

National Executive  
**report**

May 15 to November 18, 2003

du 15 mai à 18 novembre, 2003

**rapport**  
de l'exécutif national



**SOLIDARITÉ**

**SOLIDARITY**

FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DES ÉTUDIANTES ET ÉTUDIANTS  
CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS



# Letter to Members



Dear Members,

We gather for our 22nd annual congress in the middle of a very active time for our Federation. The past six months have seen elections held in six provinces. Our Federation and our members worked hard in those elections to put post-secondary education on the agenda and succeeded in each and every campaign. In the past week, the federal Liberal Party crowned a new leader in Paul Martin, who identified two key social priorities in his campaign: improving the conditions of Aboriginal peoples and improving post-secondary education and research in Canada.

This fall, we have been busy planning a day of action for February 4th. On the eve of a federal election with a new Prime Minister, our day of action provides an opportunity for Canada's student movement to shape the national agenda. Our members in Newfoundland and Labrador, and more recently in Ontario, have shown that when students work together, Liberal governments can be convinced to put access to post-secondary education ahead of corporate tax cuts.

The founding principles of our Federation call on us to work with the national student movement of Québec on issues of common concern. In the past six months, we have continued to build our relationship with the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec. We welcome a number of guests from the FÉUQ to this meeting, and look forward to continuing this cooperation.

Our founding principles also demand a commitment to offering not-for-profit services to our members. Our Federation has met that demand in several important domains, and we are on the verge of another. Delegates at the May 2003 national general meeting directed the National Student Health Network to expand its services to protect students from price gouging in other areas of insurance coverage. By eliminating the excessive profits charged in those areas, students' financial resources can be used for other priorities.

What follows is a report of the Federation's activity over the past six months. We look forward to using the next six months to expand on our successes.

The National Executive

November 2003



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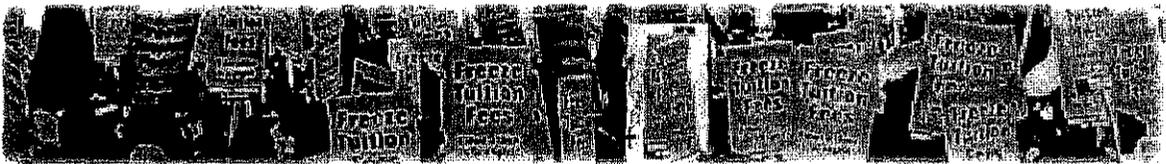
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# Campaigns and Government Relations



“You will know what I will do as  
Prime Minister by looking at my  
record as Finance Minister.”

▶▶ *Liberal Leader and incoming Prime Minister,  
Paul Martin.*

As Finance Minister, Martin implemented the largest cuts to health, social services and post-secondary education in Canadian history.

Shortly thereafter, Martin provided the largest tax cut in Canadian history, half of which went to the richest ten percent of Canadians.

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### Federal Budget Process

As in previous years, the Federation was invited to submit a written brief to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance. The Committee prepares a report for the Department of Finance for consideration during the federal budget preparation process.

This year's submission is divided into five sections. The first section undertakes a review of the research on financial barriers to post-secondary education. In light of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation's politically motivated research that attempts to confuse government about the impact of tuition fees on access, the Federation's brief goes into great detail about the diminishing access for low and middle-income households. The brief recommends the elimination of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation, the Canada Education Savings Grant, and the Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP), to fund a system of needs-based grants. The brief also recommends implementing a national strategy on tuition fees.

The second section discusses the discriminatory practices still employed by the Canada Student Loans Program. Credit checks, the in-study earnings clawback, and the ten-year prohibition on bankruptcy still plague students and graduates, and must be removed if the most economically marginalised Canadians are going to benefit from higher education. In addition to calling for these regressive regulations to be rolled back, this section recommends maintaining the Canada Student Loans maximum.

Increasing tuition fees have placed substantial strain on the existing Canada Student Loans Program because, as students are being forced to borrow more than ever, the maximum allowable loan becomes less adequate to meet all the financial needs of students ("unmet need"). As an easy solution, some organisations that do not oppose increased student debt are calling for higher student loan maximums. Of course, with more loan money, it is likely that universities facing a funding

crunch because of diminished government funding will use this higher loan as a reason to increase tuition fees. Instead, the Federation is proposing to meet all unmet need above the current maximums with grants. In this section, the Federation also took aim at the private education industry. The brief called for an end to the \$315 million subsidy to private institutions via the Canada Student Loans Program.

The next section is similar to a chapter in last year's brief detailing the complete failure of tax credits to ease the student debt burden. The Federation argues that tax measures are not only a policy afterthought on the federal government's part, but are regressive and not beneficial to those most in need. The brief recommends the elimination of the education and tuition fee tax credit for those earning over \$70,000, and that the savings be directed to needs-based grants.

The fourth section presents an outline of the Federation's analysis of Aboriginal post-secondary funding, recommending that treaty obligations be met in consultation with the Assembly of First Nations.

The final section recognises the federal government's new spending on graduate student research but remains highly critical of the heavy emphasis on commercialisation in the Innovation Strategy. Such an unbalanced federal research funding agenda has resulted in chronic underfunding of social science and humanities research, and the Federation recommends an immediate doubling of the base budget for the Social Science and Humanities Research Council.

The Federation was invited to make an oral presentation to the Committee on September 23, 2003. National Chairperson Ian Boyko presented to the Committee on the Federation's behalf. During the presentation, Committee member Roy Cullen (Lib.-Etobicoke North) expressed bewilderment at the Federation's criticism of the Registered Education Savings Plan. Cullen was adamant that the Plan is not regressive at all, and one of the most popular federal government

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programs. Boyko attempted to disabuse Cullen of his misunderstanding, but met with little success. Subsequently, a letter was sent to Cullen's office to reassure the Member that the research is very clear that RESPs are only aiding those least in need of financial assistance.

### Federal Election Readiness

#### Elections Canada

Elections Canada convened a two-day conference on youth voter participation October 30 and 31 in Calgary. National Researcher Michael Conlon represented the Federation. The conference reviewed the latest research on voter turnout in Canada, including data that revealed that only 26 percent of Canadians between the age of 18 and 24 voted in the last federal election. Voter turnout has been slowly declining since the 1968 federal election. However, the decline has been particularly steep among young Canadians. Researchers noted that the decline in voter turnout has depressed overall voter turnout because those who do not vote between the age of 18 and 24 are also unlikely to vote later in life.

The data also revealed that youth are not cynical about politics in general but they are disengaged from parliamentary politics. Researchers from the Centre for Canadian Research and Information substantiated this claim by introducing data that shows that youth are engaged in political and civic activity at the local level. The conference also heard from Julianna Torjek who argued that the fraying of the social safety net plays a large part in social disenfranchisement. Torjek pointed out that social programs are a critical part of what defines Canada and the attack on the collective support structure of social assistance has further marginalised poor Canadians.

The second day of the conference focused on developing strategies to transform the local civic engagement of youth into involvement in federal and provincial elections. Though Elections Canada was

pushing for concrete, immediate suggestions much of the discussion focused on the root causes of voter apathy. The Federation representative stressed the need for a more convenient method of registration. The Federation also argued against the current system that forces students to vote in their parents' riding.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Chief Electoral Officer Jean Pierre Kingsley suggested that a smaller youth forum would be convened closer to the next federal election. Kingsley indicated that the Federation would be invited to participate in the forum.

### Student Financial Assistance

#### National Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance, May 2003

The National Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance (NAGSFA) meets twice a year to discuss policy changes to the Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP). The group is composed of government and organisations representing students, administrators, institutional financial aid staff, and faculty members.

At the May 26, 2003 meeting, National Researcher Michael Conlon represented the Federation. The meeting reviewed the progress of several changes to the Canada Student Loans Program announced in the 2003 budget. CSLP officials reported that convention refugees would be eligible for student loans by September 2003. However, as the needs assessment system required updating to reflect the change there were delays in the fall and many students classified as convention refugees did not receive their loans until early October 2003. It was also reported that most provinces, with the exception of British Columbia, will follow the lead of the federal government and make convention refugees eligible for student loans. Unfortunately, it was also reported that it would likely be early 2004 before changes to the Debt Reduction and Repayment Program (DRR) are implemented. CSLP

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officials said that the new income table would match Interest Relief eligibility tables but that the changes would not be retroactive. That is, those who applied and were not approved for DRR in the past are not eligible under the new rules. The Federation registered opposition to this provision in light of the fact that when the program was announced in 1998, the DRR tables were supposed to match the Interest Relief tables.

The meeting also addressed the issue of increasing loan limits. A majority of the members of NAGSFA support raising the amount that students can borrow as a means of addressing increased costs. Surprisingly, Director General David Cogliati joined the Federation in dissenting from this view. Cogliati echoed the Federation's analysis that raising loan limits was a simplistic and shortsighted way to solve the current problem of increased tuition fees and did not provide any long-term solutions to the problem of access.

Cogliati also pointed out that increased loan limits would likely only result in an alibi for further tuition fee increases – thereby negating any ameliorative effect. Not surprisingly, the representative of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada strongly disagreed with this view. However, what is more worrisome is the support for higher loan limits voiced by the Canadian Association Student Financial Aid Administrators (CASFAA). The Federation's National Executive remains skeptical that CASFAA, an unelected collection of administrative staff, have any relevance in broad social policy discussions affecting the lives of hundreds of thousands of students.

The final policy development addressed at the May 26 meeting was a report on the development of a designation policy. Designation ties eligibility for student financial assistance to student loan default rates. Though the Federation has long opposed such policies, it was clear that the federal government is targeting the for-profit private education industry with this policy. Under the current policy framework, no public institutions would be affected by the policy. The way the policy is currently set, high

levels of default would mandate the institution to develop a plan to reduce default rates. Once the plan is submitted to the federal government the institution would have three years to rectify the problem. If after three years the default rates remain "unacceptably high" (the proposed threshold is 25 percent), students at the institution in question will no longer be eligible for student financial assistance. The policy would be implemented on an institution-by-institution basis versus the original proposal of program-by-program.

The designation policy framework set out at the meeting is being used as a template in negotiations with provinces interested in harmonising provincial and federal loan systems. Though the provinces remain free to design their own policy, the federal government is pushing for a uniform policy.

In addition to immediate policy concerns, the meeting also discussed medium and long-term challenges for the Program. Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) staff offered an overview of the fiscal and social changes facing the Program. In particular they pointed to rising tuition fees and greater demand for access to education among lower socio-economic groups. A recurring theme in such discussions is the fact that the CSLP was designed in 1964 and largely follows the model of operation for that era. From that standpoint, HRDC is looking at major changes to the Program over the next three to five years. As has been previously reported there is a working group, coordinated by the Council of Ministers of Education Canada (CMEC), looking into revisions to the Program. Unfortunately, these discussions are taking place behind closed doors and non-governmental stakeholders have not yet been invited to join the discussion.

Newly appointed Deputy Minister Andrew Treusch addressed medium and long-term challenges to the CSLP. In a speech long on rhetoric and short on detail, Treusch repeated the theme that the Program must be modernised if it is to keep up with the challenge of providing access to post-secondary education. Treusch repeated the rhetoric

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of the CMEC paper on on-line learning in his suggestion that on-line learning might be a way to promote "affordable access." The Federation voiced opposition to this as the only solution to the problem of access for remote communities. The Federation also pushed Treusch to address the looming accessibility crisis apparent in the research presented earlier in the meeting by HRDC staff.

### **National Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance, November 2003**

The fall meeting of the National Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance (NAGSFA) was held on November 17, 2003. National Chairperson Ian Boyko attended on behalf of the Federation. Agenda items of note were: potential policy questions facing the Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP), updates on student loan designation, updates on the 2003 budget items, and a discussion about servicing students with disabilities.

CSLP officials indicated that they are highly concerned about the average level of unmet financial need experienced by students, which is estimated to be approximately \$3,500. The discussion reviewed the options for meeting unmet need, during which Boyko argued that meeting unmet need with higher loan limits will simply increase student debt. He said that the problem of unmet financial need will persist if tuition fees continue to increase. Grants, not loans, were identified as a way to curb student debt while getting money to those in need. However, representatives from the Canadian Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (CASFAA) and CSLP officials argued that loan limits need to be increased in the short term, combined with targeted grants for marginalised groups.

NAGSFA representatives also received an update on the designation policy framework that has been prepared for provincial governments. As reported earlier, all of the provinces have agreed to implement a provincial designation policy that will "manage" the "financial risk" associated with student loans. Institutions who fail to meet guidelines within the federal framework run the risk of losing student loan

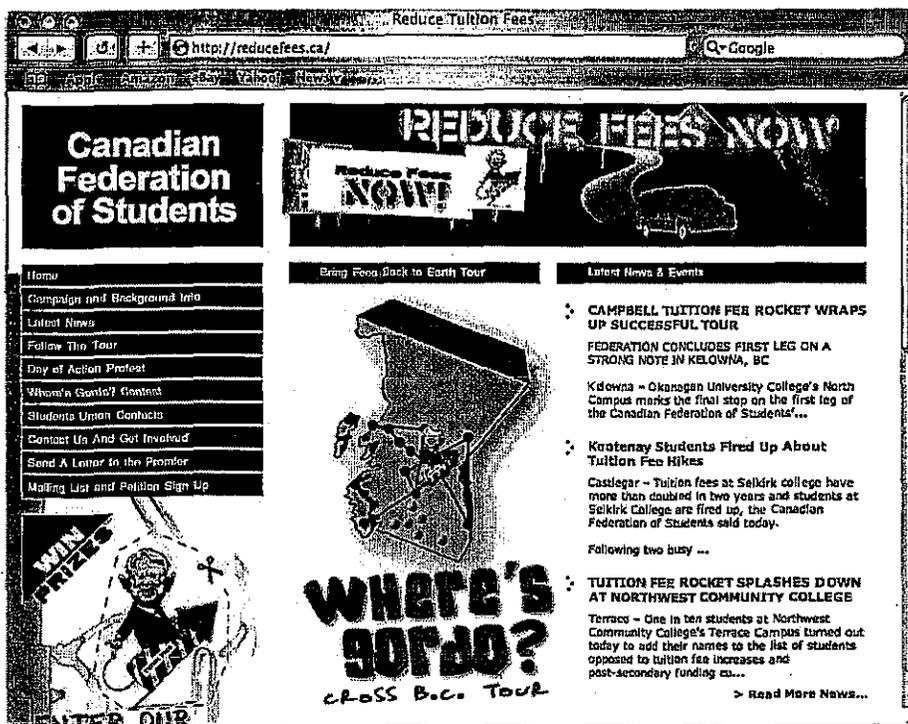
designation. In other words, students attending the offending institution will be ineligible for Canada Student Loans. The framework, developed by the federal government in consultation with provincial loan officials, will set the minimum standard on which individual provincial governments can choose to add criteria or complexity. Micheline Nehmé, Manager of Portfolio Integrity for the CSLP said that since the last time NAGSFA met "default criteria" and seven measures of "administrative compliance" have been confirmed. The default criteria state that institutions whose graduates default on student loan payments at a rate of greater than 29 percent could potentially be de-designated. The default criteria lay out what portion of graduates who default on student loans is acceptable, while the administrative compliance measures attempt to set a standard for responsible administrative support for students.

Boyko argued that while he had sympathy with the federal government's frustration with the low quality education and support provided to students at private career colleges, the broad approach of any designation policy that could potentially de-designate public institutions is counterproductive. Universities and colleges in many regions serve communities that may be economically depressed from time to time. Because default rates are strongly related to employment trends, students outside of Canada's major urban centres are at a greater risk of defaulting. Removing student loan eligibility from students attending public post-secondary education in these regions based on default statistics does not recognise the importance of these institutions, or the right of students who want to remain in their home region to an education.

Katalyn Deczky, Director for Canada Student Loans Policy Development, provided an update on implementation of student loan measures contained within the 2003 federal budget. Deczky indicated that the new regulations for Interest Relief and Debt Reduction in Repayment are written and waiting for Cabinet approval. It is expected that they will be implemented by April 1, 2004. Of note, Deczky said that, contrary to previous statements, the Debt Reduction in Repayment has changed slightly and

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### Canadian Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

On June 15-17, 2003, the Canadian Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (CASFAA) held their annual conference and general meeting at the University of New Brunswick. National Chairperson Ian Boyko attended on the Federation's behalf. Within the post-secondary education sector, CASFAA is a semi-professional organisation that represents the so-called "front line" university and college financial aid workers.

### BC MEMBERS LAUNCHED A WEBSITE AND A PROVINCE WIDE TOUR THIS FALL TO PLACE BLAME FOR FEE INCREASES FIRMLY ON BC PREMIER GORDON CAMPBELL

will now be a flat reduction of \$10,000 by removing the condition that a reduction not exceed 50 percent of a student's debt. She also confirmed that those previously rejected under the more stringent eligibility requirements between 1998 and 2003 can re-apply.

NAGSFA members also heard from the National Education Association for Disabled Students (NEADS) Executive Director Frank Smith on the issue of the Canada Study Grants. Smith told the CSLP officials that the evidence indicates that there are not enough students with disabilities taking advantage of the Grant, a problem he attributed to insufficient promotion. He said that CSLP officials should endeavour to improve the profile of the program and ensure that Edulinx, the private service provider of the CSLP, be properly trained to answer questions about the Canada Study Grant.

CASFAA representatives at the

National Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance (NAGSFA) and other federal government standing committees have typically been the source of the most detailed and technical information on student loan disbursement at the campus level. However, from time to time, CASFAA has operated as a lobby voice on public policy issues, despite its lack of an invested constituency. Some of the policy positions taken by CASFAA directly contradict the goals of the Federation, such as their recommendations to increase Canada Student Loans (CSL) limits and reduce the CSL bankruptcy prohibition from ten to seven years. It should be noted that despite the official policy of CASFAA, their membership is quite divided on the issue.

At the meeting in Fredericton, Boyko talked to many CASFAA members individually to discuss the perils of increasing loan limits. Many administrators were receptive to the argument that higher student debt is not the solution to diminished accessibility and unmet financial need.

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### Meeting with Peter Adams, MP

On June 9, 2003, National Chairperson Ian Boyko met with the Chair of the federal Liberal Caucus on Post-Secondary Education and Research, Peter Adams, MP (Lib.-Peterborough). Approximately 28 members of parliament comprise the Caucus, which advises Cabinet on higher education funding policy. In light of recent discussions at the National Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance (NAGSFA) about loan limits, Boyko explained the Federation's position that loan limits are already too high, and that unmet financial need must be addressed with grants. Adams indicated that there is a level of awareness amongst Caucus members about unmet need and loan limits, and that it would be discussed during the Liberal caucus meetings in North Bay in August 2003.

### Council of Ministers of Education of Canada

On June 19, 2003 National Chairperson Ian Boyko met with the Robert Patry, the Post-Secondary Issues Co-ordinator for the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC). The CMEC is a communication and pan-Canadian policy development vehicle for the various provincial education ministers. Given the many ideologies and regional circumstances for each provincial government, the CMEC is not a particularly effective or efficient organisation.

However, provincial governments are currently undergoing a far-reaching review of student financial assistance through an inter-governmental working group on student financial assistance. Patry indicated that no proposal was currently being excluded from discussion, including increasing loan limits or income-contingent loans. Boyko explained the Federation's position on both policies and argued that increased student debt is the outcome of all loans-based approaches to the current problems of unmet financial need.

### Edulinx Service Advisory Council

Owned by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Edulinx Canada Corp. is the for-profit service provider

that administers the public division of the Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP). In a \$96 million public-private partnership deal, Edulinx took over the disbursement and repayment services in summer 2000 when the chartered banks withdrew from the CSLP over a dispute with the federal government.

Twice annually, Edulinx hosts a service advisory council meeting at their head offices in Mississauga, Ontario. The purpose of the meetings is for Edulinx to provide updates on service provision and to solicit feedback from stakeholders. National Chairperson Ian Boyko attended the most recent meeting on November 7, 2003. The bulk of the November 2003 meeting dealt with the high volume disbursement period of fall 2003. During that time, nearly 300,000 loan applications were processed. It was reported that 4.3 percent, or over 12,600 were received by mail, rather than from Canada Post outlets or on-campus locations. Documents received by mail take longer to process, and students applying this way must wait for an extended period of time before gaining access to their loan.

This is compounded by the fact that all mail-in applicants must have their identification validated at a later time. Edulinx officials attributed the mail-in rate to those students who do not require loans immediately, but the Federation representative contended that it is more likely students who mailed their forms did not have access to the other two avenues of on-site loan facilities. Students at rural campuses or students who commute were unlikely to have immediate access to a certified Canada Post station or Edulinx campus booth. Edulinx officials committed to conduct a review of the characteristics of documents that were mailed during fall 2003.

During the discussion about Edulinx's "community involvement," Boyko raised the promotional sponsorship of Murray Baker's book, *The Debt-Free Graduate*. In the past few months, student financial aid offices on many campuses have been selling copies of *The Debt-Free Graduate* at a discount. Edulinx's sponsorship of the campaign has paid for a 20 percent reduction in the price of the book. The book, first published in 1996, is a self-help guide for

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students from low and middle-income backgrounds. As the book's name suggests, Baker argues that spending habits, not government policies, are the cause of student debt. *The Debt Free Graduate's* suggestions range from common sense to the absurd to the potentially fraudulent. Some of Baker's "insights" into financial planning include:

- The common sense: "Turn off the lights you're not using. Sounds like echoes of your parents, but you can save money."
- The absurd: "Some employers allow you to purchase various investments, such as Canada Savings Bonds, through automatic payroll deductions."
- Potential Fraud: "If you qualify for a loan but don't think you'll need it, take it out anyway. Then sock all or part of it away in a safe investment where you'll make money and won't be tempted to spend it."

Boyko argued that not only is Baker clearly out of touch with the realities facing students with modest financial resources, but also his patronizing advice adds insult to injury for students who struggle to make ends meet. Most of Baker's money management tactics would only result in a few dollars of savings each month. Through Baker's own self-promotion and now the healthy contribution from Edulinx Corp., Baker has earned significant media coverage with the message that going \$25,000 into debt is a matter of individual choices. Boyko indicated that it is inappropriate for the subsidy to continue, and that the "community involvement" budget should be spent in more productive ways that do not de-politicise the problem of student debt.

### Campaign to Reduce Tuition Fees

#### National Professional Association Coalition on Tuition Fees, June 2003

The Federation is a founding member of the National Professional Association Coalition on Tuition Fees (NPACT). The Coalition was formed in response to the deregulation of professional,

graduate, and second-entry programs in Ontario in 1998. Most major national organisations representing professionals are members of the Coalition, including the Canadian Medical Association (Secretariat), the Canadian Dentists Association, the Canadian Pharmacists Association, the Canadian Bar Association, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, the Canadian Nurses Association, the Canadian Physiotherapy Association, and the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.

On June 16, 2003, National Researcher Michael Conlon participated in a conference call meeting of NPACT. The meeting reviewed the Coalition's lobbying activities, canvassed member associations for renewed commitments, and reviewed the research proposal from the Millennium Scholarship Foundation. The Chair, Dr. Bill Easton, reported that NPACT had been asked to appear before the Standing Committee on Finance in fall 2003. He also reported that he had been invited to address a coalition of professional organisations in the United States about the activities of NPACT. Easton also addressed the issue of membership commitment and suggested that the participation of some organisations in the Coalition had waned.

With the exception of the Canadian Nurses Association, each of the member organisations reaffirmed their commitment to the Coalition. Easton also suggested that member contributions might rise nominally as the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) becomes more reticent about donating secretariat services to the Coalition.

Finally, the Coalition reviewed a research partnership with the Millennium Scholarship Foundation. Louise Marcus, Director of Research and Communications for the CMA, outlined the proposal. In effect, the CMA would partner with the Foundation to collect data on the effect of the deregulation of tuition fees on professional programs. Though the research project sounds inoffensive, the Federation representatives registered concerns about the credibility of Foundation research.

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The Coalition met in Ottawa on November 12. National Researcher Michael Conlon attended the meeting on behalf of the Federation. A hasty and ill-informed discussion about the need for regulated fees resulted in a decision to remove the Coalition's call for regulated tuition fees from the terms of reference. Hannah Bernstein from the Canadian Bar Association initiated the discussion, making it clear that her suggestion was a direct result of pressure applied by the deans of various law schools within the Canadian Bar Association. Most members seemed to believe that the coalition's goal of lower tuition fees could be achieved without the provincial regulation of tuition fees. Two key points raised by the Federation failed to convince other members of the Coalition. The representative of the Federation argued that the provinces in which fees for professional programs are skyrocketing also have deregulated fees and that the only provinces in which fees have been reduced (fee reductions being the stated goal of the Coalition) were provinces in which fees are regulated. Most members of the coalition, with direction from chair Bill Easton, preferred to adopt positions that would placate Canada's deans of Law rather than engage in an effective political campaign against high fees.

The Coalition also considered supporting income contingent loans, but the representative of the Federation was successful in arguing against any inclusion of such schemes in the terms of reference. In fact, coalition members agreed that there should be a greater emphasis on grants in the student financial aid section of the coalition's goals. The Federation was selected to chair the working group charged with reviewing NPACT's student financial assistance policy.

Louise Marcus from the Canadian Medical Association and Hannah Bernstein from the Canadian Bar Association provided an update on a current research project of the Millennium

**Tuition Fees and Accessibility**

As a result of chronic government underfunding, Nova Scotia students pay the highest tuition fees in Canada. With average fees at over \$5,200 per year, many lower and middle income families in Nova Scotia are unable to afford a college or university education.

From 1990-1991 to 2000-2001 average undergraduate tuition fees increased by 239% in Canada, more than six times faster than the rate of inflation. User fees at Nova Scotia's universities, adjusted for inflation, are at their highest ever recorded levels.

Tuition fees in Nova Scotia account for a higher proportion of university operating revenues than in any other province.

This is a direct result of inadequate government funding. In 2001-2002 government funds accounted for only 41.9% of university operating revenues.

**Access is Suffering**  
Recent studies paint a disturbing picture of the effect that high tuition fees have on access to post-secondary education for low and middle income Canadians. In a 2001 poll conducted on behalf of the Canadian Federation of Students, 46% of low income Canadians cite lack of money as the reason for not attending college or university. A recent Statistics Canada report shows that there is a growing gap in university participation rates between high and low income families.

"The research clearly demonstrates that... students from lower income households are much more likely to be affected by financial..."

Studies from several universities show the direct impact that high tuition fees have on access for low and middle income Canadians.

A study done at the University of Western Ontario

**FREEZE TUITION FEES**

Because Nova Scotia tuition fees... are the highest in Canada.

WITH SIX PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS THE FEDERATION'S VOTEEDUCATION.CA WEBSITE WAS PUT TO GOOD USE

Scholarship Foundation. The study, designed to track access to professional programs, is set to begin in early 2004. Both Marcus and Bernstein expressed some frustration that the Foundation has not consulted as widely as promised on the design of the project. Both representatives also noted that the Foundation has recently asked each organisation for a \$15,000 contribution, despite having a substantial research budget of over \$10 million.

Finally, NPACT chair Bill Easton reviewed the coalition's recent activities. Easton reported that NPACT had appeared at the Progressive Conservative post-secondary education policy forum.

### Access Summit Follow-Up Meeting

On October 7, 2003, a follow up meeting was held for organisations that sent representatives to the Ottawa Access Summit. The purpose of the meeting was to maintain contact with professional organisations that will continue to play an important role on the periphery of the campaign to reduce tuition fees. National Chairperson Ian Boyko

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represented the Federation at the meeting that included representatives from the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), the Canadian Bar Association (CBA), the Canadian Dental Association (CDA), and the Canadian Medical Association (CMA).

Participants discussed current issues related to each organisation's efforts to lobby the federal government for increased funding and student debt relief. Boyko reviewed the recent research about access to post-secondary education, including a critical analysis of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation's research project. A representative from the CMA indicated that they were committed to a research agreement with the Foundation to conduct a study on the impact of high fees in the professional fields, but indicated that the CMA intends on exerting strict control over the methodology and editorial content. At the conclusion of the meeting, the groups agreed that it would be important to maintain regular communication to update each other about access-related developments.

### Meeting with the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada

On September 16, 2003, National Chairperson Ian Boyko and Researcher Michael Conlon met with representatives from the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC). Executive Director Robert Giroux, Director of Research Herb O'Heron, and Director of Government Relations Lawrence Aronovitch represented the AUCC. The Federation arranged for the meeting to discuss comments by AUCC spokespersons in the media and government committee settings regarding "accessibility" versus "capacity."

The AUCC has used recent discussions about tuition fees and student debt as a platform to raise concerns about the infrastructure problems on campuses. Their claim is that "accessibility is capacity" because without new classrooms or residences, there will not be room for new enrolment. This assertion is closely related to

the university presidents' familiar claim that funding for accessibility (i.e. fully funded tuition fee reductions) detract from quality. Both claims misrepresent the issue of government's responsibility to guarantee access to high quality education as a choice between the access and quality.

In addition to clarifying the Federation's position on improving access, quality, and capacity, Federation representatives sought to learn what the AUCC was lobbying for at the Standing Committee on Finance. Giroux indicated that the AUCC was satisfied with its successes in the research realm, and would be turning its attention to "learning." Giroux was vague on what specific proposals, if any, were being presented to the Finance Committee, but did say that this would be a multi-year strategy.

Conlon reviewed the Federation's charter challenge to the 1998 changes to the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act for the AUCC representatives. He encouraged the AUCC to take a position on the issue, given that the law is under review and will likely see several groups, including the Senate, recommend an amendment to the prohibition. Giroux asked for materials prepared by the Federation to be forwarded to the AUCC office prior to their next board meeting.

Federation representatives have also met with new AUCC Director of Government Relations Lawrence Aronovitch on two separate occasions in fall 2003.

### Charter Challenge to the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act

As previously reported the Federation's legal challenge to the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act is now in its final stages. The Federation is awaiting a court date in December 2003. However, there are several developments to report on the political front. As outlined in the May National Executive report, the Senate Committee on Banking, Trade, and Commerce is currently examining the Act. Federation national researcher Michael Conlon appeared before the committee May 8. Schwartz,

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a professor of public policy at Carleton University, is a leading expert on Bankruptcy and is also the Federation's prime affiant in our constitutional challenge. On September 24, the committee heard from Saul Schwartz who spoke on behalf of the Insolvency Task Force. The Task Force, convened under the auspices of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy, tabled its report in August of 2002 and recommended that the prohibition on student loan bankruptcy be lowered from ten to five years. The Insolvency Task Force was composed of 23 experts in the field of bankruptcy, including academics, legal experts, bankruptcy trustees, and government officials. Schwartz presented the findings of the Task Force but he also outlined his own position that there should be no prohibition whatsoever.

On October 1, 2003 Andrew Treusch, Assistant Deputy Minister, Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) and David Cogliati, Director General of the Canada Student Loan Program appeared before the Committee. Treusch and Cogliati repeated the government's position that the range of "generous" programs the government offers mitigate the potentially negative effects of the law. Upon reviewing the testimony of Treusch and Cogliati the Federation submitted an addendum to its original submission in order to point out several omissions in the testimony of the HRDC officials.

The Senate tabled its final report November 4, 2003 and recommended lowering the prohibition from ten to five years. The Senate report heavily cites the testimony of Schwartz. More importantly, the claims of Treusch and Cogliati that a ten-year prohibition was justified are explicitly rejected. The final report also quotes extensively from the Federation's testimony. Based on the final report it is also clear that the addendum the Federation submitted in response to HRDC testimony was decisive in refuting the argument made in favour of leaving the law at ten years.

When parliament resumes in January the report will be tabled and discussed in the House of Commons. It is customary for Parliament to adopt most of the report's recommendations.

### **Federal Post-Secondary Education Act**

#### **Liberal Post-Secondary Education Caucus**

Each year during the Liberal Caucus retreat, Liberal Members of Parliament from ridings with colleges or universities meet to discuss issues of concern to post-secondary education. This year's meeting took place in North Bay, Ontario on August 19, 2003. In a letter to invited organisations sent out in advance of the meeting, Caucus Chair Peter Adams declared that the theme of the 2003 hearing would be access to post-secondary education. Unfortunately, the representative from the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) used this opportunity with Liberal MPs to discuss the diminished access to universities and colleges as a platform for the AUCC's pet project. Rather than calling for improved student financial assistance or higher funding to help offset provincial post-secondary education costs, the representative for the AUCC pronounced that "access" must be considered from the perspective of "capacity" and "quality".

In the Federation's presentation, National Chairperson Ian Boyko highlighted the need for the federal government to play a more active role in seeking accountability for federal transfer payments to the provinces. Boyko explained that without a federal strategy on accessibility, tuition fees and student debt, and federal expenditures on back-end debt relief (tax credits, interest relief, debt reduction) will continue to spiral out of control. He stressed that addressing rising tuition fees must figure prominently in any attempt by the federal government to boost access to university and college.

#### **Progressive Conservative Blue-Ribbon Panel on Post-secondary Education**

On November 1 and 2, 2003, the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada hosted a series of policy development roundtables to receive input from non-governmental organisations. The Federation was invited to sit as a panelist on the group discussing the future of post-secondary education. National

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Chairperson Ian Boyko participated on behalf of the Federation. Boyko presented on the importance of a national system of needs-based grants, a federal post-secondary education Act, and increased federal funding through a dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education.

Boyko also discredited regressive policy proposals invented by the Progressive Conservative Party, such as government-matched funds for university bursary fundraising (ie. the Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Fund). Boyko was accompanied on the panel by representatives from other membership-based post-secondary education groups such as the Canadian Association of University Teachers and the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec.

### Liberal Social Policy Committee

The Federation appeared before a joint meeting of the Liberal Social Policy Caucus and the Post-Secondary Education Caucus on Monday, November 3, 2003. The Caucuses convened a hearing to discuss the implementation of the divided Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST). Beginning in April 2004, transfer payments to the provinces will be distributed in two separate payments: the Canada Health Transfer (CHT) and the Canada Social Transfer (CST). Announced in the 2003 federal budget, the change will mark the end of the CHST, first introduced in 1995. The CHST replaced Established Programs Financing (EPF) and the Canada Assistance Plan (CAP), and was accompanied by some of the deepest cuts to federal social program spending in Canadian history.

At the time, many non-governmental organisations, including the Federation, opposed the new structure because it diminished the level of accountability for federal spending. By merging all transfer payments into one block, clear benchmarks for federal post-secondary education spending were impossible to track in provincial spending. As a result, many provincial governments partially compensated for federal cuts to health care by taking from portions of the transfer intended for post-secondary education. Since the introduction

of the CHST, the Federation has been lobbying for a dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education.

National Chairperson Ian Boyko presented on behalf of the Federation. Boyko reviewed the Federation's position regarding the need for increased transparency in federal transfers to the provinces. Boyko also stressed that if transfer payments continue to flow to the provinces without any stipulations for controlling skyrocketing tuition fees, there will be no way to guarantee that new funding will be used to improve access to universities and colleges. In addition, it was communicated that the federal government is paying for the poor decisions made by provincial governments who have yet to make a commitment to accessibility in the form of tuition fee freezes or reductions.

In other words, as tuition fees continue to increase, student debt increases, and the amount the federal government will spend in future years on federal programs like Interest Relief (in-study and post graduate), Debt Reduction in Repayment, Canada Student Loans lending, and tax credits will continue to increase. Boyko suggested to the Caucus members that although areas of shared federal-provincial responsibilities such as post-secondary education require sensitive negotiation, as long as extensive negotiations occurred in advance and new conditions for transfers were accompanied by increased funding, provincial governments would be far less likely to displace provincial funds with federal dollars, as was the case with the Millennium Scholarship Foundation.

## Millennium Scholarship Foundation

### "Pathways to Access" Research Conference

The Millennium Scholarship Foundation held its annual research conference, entitled "Pathways to Access," at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Ottawa October 2-4, 2003. The conference mainly focused on the early intervention programs the Foundation has been promoting recently. In the

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past year the Foundation has become enthralled with American programs that mentor impoverished children in the hope that such mentoring will improve access to post-secondary education. However, underlying this interest is the Foundation's larger agenda of increased tuition fees and student debt. The relentless message of the conference was that financial barriers actually play very little role in determining who pursues a post-secondary education.

The first day of the conference was devoted to presenting "research" that downplayed tuition fees and debt as barriers to access. The Foundation went a step farther in its assertions and claimed that higher student debt was actually the "pathway to access." Queen's professor Ross Finnie argued (without any supporting data) that debt aversion was not a factor in determining access and that higher debt would, in turn, have no effect on access. Finnie and other panelists suggested that the only real access problem facing policy makers was that loan limits have not been raised since 1995. The message of higher debt via higher loan limits buttressed the other pillar of the Foundation's political project: higher tuition fees. Though some speakers alluded to higher debt as a means of addressing unmet need, it was very clear that the message was that universities should raise fees to whatever level the market would bear. More importantly, the conference's focus on motivational speaking was designed to allay any residual fears that high fees would squeeze out low-income Canadians. Not surprisingly, virtually all of the speakers on the first day echoed the conservative, econometric view that education is an individual benefit, and therefore the cost should be largely borne by the individual.

Having dismissed financial barriers, the final two days of the conference were composed of non-stop, one-sided advertisements for mentoring and motivational speaking. The Foundation presented its pilot program in conjunction with the Government of New Brunswick. Several other guidance practitioners offered overviews of programs in various Canadian jurisdictions. Though some of the work undertaken

by the practitioners is without doubt valuable, there was no analysis about how the very real financial barriers faced by low income and marginalized Canadians were to be addressed. Any such discussion was stifled in the very limited time the agenda allowed for discussion.

The centerpiece of the Foundation's agenda came with the presentation from American entrepreneur Rob Gira. Gira co-ordinates the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program, a mentoring program aimed at motivating inner city youth. During his presentation he claimed that 95 percent of AVID graduates went on to a post-secondary education in California. Gira went so far as to boast that AVID had eliminated socio-economic status as a barrier to post-secondary education. Despite Gira's unshakable belief in the power of positive thinking, the reality of AVID's performance tells a very different story. AVID's own website claims that 30,000 students have graduated from the program. However, the website also stated that over 70,000 kids per year begin the AVID program. Given that the program has been in existence since 1980 and served over 700,000 students it is far more accurate to say that the "success" rate of the program is 4 percent. The 95 percent "success" rate comes from a voluntary mail-in survey of 73 graduates. When confronted with this data, Gira maintained the need to think positively but offered no substantive response. Gira's response mirrors the Foundation's own cavalier attitude about early intervention. Based on the proceedings of this conference, there is little doubt that the Foundation is now advancing its agenda of higher tuition fees and higher debt by using distractions like these gimmicky early intervention programs.

### **Access Through Grants?: The Future of Student Financial Assistance**

On September 18 and 19, 2003, the Millennium Scholarship Foundation (MSF) and the Canadian Association for Student Financial Aid Administrators (CASFAA) held a joint conference on the future of student financial assistance. National Researcher Michael Conlon represented the Federation. The

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conference was billed as a discussion of the role that grants play in providing access to low income students. However, much of the discussion focused on the need for higher loans for middle-income students as well as persistent inequities in how eligibility for student financial assistance is determined. In addition, Hans Vossenteyn from the University of Twente in Holland gave a presentation praising Income Contingent Loan Repayment Schemes. Vossenteyn also advocated for the Australian system of high fees and easy access to loans as a solution to Canada's access problem. It was clear that Vossenteyn was invited to further the policy goals of the Foundation without exposing Foundation employees to public criticism.

In addition to discussing grants, the conference also examined several anomalies in the current system of student financial assistance. In particular, data was presented that demonstrated that a large portion of student financial assistance in Canada is not reaching low-income students. The bulk of financial assistance now goes to students of modest means studying in provinces with high fees and to those in professional programs. CASFAA representatives presented a comprehensive poll tracking public opinion about where financial assistance should be spent. Most Canadians agreed that low-income and underrepresented groups should be targeted for assistance. The discussion led Foundation representatives to grudgingly concede that this emerging problem was a direct result of massive tuition fee hikes.

### **Campaign to Oppose Income Contingent Loan Repayment Schemes**

#### **International Workshop in Education Reform**

The University of British Columbia's Centre for Post-Secondary Education Policy held an international conference on education policy reform, August 14-17, 2003. National Researcher Michael Conlon represented the Federation. The conference focused largely on structural reform in

European universities. Most speakers focused on the similarities between the reforms in Europe and reforms that have already occurred at Canadian and American universities.

In the European context, most countries are moving away from the traditional principle that universities should be financed and controlled by national governments. For example, in Germany and Austria the government has the power to hire university rectors. In some cases the reforms represent a positive change because they diminish the role of the state in controlling the day-to-day affairs of universities. However, these administrative reforms have also been accompanied by the introduction of tuition fees in many countries. In exchange for greater control most administrators have supported the introduction of tuition fees.

Most presenters at the conference also noted that the reforms have also created an appetite for a more managerial, business-like style of leadership. Regrettably, few of the commentators offered a critique of these reforms and there was very little discussion about what effect these reforms would have on access to education.

In the Canadian context, Richard Wellen of York University presented a paper extolling the virtues of Income Contingent Loan Repayment schemes. Wellen's paper reheated stale arguments about ICRs and the manner in which the extended repayment period would ameliorate any of the negative effects of higher tuition fees. Like most advocates of ICRs, Wellen readily admitted that his plan was designed to increase university revenue through higher tuition fees. What was novel about Wellen's approach was that he stressed that his plan was a politically progressive idea that should appeal to all those who care about access to education. Federation representatives rejected this perverse version of social justice by pointing out that higher debt levels and extended periods of repayment is, by definition, regressive because it increases the cost of education for those who are least able to afford the up-front cost.

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### Trade Liberalisation

#### Canada-U.S. Economic Integration

On Monday, June 6, 2003, National Chairperson Ian Boyko participated in a workshop on North American free trade. Hosted by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA), the workshop brought together a wide variety of representatives from labour and civil society groups to discuss the impact of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). January 1, 2004 will be the tenth anniversary of the implementation of NAFTA, and the workshop was intended to look at the impact of existing free trade agreements to which Canada is a signatory, and examine how current negotiations will affect Canadian society.

Economists including Andrew Jackson of the Canadian Labour Congress reviewed NAFTA's impact on the labour market and productivity, and concluded that NAFTA has not met expectations from either the government's or its opponents' perspective. There was unanimity amongst the participants that agreements such as the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) go beyond simply expanding the geographical scope of NAFTA, but also significantly reduce the legal framework for national and regional governments to exercise sovereignty in the form of regulatory legislation.

The agenda was also dominated by discussions about the increasing pressure from big business organisations, such as the Canadian Council for Chief Executives, to integrate Canada's economy with that of the United States. Although this is accomplished by strengthening free-trade ties, there was a concern amongst workshop participants that the federal government's joint "defense" responsibilities (i.e. NORAD, proposed missile defense) will provide further leverage for integrating economies. It was argued that the two economies could not be integrated without adopting a United States-style tax system or social program model. Participants agreed that for the same reasons trade liberalisation must

be opposed, military and economic integration must also be opposed.

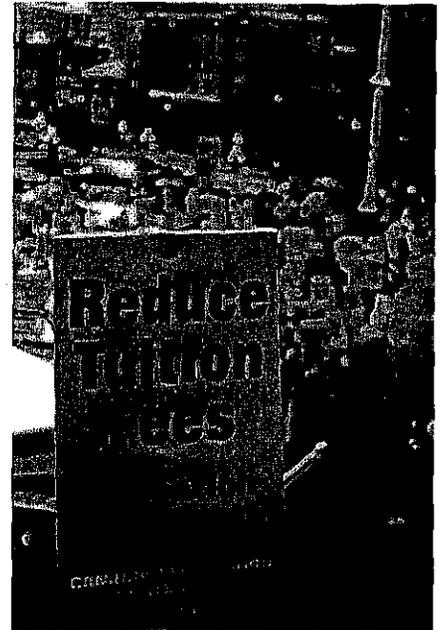
#### Free Trade Area of the Americas - Common Frontiers

Common Frontiers is a multi-sectoral working group that proposes an alternative to the social, environmental and economic to the effects of economic integration in the Americas through a combination of research, analysis and action, in co-operation with labour, human rights, environmental, church, development and economic and social justice organisations.

Common Frontiers grew out of the experience gained by Canadian organisations in confronting the free trade agenda. It was born out of the popular opposition movement to the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement and the recognition that this movement must not only co-operate across sectors nationally but also across borders. Common Frontiers went on to play an important strategic role in the struggle against the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and is now building the opposition to the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

National Chairperson Ian Boyko participated in a Common Frontiers meeting on June 24, 2003 in Ottawa. Co-ordinator Rick Arnold reported that the anti-Free Trade Area of the Americas campaign petition has surpassed 10,000 signatures. The petition was circulated in communities across Canada and will be added to petitions undertaken in other countries subject to the FTAA.

Ken Traynor from the Canadian Autoworkers Union reported that the signing of the FTAA is in serious jeopardy. The election of Louis "Lula" DeSousa in



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Brazil was a blow to the Canadian and American governments' hopes of having the agreement signed in its current form. As the largest Latin American economy, Brazil's rejection of many parts of the FTAA text has given smaller Latin American countries more confidence to challenge the text as well. In addition, Brazil is placing more emphasis on Latin American trade agreements, such as MERCOSUR ("Mercado Comun de la América del Sur" or South American Common Market). What seems likely now is the adoption of an FTAA with a significantly narrowed scope, or a protracted negotiation that could last until 2007 or 2010. This reduction in the comprehensiveness of the FTAA represents a major victory for the opposition to trade liberalisation in the Americas.

### **UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education + 5**

In 1998, after agreeing on a general set of principles, the United Nations Cultural and Social Organization (UNESCO) organised the World Conference on Higher Education (WCHE). The Federation sent two delegates to the founding meeting, then Deputy Chairperson Jennifer Story and BC Chairperson Maura Parte. At the 1998 meeting a broad set of principles for access to education was agreed upon and member countries signed onto several covenants designed to promote access to education.

A follow up meeting entitled World Conference on Higher Education +5 (WCHE+5) was convened June 21-24, 2003 to evaluate the progress of the commitments made in 1998. The Council of Ministers of Education (CMEC) was responsible for assembling an official delegation to the meeting. The Federation accepted an invitation to join the delegation and was represented by National Researcher Michael Conlon. Unlike the original WCHE meeting, WCHE+5 did not attract high-level government delegations. The Canadian delegation did not include any elected officials or senior bureaucrats. The delegation was composed entirely of non-governmental organisations and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO. There were

several notable exceptions: the government of Brazil sent the Minister of Education and the United States delegation included the Under Secretary of Education.

The high level American delegation signalled a renewed interest on the part of the United States to shape the agenda of UNESCO. Predictably, this included aggressive lobbying by the United States delegation for UNESCO to support the expansion of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). In addition, the United States delegation called for a greater role for the World Bank in funding higher education. World Bank representative Jamil Samil made a presentation on the "new" World Bank initiatives in higher education. Samil called for increased public-private partnerships to address the "pent up demand for higher education" in developing nations. Samil was clear that he was referring to affluent citizens in developing countries and the potential for "first world" private, for-profit education providers to fill this gap.

In the end, most delegations, led by Brazil in particular, rejected calls for increased privatisation. Despite pushing back against the call for increased privatisation, UNESCO has done little to encourage member countries to fulfil prior commitments on accessibility. In addition, it was clear that UNESCO was moving closer to becoming a full partner with the World Bank in global higher education policy. Several other countries joined Canada in expressing serious concerns about this development. Several delegations from Latin America stressed the role that the World Bank played in dismantling national public services. Artillo Baron of the Argentinian delegation outlined the manner in which the World Bank exploited Argentina's fiscal crisis to force the government to privatise public services. The World Bank's privatisation policy is in direct contrast with UNESCO's stated support for public education and cultural diversity.

A substantial number of national students' unions were represented at the meeting as part of national delegations, notably from Canada and several Latin American countries. In addition, international

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non-governmental organisations recognised by UNESCO participated in the conference. Regrettably, many of the United Nations-affiliated student groups are narrowly focused on academic and professional issues relating to programmes such as pharmaceutical studies, forestry, medicine and law.

The presence of these de-politicised organisations made it very difficult to find a consensus among students and it proved impossible to agree on a final communiqué. However, the Federation, along with the International Union of Students, the Organisation of Latin American and Caribbean Students, the Asian Students Association, the All-Africa Student Union, and the National Unions of Students in Europe issued a declaration on behalf of over one hundred and fifty million students. The declaration called for a day of action in September 2003 to promote public education and called on UNESCO to reject the GATS, the World Bank, and other institutions looking to undermine UNESCO's stated ideals.

### Meeting with World Bank Representatives

At the recent UNESCO meeting, National Researcher Michael Conlon, National Unions of Students in Europe representative Stefan Bienefeld and International Union of Students Representative Elizabeth Carlyle secured a meeting with two World Bank representatives: Richard Hopper, Tertiary Education Specialist and Francis Steier, Senior Education Economist-Human Development Sector. The meeting, chaired by Conlon and Carlyle, brought together students from all over the world for a comprehensive discussion of World Bank policies. The meeting was sought in the context of the Bank's greater involvement in UNESCO and its expanded interest in higher education.

World Bank officials were questioned about the Bank's preference for private sector solutions to accessibility. It was pointed out that the World Bank holds 80 percent private sector involvement in education as the ideal in developing countries. Bank officials argued that without sufficient public resources, private sector solutions were the only options.

Students responded to this hollow claim by pointing out that many other elements of World Bank policy are designed to ensure that developing nations never develop the fiscal capacity to offer public education. Delegates also challenged World Bank officials on the Bank's involvement in the recent strike at the public university in Mexico City (UNAM). Citing a memo from the World Bank directing UNAM to restrict enrolment, Bank officials responded by saying that the suggestion was to move public resources away from "rich" university students to more pressing basic education needs. However, the memo in question also calls for greater privatisation of Mexico's primary and secondary system of education.

For the most part, Bank officials deflected criticism by suggesting that there was a "neo-liberal" wing of the Bank that did favour privatisation but that the Bank is attempting to reshape its image and move away from strictly economic policy. World Bank officials also confirmed that the Bank is hoping to increase "partnerships" with UNESCO development projects.

### International Union of Students' Day of Action

At the August 2003 meeting of the International Union of Students (IUS) Secretariat, member unions and the regional student platforms agreed to mobilise for the September 2003 Ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO). National and regional students' unions selected September 9 to 12, 2003 as the key dates for organising. Students' unions in Europe and North America identified September 9 as the best date for symbolic actions because it was a weekday and the first day of high-level meetings in Cancun. The other Canadian members of the IUS, the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec (FEUQ) and the Fédération étudiante collégiale du Québec (FECQ), approached the Federation about a co-ordinated action on September 9. On the day, representatives unfurled a giant banner with the slogan "Education Is Not For Sale" on Parliament Hill. After the unfurling, spokespersons held a media scrum to answer questions from reporters about the threats

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that trade liberalisation pose to public education and public services. The event was well attended by both French and English media outlets.

### Trade Initiatives Research Project

The Trade Initiatives Research Project (TIRP) is a consortium of progressive researchers who meet quarterly to review international trade agreements and the global literature devoted to analysing and critiquing them. The project operates under the auspices of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and is composed of approximately 25 members, including the Federation.

The Trade Initiatives Research Project is currently one of the world's key sources for research critical of international trade agreements. The Project has funded reports dealing with the impact of trade agreements on a range of sectors, including healthcare, postal services, and K-12 education. These reports have prompted a formal response from governments and the World Trade Organization defending the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) against the Project's analysis.

Monitoring and research conducted through the Trade Initiatives Research Project is helping student organisations, environmental groups, and other civil society organisations identify issues of concern much earlier in the trade agreement negotiation process than has been the case in the past. Direct involvement in the Project provides the Federation with access to an extremely valuable resource for research, government relations and campaign work.

The most recent meeting was held in Toronto October 16-17. National Researcher Michael Conlon represented the Federation. Scott Sinclair, TIRP's lead researcher, provided a detailed overview of the recent World Trade Organisation (WTO) meeting in Cancun, Mexico. Sinclair reported that the latest round of negotiations had broken down because the developing countries were unable to secure low agricultural tariffs from developed countries. The failure to obtain tariff relief prompted the developing nations, led by Brazil, to effectively boycott the remaining discussions. As

a result, no progress was made toward securing a framework for the expansion of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS).

Sinclair reported that the 2005 goal for an agreement is now out of the question and the entire process may collapse. He reported that the United States in particular has moved beyond the GATS in an attempt to develop bi-lateral trade deals with "willing" countries. Under such a structure, countries unwilling to sign such deals on the United States' terms will be barred from American markets. Sinclair said that while the collapse of the GATS is a positive development, he fears that developing countries will be further marginalized by the new bilateral approach from the United States. Sinclair noted that the possibility of a fair trade policy emerging from the United States as part of this strategy is nil.

The meeting also reviewed pending Canadian legislation making generic drugs available at a subsidised price to developing nations. Richard Elliot of the Canadian HIV-AIDS Legal Network reported that the bill includes generic drugs to treat malaria, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), and tuberculosis. Though Elliott noted the groundbreaking nature of the legislation, he also pointed out that many other preventable diseases were dropped from the original list. Though the pharmaceutical industry was careful not to publicly oppose the law, it is widely believed that they lobbied to limit the scope of the legislation. Though the legislation was passed by the House of Commons it may die on the order table.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 2004 in Ottawa.

### International Students

The Federation holds a position on the Advisory Committee on International Students and Immigration (ACISI). ACISI is an advisory group that provides Citizenship and Immigration Canada with recommendations on policy pertaining to international students. Participation in the

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Advisory Committee allows the Federation to collect information regarding developments in federal immigration policy, regulations, and programmes. Membership on the Advisory Committee also puts the Federation in a stronger position to lobby the federal government on immigration issues that affect international students.

The Committee meets twice yearly to discuss immigration issues as they relate to international students. The Federation was represented by National Researcher Michael Conlon at the most recent meeting held November 7, 2003 in Ottawa. The meeting reviewed the effect of recent changes to the law governing international student visas. Most of the discussion focused on the increased waiting period for processing. In 2000, prospective international students could expect to wait up to 25 days. Current processing time ranges between 58 and 62 days. Immigration officials suggested that extra background checks are largely to blame for the delays. However, officials did point to the perennial problem of recruiting and retaining trained staff for the processing centre which is located in rural, Northern Alberta. Citizenship and Immigration Canada has 9000 employees in Vagreville, a town of 7000.

The meeting also reviewed several new pilot projects. The first is a programme to allow international students to work off-campus and is a product of intense lobbying undertaken by the Federation and coalition partners. The first such programme is underway in Manitoba with all six public institutions participating. Citizenship and Immigration Canada is currently in negotiations with Québec and New Brunswick to expand the programme.

Because it is only a pilot programme, the federal government will review the results in two years and make a decision about expanding it and making it permanent. The primary costs of the programme are the administration and 'supervision' of work visas to international students. The Department of Citizenship and Immigration requested funding for the project in the last budget, but regrettably was refused by the Department of Finance. The cost of

the current project is divided equally between the federal government, the provincial government, and the participating institutions.

The second pilot project currently underway is one that allows international students an additional year in which to work in Canada after graduation. Currently, international students are entitled to work for up to one-year upon graduation. The new programme extends that opportunity to two years on the condition that the student remains in the province in which he or she studied. Alberta and New Brunswick are in the process of finalising an agreement with the federal government to participate. Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador have also aggressively lobbied the federal government to be involved in the initial pilot.

The third and final pilot is designed to streamline the application process. The federal government and the Government of Alberta have agreed to process visas for prospective international students studying in Alberta within 25 days. Though Citizenship and Immigration claims that no shortcuts will be taken, officials were vague about how the waiting period could be reduced by nearly two-thirds.

The final issue reviewed by the group was the eligibility of private institutions for the pilot programmes. Citizenship and Immigration officials suggested that until better accreditation processes were in place, private institutions be excluded from all current pilot projects.



# Solidarity Work



“Our members lives are affected by more than just the classroom. They want us to work on issues like childcare and minimum wage.”

▶▶ *Matt Byrne, President, Grenfell College Student Union*  
*Canadian Federation of Students Local 36*

Post-secondary education policy is not created in a vacuum. Provisions in trade agreements, for example, can affect the rights of our government to provide public post-secondary education. Those same agreements can entrench poverty in the world's poorest nations and communities.

Members of our Federation have consistently chosen to work on issues of international importance because those issues affect them, and, more importantly, because they know it is the right thing to do.

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## Solidarity

It has been the long-standing practice of the Federation to work in coalition with other groups and organisations on issues of interest and concern to students. The strength in numbers that the Federation realizes by bringing together students from across the country is achieved to an even greater extent when members of other organisations also articulate our goals.

### Public Education Network

The Public Education Network (PEN) is composed of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, the Canadian Labour Congress, Québécois labour and teachers' groups, la Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec, and the Canadian Teachers' Federation. The Network provides the Federation with a venue to exchange research and provide updates on organising initiatives pertaining to education.

The Network met on November 12, 2003 at the offices of la Centrale des syndicats du Québec in Montréal. National Chairperson Ian Boyko participated on behalf of the Federation. The meeting began with a review of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) Ministerial meeting held in Cancun in September 2003.

Although that meeting was not expected to specifically discuss public education, a meeting of the Initiatives for Democratic Education in the Americas (IDEA) was held concurrently. IDEA, a pan-American vehicle to promote the value of public education, has been dormant for several years but has regained momentum lately in light of the threats posed by free trade.

Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) representative David Robinson reported on the meeting of Education International (EI) in Senegal in November 2003. Education International is a loosely knit umbrella organisation that strives to bring together national teachers' unions from around the world. At the Senegal meeting, members reviewed work on opposing international free trade. EI is proposing to write an international accord on

public education to be signed by heads of state, which would supercede any future trade agreements that could threaten the public system. Robinson reported that the next meeting of EI is to be held in July 2004.

PEN members established the Office for Public Education in 2001 to act as an academic, arms-length repository for research on public education in Canada. The Office was established at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. The goal was to have researchers at universities and colleges across Canada use the Office as a place to post their research, use the research of others, and maintain contact with the organisations that comprise the Network.

It was reported that although there is a stable base of active academics at the University of Toronto, there has not been any progress in attracting researchers from outside of Toronto. The Network members decided that this outreach work could be accomplished by using the existing networks of the various university-based organisations such as the CAUT and the Federation.

During the update from members about recent activities, the Québécois organisations detailed how they were planning to resist the broad changes to social programs (or "re-engineering" in the words of Québec Premier Jean Charest) proposed by the new Liberal government. One of Charest's first initiatives in Québec was to introduce \$1 billion worth of tax cuts.

The revenue shortfall left by deep tax cuts, as was the case in British Columbia in 2001, is being used to justify even deeper cuts to social spending. A government commission is reviewing the entire post-secondary education system. Student and faculty member organisations indicated that this process is the subject of an intense campaign to protect university and CÉGÉP funding. The Federation representative alerted the Network members in Québec that they should prepare to see research from the Millennium Scholarship Foundation used to justify the lifting of the tuition fee freeze.

Finally, the members discussed the upcoming federal election. It was agreed that a meeting with all Network members present would send a strong message to incoming Prime Minister Paul Martin. However, members acknowledged that given education's low profile in the federal election lead-up, substantial work is required to improve education's standing as a priority for both the federal parties and the public. The next meeting of the Network is scheduled for January 21, 2004.

### **Canadian Labour Congress – Canadian Youth Forum**

The Federation participated in the Canadian Labour Congress Canadian Youth Forum held in Ottawa on October 14 and 15, 2003. The forum consisted of a series of workshops and discussions on politicising and organising youth. The Canadian Labour Congress hopes to make the forum an annual event. National Deputy Chairperson Pratt attended on behalf of the Federation.

### **Canadians for Equal Marriage**

Canadians for Equal Marriage is a coalition of labour unions, student groups, and social justice organisations formed to support the right of same-sex couples to marry. The Coalition held a press conference in September on the same day as a Canadian Alliance motion in the House of Commons designed to stop the proposed legislation that would recognize same-sex unions. National Deputy Chairperson Pratt was the Federation's spokesperson at the press conference.

The Federation has been asked to help coordinate a campaign to build support for the recognition of same-sex unions on campuses across the country. National Deputy Chairperson Pratt is the Federation representative for the coalition.

### **World March of Women**

The Federation participated in a Canadian organising committee meeting for the World March of Women from September 19-21, 2003. The Meeting reviewed the successes and failures of the last March and developed broad goals for the upcoming March, scheduled for spring 2005. The Committee identified the following priorities:

#### **Poverty**

Increase understanding of the fundamental importance of a guaranteed annual income for women;

Develop a common strategy or programme for women's economic security.

#### **Violence**

Increase commitment and understanding of the demand for federal government support for equality initiatives such as the guaranteed annual income;

Develop a common strategy and/or programme on the feminist equality initiatives of the anti-violence movement.

#### **Health**

Increase solidarity for the five principles of the Canada Health Act.

#### **Childcare**

Increase commitment to a publicly-funded childcare system;

Increase focus on a feminist agenda for affordable public childcare.

#### **Education**

Increase awareness regarding women's access to post-secondary education;

Remove barriers to Canadian women's participation.

National Graduate Caucus Chairperson Andrea Rounce represented the Federation at the meeting.

# 22 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY

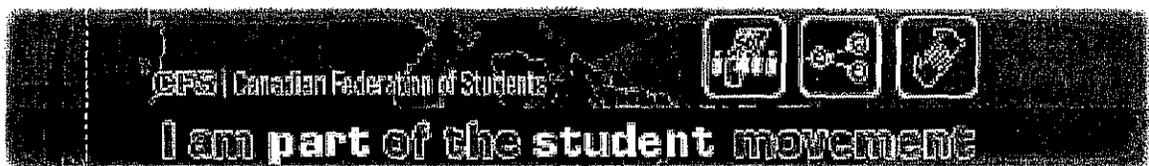
## Solidarity

### **Physicians for a Smoke Free Canada**

Physicians for a Smoke Free Canada is an organisation that aims to promote healthy living for Canadians by exposing the health effects of smoking. The organisation contacted the Federation in August to discuss changes to laws which would further restrict tobacco company advertising. Physicians for a Smoke Free Canada were concerned that tobacco companies would attempt to circumvent the new rules, with a focus on targeting university and college students.

Physicians for a Smoke Free Canada has requested the Federation's assistance with implementing a survey to determine the attitudes of post-secondary students toward smoking and to track tobacco advertising on campuses. The National Executive has agreed to participate in this project.

# Communications



“I use the new website almost every day. It is easy to navigate to the information I need to answer many of my members questions.”

▶▶ *Ben Pearlman, External VP, King's Students' Union  
Canadian Federation of Students Local 11*

Last year, the National Executive decided to revise the national website to make it faster, easier to use, and easier to update. In early September, the site was launched.

The site gives members and the general public access to information about the Federation, our research and our programmes. The site also houses a provincial and national news release archive.

# 22 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY

## Communications

### 2003-2004 Students' Union Directory

Since 1981, the Federation has published the Canadian Students' Union Directory annually. The Directory, which in its current format contains contact information for more than 280 students' unions, their affiliated campus organisations, and campus media outlets across Canada, serves as a resource for member locals of the Federation, non-member students' unions, government agencies, and non-governmental organisations.

In the past, the National Executive has experienced difficulty soliciting information for the Directory from individual students' unions in a timely manner. This year, surveys for information were sent to member locals and non-member students' unions in mid-April for the 2003-2004 Directory. The 2003-2004 Directory was printed and delivered in early September.

#### Enhancements

Over the course of the last four years a number of new sections have been added to the Directory, including contact information for government agencies that administer student financial assistance programmes and other government agencies. This year, the National Executive resolved to expand the 2003-2004 Directory to include a new section with contact information for teaching assistants' organisations at each institution. However, the information surveys had already been prepared for distribution to member locals and could not be amended in time to meet the April distribution deadline. It is the intention of the National Executive to revise the 2004-2005 Directory survey to include information about teaching assistants' organisations.

Previously, the cover of each Directory was coated with a varnish-like substance to protect it from everyday use. However, when preparing the 2002-2003 Directory for mailing, a significant number of copies were scuffed. As a result, the National Executive requested that the printer laminate the

cover to extend its life. This improvement, although it marginally increased the cost of the Directory, will protect the Directory from the rigors of daily use.

Full-colour, promotional information was printed on some of the divider tabs including information about the "No Means No" campaign, the Student Work Abroad Program and the National Student Health Network. Response to the full-colour advertisements has been positive.

#### Production Costs & Sales

This year, the price structure for the Directory was amended to encourage students' unions to purchase additional copies. The price of the Directory decreased for each of the first five Directories purchased. An additional discount was provided to locals that purchased ten or more Directories. The price structure for the Directory for member locals was as follows:

- \$20.00 for one Directory
- \$17.50 each for two Directories
- \$15.00 each for three Directories
- \$13.50 each for four Directories
- \$12.00 each for five or more
- \$10.00 each for ten or more

It appears as though the altered pricing encouraged additional sales as nearly all members ordered significantly more Directories. Eighteen member locals took advantage of the maximum price break and purchased ten or more Directories, which resulted in an increase in the number of units that were printed. The printing cost of the Directory increased slightly due in part to an increase in its size and units produced. However, by amending the price structure and encouraging additional sales, the Federation offset the additional cost of the larger print run while reducing the price for member locals.

Year	Total Sales
1999-2000	334
2000-2001	407
2001-2002	423
2002-2003	508
2003-2004	555

# 22 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY

## Communications

### Web Site

The Federation launched its initial web site in 1996. At the time, the site was updated infrequently and provided little more than basic information about the Federation's campaigns and programmes. By fall 1997, it had become apparent that the web was an emerging information source increasingly popular among Federation members, and that the Federation's web site did not adequately serve the needs of the organisation.

Work on a new generation of the site commenced in early 1998 and was in place later that year. The new site met the Federation's needs initially, but by 2002 was falling short.

In June 2002, the National Executive resolved to again re-design the site. The Federation retained the services of AKA New Media, a Toronto-based

company that had designed the Travel CUTS web site. In addition, the Federation hired Web Networks, another Toronto-based firm, to design the database features of the new site. Both firms have extensive experience in developing complex and multi-faceted sites for non-profit organisations.

AKA New Media and Web Networks completed the design of the English language version of the new web and databases in the summer. Although the design of the French version of the site is also complete, there are some difficulties with the databases on the French version. Nevertheless, the National Executive is confident that both the English and French versions of the site will be fully functional by the end of November.

The screenshot shows the website for the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). The browser address bar displays the URL <http://www.cfs-fcee.ca/html/english/home/index.php>. The website header includes the CFS logo and navigation links: Home, About, Campaigns, Lobbying, Resources, Policy, Programmes, Links, and Search. A main banner features a map of Canada with the text "strength in numbers" and a photo of four students. A "Quick Nav" sidebar on the right lists several services: "Planning a trip? Use Travel CUTS", "Get copies of our Students' Union Directory", "Learn about the National Student Health Network", "Check out the Student Work Abroad Program", "Take advantage of our Student Discount Cards", and "Find housing with Homes4students.ca". The "HEADLINES" section contains two news items: "Foundation Falls to Improve Access: External Review (Fri, 07 Nov 2003)" and "Tuition fee freeze first step in restoring access to post-secondary education say students (Thu, 06 Nov 2003)". The "OUR HISTORY" section states that the CFS was founded in 1981 and unites over 450,000 students across Canada. At the bottom, there are links for "Bankruptcy Legislation Too Harsh: Senate Committee" and "Martin Must Invest the Surplus in Social Programs".



## Programmes



“Our experience with a for-profit health plan broker made the value of our Federation’s programmes abundantly evident.”

▶▶ *Ken Marciniec, President, Ryerson Students' Union  
Canadian Federation of Students Local 24*

“The Ryerson Students’ Union recently entered a multi-year agreement with a private broker. When we discovered we weren’t getting the same value, service or coverage as members of the National Student Health Network, we attempted to sever the arrangement.

The broker sued, wasting thousands of dollars of our members’ money. We won’t make that mistake again.”

# 22 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY

## Programmes

### Discount Programme

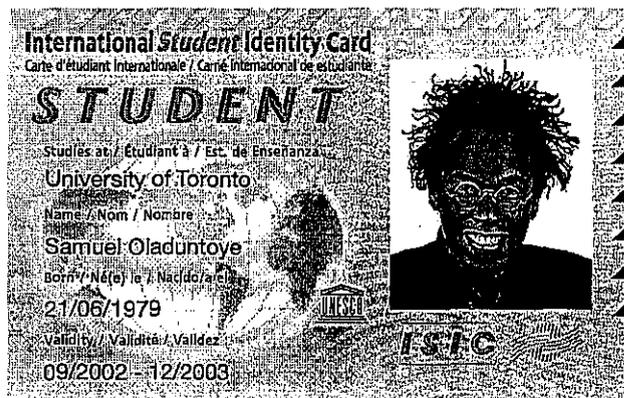
The International Student Identity Card is the most-widely recognised and accepted form of student identification worldwide. The Card is produced and distributed by the International Student Travel Confederation (ISTC) and endorsed by the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). (The UNESCO logo appears on the face of the Card.) Since its creation in the late 1960s, the Federation and its predecessor organisations have served as the Canadian agent for the Card.

Subject to the approval of the ISTC, the agent in each country sets the price for the card in that country. The Federation currently charges \$16.00 for the Card, a price that has remained unchanged for close to a decade. For individual Federation members, the Federation covers the cost of cards. Roughly one-third of the pre-tax fee paid for the Card is paid to the International Student Travel Confederation.

Despite continued lobby efforts, under ISTC regulations, only full-time students are eligible for the ISIC. Because of this the Federation also produces and distributes the Studentsaver Card. Studentsaver allows part-time students access to many of the discounts available with the ISIC. The Federation continues to work to make the card available to part-time students.

### International Student Identity Card Distribution

Prior to 1993, roughly 15,000 International Student Identity Cards were issued each year in Canada. In 1993, student discounts requiring the ISIC as proof of student status were secured on major domestic air travel routes. This resulted in an immediate and substantial increase in Card sales. Demand for the Card received another boost in 1997 when a major student discount requiring the Card was secured with VIA Rail. In 1998, a limited discount was secured with Greyhound Bus Lines of Canada. In 1999 that discount was expanded to



provide ISIC holders with a 25 percent discount on all domestic Greyhound tickets.

During the past two years, however, sales have been on the decline, a period that coincides with the general downturn in student travel and the loss of student seats on Air Canada flights. The most pronounced decline has occurred during the past six months. Demand by members has remained relatively steady.

### Discount Solicitation

Local discounts remain the heart of the domestic portion of the discount programme. Local discounts allow businesses in a community to support students at local institutions, while encouraging the patronage of community-based businesses. This year, more than 4200 local discounts were secured, up from 3500 in 2002-2003. The increase in discounts is a continuing trend; the number of discounts has substantially increased for three consecutive years.

The regional distribution of local discounts was significantly improved over 2002-2003 as well. In certain areas a substantial number of discounts were secured; however, the National Executive has identified that greater emphasis needs to be placed on ensuring the discounts are of high quality and greater value to students. The type of business, and its relevance to and use by students, combined with the level of savings, serves to determine the quality of a discount.

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## Programmes

Discount solicitation for the 2003-2004 discount programme began in the late spring. Discount solicitors were encouraged to solicit discounts for multiple years, whereas in previous years discounts were solicited on a year-to-year basis. This is intended to reduce the resources the Federation must commit every year to renewing existing discounts, allowing solicitors to focus on improving the quality of discounts and approaching new businesses. Multi-year discount contracts provide increased continuity to the programme and its users, and demonstrates the stability of the programme to businesses.

Over the past year, the Federation has identified national and regional discounts as an area for expansion. Unfortunately, efforts to expand the number of regional and national discounts met with little success as many national chains have exclusivity agreements with the Federation's for-profit competitors. In preparing for the 2004-2005 year, the Federation needs to evaluate the resources required for successful solicitation of national discounts. The development of this strategy needs to take place earlier than in previous years, as many businesses set their promotions budgets very early in the calendar year.

One of the most successful national discounts is the Studentphonestore.com discount. In summer 2001, the National Executive identified cellular telephones as a primary area in which to pursue discounts. The Federation has since entered into an agreement with Studentphonestore.com, an Irish firm that negotiates deals for students to purchase both cellular telephones and cellular service at reduced prices. The Union of Students of Ireland, National Union of Students (U.K) and Union nationale des étudiants de France have all worked with Studentphonestore.com to secure their members cellular phone service discounts.

Initially, the Federation and Studentphonestore.com secured a substantial discount with Fido Networks. Fido was chosen as the first network to be promoted primarily because it agreed to offer the plan without forcing students to sign long-term contracts. This

summer a new Fido discount of 20 percent off monthly plans was secured.

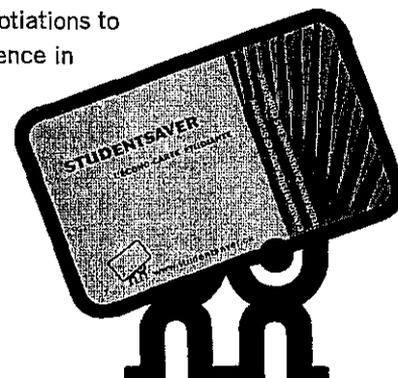
As reported last year, the National Executive identified the need to negotiate similar discounts with the other major cellular networks. During the summer, a discount was secured with Bell Mobility. The Bell deal offers students substantial savings including: free voicemail (a \$72/year value) or for students who purchase a "pay-as-you-go" option, a ten percent discount on any plan (including sales and special offers). The Federation and Studentphonestore.com also negotiated a small discount with Rogers AT&T. Negotiations to expand this discount will commence in the new-year. Efforts to secure a discount with the remaining cellular network are ongoing and the Federation hopes to have at least one in place in the next twelve months.

### Technology Development

#### ISIC ISSUING

In summer 1998 the ISTC launched the "new generation" ISIC, a higher quality version of the Card with an updated appearance. Prior to 1998, the personal data on the ISICs was either hand-written or typewriter produced. The new version of the Card allowed for the data to be either hand-written or computer-generated. However, in 2002 the ISTC eliminated the option of issuing hand-written cards and has required its members to invest in printers for producing the computer-generated data labels for the cards. The ISTC announced in early October that handwritten cards have now been eliminated throughout the world.

Over the past few years the National Executive has worked to ensure that issuing offices switch to computer-generated labels, but it has been a financial and logistical challenge. Currently, there are more than 75 Federation offices, member students' unions and non-member students' unions and 65 Travel CUTS offices in Canada that issue the ISIC. The Card data label printers cost roughly



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## Programmes

\$600. Since 1999, the Federation has purchased 60 printers, all of which are currently deployed in ISIC issuing offices. Of the original 60 printers, three are permanently broken and one was "lost" by Air Canada. In addition, 16 new label printers were purchased in 2002, for deployment at member locals, but they have not been deployed because they are not compatible with the labels used on ISICs. A software patch is being developed to solve the problem.

Providing the on-going technical support required for the equipment and software has been challenging. The label printers and the Cardmaster software were designed to function with early Microsoft operating systems. As issuing offices upgrade their computers by changing operating systems and installing new software, technical support is frequently required. Some of the difficulties that have arisen have been easily solved over the telephone; others have proven more difficult and require the printers to be shipped to a Federation office. The International Student Travel Confederation was asked to upgrade the software to eliminate the incompatibility problems the Federation has been experiencing. However, most of the Confederation's members are large organisations equipped to develop in-house software for issuing of ISICs.

As reported in May, the frequency of problems that arose in the first months of 2003 and the resources required to address them created an unsustainable situation. The National Executive decided that in order to resolve the situation with both the older and newer printers, the Cardmaster software needed to be replaced. Over the summer web-based issuing software was developed. Web-based issuing eliminates many of the software conflicts that have arisen with the out-of-date Cardmaster software. As well, the data is now uploaded automatically to a database, allowing for better tracking of the card distribution.

The web software was completed in late August and most issuing offices were switched to the new system by mid-September. At this point all issuing offices should now be issuing cards using only the

web-based software. In order to facilitate trouble shooting, the National Executive is developing a "how to" and "frequently asked questions" guide for use by member locals.

### DISCOUNT MANAGER DATABASE

The ISTC has launched its Discount Manager Database. The promotion of both ISIC and the Studentsaver discounts will be aided by this site. The ISTC's goal is to list on the site each of the nearly 100,000 discounts available with the ISIC worldwide. Member organisations such as the Federation are responsible for providing an accurate list of discounts available in their respective countries. This comprehensive database will allow Canadian students to learn about discounts available with the ISIC around the world by searching a single website. Canadian discounts will be added to the database before the end of 2003.

### ISIC TRAVEL MAX

The ISTC website has been redeveloped and re-launched as ISIC TravelMax to provide more comprehensive travel information. The site includes a variety of tools useful to the student traveler including a database of travel information from the *Lonely Planet* series, including listings of daily events, attractions, cultural facts and local transportation information. ISIC TravelMax also includes a currency converter, local weather reports, a conversion guide to the approximate costs for basic services, an Automated Teller Machine (ATM) locator, a list of the nearest ISTC member retail travel agent offices and a list of ISIC discounts available in a particular country.

ISIC holders are able to register on the site and personalise it to reflect their travel interests. The site also allows card holders to gather and store information that will assist in planning a trip. The site can be found at [www.istc.org](http://www.istc.org).

### Discount Guidebook

Since 1999, the Federation has been producing a publication containing listings of the discounts

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in communities across the country. The number of guidebooks produced for 2003-2004 was 296,000 with the Studentsaver cover and card affixed and 104,000 with an "ISIC 2004 Canadian Benefits Guide" cover, printed primarily for distribution through Travel CUTS outlets. The number of booklets with the Studentsaver cover was increased, corresponding to the growth in Federation membership, and the number of booklets with the ISIC cover was reduced.

For 2002-2003 the guidebook had a new design that was the same size and shape as the international discount guidebook. The National Executive decided, based on the positive response to the new size and shape, to proceed with a similar guidebook for 2003-2004. In this year's guidebook the regional listings of discounts are sorted by category, which has made searching for discounts easier.

The 2003-2004 Studentsaver card is the same design as the 2002-2003 card, except the card is on a heavier weight paper making it more durable. This is to further the Federation's effort to increase programme awareness and maintain continuity with students and local businesses. Booklets were shipped to students' unions ahead of schedule in early August for distribution during orientation events in late August and September.

### Via Rail Coupons

In December 2002, VIA Rail decided that, during the 2003 year, it was going to issue a \$16.00 VIA Rail travel voucher to each student purchasing an ISIC. VIA wanted to eliminate any possible disincentive that the price of ISIC might pose to students taking advantage of the ISIC discount on VIA.

Initially, VIA was only intending to issue the vouchers to students purchasing ISICs at VIA Rail stations, but were ultimately convinced that all ISIC recipients should be provided vouchers, regardless of where the ISICs are issued.

Reports from VIA Rail suggest the promotion has not been as effective as anticipated. VIA Rail had

hoped to increase sales primarily in the winter months of 2003, however early reports show that the bulk of the vouchers were used during the already busy period over the late summer months and in September. This suggests that when the current vouchers expire in December it is unlikely that the promotion will be renewed.

In order to increase awareness about the ISIC discount on VIA Rail, a series of advertisements promoting it were added to 2003-2004 Discount Guidebook includes.

### Programme Awareness

Over the summer, the National Executive identified that one of the ongoing challenges associated with the discount programmes is determining the level of use. Anecdotal feedback relayed by member locals, discount solicitors and individual students concerning the quality of discounts or responses to promotional materials has provided only a limited analysis of the programme and the subsequent efforts to improve it. A high level of contract renewals each year, as well as an overall increase in discounts are an indirect indication that participating retailers are satisfied with the effectiveness of the programme.

The task of continuing to improve awareness of the programme and ensure that discounts are being utilised relies on local promotion of the programme. Some member locals do a good job of securing discounts and promoting the programme to their members, others need to be encouraged to improve in this area. In order to improve the programme, expanded awareness and use of the discounts needs to continue. The biggest challenge is to ensure that each member local recognises the discount programme as a service of their students' union and that the programme requires the same kind of promotion as local services.

An increased number of member locals have reported that distribution to members was done through inserting the guidebooks in student handbooks/agendas, thus achieving wide distribution. Distribution in this manner at the beginning of

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the year ensures that the discount programme is promoted to incoming students and is immediately highlighted as an easy-to-use and helpful service of the students' union and the Federation.



## homes4students.ca

### homes4students.ca

In response to the growing affordable housing crisis in many communities across Canada, the Federation decided in May 2002 to establish an on-line student housing database

In order to fulfill this mandate, the Federation acquired an already existing database and website, homes4students.ca. This site is designed to allow students the opportunity to search for available accommodation, find roommates and sublet their existing accommodation.

### Programme Development and Promotion

When the Federation acquired homes4students.ca in summer 2002, the site was underdeveloped and had limited use. The service had a high profile in some cities, such as Halifax, where student and landlord use of the site was high. In most other parts of the country use was much lower. As well, the existing database was limited in its capacity to handle the existing volume of users and postings, let alone the anticipated future needs.

In order to ensure that homes4students.ca would meet the needs identified by the Federation, the National Executive adopted a plan to improve the existing service. The first aspect involved a complete overhaul of the website and database. This work was required in order to provide useful search functions and ensure that the site was capable of sustaining an increased volume of users. The work was completed in 2002.

The second aspect of the plan was to ensure that traffic to the website was increased in order to develop comprehensive listings on the site. The National Executive identified that the success of the service would require an effective cycle of landlords posting and students searching that would be furthered by word of mouth. In the spring, the Federation developed and distributed posters promoting the site's features. Member locals were encouraged to put the posters in high traffic areas, around off-campus housing offices and on students' unions' notice or housing boards. A description of the service and the homes4students.ca logo were included in the Federation's 2003-2004 communications kit. Member locals in some areas were very diligent about promoting the service. The site has seen a tremendous surge in users since the re-launch in March 2003. Since May, the website has had over two million hits. The peak month was July with just over 500,000 hits. It is expected that the usage of the website will grow again in the spring.

The Federation has compiled tenant/landlord legislation from the different provinces as well as contact information for organisations working to protect students' rights. This information is posted on the website and will assist students in protecting their rights as tenants.

Ultimately, the success of the service will depend on a steady and significant growth in the number of landlords posting on the site. Although there are a number of postings from landlords, the number of listings are far fewer than the traffic generated by students looking for accommodation. Member locals need to continue efforts to integrate the homes4students.ca national database of student housing with off-campus housing services at their institutions.

### Technological Expansion

As reported in May, improvements to the existing website were completed in March 2003 in an effort to ensure that the site could sustain a high level of traffic and provide the requisite information

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in an easy to use manner. The revamped site has increased capacity substantially and is a significant improvement over the initial service. Work is underway to resolve remaining technical problems. Member locals should continue to report any problems that their members encounter.

Following the national general meeting in May, the National Executive identified two aspects of homes4students.ca that needed to be improved; the need to increase the number of landlords posting to the website and the need to cover the costs associated with maintaining the service.

In June, a company called Ecom Media Group (EMG) based in Kelowna, British Columbia contacted the Federation with a proposal to expand the service without increasing costs. EMG operates the myidealhome.com network, which is a series of web-based housing search sites. One of the sites is a specialised off-campus housing site aimed at post-secondary students. The majority of EMG's business is with post-secondary institutions in the United States; however, EMG has several agreements with post-secondary institutions and students' unions in Canada. EMG proposed that the Federation work with EMG to provide an off-campus housing service to students in Canada.

The benefit to the Federation of such a partnership would be substantial. EMG's current website is considerably more comprehensive than the Federation's and offers many advanced search features. It will also permit the Federation to provide personalised versions of homes4students.ca to member locals. In the proposed partnership EMG would provide all of the necessary technical support as well as web design and the supporting database. Perhaps most importantly EMG maintains partnerships with major rental associations in Canada. This would increase the number of postings on the website and increase the communities to which students would have access. The Federation in return would promote the site.

EMG does not permit advertising on its website and covers its costs by charging landlords, not students, a nominal fee for posting. Over the past year, the

National Executive has had difficulty seeking out acceptable and sufficient advertising to assist with operating costs. The partnership with EMG serves to eliminate this problem. The Federation has negotiated the provision of one free posting for landlords in order to ease the transition for those landlords who currently post on the site. The National Executive has reached an agreement with EMG and planning is underway for the launch of the improved homes4students.ca website. Efforts are being made to ensure that the appearance of homes4students.ca is consistent with the appearance of the Federation's main site.

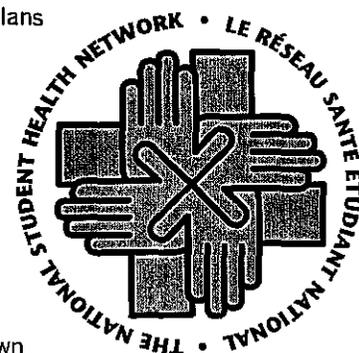
## National Student Health Network

### Introduction

In the early 1980s, many students' unions began developing accident, health and dental plans for their members. Initially, the plans were designed by people in the insurance industry, brokers and insurers, who were unfamiliar with the needs of students. Generally, the plans were quite expensive and failed to cover many prescription drugs and services commonly used and required by students. In other words, the plans did not consider the unique needs of students.

By the mid-1980s, many of the country's students' unions had grown frustrated at purchasing over-priced plans that failed to serve their members' needs and working with brokers who neither understood nor felt any loyalty to the students' union's membership. As a result of these frustrations, the members of the Federation resolved to use their collective bargaining power to form a student-owned health and dental plan consortium — the National Student Health Network.

The Network was formed with the philosophy that these plans should be created specifically for



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students and provided by students. The collective buying power of the Federation allowed students' unions to improve the coverage and also reduce the cost of their plans. In some cases, students' unions were able to cut the cost of their health and dental plans in half.

Through the collective ownership model offered by the Federation, member locals have direct control over the services offered by their health and dental plans. It was this control that allowed the Network to be among the first providers to regularly cover oral contraception and the first to offer spousal benefits to same-sex partners.

### Health and Dental Insurance

Over the summer, all existing Network members renewed their health and dental plans through the Network. In most cases plans were renewed with either increases far below the industry average or, in many cases, no increase at all. In addition, three new members joined the Network.

### Other Insurance

Over the past year, many member locals have raised concerns about the dramatic increase in the director's liability insurance, event and building insurance, errors and omission insurance and casualty insurance rates being charged to students' unions. In several cases, insurance companies have terminated coverage with little or no notice. As a result of these developments in the insurance industry, the National Executive has begun developing a block purchasing consortium for property and casualty insurance based on the model of the National Student Health Network. To-date, the Federation has examined proposals from a number of insurance companies that may wish to become the carrier for the Federation's new service.

### Audits

Over the past few years, the Network has provided, as a service to its members, assessments of plans provided by other brokers. The Network began offering these assessments to address members'

concerns that they were being overcharged for their health and dental plans. Some of these assessments have revealed a series of questionable practices employed by some brokers.

It has become increasingly apparent that these practices, including charging students' unions higher than industry standard administrative fees, are widespread among student health and dental plans. The Federation has been working to expose these practices in an effort to curb them.

Two member locals, Local 1-Carleton University Students' Association and Local 24-Ryerson Students' Administrative Council, whose health and dental plan costs greatly increased after signing long-term deals with brokers, have provided "testimonials" about the adverse effects of long-term plans.

## Handbook Project

The member locals in British Columbia initiated the common handbook project in 1994, initially as a service to small member locals lacking the resources and expertise to complete such a project. In subsequent years, the project grew to include larger member locals that benefited from the economies of scale to be realised in the printing, coordination, advertising sales, and design. The handbook project significantly reduces the unit cost of handbooks for member locals and ensures consistent, high quality profile of local, provincial and national work of the Federation.

Each handbook consists of a unique local section, a common provincial and national section and common calendar and time management pages. Students' unions have provided local content in text format, which has then been formatted by the Federation to be consistent with the overall design of the handbook.

Following the distribution of handbooks in fall 2002, member locals were invited to provide feedback at national and provincial general and executive meetings of the Federation. The

# 22 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY

## Programmes

Federation and the handbook printer evaluated each of the suggestions based on cost and time implications. As a result, the 2003-2004 handbook included the following design enhancements: full colour pages in the national section of the handbook, full bleeds throughout the handbook, and tear-off corners on the calendar pages. Member locals were also provided with the new option of including a plastic ruler at a cost, though no locals took advantage of the option.

This year, 40 students' unions from seven provinces – British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Québec, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador – have participated in the project. A total of 154,000 handbooks were printed. This was a significant increase over the previous year, when 112,000 handbooks were produced for 26 students' unions. Despite this increase, all handbooks were printed, bound and delivered on time.

For the first time, two participating locals produced books in French and one produced a bilingual book.

At its October meeting, the National Executive discussed the 2004-2005 handbook and agreed that contracts be distributed at this meeting for completion by member locals before January 1, 2004. The earlier timelines for contract completion were determined to be necessary to enable advertising sales and to ensure sufficient resources are allocated to the project.

### **Student Work Abroad Programme (SWAP)**

#### **SWAP IRELAND**

Though the SWAP Ireland programme is normally restricted to full-time students, the Federation was able recently to negotiate a limited number of Irish work visas that do not require the recipients to be full-time students. For the 2004 year, 100 one-year working holiday visas will be available to Canadians age 18-35 who are not currently full-time students. Individuals must participate in SWAP to receive these visas.

Although theoretically any individual between the ages of 18-35 could receive these visas, the Federation intends to target part-time students and recent graduates of part-time studies for the programme.

#### **SWAP GHANA**

For the past two years, the programme has hosted students from Ghana in Canada on student work visas. Until recently, however, there were no opportunities for Canadian students who wished to have extended working holidays in Ghana.

The programme has been negotiating with the Student and Youth Travel Organisation-Ghana (SYTO) to provide Canadians with an opportunity to experience life in rural Ghana. The new programme is a pre-placement that offers Canadians the opportunity to teach for a period of up to one year in a primary and/or secondary school setting.

Many of the schools are located in extremely rural areas and the living conditions are very basic. There is no electricity or running water, and the schools often have limited resources. The participants will be placed with local host families for the duration of their stays. The programme is geared to experienced travelers who are looking to contribute their skills and knowledge to a Ghanaian community.





# Travel CUTS

Member Login | Forgot Your Password? | FAQ | New Search | Tell a Friend | More Products Online



Steps: 1 ● ● ● ●



“Travel CUTS’ new web service makes it easy to compare travel prices. It’s easy to see now that Travel CUTS’ Air Canada fares are the lowest on the web.

▶▶ Shayne Robinson, VP Student Life, Okanagan University College Students’ Association - Kelowna, Canadian Federation of Students Local 03 Kelowna

As most travel agents have struggled to adjust to innovations in technology, Travel CUTS has positioned itself as an industry leader.

The new ticket search engine is so effective, CUTS is guaranteeing that students won’t find a lower ticket price anywhere else on the web. If they do, CUTS will beat it.



# 22 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY

## Travel CUTS

### Canadian Universities Travel Service Board Composition

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

Position	Member
At-Large Member	Jen Anthony
At-Large Member (Board Chair)	Joey Hansen
National Executive Representative	James Pratt
National Executive Representative	Ian Boyko
National Executive Representative	Jess Turke-Browne
Staff Representative	Robert Keady
Staff Representative	Monica Miller
Travel CUTS President (non-voting)	J. Rodney Hurd

### Financial Issues

#### 2002-2003 Fiscal Year

The company incurred a loss of approximately \$2,000,000 during the 2002-2003 fiscal year. The loss is the largest in the history of the company and ends more than a decade of consecutive annual profits.

Although the loss was substantial, the majority of the loss result from one-time charges incurred through closing the company's United Kingdom operations. As the United Kingdom operation has now closed, the company expects to lower expenses by more than \$1.25 million in the current fiscal year.

#### 2003-2004 Year-to-Date

Unfortunately, the decline in sales that the company experienced during the 2002-2003 fiscal year continued into the first quarter of the current fiscal year. The company continues to work to reduce costs in order to return to profitability.

### Operational Issues

#### Update on Canadian Offices

Much like most travel agencies in a country with a single, dominant airline, much of Travel CUTS' success is dependent on the success of the national airline. Unfortunately, the 2003 calendar year has proven to be among the most difficult in Air Canada's history. Air Canada's financial difficulties forced the company to file for bankruptcy protection.

As a result of its financial difficulties, there have been dramatic fluctuations in both the cost and availability of seats on Air Canada. For students flying internationally, the company has simply increased the amount of tickets sold on other airlines to offset the decrease in availability on Air Canada. Unfortunately, no airline flies to as many locations or as frequently within Canada as Air Canada. When Air Canada reduced its capacity, it started by reducing the number of low-cost fares, such as the ones offered by Travel CUTS, that were available on each flight. This affected Travel

# 22 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY

## Travel CUTS

CUTS' competitive advantage over traditional travel agencies.

Compounding the problem has been the proliferation of web sites devoted to selling travel. These sites are incredibly well-financed and able to sustain annual losses in the tens of millions of dollars. These sites are currently selling travel below cost in an effort to increase their market share. Because most of these sites target low-cost travel and students are among Canada's most internet savvy groups, these sites have a direct impact on Travel CUTS annual sales and contributed significantly to the large loss the company sustained during the 2002-2003 fiscal year.

The loss sustained by the company has forced it to delay plans to open between five and ten offices per year. Instead, the company will focus on improving sales at its existing offices. It is important to note that, despite the company's current difficulties, no Canadian Travel CUTS office has been forced to close. It is anticipated that the company will be in a "break-even" position at year-end and that it will be poised to continue its expansion plans during the 2004-2005 fiscal year, allowing the company to better serve students throughout Canada.

### Update on U.S. Operation

Over the last 18 months, Travel CUTS has opened a number of on-campus offices throughout the United States. Because of their location, these offices have not had the difficulty generating new business that is traditionally associated with the opening of a new office. As a result, the company's sales in the United States have increased rapidly in the last year.

The increased sales resulted in the company's United States operations being at a "break-even" position during the 2002-2003 fiscal year with the company anticipating a similar result for the United States operations during the current fiscal year.

### Student Class Airfares

On October 31, Air Canada terminated its Student Class Airfare contract with Travel CUTS and replaced

it with a contract similar to those it has in place with other large national travel agents. The new contract, although it has fares exclusive to Travel CUTS, removes much of the flexibility offered to students through the Student Class Airfare. It also removes responsibility for administering the tickets from Travel CUTS and returns it to Air Canada. It is believed that Air Canada cancelled the contract in order to ensure that all flights sold on Air Canada could be administered by the airline.

The change has not been entirely negative. Travel CUTS' new rates are generally lower than they were under the Student Class Airfare agreement. Further, because the tickets are administered by the airline, students can make flight changes over the phone or at the airport and are not required to go to a Travel CUTS office to make a change. Finally, Travel CUTS' new deal results in students receiving an "electronic ticket" so that they no longer need to worry about losing a paper ticket and paying to have it re-issued. Students now only need to show a driver's license or passport at the airport in order to check in and board their flight.

### Improvements in Technology

Over the last two years, Travel CUTS has made a substantial investment in computer technology. It began with development of a fare database to replace the one provided by the company that supplies Travel CUTS' computer reservation system. Once the fare database was developed the company required more powerful servers to host it. These technological changes have improved the efficiency with which Travel CUTS staff are able to assist customers in the company's offices.

The new database also allowed the company to create a telephone reservation system to serve customers who either did not live near a Travel CUTS office or were unable to visit an office during its hours of business. This allowed the Federation to extend Travel CUTS' services to members throughout Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island,

# 22 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY

## Travel CUTS

Cape Breton, Northern Ontario and the interior of British Columbia.

Despite the success of the telephone reservation centre, for the last few years the company's market share has been eroded by the development of internet-based travel agents such as Expedia, Travelocity, and Priceline. In addition, most of the world's major airlines sell flights directly to customers via the Internet.

In response, the company has spent the last eighteen months exploring possibilities for its own Internet booking engine. After considering the possibility of developing its own booking engine, the company has instead opted to retain the firm TravelStoreMaker. By employing an outside firm, the company is able to both reduce costs and ensure that it has access to the latest in Internet booking technology. Over the last six months, the company's technology department and TravelStoreMaker have worked to modify TravelStoreMaker's software to meet Travel CUTS' needs.

On October 8, the company launched a test of its new booking engine. All of the domestic airfares stored in the company's fare database are now available through the web site. In addition, travel insurance is available for domestic airfares. While the company has loaded some international airfares into the site, many of the company's lowest international airfares are not yet available on-line. Customers are also unable to purchase on-line sufficient travel insurance to cover most international trips.

The company made a conscious decision to limit international offerings during the initial launch of the booking engine. Because errors that occur are more likely to cause individuals difficulty if they are traveling abroad with no access to a Travel CUTS office, the company wanted the bulk of the first on-line customers to be traveling in Canada, within easy access of a Travel CUTS retail office that could assist with any difficulties that may arise.

To date, nearly 600 trips have been sold through the site and no problems have been reported. If the

booking engine continues to operate well throughout November and December, the company will officially launch a marketing campaign in early January. Travel CUTS' full database of domestic and international airfares, as well as a wide variety of travel insurance, will be available through the company's web site prior to the launch.

## Internal Affairs



“As a first time delegate at the May 2003 meeting, I was throughly impressed to see the level of involvement I had in making decisions.”

▶▶ *Cathy Hamilton, Vice-President Advocate, University of Winnipeg Students' Union, Canadian Federation of Students Local 8*

The success of our partnership of more than 70 students' unions with a combined membership of over 475,000 lies in the strength of our democratic structures.

With two comprehensive annual general meetings and a provincially representative National Executive committee, no other national organisation of comparative size boasts a similar level of member involvement in decision-making.

# 22 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY

## Internal

### National Executive

#### Current Composition

The National Executive is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Federation.

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

POSITION	NAME
Aboriginal Students Representative	Lorisha Cook
Alberta Representative	Rashad Sader
British Columbia Representative	Steve Beasley
Francophone Students Representative	Mike Ouellet
Graduate Students Representative	Robert Johnson
Manitoba Representative	Margaret Carlyle
National Chairperson	Ian Boyko
National Deputy Chairperson	James Pratt
National Treasurer	Jess Turk-Browne
Newfoundland and Labrador Representative	Lacey Abbott
Nova Scotia Representative	Dave Hare
Ontario Representative	Rick Telfer
Prince Edward Island Representative	Jeff Clow
Québec Representative	Tobias Whitfield
Saskatchewan Representative	Angela Regnier
Students of Colour Representative	Joseph Zanger Bright
Women's Representative	Christa Peters

Margaret Carlyle, who has served as the Manitoba Representative on the National Executive since May 2002, is resigning from the position effective the end of this general meeting. Margaret will be unable to complete her current term because she will be studying abroad for the next nine months. A by-election for the position will be held at this meeting.

### Federation Staffing

#### Changes Since the Previous Meeting

Two changes to the composition of the Federation's staff complement have occurred during the past six months. Prairies Organiser Elizabeth Carlyle returned in August from her leave-of-absence.

National Office Researcher Rob Duffy left the Federation in late August to pursue graduate studies. The position has not yet been refilled.

#### Development of a Second Staff Position for the Prairies

For the past few years the Federation has relied on a single organiser, based in Winnipeg, to resource the member locals in the prairies. In the past two years, however, the Federation's membership has gone from zero to two member locals in Alberta and from one active member to three in Saskatchewan, while maintaining a consistent membership base in Manitoba.

Over the summer, a job description for this position was developed. The position was posted in August, unfortunately there were only a very small number of applicants. As such, the position was re-posted in mid-November. The National Executive anticipates that the position will be filled by the early new year.

### National Congress Decision-Making

Many national organisations that hold annual congresses, conferences or conventions conduct the entirety or the vast majority of each meeting in plenary sessions during which all decision-making is undertaken. Throughout its history the Federation has taken a different approach.

Rather than deliberating at length on all issues in a full assembly of all delegates, the Federation divides the plenary into standing committees that meet concurrently, thereby allowing for more detailed deliberations on all issues. Each sub-

committee reports on the deliberations to the full assembly on the last day of the general meeting.

Currently, delegates are selected to participate on plenary sub-committees by provincial components, caucuses and constituency groups. There are currently twenty-two voting seats on each sub-committees. With the recent growth in Federation membership, and with it a corresponding increase in the number of delegates at national general meetings, an increasing number of delegates are excluded from sitting on a committee at general meetings.

At the November 2002 national general meeting, delegates debated a proposal to allow each member local to have a voting seat on each plenary sub-committee. Proponents of the change argued that the committee selection process itself was overly cumbersome, monopolising much of the first meeting of provincial components, caucuses and constituency groups, and that the composition of the committees did not reflect the composition of plenary.

Opponents of the proposal argued that it could result in committees with over seventy voting members that would be too large to function properly. Ultimately, there was no widespread agreement amongst delegates on whether the change should be made. Instead, the plenary directed that a thorough review of the plenary sub-committee selection process be undertaken by the National Executive.

The National Executive engaged in lengthy discussion on the matter earlier this fall and resolved to propose that, on a trial basis at this meeting, the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee be replaced with a Campaigns and Government Relations forum in which each member local would be permitted to exercise a vote. The National Executive has arranged for simultaneous French-English interpretations for the sessions.

## Office Organisation

### Technology Upgrades

The Federation's current fileserver was purchased in April 2000. At the time it was anticipated that the server would meet the Federation's technological needs for at least a five-year period. Unfortunately, over the last twelve months a growing number of incompatibility issues have arisen with the Novell Netware server software. This has caused significant problems when used with software designed for Macintosh computers. In addition, approximately six months ago, Novell ceased producing upgrades for the server software. In order to ensure that the workstations in the national office are fully functional, the National Executive researched options for replacing the server and network software over the summer months. One of the key criteria identified was ensuring that a new server could operate on the same platform as the workstations. Based on the investigations undertaken, the Federation has purchased a Macintosh X-serve for the Ottawa office to be installed immediately after the general meeting. As well, the Federation has purchased a LaCie Tape drive back-up system to work with the new server.

### Office Move Preparations

The lease on the Federation's current office space expires in a little over 31 months on June 30, 2006. The Canadian Red Cross, which owns the building and is the primary tenant, has indicated that it intends to take over the space for its own use when the lease expires.

Beyond securing adequate, affordable replacement space the biggest challenge will be sorting the files, materials and publications produced over the past decade to determine what should be kept and what should be jettisoned. This work commenced in a significant way this past August, and will continue during any lull periods as they arise.

# 22 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY

## Internal

### Legal Affairs

In 1980, in an effort to unify the country's-student movement, the two national student organisations in Canada – the National Union of Students (NUS) and the Association of Student Councils-Canada (ASSC) – voted to amalgamate by creating a new, single organisation to replace themselves. It was agreed that the new organisation – the Canadian Federation of Students(-Services) – would initially operate in tandem with the pre-existing organisations, but that over time all activities, responsibilities, assets and liabilities would be transferred to the Federation, where upon NUS and ASSC would be wound down. Among the assets and liabilities of the Association of Student Councils was its six-year old student travel agency, Travel CUTS.

On October 31, 1997 the University of Western Ontario University Students' Council, which had been a member of the ASSC, filed suit against the Canadian Federation of Students-Services, Travel CUTS and ASSC claiming that the transfer of Travel CUTS from the ASSC to the Canadian Federation of Students-Services had not been completed properly.

In December 1998 and January 1999, examinations for discovery, a process in which each party produces a representative to field questions from the other party, were conducted by both the Federation and the University Students' Council.

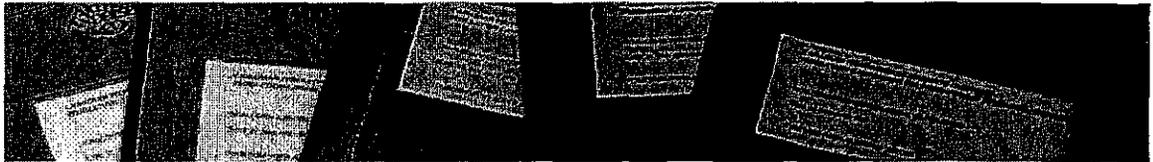
Following the examinations for discovery, the University Students' Council approached a number of students' unions about participating in the lawsuit. Although most students' unions declined the offer, three students' unions, the University of Alberta Students' Union, Queen's University Alma Mater Society and the University of British Columbia Alma Mater Society, opted to join the lawsuit.

Examinations for discovery of the additional plaintiffs were conducted in fall 2001 and summer 2002. Trial preparation got under way in earnest in early spring of this year.

At the May 2003 national general meeting it was reported that the trial had been scheduled for late summer and fall this year. In mid-August however, about three weeks before the trial was due to commence, the Federation was informed that the trial was being postponed because the plaintiffs' lead lawyer would not be available. The earliest that he would have been available was earlier in 2004. As a result, the earliest that the trial can be held is late fall 2004.

Barring any other unforeseen event, the trial should be completed in 2005. The National Executive and the Federation's legal counsel continue to have a great deal of confidence in the Federation's case.

# Finances



“I’ve sat on budget committee several times and seen how efficiently our Federation operates. It is truly impressive what we achieve with a national membership fee of less than \$7 per year.”

▶▶ *Margaret Cameron, Vice-President, Algoma University Students' Association  
Canadian Federation of Students Local 82*

At each general meeting, member locals adopt or revise the Federation's annual budget. The National Executive must ensure that the mandated programmes and campaigns are carried out within the financial constraints set by the budget.

With net annual revenue of under three million dollars, six major national programmes to run and a wide variety of campaigns and government relations priorities, the National Executive works hard to ensure our Federation is an efficient and effective operation each and every year.

# 22 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY

## Finances

### Overview

Historically, the Federation has relied primarily on membership fees to fund its operations. Though the Federation has always generated some revenue from its services, during most years those amounts have been fairly modest. The exception was the period between 1995 and 2001. During that six-year period the Federation realised significant earnings from sales of International Student Identity Cards and from its investment in Canadian Universities Travel Service (Travel CUTS).

During the past two and one-half years, a series of events has served to significantly reduce the Federation's earnings from student travel and related activity. The events of September 11, 2001 had a devastating impact on the entire travel industry worldwide, including the student travel industry. This past year saw war abroad and disease at home lead to further declines in student travel. In addition, Air Canada reduced significantly the number of student-class seats on its domestic flights, thereby causing a reduction in the demand for International Student Identity Cards.

Although net International Student Identity Card sales began slowing immediately after the events of September 11, 2001, the most rapid decline has occurred over the past four months. The budget projection for the discount programme, contained in the original budget adopted at the previous meeting, will not be achieved. The draft revised budget being considered at this meeting projects a modest deficit for the programme for this year.

The draft revised 2003-2004 budget also proposes a significant increase in the allowance for doubtful accounts that is booked against projected membership fee revenue in the budget. The reductions in both net membership fee revenue and International Student Identity Card sales means that the Federation will have to reduce overall spending for the year by over \$300,000 from the amount that was projected in the budget adopted at the May 2003 national general meeting.

### Membership Fees

#### 2002-2003 Fees

To date, membership fees of \$1,705,609 have been collected for the 2002-2003 fiscal year, roughly \$75,000 more than was projected. Another \$15,000 to \$20,000 is anticipated.

#### 2003-2004 Fees

In May, the Federation budgeted to receive \$2,099,400 in membership fees, an increase of almost \$300,000 over the previous fiscal year. The increase was based primarily on the number of new member locals that voted to join the Federation during the past year.

Of the new member locals, the largest is the University of Toronto Students' Administrative Council (Local 98). Local 98, along with the Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students and the Scarborough Campus Students' Union at the University of Toronto, were expected to collect approximately \$250,000 in membership fees on behalf of the Federation this year. Instead, it appears that the three associations may be unable, in the immediate future, to secure collection of the fees by the University of Toronto. Surprisingly, the students' unions at the University of Toronto have far less autonomy than that enjoyed by most other students' unions.

From a contractual standpoint, a member local is obligated to ensure that the Federation membership fees are collected and remitted. Unfortunately, it appears unlikely that any of the three new locals at the University of Toronto will be able to fulfill this obligation in the immediate future or have sufficient resources to designate the fees from their pre-existing levies. The National Executive feels, therefore, that expectations should be reduced in the short term. The National Executive is proposing that the Allowance for Doubtful Accounts in the budget be increased in order to offset the bulk of the fees that the three locals will owe. In the

meantime, the National Executive will continue to explore options for recovering these fees.

Overall, the draft revised budget for 2003-2004 projects that the net membership fee revenue will be \$187,950 lower than the figure in the original budget adopted at the previous meeting. While the Allowance for Doubtful Accounts has been increased by \$255,000, this has been offset in part by an increase of \$67,000 in the total membership fees expected for the year.

### **Programme and Travel CUTS Revenue**

#### **Discount Programme Revenue**

International Student Identity Card (ISIC) sales during the first quarter of the current year (July 1 to September 30, 2003) were less than one-third of what they were during the same period in 2002. Sales for the year are expected to drop from \$88,000 last year to only \$60,000 this year. After factoring in the cost of sales and the commission paid to Travel CUTS, the net revenue from ISIC sales is now expected to fall short of covering the expenses associated with the programme.

#### **Revenue from Travel CUTS**

For the 2002-2003 fiscal year, referral fee revenue was \$964,367, a drop of roughly \$30,000 from the 2001-2002 fiscal year. The National Executive feels that the \$925,000 projection adopted at the previous meeting remains an accurate one.

#### **Student Work Abroad Programme**

The Student Work Abroad Programme (SWAP) is a Federation service that is administered by Travel CUTS. In the three years prior to 2002-2003, the Programme generated a total net surplus of just over \$260,000. This past year, however, net income dropped to \$16,912.

In May, the Federation budgeted to earn \$25,000 from the Programme during the current year. At the time, final numbers for the 2002-2003 were

unknown. Given the final results from 2002-2003, the National Executive is recommending that the projection for this year be reduced to \$13,550.

#### **National Student Health Network**

The National Student Health Network is intended to operate on a break-even basis. Though the programme inevitably generates small surpluses in some years and small losses in others, over time it is essentially revenue neutral. After incurring a \$38,815 loss during the 2000-2001 year, the program generated a \$22,321 surplus during the 2001-2002 year. For the 2002-2003 fiscal year, the Federation is still awaiting final revenue numbers from the broker used by the Network; however, indications are that any surplus or loss will be minimal.

### **Expenditures**

#### **Short-term Adjustments**

In order to balance the budget, given the anticipated reductions in projected revenue that the Federation is facing, the National Executive is recommending a number of reductions in spending in the revised 2003-2004 budget.

#### **Capital Fund**

Currently, the Federation leases office space in downtown Ottawa. When the Federation first leased the space in 1996, its annual cost was approximately \$90,000. In 2001, the Federation exercised its renewal option on the space for an additional five years. Under the terms of the renewal, rates were adjusted to reflect market conditions at the time of renewal. Annual costs jumped to almost \$150,000 per year.

Two years earlier, in 1999, the Federation's membership agreed that the best long-term solution to the rising office lease costs in Ottawa was to purchase office space. A capital fund, to be used ultimately to purchase such space, was created. Between 1999 and 2003, \$750,000 was transferred

# 22 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY

## Finances

to the fund. For the current year, the Federation budgeted another \$50,000 for the fund.

The National Executive is recommending that the allocation for the capital fund be reduced to zero, saving the Federation \$50,000.

### Campaigns

The Federation budgeted for a full-time campaigns and government relations coordinator for the year. Due to other hiring priorities, the position was not filled immediately. When it became clear that some anticipated revenue would not materialise, plans to fill the position were put on hold. The National Executive is recommending that the position not be filled for the remainder of the year, but that a portion of the allocation – \$12,000 – be maintained in order to fund short-term staffing related to the upcoming day of action. The net savings from the existing budget will be \$40,000.

In addition, the National Executive is recommending that the general campaigns allocation be reduced to \$175,000, saving the Federation \$10,000.

### Communications

The current budget allocates funds for the production of an annual report. The National Executive is recommending that this allocation be eliminated from the revised 2003-2004 budget, saving the Federation \$3,000.

### Legal / Legal Fund

In the 1970's there existed two national student organisations in Canada, outside of Québec: the National Union of Students (NUS) and the Association of Student Councils Canada (ASCC). The main role of the National Union of Students was to represent student issues and concerns to the federal government. The main role of the ASCC was to provide services, the primary one being low-cost student travel. The majority of the member associations belonging to each organisation belonged to both.

In the late 1970's the NUS and ASCC began the process of merging to form a new organisation, to replace the existing structures, and that would provide both representation and services. This resulted in the establishment of the Canadian Federation of Students/Canadian Federation of Students-Services in 1981. The development plan called for NUS and ASCC to initially operate in tandem with the new organisation for the first few years, but eventually all activity of the old organisations would be transferred to the new structure. The activity of NUS was to be transferred to Canadian Federation of Students and the activity of ASCC was to be transferred to Canadian Federation of Students-Services.

By 1985 all of the activity of NUS had been transferred to Canadian Federation of Students and, thus, NUS was wound down. During the same period, most of the ASCC activity had been transferred to Canadian Federation of Students-Services; however, Travel CUTS remained, technically, the property of the ASCC. In fall 1987, an ASCC meeting was convened for the purpose of formally approving the transfer of the ownership of Travel CUTS to the Canadian Federation of Students-Services and the winding down of the ASCC.

The ASCC motion directed the ASCC Board to enact the transfer by June 30, 1988. The ASCC members did so because they were anxious to have the amalgamation process, first started in the late 1970's, completed as soon as possible. However, due to various unforeseen circumstances, the transfer was not actually completed until 1991.

The University of Western Ontario University Student Council and the University of Alberta Students' Union had both been members of the ASCC and, at various points in the 1980's, had been members of the Canadian Federation of Students/Canadian Federation of Students-Services. Both had ceased to be members of Canadian Federation of Students-Services by 1991. In 1997, the business managers of the two students' associations got it in their heads that Canadian Federation of Students-Services had improperly assumed ownership of Travel CUTS

# 22 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY

## Finances

from ASCC. That fall the University of Western Ontario University Student Council filed suit against Canadian Federation of Students-Services, Travel CUTS and ASCC seeking damages of \$100 million dollars or reversal of the transfer of ownership. In 2000, University of Alberta Students' Union and two other students' associations joined the Western Student Council in the suit.

Given the nature of the plaintiffs' claim and the amount of the damages sought, the National Executive and, indeed, the membership have decided that the Federation had no choice but to mount a vigorous and thorough defense. In order to do so the Federation created a fund in 1999 to ensure that there would be sufficient resources for what is expected to be a long and expensive trial. At this point, that fund sits at \$425,000.

This year, when setting the 2003-2004 budget, the Federation budgeted \$175,000 for legal/legal fund. Because the matter was scheduled to proceed to trial this fall, the expectation was that almost the entire amount would go to current year costs rather than be allocated to the fund. Given that the trial has now been postponed until late 2004, this year's actual costs are expected to be somewhat lower, even though significant trial preparation did occur in July and August. On this basis the National Executive feels that the allocation for legal/legal fund can be reduced to \$135,000, saving \$40,000.

### **National Executive Meetings**

The National Executive currently meets four times per year outside of national general meetings. At this juncture, two regularly scheduled meetings remain to be held; an early January meeting and a late March meeting. The National Executive is recommending that the meeting scheduled for early January be cancelled, saving the Federation \$14,500.

### **Provincial and Graduate Component Allocations**

At the May 2003 national general meeting, the plenary amended the budget to allocate \$35,000 from the budget surplus to cover the bulk of the cost of a second prairies organiser to work primarily with

locals in Saskatchewan and Alberta. At this point the position has not been filled. The National Executive is proposing that the position not be filled until the new year, resulting in a budgeted net savings of \$20,000.

### **Research**

The Federation budgeted for two researchers for the entire 2003-2004 year, at a cost of \$105,000. Early in the current fiscal year, one of the Federation's two researchers left the Federation and, to this point, the position has not been re-filled. The National Executive is recommending that the position not be re-filled until after the day of action in order to realise further savings. The National Executive is proposing that the allocation for researcher wages and benefits be reduced to \$75,000, saving the Federation \$30,000.

## **Longer-term Expense Issues**

### **Office Space**

In 1996, the Federation combined its Canadian Federation of Students' operations, based in Ottawa, and its Canadian Federation of Students-Services' operations, formerly based in Toronto, in new office space in Ottawa. At the time, the new space was roughly equivalent to the old office spaces housing the Canadian Federation of Students and Canadian Federation of Students-Services operations. In the years since, however, the space requirements for the combined operations have been reduced as the total number of Canadian Federation of Students/Canadian Federation of Students-Services employees has been reduced. The National Executive believes that the Federation can operate in smaller space while maintaining the current level of operations.

In just over two and one-half years, the lease on the Federation's current office space expires. As noted above, the membership has previously set the goal of purchasing space in order to reduce the long-term costs to the Federation. The alternative will be to find space to lease that costs less but does not reduce productivity.

# 22 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY

## Finances

### Travel Costs

During the past eighteen months the cost of domestic air travel in Canada has climbed steadily. Obviously, this is cause for considerable concern for the Federation given the amount of air travel associated with national general meetings, National Executive meetings and on-campus representation.

For members traveling by air to national general meetings, the Federation may have to establish earlier registration deadlines in order to secure the lowest possible fares. With respect to National Executive meetings, the Federation may have to permanently reduce the number of meetings held outside of general meetings from four to three.

### Membership Fee Issues

#### Fee Adjustments for Consumer Price Index Change

When the Federation was founded in 1981, the national membership fee was set at \$2.00 per student per semester. In 1992, the Federation's member locals voted to increase the fee from \$2.00 to \$3.00. At the same time, a bylaw was adopted stipulating that, starting in 1996, the fee would be adjusted each academic year by the rate of change in the Canadian Consumer Price Index during the previous calendar year.

The adjustment for inflation is calculated in mid-January when the previous year's Consumer Price Index (CPI) is announced by Statistics Canada. Notice of the change is sent to member locals immediately thereafter. The following table shows the adjustments that have been made to the national membership fee since the annual adjustments commenced in 1996, including the adjustment for the current year.

As the table illustrates, the Federation's national membership fee for this academic year will be \$3.50 per student per semester, 87.5 percent higher than the fee was in 1981. By comparison,

inflation during the same period has been 102 percent.

Federation Fiscal Year	Adjusted Fee
1995-96	\$3.00
1996-97	\$3.06
1997-98	\$3.12
1998-99	\$3.16
1999-2000	\$3.20
2000-2001	\$3.28
2001-2002	\$3.38
2003-2003	\$3.42
2003-2004	\$3.50

Each year, the National Executive is faced with the challenge of trying to ensure that all member locals arrange with their respective institutions collection of the adjusted fee. In the first few years after the adoption of the CPI adjustment, the success rate was quite low. However, with each passing year more and more locals make the adjustment as a matter of course.

It is the National Executive's understanding that almost all member locals are collecting the correct, adjusted fee. One exception is Local 30, the Laurentian University Students' General Association. Apparently, the Local is still collecting only \$3.00 per student per semester on behalf of the Federation. In addition, at least two of the member locals in Newfoundland and Labrador are collecting only \$3.00 per student per semester.

#### Collection of the Proper Base Membership Fee

As noted in previous reports, one member local, the York Federation of Students, has not adjusted the base membership fee from \$2.00 to \$3.00. The Local is also not adjusting the annual fee for inflation. As a result, more than \$400,000 in membership fees that should have been collected and remitted by the Local since 1995 has not been. The National Executive continues to look for solutions to the problem.

# 22 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY

## Appendix I - Meetings with and Submissions to Government

### Appendix I - Meetings with and Submissions to Government

DATE	MEETING	SUBJECT
May 28, 2003	National Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance	Student loan designation, loan maximums, policy updates
June 9, 2003	Peter Adams, MP, Chair of Liberal Caucus on Post-Secondary Education and Research	Canada Student Loans maximums
June 11, 2003	John Manley, MP, Finance Minister	Post-secondary education policy in Liberal leadership race
June 19, 2003	Robert Patry, Post-secondary Education Co-ordinator, Council of Ministers of Education of Canada (CMEC)	CMEC inter-provincial task force on student financial assistance
July 10, 2003	Millennium Scholarship Foundation representatives	Millennium Foundation research project and improving the needs-based bursary disbursement
August 18, 2003	Presentation to Liberal Post-secondary Education Caucus: Peter Adams, MP Jean Augustine, MP Mauril Bélanger, MP Carolyn Bennett, MP Gérard Binet, MP Charles Caccia, MP Catherine Callbeck, Senator Sharon Carstairs, Senator Jeannot Castonguay, MP Thelma Chalifoux, Senator Maria Chaput, Senator Ione Christensen, Senator	Federal funding, tuition fees, student financial assistance

# 22 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY

## Appendix I - Meetings with and Submissions to Government

DATE	MEETING	SUBJECT
August 18, 2003 (cont'd)	Presentation to Liberal Post-secondary Education Caucus- (cont'd) Irwin Cotler, MP Rodger Cuzner, MP Joseph Day, Senator Paul De Villers, MP Wayne Easter, MP John Finley, MP Raymonde Folco, MP Mac Harb, MP Geline Hervieux-Payette, Senator Elizabeth Hubley, Senator Tony Ianno, MP Ovid Jackson, MP Marlene Jennings, MP Laurier LaPierre, Senator Walt Lastewka, MP Paul Macklin, MP Frank Mahovlich, Senator Joe McGuire, MP Anne McLellan, MP Lorna Milne, Senator Wilfred Moore, Senator Yves Morin, Senator Lynn Myers, MP Anita Neville, MP David Price, MP Maire-Paule Poulin, Senator Karen Redman, MP Geoff Regan, MP Jacques Saada, MP Andy Scott, MP Yolande Thibeault, MP	Federal funding, tuition fees, student financial assistance (cont'd)
September 4, 2003	Conference call with Pierre Pettigrew, MP, Minister of International Trade	Free Trade Area of the Americas meeting in Cancun, Mexico
September 17, 2003	Tony Macerollo, Executive Assistant to Finance Minister John Manley	Preparation for the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance

# 22 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY

## Appendix I - Meetings with and Submissions to Government

DATE	MEETING	SUBJECT
September 18, 2003	Annual general meeting of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation	Recent Millennium Foundation research
September 23, 2003	Presentation to House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance: Sue Barnes, MP (Chair) Nick Discepola, MP (Vice Chair) Monte Solberg, MP Scott Brison, MP Rick Casson, MP Roy Cullen, MP Albina Guarneri, MP Richard Harris, MP Rahim Jaffer, MP Sophia Leung, MP Maria Minna, MP Shawn Murphy, MP Pierre Paquette, MP Pauline Picard, MP Gary Pillitteri, MP Tony Valeri, MP Judy Wasylcyia-Leis, MP Bryon Wilfert, MP	Federation pre-budget submission
October 1, 2003	John Herron, MP, Post-secondary Education Critic for the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada	Herron's policy paper on post-secondary education and research
November 1-2, 2003	Progressive Conservative Party of Canada Blue Ribbon Roundtable on Post-Secondary Education	Progressive Conservative post-secondary education platform
November 5, 2003	Millennium Scholarship Foundation Research Officer	Recent Millennium Foundation research
November 17, 2003	National Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance	Designation, loan limits, grants, parental contributions to post-secondary education costs



# 22 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY

## Appendix II - Media

### Appendix II - Media

Date	Outlet	Description
2003/05/28	Calgary Herald	Alberta's proposed Post-secondary Learning Act (Bill 43)
2003/06/04	CBC Radio - Vancouver	Statistics Canada study on distance and accessibility
2003/06/04	Kenora Miner	Statistics Canada study on distance and accessibility
2003/06/05	CBC Radio - Whitehorse	Statistics Canada study on distance and accessibility
2003/06/05	Aboriginal Broadcasting - Whitehorse	Statistics Canada study on distance and accessibility
2003/06/10	STAR 96 FM - Renfrew	Statistics Canada study on distance and accessibility
2003/06/11	Prairie Dog	Tuition fees across Canada
2003/06/11	National Post	John Manley's education platform
2003/06/18	London Times (Higher Education Supplement)	Statistics Canada study on university finances
2003/06/24	Ottawa Citizen	Summer work for students
2003/06/24	Calgary Herald	Alberta's proposed Post-secondary Learning Act (Bill 43)
2003/07/02	Saskatoon Star-Phoenix	Double cohort
2003/08/12	CanWest	Statistics Canada report on tuition fees
2003/08/12	Ottawa Citizen	Statistics Canada report on tuition fees
2003/08/12	Globe and Mail	Statistics Canada report on tuition fees
2003/08/12	Radio Canada	Statistics Canada report on tuition fees
2003/08/12	570 AM News - Kitchener	Statistics Canada report on tuition fees

# 22 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY

## Appendix II - Media

Date	Outlet	Description
2003/08/12	CBC TV – The National	Statistics Canada report on tuition fees
2003/08/12	CBC Radio	Statistics Canada report on tuition fees
2003/08/12	1130 AM News – Vancouver	Statistics Canada report on tuition fees
2003/08/12	St. Albert Gazette	Statistics Canada report on tuition fees
2003/08/12	Vancouver Province	Statistics Canada report on tuition fees
2003/08/12	Kenora Star	Statistics Canada report on tuition fees
2003/08/12	CBC News	Statistics Canada report on tuition fees
2003/08/12	Fairchild TV – Vancouver	Statistics Canada report on tuition fees
2003/08/13	610 AM News – Niagara	Statistics Canada report on tuition fees
2003/08/14	Toronto Star	Statistics Canada report on tuition fees
2003/08/14	Barrie Examiner	Statistics Canada report on tuition fees
2003/08/14	Canadian Press	Statistics Canada report on tuition fees
2003/08/14	Street Gents – Halifax	Parental contributions for Canada Student Loans Program
2003/08/20	Canadian University Press – Quebec Bureau	Tuition fees
2003/08/28	CanWest	Capacity and quality of post-secondary education
2003/09/05	Ottawa Sun	Student debt
2003/09/05	Ontario* – University of Guelph	Election campaign financing
2003/09/05	Globe and Mail	The Globe and Mail's universities survey
2003/09/09	Gauntlet* – University of Calgary	Travel CUTS

# 22 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY

## Appendix II - Media

Date	Outlet	Description
2003/09/10	Ottawa Citizen	Statistics Canada study on post-secondary education participation and socioeconomic status
2003/09/10	Canadian University Press - Ottawa Bureau	Federation services
2003/09/19	Halifax Daily News	Student debt (background)
2003/09/22	Radio Canada International	Post-secondary education in Canada
2003/09/30	Globe and Mail	Universities survey
2003/10/03	McGill Daily	Statistics Canada study on post-secondary education participation and socio-economic status
2003/10/06	Charlatan* - Carleton University	Statistics Canada study on post-secondary education participation and socio-economic status
2003/10/08	Ottawa Sun	Student health plans
2003/10/09	Guelph Mercury	Statistics Canada study on post-secondary education participation and socio-economic status
2003/10/13	CKCU FM - Carleton	Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act
2003/10/14	Canadian University Press - Ottawa Bureau	The Canadian Association of University Teachers' Post-Secondary Education Act
2003/10/14	Fulcrum* - University of Ottawa	University of Ottawa Bonds
2003/10/15	Los Angeles Times	American international students at Canadian campuses
2003/10/15	Langara Voice* - Langara College	Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act
2003/10/28	Canadian University Press - Ottawa Bureau	Partnerships conference
2003/10/31	Algonquin Times* - Algonquin College	Algonquin College spin-off companies in Mexico
2003/11/03	CanWest	Senate Committee report on the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act
2003/11/03	Charlatan* - Carleton University	Turnitin.com, an online tool to prevent plagiarism

# 22 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY

## Appendix II - Media

Date	Outlet	Description
2003/11/03	CBC Radio	Federal budget surplus
2003/11/04	Financial Post	Senate Committee report on the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act
2003/11/05	CanWest	Millennium Scholarship Foundation external review
2003/11/06	Ryersonian* – Ryerson University	Senate Committee report on the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act
2003/11/10	CanWest	Extension of Aboriginal funding to Métis peoples
2003/11/11	Charlatan* – Carleton University	November 6, 2003 tuition fee demonstration in Montréal
2003/11/13	Fulcrum* – University of Ottawa	Millennium Scholarship Foundation external review

\*denotes campus press