less than two weeks prior to voting in the referendum.

**d. Campaigning**

- i. There shall be no less than ten (10) days on which campaigning is permitted, during which classes are in session, immediately preceding and during voting; and
- ii. Only individual members and representatives of the prospective member association, representatives of the Federation and representatives of the Federation member local associations shall be permitted to participate in the campaign.

**e. Campaign Materials**

- i. Campaign materials shall include all materials developed specifically for the referendum campaign.
- ii. Materials produced by Federation that promote Federation the campaigns and services of the Federation shall not be considered as campaign materials unless they include specific content about the referendum.
- iii. The Federation website shall not be considered a campaign material unless it includes specific content about the referendum.
- iv. The Federation's annual report, financial statements, research and submissions to government shall not be considered a campaign material.
- v. Campaign materials shall not be misleading, potentially libelous or false.

**f. Voting and Tabulation**

- i. Voting shall be conducted at voting stations or, subject to agreement between the prospective member association and the Federation, at a general meeting of the prospective member association or by a mail-out ballot.
- ii. There shall be no less than sixteen (16) hours of polling over no less than two (2) days, except in the case of voting being conducted at a general meeting.
- iii. Unless mutually agreed otherwise by the prospective member association and the Federation, the referendum question shall be: "Are you in favour of membership in the Canadian Federation of Students."
- iv. In the event that polling is conducted at a general meeting, representatives of the Federation and Federation member local associations shall be extended full speaking rights in the meeting;
- v. The prospective member association and the Federation shall each appoint one poll clerk for each polling station.

vi. The prospective member association and the Federation shall each be permitted to appoint one scrutineer to oversee the counting of ballots.

**g. Appeals**

Any appeals of the referendum results or rulings by the Referendum Oversight Committee shall be adjudicated by an Appeals Committee composed of one (1) member appointed by the prospective member association and one (1) member appointed by the Federation.

**2003/05:N12 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS**

Local 99/

Be it resolved that Bylaw 1, Section 5, entitled "Vote to Federate" be replaced in full with the following text.

**5. Vote to Federate**

The individual member of a prospective students association may vote on becoming full members in the Federation, subject to the following rules and procedures:

**a. Notice**

- i. All notices issued by either the students' association shall be delivered by registered mail to the head office of the Federation.
- ii. All notices issued by the Referendum Committee shall be delivered by registered mail to the head office of the Federation, and of the students' association.
- iii. The following notice shall be issued by the students' association no later than two (2) months after the request for Prospective membership. The Federation shall be notified at least two (2) weeks in advance of the date, time, and location of the first meeting in a possible series of meetings between the students' association and the Federation to jointly appoint the members of the Referendum committee.
- iv. The following notices must be given to the student association's membership:
  - a. Notice of the vote to federate must be posted one (1) month before the campaign period for duration of two (2) weeks. The following information shall be included on the notice:
    1. Parties or individuals interested in forming an official "No" campaign can contact the Referendum Committee;
    2. method of obtaining referendum materials, including:
      - Federation By-Laws;
      - Students' association By-Laws;
      - Compromises to by-laws, as determined by 5.d.viii;
      - All rules of the referendum;
      - Any other materials relevant to the referendum;
    3. the dates of the campaign period;
    4. the dates of the voting period;
    5. the names and contact information of the Referendum Committee.
  - b. Notice of the referendum question and other ballot information must be posted at least two (2) weeks before the campaign period begins for duration of two (2) weeks. The following information shall be included on the notice:
    1. the official question;
    2. the dates of campaign period;
    3. the dates and time of voting;
    4. the location(s) of polling station(s);
    5. the contact information of the Referendum Committee.
  - c. Notice of the referendum results shall be issued immediately after the results of the vote are known, and should be posted for duration of two (2) weeks. The following information shall be included on the notice:
    1. the official question;
    2. the number of spoiled ballots, rejected ballots, "Yes" votes, "No" votes, "Abstain" votes, total number of voters, and total number of potential voters;
    3. the release date for final report of the Referendum Committee
    4. the deadline for submitting appeals about the referendum process to the students' association, which shall be no earlier than one (1) week after the release of the final report of the Referendum Committee;
    5. the official of the students' association to whom all appeals can be directed;

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- 6 the date, time and location of the meeting for which the students' association shall rule on all appeals and ratify the results of the referendum.

### **b. Campaigning**

- i. There shall be no less than three (3) weeks of campaigning immediately preceding the voting during which classes are in session;
- ii. Campaigning shall include a public forum regarding the vote to federate and related issues. The forum shall include both campaigns, "Yes" and "No", pending formation of an official "No" campaign.
- iii. Only individual members and representatives of the students' association, representatives of the Federation member local associations shall be permitted to participate in the "Yes" campaign.
- iv. Individuals who would like to form an official "No" campaign may do so. Notice, in the form of a letter, must be given to the Referendum Committee expressing such an interest.
- v. Campaigning is allowed on the days of voting, however absolutely no campaign material may be within fifty (50) metres or direct sight of the polling station(s).

### **c. Voting**

- i. Voting shall be conducted at voting stations or, subject to the agreement of the Federation, at a general meeting of the students' association or by a mail out ballot.
- ii. There shall be no less than sixteen (16) hours of polling over no less than two (2) days, except in the case of voting being conducted at a general meeting.
- iii. In the event that polling is conducted at a general meeting, representatives of the Federation and Federation member local associations shall be extended full speaking rights in the meeting.
- iv. Quorum for the vote shall be that of the students' association or five percent (5%) of the members of the students' association, whichever is higher.

### **d. Administering the Campaign**

- i. A Referendum Committee shall be comprised of three (3) students who are members of the students' association and have no direct affiliation with students' association or the Federation.
- ii. The members the Referendum committee shall be jointly appointed by the Federation and the students' association, as outlined in 5.a.iii.
- iii. A committee chair shall be selected from the three (3) appointed committee members. The chair shall coordinate the business of and preside at all meetings of the Referendum committee.
- iv. The formation of the referendum committee shall include a "Yes" campaign contribution of \$2000 to be held in trust by the committee. The \$2000 shall be made available in the form of reimbursements to the official "No" campaign in exchange for expense receipts.
- v. An official "No" campaign can form any time prior to the voting period of the referendum.
- vi. The Referendum Committee shall be empowered by the Federation to administer the referendum on its behalf.
- vii. The students' association must empower the Referendum Committee to administer the referendum on its behalf prior to the notice required in 5.a.iv.
- viii. Any compromises that must be made to either the Federation by-laws or the students' association by-laws shall be decided upon before the notice of the referendum is served, as outlined in 5.a.iv. The Referendum Committee shall be empowered to make these compromises, as required by 5.d.vi. and vii.
- ix. Within the confines of the referendum, the principles of democracy must be upheld. As such, the Referendum Committee must:
  - a. remain independent and non-partisanship, while exhibiting professionalism;
  - b. be non-political but capable of operating in a political environment;
  - c. be designated to serve the voters by providing them with the highest quality service;
  - d. enable voters to exercise their rights with the least possible inconvenience;
  - e. demonstrate respect for bylaws and resolutions of the Federation and the students' association, and make fair, well-informed compromises when discrepancies exist;
  - f. provide reimbursements for "No" campaign expenses, subject to 5.d.iv;
  - g. discuss and rule on all issues, complaints and appeals arising from the referendum.
- x. The Referendum committee shall be responsible for:
  - a. deciding the manner of voting, be that by referendum, general meeting or mail out ballot;

- b. approving all materials to be distributed;
- c. deciding the ballot question;
- d. overseeing the voting;
- e. deciding the number and location of polling stations;
- f. counting ballots;
- g. adjudicating all appeals;
- h. establishing all other rules and regulations for the vote;
- i. issuing public reports describing all business that has been and still needs to be conducted by the Referendum Committee. Such reports shall be issued to the students' association and the Federation prior to releasing the notice required by 5.a.iv.a, following the counting of the ballots, and following adjudication of all referendum appeals. The final report must comprehensively describe the referendum process and all decisions of the committee.
- xi. \$250 honoraria shall be provided to each of the non-chair Referendum Committee members upon release of the final report. The chair of the Referendum Committee shall receive \$500 upon release of the final report. All honoraria shall be paid by the federation.
- xii. All expenses of the Referendum Committee shall be paid for by the students' association.

**e. Ratification**

- i. Following the release of the final report of the Referendum Committee, the students' association shall ratify the results of the referendum. Appeals of the decisions made by the Referendum Committee shall be adjudicated by the students' association prior to ratifying the results of the referendum.
- ii. If a students' association membership has approved membership in the Federation through the referendum, then immediately following ratification of the referendum results by the students' association, the students' association shall issue a request to the Federation for full membership in the Federation.
- iii. The Federation shall accept or reject the students' associations request for full membership at the first annual general meeting of the Federation following such request. The final report of the Referendum Committee shall be made available to all member locals of the Federation in a responsible time prior to the acceptance or rejection of the request.
- iv. Following the decision of the Federation on the request for full membership, the students' association shall be notified of the decision in writing. Should the Federation accept the request, the students' association shall have assumed the privileges and responsibilities of full membership in the Federation
- v. Prospective membership shall seize upon issuing the response letter regarding full membership.

and,

Be it further resolved that Bylaw 1, Section 2.b.v. be amended to read:

**2. Types of Voting Membership Status**

**b. Prospective Membership**

- v. A prospective member association must hold a referendum on full membership in the Federation, in accordance with Section 5 of this Bylaw.

and,

Be it further resolved that Bylaw 1, Section 2.b.vi. and vii. be deleted, and subsequent sub-sections be renumbered.

**b. Motion Submitted by Nova Scotia Component**

The following motion was submitted by the Nova Scotia component with due notice for consideration at this meeting.

**2003/05:N13 MOTION**

Local 11/Local 7 C'C

Whereas the Council of Ministers of Education Canada is deliberating linking designation of institutions for student loan purposes to student loan default rates;

Whereas a policy of de-designation would lead to students in many programs and/or institutions becoming ineligible for student loans; and

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Whereas this policy would have a negative impact both on accessibility and on the ability of institutions to offer programs; therefore

Be it resolved that a fact sheet be produced on de-designation;

Be it further resolved that a letter be written to the Council of Ministers of Education Canada outlining the Federation's opposition to the policy; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to seek endorsements from local faculty associations, university and college senates and education councils, Boards of Governors, and other coalition partners for the Federation's position opposing de-designation.

**c. Motion Submitted by Caucuses**

**i. Proposal Submitted by National Graduate Caucus**

The following motion was submitted by the National Graduate Caucus with due notice for consideration at this meeting. It will require a mover and seconder in the opening plenary.

**2003/05:N14 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY** *NEC*

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

**Preamble:**

Knowledge, as perceived by the Canadian Federation of Students, should be a "social good" which allows the widest distribution of information in order to benefit, improve and advance society as a whole. As a result, the Federation continues to advocate the basic principles of post secondary education based on the concept of free access to education, open inquiry and the wide spread and free dissemination of knowledge within an open and pluralistic environment of opinions.

The Federation acknowledges that intellectual property may take many forms that include but are not limited to applications, artistic creations (inclusive of games, media, internet and technology based applications), methods, ideas and inventions which will be referred to in this document as creation, idea and/or invention.

Understanding that there may be potential to capitalize on ideas, creations and inventions to the benefit of the creator/inventor and the community in general and keeping mindful that the university is a publicly funded institution, the Federation advocates for the right of the creator/inventor to have an informed and protected interest in the distribution of funds and information dissemination that may result from the creation, idea and/or invention.

With respect to the legal implications involving creations, inventions and ideas, the Federation acknowledges the legal distinctions within copyright and patent laws but does not condone the movement of creations, ideas and inventions from the public and social realm to private enterprise for exploitation at the expense of the creator/inventor and nor does it condone the potential expense and/or dangers that it may have on the social significance, social welfare and general contribution to the knowledge pool.

**Policy:**

The Federation supports intellectual property policies at public institutions that:

- apply to all forms and all stages of research, scholarly and artistic work;
- applies equally to all researchers including faculty, staff and students;
- promote the dissemination of knowledge as its primary goal; and
- recognize that researchers are entitled to recognition in proportion to their contribution to research, including but not limited to subsequent papers and materials resulting from such research.

The Federation opposes intellectual property policies of public institutions that restrict the timely disclosure of research, scholarly and artist work in a public forum.

The Federation acknowledges the need for confidentially agreements between researchers but opposes non-disclosure agreements that restrict public access to research, scholarly and artistic work.

The Federation encourages all public post-secondary institutions to develop intellectual property policies.

**ii. Proposal Submitted by National Aboriginal Caucus**

The following motion was submitted by the Aboriginal Caucus with due notice for consideration at this meeting. It will require a mover and seconder in the opening plenary.

**2003/05:N15 MOTION** OD

Be it resolved that the portion of the common handbook pertaining to the Aboriginal Caucus be expanded to include the history of the Caucus and its current campaigns.

**d. Motions Served Notice at the Previous National General Meeting**

The following motions were served notice at the previous national general meeting for consideration at this meeting.

**i. Proposal to Develop Campaign on Post-Secondary Education Act**

**2003/05:N16 MOTION**

Local 32/Local 44 NEC

Whereas the Federation committed at the May 2002 general meeting to a campaign of "reducing fees until they are free"; and

Whereas the Federation has committed to the establishment of a "national system of standards of post-secondary education" including "a Universal Post-Secondary Education Act"; therefore

Be it resolved that a nationally focused and provincially coordinated campaign for the establishment of a "Universal Free Post-Secondary Education Act" be launched; and

Be it further resolved that the proposed Universal Free Post-Secondary Education Act include five criteria analogous to the Canada Health Act, namely:

- i. Public Administration: that the administration of the post-secondary education system of a province or territory must be carried out on a non-profit basis by a public authority;
- ii. Comprehensiveness: that a full range of programmes and courses, representing a diversity of knowledge and experience, be available at all post-secondary institutions;
- iii. Universality: that all persons in the province or territory must be entitled to public post-secondary education on uniform terms and conditions;
- iv. Portability: that access to post-secondary education programmes must be maintained when a person moves or travels within Canada or travels outside the country; and
- v. Accessibility: that all residents of Canada are ensured access to post-secondary education, unimpeded by financial or other barriers, without direct fees, and with grant-based financial support to cover cost of living and study expenses.

**ii. Proposal to Amend Term 'Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered'**

**2002/11:017 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS, STANDING RESOLUTIONS, AND POLICY**

Local 05/Local 61 OD

Be it resolved that the term "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered" be replaced with the word "Queer" in all Bylaws, Standing Resolutions and Policies.

**iii. Proposal to Support Students' Right to Education**

**2002/11:087 MOTION**

Local 98/Local 91 CC

Be it resolved that support for the rights of Palestinian students to have access to education, freedom, and self-determination be communicated to the Canadian government;

Be it further resolved that a letter be written to the Canadian government that condemns the Israeli government's closure of Palestinian universities and its prevention of students' travel to and from these universities;

Be it further resolved that the letter call for a reversal of these inhumane policies while also expressing solidarity with students in Palestine;

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to send similar letters.

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**13. INTRODUCTION OF ANTI-HARASSMENT ADVISOR FOR THE GENERAL MEETING**

The Federation strives to create an environment at its national general meetings that is free of harassment. At each national general meeting the Federation employs an anti-harassment advisor who is available on a 24-hour basis to assist delegates.

At this time the Anti-Harassment Advisor will provide a brief orientation to the Federation's harassment policy as described in the policy manual.

**14. PRESENTATION BY THE FEDERATION'S STAFF RELATIONS OFFICER**

National Treasurer Jess Turk-Browne, who serves as the Federation Staff Relations Officer, will make a brief presentation on the collective agreement between the Federation and its employees as it pertains to the rights and responsibilities of the employees at national general meetings.

**15. OTHER BUSINESS**

**16. RECESS**

Room 416 → palestine

Univ Centre 134