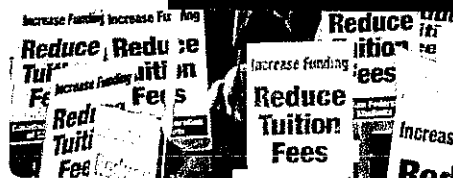


National Executive report

November 19, 2003 to May 18, 2004

du 19 novembre 2003 au 18 mai 2004

rapport de l'exécutif national



FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DES ÉTUDIANTES ET ÉTUDIANTS
CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

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Letter to Members



Dear Members,

As we prepare to enter our 25th year as Canada's national student movement, it is clear that the Federal Election call is imminent. Under Prime Minister Paul Martin, the Liberal government has introduced a number of measures it hopes will bolster its support amongst the electorate. But none of the initiatives announced in the 2004 budget will improve access to higher learning, nor provide meaningful debt relief for students. Worse, there is every indication that Paul Martin's government is preparing to re-introduce a version of the discredited Income Contingent Loan Repayment scheme—a measure that would further the privatisation of post-secondary education in Canada. The issues facing students in this federal election and beyond are therefore critical. In the weeks and months ahead, the Federation, in partnership with the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec, will be building united opposition to lifelong debt and campaigning for a renewed federal commitment to funding post-secondary education.

This past year, students have seen clear results from working together and mobilising for our February action to freeze and reduce tuition fees. Across Canada, students successfully campaigned to make access to post-secondary education a key concern. So successful was the campaign that in Newfoundland and Labrador, the new Progressive Conservative government committed to maintain the tuition fee freeze for the remainder of its mandate. In Ontario, the new Liberal government granted students the first funded tuition fee freeze in the province's history. And in Manitoba, the New Democratic government reaffirmed its commitment to extend the tuition fee freeze. In large part due to the Federation's work, the vast majority of students in Canada will not be facing a tuition fee increase in September 2004.

With respect to the Federation's mandate to offer not-for-profit services, many of the Federation's newer programmes are progressing to maturity. Homes4students.ca, our online searchable housing resource, is undergoing development for a re-launch that will set the standard for web housing services. The Federation's National Student Health Network continues to grow and serve students by providing high quality, low cost plans and transparent information, thus exposing the questionable practices of some student health insurance brokers.

As we survey the road ahead we can look back with pride on what we have achieved together. Student solidarity, which has generated numerous political successes, and an expanding portfolio of services, has provided tangible benefits for Federation members. In the next six months, we look forward to building on this legacy.

In solidarity,

The National Executive
May 2004

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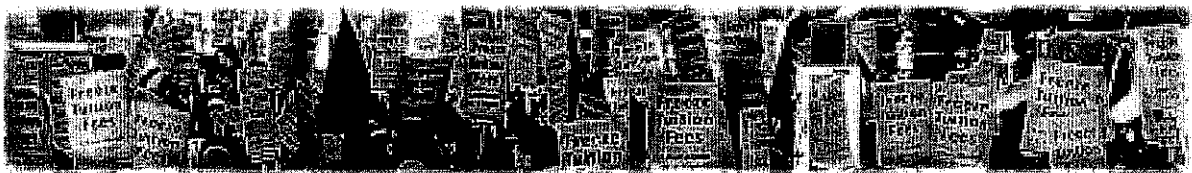


Appendix I - Meetings with and Submissions to Government



Appendix II - Communications with Media

Campaigns and Government Relations



“February 4th, 2004 was an incredible day for our members. There was a huge turnout and we got great media coverage.”



Tracy Ho, City Centre Students' Union

Canadian Federation of Students Local 73

The Canadian Federation of Students works in a variety of ways to change public opinion and change public policy. Solid research and information sharing are the beginning. But, as has been shown time and time again, the Federation's real strength is our membership.

Heading into a federal election, the Federation has put accessible post-secondary education on top of the public agenda.

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February 4 Pan-Canadian Day Of Action

The steady decline of federal transfers for post-secondary education over the past 20 years has resulted in unprecedented tuition fee increases as colleges and universities hike fees to replace lost funding. Those from disadvantaged backgrounds have felt the effects of high user fees most acutely. As student debt and tuition fees continue to climb, access to university and college is increasingly determined by financial resources, not desire to learn. Only reduced tuition fees combined with increased federal and provincial core funding will reverse the trend towards an elitist post-secondary education system.

Past Federation campaigns have been successful at pressuring governments to hold the line on tuition fees. In the last ten years, seven of ten provinces have frozen tuition fees at least once. To increase pressure on governments and to maintain public support for accessible education, the May 2003 national general meeting adopted a Campaigns and Government Relations Strategy which mandated a national day of action. The Day of Action, scheduled for February 4, 2004, called for:

- the progressive reduction of tuition and ancillary fees at public post-secondary institutions across the country with the ultimate goal of eliminating tuition and ancillary fees;
- an end to the deregulation of tuition fees;
- full funding for public post-secondary education; and
- the restoration of federal government funding for post-secondary education.

On the day, students, faculty, and community members participated in events in almost 70 communities across the country.

Endorsements

Endorsements were sought from a number of organisations with which the Federation works closely from time to time. The following

organisations submitted letters of support for the Day of Action and the Federation's demands:

- Canadian Association of University Teachers
- Canadian Autoworkers' Union
- Canadian Labour Congress
- Canadian Teachers' Federation
- Canadian Union of Public Employees
- Council of Canadians
- Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec
- National Educational Association for Disabled Students
- National Union of Public and General Employees

Materials

A full-colour 17" x 22" tabloid was produced for the Day of Action. The tabloid, which doubled as a poster, contained several articles about the federal Liberals' record on post-secondary education and the effect that federal funding cuts have had on tuition fees and student debt. The Federation's national office co-ordinated the printing of placards with the message "Reduce Tuition Fees" for distribution to member locals. Poster templates with the colour theme of the tabloids were produced centrally and shipped to regional offices.

MY STUDENT LOAN DOCUMENTARY

At the request of several members, copies of the Canadian documentary *My Student Loan* were bulk purchased by the national office so as to be sold to members or regional offices at a reduced price. Member locals screened the video in lead up events to the Day of Action.

British Columbia

The BC office coordinated the production of local materials and facilitated regional actions. The BC office produced a newspaper style broadsheet with articles about the impact of tuition fee increases on one side and a campaign poster on the other, similar to the broadsheet distributed nationally.

Following a request for support and endorsements, the Federation received more than \$12,000 in donations, and significant in-kind support from

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various labour organisations. These included the BC Federation of Labour, the BC Government and Service Employees Union, the Health Sciences Association, CUPE local 2396 and CUPE BC, the BC Ferry and Marine Workers' Union, the Pulp and Paper Workers of Canada and a \$5,000 donation from the British Columbia Teachers' Federation.

In addition, the Federation has been regularly receiving completed petitions mailed from a wide variety of worksites as a result of the BC Federation of Labour mailing copies to its members.

VICTORIA

Over 2000 students and community members marched from Centennial Square in downtown Victoria to a rally at the BC Legislature. Locals also organised several lead-up events including classroom speaking and volunteer recruitment drives. Locals 89 and 44 were successful in achieving academic amnesty for the Day of Action.

GREATER VANCOUVER AREA

Following local campus events, approximately 5000 post-secondary and high school students from the Greater Vancouver area (including Langley, Richmond, Surrey, North Vancouver, Vancouver and Abbotsford) held a demonstration at the Vancouver Art Gallery. Students then marched through downtown Vancouver past BC government offices.

Students from Locals 5, 18, 23, 26, 33, 73 and 76 as well as students from the University of British Columbia, University College of the Fraser Valley and local high schools boarded buses for the downtown rally and march. Students from Locals 33 and 76 marched from their campuses to join in the city-wide event. Many Greater Vancouver area campuses held pre-rally events, which included a barbecue at Local 26 and a pancake breakfast at the University of British Columbia.

The Vancouver demonstration and campus events garnered a high level of media attention throughout the day.



VICTORIA, FEB 4, 2004

VANCOUVER ISLAND

Locals 61 and 72 held a joint rally on the Nanaimo campus of Malaspina University College. The rally included a barbecue, music and speakers and had over 1,000 students in attendance. Members from Local 72 travelled to the rally by bus following the events held at the Campbell River, Courtenay and Port Alberni campuses of North Island College.

In addition, Local 61 member Rick Powelson set up camp on the roof of the students' union Building to protest increasing tuition fees. Powelson, who spent close to a week camping out in the cold, quickly became known as "Rick on the Roof".

NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

To highlight the negative effects of increased tuition fees, funding cuts and campus closures to students and communities in the North, Local 13 held a march and rally outside the office of local Member of the Legislative Assembly and Minister of Advanced Education Shirley Bond. Local 13 members and students of the Northern University of British Columbia (who had also participated in an on-campus rally at the University) attended the successful afternoon event.

Following the rally and march Local 13 held a "Family Skate" at a hockey rink located adjacent to the hall in which Premier Gordon Campbell was hosting a fundraising dinner. The event was well

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attended by both students and members of the community and raised awareness of the effects of continued BC Liberal cuts to social services on small communities.

Local 66 organised a rally and soup kitchen on the Day of Action to focus attention on the effects of tuition fee increases and cuts in funding on the lives of students. The event was



well attended and was accompanied by information sessions and leafleting on the Terrace Campus. Regional campuses held teach-ins and petition drives.

INTERIOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

Day of Action rallies were held in Kelowna and Penticton. In Kelowna, approximately 300 students filled the Student Services Building foyer for a rally. The day's events also featured a barbecue, a disc jockey, local live bands, information tables, and speakers. The event garnered significant local media attention.

In Penticton, about 30 students marched to the office of Member of the Legislative Assembly Bill Barisoff. This event also garnered significant media

attention, including front page newspaper coverage in local papers.

Alberta

Alberta locals held day of action events at the Alberta College of Art and Design. The day's event focused on affordability of education and the rising levels of student debt in Alberta. To increase awareness of the collective debt problems, pictures of students and their total debt amounts were posted on a "Debt Row". The wall of debt served as a reminder of the financial pressures facing all students and increased the amount of dialogue among students at large. The event was well attended by students from both the College and the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology.

Saskatchewan

In preparation for the Day of Action, campaigners set up tables in the hallways of both the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina, and encouraged students to sign petitions on student debt. Both campuses also held film viewings of "My Student Loan."

The Saskatchewan rally was hosted and organised by Local 9 in Regina and a busload of students travelled from Saskatoon to Regina. Approximately 750 people participated in the rally and the event attracted positive media attention around the province. The rally was believed to be the biggest rally on the University of Regina campus in history.

Manitoba

CAMPUS VOTE ON TUITION FEES

At the Manitoba general meeting of the Federation in April 2003, member locals voted to organise campus votes on tuition fee reductions, as a means of countering the referendums that had been staged in some faculties at the University of Manitoba in 2002/2003. As part of a larger campaign by the University of Manitoba administration to undermine the tuition fee freeze, these referendums had been engineered to offer students a false choice between

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financially accessible education and high quality post-secondary education. The *Winnipeg Free Press* has unofficially joined the administration in this campaign. Like most Can West Global media outlets the *Winnipeg Free Press* argues for higher fees. Unfortunately, the *Free Press* and other papers have not allowed students to present an alternative view.

The Federation coordinated campus-wide votes in the fall and winter, asking students: "Are you in favour of the progressive reduction of tuition fees?" The results of these votes showed overwhelming support for lower tuition fees:

- Local 8: 96% Yes, with 17% voter turnout;
- Local 37: 95% Yes, with 20% voter turnout;
- Local 38: 98.2% Yes, with 62% voter turnout.

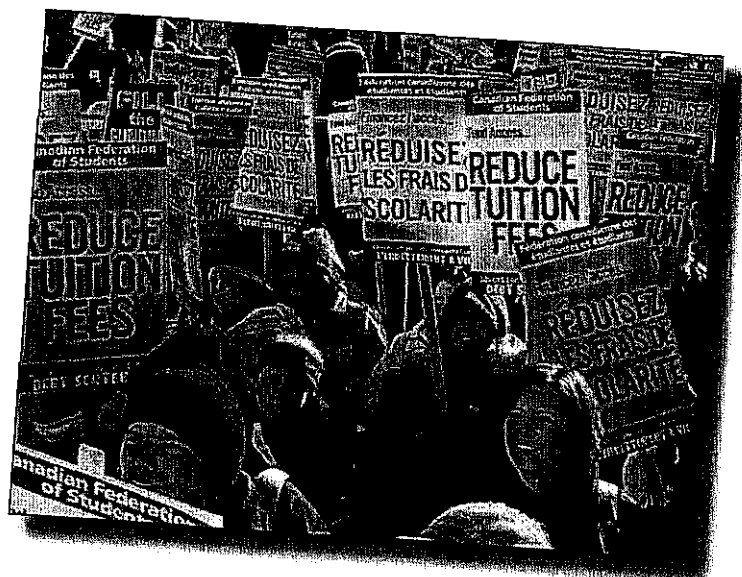
WINNIPEG

Winnipeg-area member locals used banners, posters, information tables, and classroom presentations to promote participation in the Day of Action. Advertisements were aired on University of Winnipeg campus-community radio station CKUW. A bilingual banner calling for reduced tuition fees and student debt as well as increased funding was circulated among member locals. The provincial web site posted Day of Action materials to be downloaded for local distribution.

On February 4, students from Locals 37 and 38 joined students from Local 8 for a march to the provincial legislature during lunch hour. Locals 8 and 38 organised afternoon and evening celebration events for post-Day of Action activities. Favourable media coverage was generated in all major mainstream and student media outlets, although the media largely ignored the Federation's call for the restoration of federal funding for post-secondary education.

A petition calling on the provincial Legislative Assembly and the House of Commons to reduce tuition fees and restore funding to post-secondary education was also circulated as part of the campaign. More than 2,000 signatures were gathered and presented to Minister McGifford on February 4, 2004.

In the Provincial Budget on April 19, the Manitoba government announced that it will keep the tuition fee freeze for the 2004-2005 year, marking the fifth straight year of frozen tuition fees. Tuition fees will be maintained at 1999 levels, when tuition fees were reduced by 10 percent. The Federation praised the move, which is credited with boosting post-secondary education enrolment by over 25 percent.



WINNIPEG, FEBRUARY 4, 2004

Ontario

A hugely successful Ontario provincial election campaign was waged in fall 2003, involving considerable resources, multiple mobilisations, and a sustained media profile. The effort resulted in a promise from the newly-elected Liberal government to freeze tuition fees.

However, the tentative fulfilment of a major campaign goal made it difficult to maintain momentum from October 2003 until February 4, 2004. In most areas, Day of Action events were designed to garner public awareness about the promise made to students by the Ontario government.

Petitions were developed and distributed, calling on the Ontario Legislature to demand a federal

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reinvestment of \$3 billion, and that these moneys be accounted for in a separate fund, earmarked for higher education. Ontario member locals organised on-campus forums, petition drives, meetings, rallies and creative theatre to send a message to both provincial and national politicians that education funding must be a priority for all levels of government.

OTTAWA

A rally was held at Carleton University, followed by a march across campus. Participants heard speakers from the Carleton University Students' Association, the Carleton Graduate Students' Association, the Rideau River Residents' Association, and from the teaching assistants and sessional lectures union, CUPE 4600.

Carleton University's President, Richard van Loon, also spoke at the rally and endorsed the Canadian Federation of Students' call for increased public funding and for enhanced access to post-secondary

education. Ten graduates in hoods and gowns participated in a mock graduation receiving certificates of debt instead of diplomas. The valedictorian was Member of Provincial Parliament Rosario Marchese. Following the "Debt Convocation" hundreds of students participated in a "guided debt tour of campus", to highlight different examples of post-secondary under-funding and privatisation.

At the Mississauga campus, about 500 students packed the Student Centre—a turnout representing about 10 percent of the Mississauga campus student population. Speakers included Member of Provincial Parliament Bob Delaney and Ontario National Executive Representative Rick Telfer.

Students at the Scarborough campus signed petitions, built a debt wall and watched the documentary "My Student Loan."

Throughout the day, thousands of University of Toronto students signed the Federation's petitions and donned "Reduce Tuition Fees" buttons.

At Ryerson University, Local 24 members also hosted a "Student Debt Carnival" to generate awareness about the reality of student debt and to call on Ryerson University decision makers to lobby the federal government to fund post-secondary education.

The President of the Ryerson Faculty Association and a number of senior University administrators—including five of Ryerson's seven deans—signed the Federation's petition calling for increased funding for colleges and universities.

Students from Local 25, organised a day of "Creative Resistance" at the Ontario College of Art and Design. Student organisers noted the high levels of debt incurred by Arts students who, in addition to tuition fees also incur high studio and materials expenses. The day's events included a march and rally, as well as creative theatre. Ontario Campaigns and Government Relations Coordinator Pam Frache addressed the rally, as did the President of the Ontario College of Art and



education.

Members from Local 94 participated in a bus tour of campus to highlight student debt and the need for greater post-secondary education funding. Toques featuring the events logo were produced and distributed.

TORONTO

At the downtown campus of the University of Toronto, a media event called a "Debt Convocation"

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Design and other senior administrators. Throughout the day's events dozens of students participated in various actions and hundreds signed petitions that were distributed by local "Petition Pixies".

SAULT STE. MARIE

Students at Algoma University organised a theatrical rally attended by approximately 100 students from the university. The local faculty association both participated in and promoted the event in classes. The action generated positive local media coverage. On February 5, dozens of students watched a screening of "My Student Loan."

NORTH BAY

Students at Local 20 collected signatures on the Federation's petition while distributing "Reduce Tuition Fees" buttons and the Federation's Day of Action Digest.

KINGSTON

Local 27 students organised a showing of the film "My Student Loan". Organisers also participated in a local radio interview.

SUDBURY

Locals 30 and 88 joined forces to educate and celebrate the tuition fee freeze in Ontario. Laurentian University President Judith Woodsworth helped serve macaroni and cheese to students who came to watch a showing of "My Student Loan" and sign the Federation's petition. Assisting President Woodsworth in serving macaroni and cheese were the Vice Rector of Francophone Affairs, a member of the Laurentian Faculty Association, and the Mayor of Sudbury.

THUNDER BAY

Local 32 members organised a theatrical event at Lakehead University which featured a student imprisoned in a mock jail. Students were asked to put forward their accumulated student loan debt as "bail". By the end of the event, more than \$9.6 million had been accumulated in student debt "bail". During the event, students signed petitions

and sent letters to Prime Minister Paul Martin urging him to restore post-secondary education funding. The letters were produced under the theme "Education Shouldn't be a Debt Sentence" and included a "mug shot" photograph of the student as well as their debt (in place of the prisoner number).

The event was well received by both the campus community and the local media, which featured the event on evening



SAULT STE. MARIE, FEBRUARY 4, 2004

television news. Radio shows periodically updated their listeners on the growing totals of student debt that was raised for "bail".

LONDON

Dozens of students at the University of Western Ontario participated in an on-campus rally. The day's events were supported by the University of Western Ontario Faculty Association, whose President Albert Katz spoke at the rally.

Substantial positive media coverage was generated by the event, and during the organising process, hundreds of students and faculty signed the Federation's petition.

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WATERLOO

Local 56 organised a screening of "My student Loan", and distributed the Federation's petitions and the Day of Action Digest.

WINDSOR

Locals 48 and 49 hosted a panel on accessibility and university funding in the CAW Students' Centre. Presenters included representatives of the faculty association, campus employees unions, and students from the Visual Arts Department who were currently facing additional fee hikes. The Forum was well attended and drew local media attention.

PETERBOROUGH

Local 71 members worked with on-campus groups to build solidarity for the Day of Action. The following endorsements were secured: Trent University Faculty Association; CUPE 3908 Unit 1 (part-time instructors); CUPE 3908 Unit 2 (part-time student instructors) and OPSEU 365 (non-academic staff). In addition, Local 71 members worked closely with the Peterborough Coalition for Social Justice and the Trent Solidarity Network.

On February 4, over 100 students rallied at the Bata Podium. Part of the theatrics of the day included "the Grim Reaper", who presented a cheque for \$3 billion to a "prisoner" of student debt languishing on "debt row".

After the rally, students were shuttled downtown to meet up with high school students. Students then marched to the offices of Member of Parliament Peter Adams and Liberal Member of Provincial Parliament Jeff Leal.

The event was successful both in involving students and the campus community and also in garnering significant positive media coverage from local print and broadcast media.

Nova Scotia

The campaign to freeze and reduce tuition fees was the primary focus for members in Nova Scotia over the last several months. In the lead up to the

February 4 Day of Action, a number of materials were produced including "Reduce Tuition Fees" buttons, a Nova Scotia Membership Advisory, and a petition to the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly calling for reductions in tuition fees, increased funding for colleges and universities, and the implementation of a provincial grants programme.

The campaign was endorsed by the Association of Nova Scotia University Teachers, the Nova Scotia Federation of Labour, the Nova Scotia Government Employees Union, the University of King's College Board of Governors and the Board of Governors of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, among others. The Federation received a monetary donation from the Saint Mary's University Faculty Union and in-kind donations from the Nova Scotia Government Employees Union and the Dalhousie Student Union.

HALIFAX

Students and faculty members held rallies at the University of King's College, the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Saint Mary's University, and Dalhousie University. Participants in the various campus rallies marched to Victoria Park and were joined by students from Mount Saint Vincent University, the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Saint Patrick's High School and Queen Elizabeth High School.

The march proceeded to the Legislature where speakers from the Federation, the Association of Nova Scotia University Teachers and the Nova Scotia Federation of Labour addressed the crowd. As well, desks were set up in front of the legislature so that people could sign the petition throughout the rally.

SYDNEY

Activities commenced in the morning with students setting up information pickets at the entrances to the University College of Cape Breton. Throughout the day the film "My Student Loan" was screened in the Pit Lounge, the campus bar. The Students'

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Union held a rally on campus that included students, staff and faculty.

YARMOUTH

For the 2001 and 2002 days of action, members from Local 69 participated in the Halifax rally. This year, the Local decided to hold its own march and rally in Yarmouth. Students and faculty from l'Université Sainte-Anne were bussed into Yarmouth and marched to the constituency office of Richard Hurlburt, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Yarmouth and the Minister of Natural Resources.

The media coverage of the events in Yarmouth extended regionally, provincially and nationally.

Prince Edward Island

On February 4, members from the University of Prince Edward Island Students' Union and Graduate Students' Association marched downtown to the office of the Minister of Education, the Honourable Mildred Dover. The Minister was caught off-guard by eighty students taking over the building and the business of the office was brought to a halt.

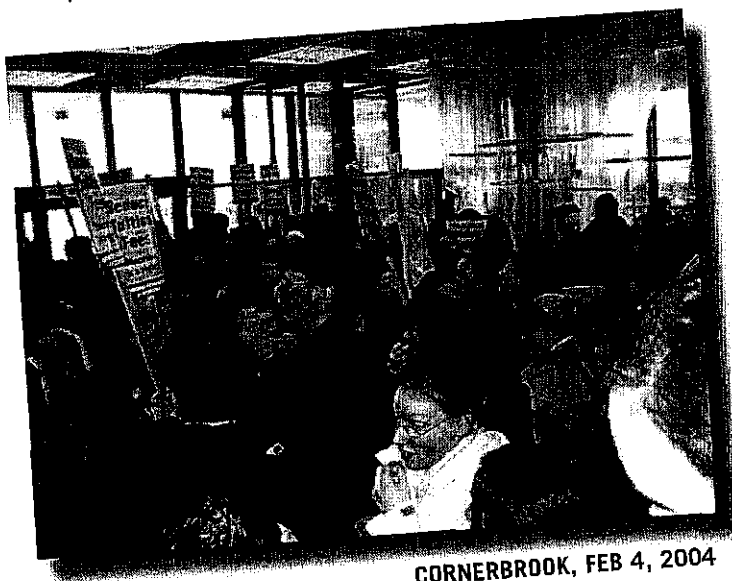
Students presented the Minister with their concerns about the rising cost of tuition fees. Students also informed the Minister that they would occupy the building until she agreed to publicly acknowledge that rising tuition fees are an ongoing problem for the students of Prince Edward Island. Students also demanded a meeting with the provincial budget committee. A meeting was secured in order to allow students to voice their concerns about the increasing costs of post-secondary education. After an hour, both demands were met, and students returned to the University.

Newfoundland and Labrador

Locals throughout the province participated in the Day of Action by organising rallies, information sessions, and petition drives. "Reduce Tuition Fees" buttons, tabloids, and a petition to the provincial legislature supporting the Federation's call for increased federal funding for post-secondary education were sent to every member local to assist

with organising. All locals secured academic amnesty for their members.

Newfoundland and Labrador Premier, Danny Williams, and Minister of Education, John Ottenheimer, signed the Federation's petition calling on the federal government to increase funding for post-secondary education and to create a dedicated post-secondary education transfer payment. The Federation received dozens of completed petitions from workplaces throughout the province that had received them through a Federation of Labour mailing. In total, approximately 2,500 people signed the petition.



CORNERBROOK, FEB 4, 2004

One week after the Day of Action, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador issued a statement committing to a tuition fee freeze for 2004-2005; a promise that was later realised in the provincial budget.

CENTRAL NEWFOUNDLAND

In Gander, students set up an information table to sign petitions. In Grand Falls-Windsor, approximately 40 students participated in a morning rally outside the campus. Both events garnered significant local and province-wide media attention.

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EASTERN NEWFOUNDLAND

In Bonavista, a rally was held on campus in which approximately 20 students participated. In Burin, dozens of students attended a rally outside the campus. The event attracted significant community support and local media attention.

LABRADOR

In Labrador City an information table was set up on campus where students signed the Federation's petition.

ST. JOHN'S

In St. John's, members from Locals 35, 45, 46, and 100 participated in a rally at Memorial University. The rally was attended by approximately 500 students and included speakers from the Federation, the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour, the Newfoundland and Labrador Nurses' Union, and the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association.

WESTERN NEWFOUNDLAND

In Corner Brook, students from Locals 36 and 46 marched to Premier Danny Williams's constituency office. After rallying outside, students entered the office and occupied it for three hours, until the Minister of Education spoke with Local 36 President, Matt Byrne, and assured students that he was committed to a tuition fee freeze. The event was the lead story on all evening newscasts in the province.

In Port Aux Basques, more than three-quarters of all students on campus walked out of class at noon and engaged in a petition drive. In total, more than 100 people signed the petition in Port Aux Basques where only about 90 students are enrolled.

In St. Anthony, virtually every member participated in an afternoon rally outside the campus.

2004 Federal Budget

The 2004 federal budget was introduced on March 23. As in previous years, the Federation was invited

to send representatives to the secured reading of the federal budget in advance of its tabling in the House of Commons. The budget was Paul Martin's first as Prime Minister, and the last budget before the next federal election. Virtually all of the new spending in the 2004 budget was hinted at in advance of March 23 in venues like the Speech from the Throne and "leaks" to the media. A detailed membership advisory was prepared and distributed on the Federation's national listserve.

Canada Student Loans Program

LOAN LIMITS

The weekly Canada Student Loan ceiling will rise from \$165 to \$210. For an eight-month academic year, that will mean yearly debt climbing from \$9,350 to \$11,900. The federal government's own estimates state that 185,000 students will exceed \$9,350 in loans in 2005 as a result of the increased loan limit. Federal legislation mandates the federal government to finance no more than 60 percent of a student loan, which means that provincial governments will be required to increase the total loan amount, in most cases by fall 2005.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities will be eligible for a new grant that will be disbursed in advance of any Canada Student Loans. The value of the new grant will be the lesser of \$2,000 or the federal portion (60 percent) of a student's assessed financial need. This grant will replace an existing grant that was awarded only after a student's financial need exceeded the loan ceiling. In other words, the new grant will replace the first \$2,000 of a Canada Student Loan for students with disabilities, rather than topping up a \$9,350 loan—reducing total debt but not supplying any more financial assistance for those most in need. Approximately 6,000 students will receive this grant in 2005.

INTEREST RELIEF

Interest Relief is a programme available to Canada Student Loan recipients based on their debt size and net income. The federal government pays the

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interest accruing on the loan for up to 54 months. The 2004 budget amends the annual income eligibility threshold upwards by five percent, thereby increasing the number of borrowers who qualify.

DEBT REDUCTION IN REPAYMENT

In 1998, the federal government introduced the Debt Reduction in Repayment (DRR) programme, promising that 12,000 students per year would see their student debt reduced.

To date, this has been a programme in name only. An average of 500 students each year have been eligible for DRR—less than five percent of its promised target. In the 2003 federal budget, the federal government amended the eligibility requirements such that after graduates in repayment exhaust all five years of Interest Relief, they can move seamlessly towards debt reduction. It remains to be seen whether or not the 2003 changes to eligibility criteria will result in increased access to DRR.

The 2004 federal budget aims to increase the maximum amount forgiven from \$20,000 to \$26,000. Under the revised programme, borrowers can qualify for a debt reduction of \$10,000 in their fifth year of repayment, and re-apply for subsequent reductions of \$10,000 one year later, and \$6,000 after another year. Because interest relief is only available to students for the first 54 months after they complete studies, and DRR is available only after all interest relief eligibility has expired, to receive the second or third instalment of DRR, students will be required to make regular payments on their loan for one year - to avoid defaulting - and then prove that they are unable to continue to make those payments in accordance with DRR criteria. With such stringent criteria, it appears unlikely that many students will receive additional assistance through the new DRR maximum.

PARENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The 2004 budget included modest changes to the Canada Student Loan needs-assessment criteria. Unrealistic levels of expected parental contributions from families in the \$60,000 to \$100,000 income

range have resulted in many students with unmet financial need because of insufficient loan amounts from the federal government.

The budget will slightly reduce the expected parental contribution amounts for families in this income range allowing students to borrow up to \$2,550 more per year.

FIRST YEAR GRANTS

With the deficiencies in the Millennium Scholarships exposed, the federal government has been under pressure to review its approach to the administration of grants. It is the Federation's position that all new grants should be administered through the Canada Student Loans Program to avoid the displacement occurring with Millennium Scholarships. Starting in 2005-2006, students from low-income families (annual incomes below \$35,000) will be eligible to receive a grant equal to the lesser value of one-half of base tuition fees or \$3,000. Symbolically, this is a large step forward for the Federation's campaign for a national system of needs-based grants. The first year grant will not be effective at improving access to high cost programmes, but it establishes an institutional recognition of the role of grants and under-represented groups, and the impact of tuition fees on access to post-secondary education.

Registered Education Savings Plans

LEARNING BOND

The federal government announced that \$325 million would be spent each year in an attempt to address what it perceives as a motivational problem amongst low-income families to save for their children's post-secondary education.

Families of children born after 2003 with incomes below \$35,000, will receive \$500 towards the establishment of a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) and \$100 each subsequent year the family remains "low-income". By the federal government's own estimates, the maximum benefit of the Learning Bond/RESP programme will be approximately \$3,000 in 2004 dollars. In other

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words, the most a low-income family can hope for from the Learning Bonds is 75 percent of one year of tuition fees. Moreover, the "savings" of a Learning Bond will reduce a family's eligibility for other needs-based assistance. As the Learning Bond is only provided to children born after 2003, its first recipients will not enter post-secondary education until 2022.

The idea of a "Learning Bond" first surfaced in the Speech from the Throne in February 2004. To compensate for the failure of low-income Canadians to contribute to Registered Education Savings Plans (RESPs), the proposed Bond would be in the form of a federal contribution to RESPs for low-income families with newborns.

Immediately following the Speech, the Federation convened a meeting with the National Anti-Poverty Organisation, the National Organisation of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women of Canada, the Canadian Council on Social Development, and Low-Income Families Together to discuss the implications of the Bond. Participant organisations were unanimous in their opposition to the proposal to increase federal spending on flawed savings programmes.

On February 17, 2004, a letter signed by anti-poverty organisations, the Federation, and the Canadian Association of University Teachers was sent to the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development Joe Volpe outlining the flaws of the Learning Bond as a solution to the inequality of access for low-income families. A copy of the letter was also sent to Finance Minister Ralph Goodale and all of the members of the Liberal Caucus Committee on Post-secondary Education.

CANADA EDUCATION SAVINGS GRANT MATCHING RATE

The Canada Education Savings Grant (CESG) is a publicly funded grant to match personal contributions to a Registered Education Savings Plan. Currently, the federal government adds 20 percent to an individual's contribution to an RESP (up to \$400 per year). The CESG, a programme that cost the federal government more than \$500

million in 2003, disproportionately benefits wealthier Canadians.

The 2004 budget increases the matching rate for low-income contributors' (annual income of less than \$35,000) RESPs from 20 percent to 40 percent. For those families earning between \$35,000 and \$70,000, the matching rate will increase from 20 to 30 percent. Each new matching rate will only apply to the first \$500 spent on an RESP.

Aboriginal Students

Annual funding through Indian and Northern Affairs Canada for Aboriginal post-secondary education declined by almost \$14 million between 1998 and 2002, when adjusted for inflation. The 2004 federal budget contains no new funding to support Aboriginal post-secondary education, only a continuation of the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy that had been slated to end on March 31, 2004.

Moreover, there is very little in the budget that addresses the other social issues facing Aboriginal communities. Without funding to improve housing, day-care, and primary and secondary education, it is unlikely that Aboriginal participation rates in post-secondary education can be appreciably increased.

University Research

GRANTING COUNCILS

The 2004 budget will add \$90 million to the annual budgets of the three granting councils; however, the increases will continue to reflect the federal government's reduced emphasis on research in the humanities and social sciences. The new \$90 million will be allocated as follows:

- \$39 million for the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (total budget: \$654 million)
- \$39 million for the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (total budget: \$654 million)

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- \$12 million for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (total budget: \$192 million)

Although between 55 and 60 percent of students and faculty in Canada fall within the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council's (SSHRC) mandate, it receives only 13 percent of the total funding for the three granting councils. As a result of persistent underfunding, over 40 percent of applications that were recommended to receive SSHRC standard research grants in 2002 could not be funded (latest data).

COMMERCIALISATION

The 2004 budget places a strong emphasis on the commercialisation of university research. The federal government has directed the three granting councils to dramatically skew the peer-reviewed grants away from basic research and towards research that will bring new products to market: "the granting councils are expected to triple their annual investments in programmes directly supporting commercialisation over the next three years" (p. 137).

To achieve this goal of privatising results from public research, the budget establishes a new pilot project to "help accelerate the commercialisation of university-based research." The project will allocate \$50 million over the next five years on a competitive basis to granting councils, research hospitals, or even consortia of research-intensive universities. Given that the goal is to boost commercialisation capacity, it is highly unlikely that the infrastructure needs for social science and humanities research will benefit at all from the fund.

INDIRECT COSTS OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

The 2003 budget established an annual programme to aid in funding the "indirect costs" of research. Indirect costs of research are the additional costs borne by Canadian universities, colleges, and research hospitals for incidental and maintenance expenses associated with research projects funded by the granting councils.

The 2004 budget will increase the programme's annual funding from \$225 million to \$245 million.

When the programme was introduced in the 2003 federal budget, the Federation expressed concern that continued funding for indirect costs of research may be contingent on the increased commercialisation of publicly-funded research. The 2003 budget plan stated explicitly that the growth of commercialisation in university research would be used to measure the success of the programme when it is reviewed in 2006. The 2004 budget echoes this fixation on commercialisable research outcomes.

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

In 1998, the federal government amended the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* (BIA) to prohibit students from declaring bankruptcy for ten years following the end of their post-secondary studies. No public hearings were held on the change and the federal government has never supplied any data justifying the change from two to ten years. In addition, the change was buried in omnibus legislation and was never debated in the House of Commons.

Before the 1998 changes, student loan holders who lacked sufficient funds to repay their debt, as a last resort applied for bankruptcy protection and a discharge of all remaining debts. This protection existed to ensure that, even though most debtors repay their student loans despite hardship, there was a solution for those who were destitute. In 1996, of those declaring consumer bankruptcy where the primary debt was student loans, annual median income was \$14,211. This figure belies the claims of those who continue to assert that there were legions of wealthy former students declaring bankruptcy.

The Federation's Charter challenge to the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* is now in its final stages, and the legal strategy is currently being finalised. The application challenging the Act will be heard on

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June 16, 2004 in Ontario Superior Court, at which time the Federation and the federal government are entitled to recall each of the affiants who testified in the pre-trial cross-examination. The Federation is also developing a media strategy for the actual hearing. Based on ongoing communication with various media outlets, and the fact that the trial will take place in the middle of the upcoming federal election campaign, media attention is likely to be intense.

The Federation has also implemented a comprehensive government relations strategy designed to change the law. In spring 2003, the Senate Committee on Banking, Commerce, and Trade undertook an examination of the BIA and the Federation appeared before the Committee May 8. On November 22, 2003, the Senate recommended lowering the prohibition from ten to five years. The Senate also recommended that there be a hardship hearing allowed after a one-year waiting period. Unfortunately, the report has not been presented to Parliament and therefore, the federal government has not offered an official response to the recommendations. Due to an anticipated federal election call, Parliament will likely be dissolved before the report is ever addressed. The Federation has confirmed with the clerk of the committee that the permanent nature of the Senate structure will allow the report to be presented to Parliament after the upcoming election.

Canada Student Loans Program

Meeting with Canada Student Loans Director General David Cogliati

On January 23, 2004, National Chairperson Ian Boyko met with Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP) Director General David Cogliati. The Federation called the meeting to explore the federal government's strategy for reducing the abusive behaviour exhibited by collection agents who act on Human Resources and Skills Development's (HRSD) behalf to recover student loans. Cogliati indicated that the Canada Student Loans department is the

branch of government that receives complaints, but complaints are forwarded to the Accounting Operations and Collection Services division of HRSD, who ultimately deals directly with collection agencies.

In addition to discussing collection agents' behaviour, Boyko also sought Cogliati's thoughts on the new political climate with the new Prime Minister, new cabinet, and alleged review of the civil service bureaucracies. Cogliati indicated that there was significant student financial assistance policy discussion happening within HRSD and the Prime Minister's Office, and suggested that the budget and/or the federal election will usher in several new policy initiatives aimed at students.

Meetings with Member of Parliament Paul Bonwick

In December 2003, Paul Martin named his first cabinet and in addition to ministers, he named 27 Parliamentary Secretaries to act as assistants to ministers. Each Secretary has a specialised emphasis in an area of federal policy of particular interest to the federal Liberals, thus it is noteworthy that student loans received attention in this form. Paul Bonwick (Lib. Simcoe-Grey) was appointed Parliamentary Secretary with a "special emphasis on student loans" to HRSD Minister Joe Volpe. Previously, Bonwick has served as a member of the Heritage Committee and the Joint Committee on the Scrutiny of Regulations, as well as the Chair of the Southern Ontario Caucus of the Liberal Party.

On January 20, 2004, National Chairperson Ian Boyko met with Bonwick. In addition to providing him with recent Federation submissions and research documents, Boyko presented Bonwick with the Federation's positions and proposals regarding pressing student financial aid issues. Bonwick claimed that he planned to conduct a review of all student financial aid undertakings of the federal government and report his findings directly to the Prime Minister. When queried about timelines or the potential cost of such an undertaking, Bonwick seemed uncomfortable and incapable of elaborating on any details of the "review".

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Boyko met with Bonwick for a second time on February 25, 2004. This meeting was called by Bonwick to discuss the Federation's position on the creation of a new sub-committee on post-secondary education and research. Boyko re-iterated the points raised in January 2004 with MP John Herron on the issue, namely that the Federation has long supported the idea, provided that the sub-committee was not a public relations exercise. Boyko also cautioned Bonwick that the Learning Bond programme was a flawed approach to boosting access to post-secondary education for low-income families.

On May 3, 2004, National Researcher Michael Conlon and National Chairperson Ian Boyko attended a summit on student financial assistance co-hosted by the Council of Ministers of Education of Canada (CMEC) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Paul Bonwick was at the summit and gave brief remarks on Prime Minister Paul Martin's vision for student financial assistance. According to Bonwick, Martin's intent is to write student aid policy "through the eyes of the student". During a panel discussion later that day, Bonwick asked a series of pointed questions about Income Contingent Loan Repayment (ICR), seemingly seeking answers that support the "options" open to governments who have implemented the schemes. When Boyko and Conlon spoke with Bonwick about his keen interest in Income Contingent Loans, Bonwick was quick to report that he supposedly received positive feedback for the schemes when he met with arbitrarily selected student groups in March 2004. In fact, Bonwick cited Manitoba as a region with students who support ICR. This directly contradicts the report of Federation member local representatives who met with Bonwick during his stop in Winnipeg.

National Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance

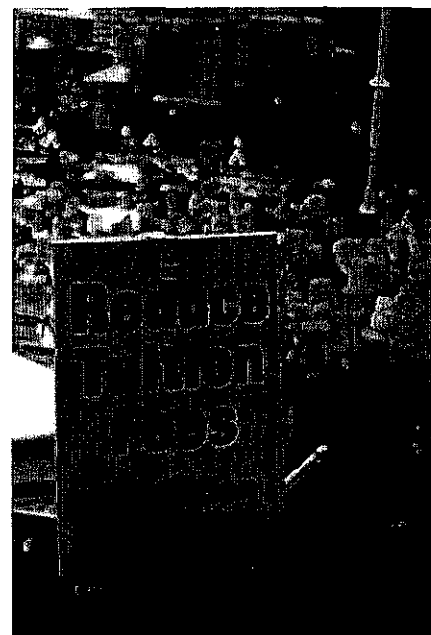
An emergency meeting of the National Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance (NAGSFA) was called following the Speech from the Throne. Delivered on February 3, the Speech declared the government's intention to introduce grants and

a Learning Bond programme. Also, it has also been made known by the federal government that despite the consequences for student debt, student loan limits were going to be increased. The NAGSFA meeting was called to solicit last minute feedback and provide a slightly more detailed presentation of some proposals for CSLP reform.

CSLP officials revealed that two proposals were under consideration for increasing loan limits. The first, \$210 per week, reflects an inflationary increase from 1994, the last time the limit changed. The second proposal was to increase the limit up to \$235 per week, or an eight-month debt of \$13,343.

The CSLP officials had very little detail about the type of grant that would appear in the March 23 federal budget. Background information was presented on the American Pell Grant system, and government officials speculated that this model was a likely outcome. (Note: the 2004 budget did not contain a Pell-like grant system. Although like the Pell Grant, the First Year Grant introduced by Finance Minister Goodale is directed at students from low-income families, the Pell Grant covers a fixed portion of assessed financial need, whereas the First Year Grant is tied directly to the tuition fees at the institution chosen by the student. Both programmes have a maximum allotment.)

Interestingly, the presentation at the February meeting went into detail about challenges facing part-time students and speculated openly about different measures that could be introduced to relieve financial need. CSLP officials conjectured that part-time student financial assistance could be



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improved by having the in-study interest accruing on part-time student loans paid for by the federal government. They also suggested that the loan limit could be increased from \$4,000 to \$10,000, or the maximum grant award could go beyond the \$1,200 currently available. Despite the candour of the CSLP officials, no appreciable changes to part-time student financial assistance were included in the 2004 federal budget.

Millennium Scholarship Foundation

Independent Review

In December 2003, the Millennium Scholarship Foundation (MSF) released its "independent" review. The review, mandated by the founding legislation of the Foundation, was triggered by the fifth anniversary of the Foundation's creation. A panel of professors from the Queen's University School of Public policy, Julia Eastman of Dalhousie University, and Saul Schwartz of Carleton University conducted the "independent" review. Ross Finnie of Queen's University was one of the reviewers despite the fact that he has had several lucrative speaking engagements with the Foundation.

Not surprisingly, the report concluded that the Foundation had done a good job implementing its programmes. Even less surprising, the report whitewashed concerns about the integrity of the MSF research programme. Substantiated criticisms offered by the Federation were either ignored or quoted out of context. Despite the review's facade, the panel was unable to avoid the conclusion that many students did not benefit from the programme and that the Foundation's contribution to promoting access was minimal at best.

Pan-Canadian Consultations

In mid-April, the Millennium Scholarship Foundation began a series of regional consultations on the future of its bursary programme. In total, consultations will be held in 16 cities and conclude with a national meeting in Ottawa. The Foundation agreed that Federation provincial representatives

would be invited to participate in all applicable regions. The Foundation indicated that in addition to inviting other individuals from universities and colleges, members of the community in each region would be participating in the meetings. Depending on the city, the size of the consultations will range from 30 to 50 participants. At the conclusion of the consultations, the Foundation will develop a proposal and present it to provincial governments and the federal government. If changes spurred by the consultations are agreed upon, presumably they could not take effect until the 2005-2006 loan year.

On March 30, 2004, National Chairperson Ian Boyko participated in a "dry-run" consultation in Ottawa. During this mock consultation, participants engaged in a "deliberative dialogue" about the most equitable and effective way to offer grants in the Canadian post-secondary education system. Representatives from the federal government, student financial aid administrators, and other representatives from interested parties were presented with background information and asked to develop a set of principles and criteria for an ideal grant system. Participants then tested the criteria under hypothetical scenarios designed to elicit discussion about the appropriateness of the criteria established earlier. At the conclusion of the session, participants were asked to give feedback about the process to the consultants who will be conducting the pan-Canadian consultations.

Participants in the consultations are presented with three proposed non-repayable student financial aid frameworks. The first is a general needs-based approach. Under this framework, the Foundation could continue to offer (in theory) debt reduction at the end of the year, cover unmet need above and beyond assessed loan ceilings, or offer an up-front grant thereby reducing the initial loan amount. The second approach is also needs-based, but disburses all grants to students in their first or second year. The third approach is targeted, such that the Foundation's endowment would be directed at those from low-income backgrounds. None of these

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approaches are mutually exclusive, and each has nuanced strengths and weaknesses.

The fundamental problem with the Foundation's consultation strategy is that it leaves little room for a comprehensive examination of the forces shaping the financial needs of post-secondary students. The Federation prepared a brief that was distributed to member locals participating in the consultations. The brief provides a context for the current discussions and set out the context for the student financial assistance dilemma laid out by the Foundation. The brief supplies much of what is missing from the MSF approach to the problem, namely the current strain on the system of student financial assistance is put in the context of skyrocketing tuition fees. The Foundation has so far excluded any such discussion, presumably because it interferes with its campaign for higher student debt and higher tuition fees.

Student Financial Aid Summit

On May 4-5, 2004 National Researcher Michael Conlon and National Chairperson Ian Boyko attended a conference on student financial assistance in Québec City, jointly sponsored by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC). The conference was billed as a comparative analysis of student financial aid systems within OECD countries.

However, most of the presentations were from conservative policy analysts in Canada, and those who presented from outside of Canada generally echoed the main theme of the conference. The theme of the conference was set by the unsubstantiated argument that higher tuition fees and higher student debt actually increases access. The discussion naturally led to the argument for income contingent loan repayment schemes (ICR). The OECD has long been a proponent of ICRs and the CMEC has refused to rule ICRs out as a policy option, which is consistent with the OECD's long-standing view that education should be financed like any other commodity.

OECD representative Barry McGraw, claiming that low income tax payers were tired of paying the way of rich students in higher education, set the tone of the meeting. McGraw offered no evidence of such public sentiment but continually pointed to the "individual return on investment provided by a higher education". Following on the heels of McGraw, Ross Finnie of Queen's University offered his standard arguments for higher student debt and higher tuition fees. A Millennium Scholarship Foundation (MSF) representative presented a largely rosy picture of the context in Canada, in line with the Foundation's view that there is plenty of room for growth in student debt and tuition fees. A Canadian researcher who calls himself the Education Policy Institute (EPI) suggested that the interest subsidy on Canada Student Loan Program loans be scaled back or repealed all together. Scott Swail of EPI's corporate head office in the United States offered a defence of the American system of higher education. Swail gushed with enthusiasm when explaining the "ocean" of choice offered in the United States. By "choice", Swail means that students can choose to go to Harvard and pay \$30,000 in tuition fees, or attend a state school for \$6000, or they can choose not to go school and work in a minimum wage job.

The notable exceptions to the dominant theme were presentations from the Scandinavian countries. Representatives from Norway, Sweden, and Denmark explained the social and economic benefits of zero tuition fees and low students debt. Unlike their OECD colleagues the Scandinavian representatives framed access to post-secondary education as a right to be preserved and expanded. The Scandinavians also made the obvious point that a strong system of progressive taxation is a prerequisite for an accessible and high quality system of post-secondary education. Though understated, the Scandinavian representatives presented a strong alternative to the callous calculations that marked this meeting.

Federation representatives also presented an alternative view to the reductive options on offer from Canadian policy makers. In particular, Federation representatives made the point that the under-funding and infrastructure pressure on

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Canadian universities was directly attributable to social spending cuts and tax cuts for wealthy Canadians and corporations. This point was particularly compelling given that both the OECD and the CMEC spoke of "scarce resources" and "difficult fiscal decisions" without ever addressing the debilitating effect of tax cuts. Indeed the OECD is particularly compromised on these questions because they actively advocate for lower taxes and labour market flexibility (that is, lower wages and less job security). In effect, the OECD is attempting to impose regressive post-secondary education policy as a means of addressing problems created by their own regressive macroeconomic policy. More disturbingly, the conference very likely presented a prelude to the recommendations that will come forth from the secretive review of student financial assistance that is currently underway at the CMEC.

Social Sciences And Humanities Research Council Transformation

In November 2003, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) announced that it was about to begin a substantial transformation process. Shortly after the announcement, a consultation framework was released outlining possible directions for institutional change. The framework was written by SSHRC's board, a body composed primarily of university presidents, deans, and researchers. Though billed as a discussion paper, the document, entitled *From Granting Council to Knowledge Council: Renewing the Social Sciences and Humanities*, contains several leading questions. Most universities are currently in the process of soliciting campus-wide feedback to be submitted to SSHRC in order to meet the May 2004 deadline. The Federation has prepared a response that was circulated to members to assist with campus consultations. SSHRC has committed to assessing all of the feedback and reporting back the results of its consultations at the June 2004 meeting of the Canadian Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences in Winnipeg. National Researcher Michael

Conlon will be attending the briefing session on behalf of the Federation. In addition to presenting the results of the consultative process, it is also expected that SSHRC will reveal a blueprint that outlines substantive changes to its mandate and operation. These changes will then be presented to the SSHRC board for approval in fall 2004.

Post-Secondary Education Act and Transfer

Meetings with Member of Parliament John Herron

The Federation has met regularly throughout the winter and spring with Member of Parliament John Herron (Lib. Fundy-Royal). Before agreeing to run as a Liberal in 2004, Herron was the post-secondary education critic for the Progressive Conservative party. In his role as critic, Herron met on several occasions with Federation representatives to gather input for a policy paper he authored for the Progressive Conservatives. Many of the recommendations within the paper reflected the Federation's policy, and on two different occasions Herron was able to move a motion in the House of Commons to change Canada Student Loan legislation.

Leading up to his decision to "cross the floor," Herron asked the Federation if it would support him in asking the Prime Minister's Office to form a House of Commons sub-committee on post-secondary education and research. Herron indicated that the Prime Minister's openness to a new sub-committee would play a pivotal role in his decision to join the Liberal Party. Federation representatives told Herron that the creation of a federal body that could act as a single point of access for national organisations to discuss post-secondary education issues that sometimes straddle several federal departments was a move that the Federation would support.

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Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada Joint Letter

Under the existing federal transfer payment arrangements, core funding for universities and colleges is coupled with funding for social assistance and early childhood programmes.

On December 9, 2003, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada convened a meeting of national organisations in the post-secondary education sector. The meeting was called to discuss collaboration on a letter to the Prime Minister urging him to create a distinct post-secondary education transfer.

Groups such as the Association of Canadian Community Colleges believed that with Paul Martin poised to take office, a federal budget in development, and a federal election looming, the timing was ideal to have an impact on policy development under a new Liberal administration. After lobbying on the part of the Federation, in addition to the issue of a dedicated transfer payment, the final text of the letter included a reference to the impact of rising tuition fees, the importance of increasing core funding for colleges and universities and the need to increase the availability of non-repayable student financial assistance.

Although there has been no formal response from the Prime Minister's Office, the letter was circulated widely in many senior circles within government and has been referenced at government meetings and conferences where the Federation was present.

Advisory Committee on International Students and Immigration

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 (CIC) with recommendations on policy pertaining to international students. Participation in the 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 Chairperson Ian Boyko at the most recent meeting held April 29, 2004 in Ottawa. The discussion focused almost exclusively on Citizenship and Immigration Canada's new regulations governing "Education Agents." In April 2004, the department altered the regulations overseeing the communication between Canadian study-visa departments and Education Agents working overseas. Education Agents are contracted by institutions or individual visa applicants to assist in the visa application process. The new laws require the Agents who receive a fee-for-service to be registered with the Canadian Society of Immigration Consultants (CSIC) before Canadian visa departments will send official correspondence to them. In order to register with CSIC, one must be a member of a law society and a Canadian citizen. Judging from the response of the representatives of private education organisations, this policy shift will disproportionately affect the private education shops that rely on lesser-trained individuals to steer foreign students to their institutions in Canada.

CIC representatives at the meeting reviewed the ongoing pilot projects in various jurisdictions. At the time of the meeting, there were three different projects underway in three provinces. New Brunswick is the test case for the implementation of an extended post-graduate work permit, Manitoba is running a pilot project for off-campus work permits, and Alberta is the only province testing a streamlined visa processing method.

It was repeated that in the most recent round of negotiations, the federal government and the Newfoundland and Labrador government are close to finalising a project for two-year post-graduate work

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permits. Governments in Québec and New Brunswick are expected to come to agreement shortly on a pilot project for off-campus work permits. Lastly, British Columbia will likely be the next jurisdiction to test the priority visa processing system.

Despite this seemingly haphazard introduction of regulations for international students, CIC officials still claim that the results of the pilot projects will be carefully tabulated to lobby the Department of Finance for national implementation.

Since the ACISI meeting, at least one more pilot project has been launched. On May 6, 2004, the Government of Saskatchewan announced its new project for post-graduate work permits.

At the April 29, 2004 ACISI meeting, Citizenship and Immigration officials also led a lengthy discussion about the difficulty in developing policy on international students and immigration without a national list of bona fide institutions. In other words, because private education shops are regulated (poorly) by the provinces, the federal government has very little sense of what quality of education is offered by for-profit enterprises. The regulation or accreditation process varies widely from province to province, so comparisons between jurisdictions are meaningless. In response to this persistent concern over the quality of the private career colleges and second language centres, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration is establishing a working group to investigate ways to enumerate the private education industry for immigration issues. Representatives from the private language training institutes proposed "self-regulation". Boyko argued the position that "self-regulation" amounts to no regulation at all and urged that a different approach be taken.

Towards the conclusion of the meeting government representatives tested the appetite amongst Advisory Committee members present for open-ended study visas. The visa described by the CIC official would be for four years in duration, potentially permit semi-regulated off-campus work, and not require international students to re-apply for relocations or changes to academic programme. Although there were several potential problems discussed

with reduced regulation, including the danger of international students using institutions with liberal admissions requirements as gateways, many Committee members offered cautious support for the principle.

National Professional Association Coalition on Tuition Fees

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 programmes 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.

The Coalition is scheduled to meet in early June.

National Opinion Coalition

In March 2001 the Federation joined the National Opinion Coalition with Vector Research. The Coalition is a co-operative polling group that conducts four polls per year. Each partner is allotted several questions per poll of specific interest and members then agree upon a broader set of public policy questions of interest to all participating organisations. There are several standing questions each poll poses about voting preference and the standing of each of the five major parties. In addition, members are kept abreast of public policy developments and the results of other major national and international polls. During the past year the Federation has garnered polling data on private universities, trade liberalisation, and Registered Education Savings Plans. The Coalition also maintains an archive of polling data that allows

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the group to track the evolution of public opinion on particular issues.

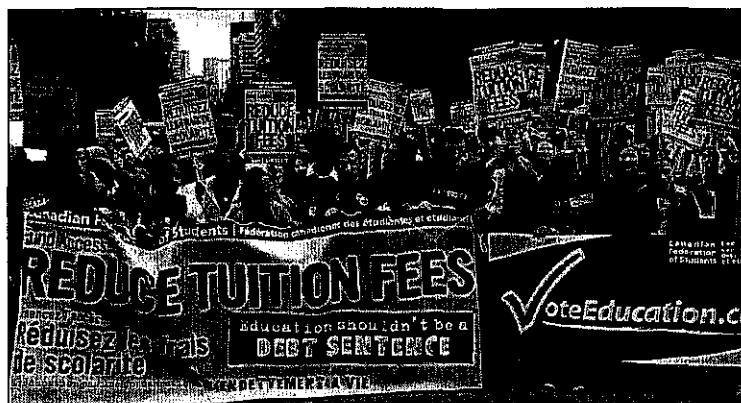
Conducted in March 2004, the most recent poll examined public perceptions of the recently announced Learning Bond, freedom of information legislation, and the financing of post-secondary education. The poll also tracked public sentiment on a variety of issues in the lead up to the federal election. In particular, the poll examined the effect of the newly merged Conservative party on the federal scene. The next poll will be conducted in May, with a follow up briefing in Ottawa on June 17, 2004.

Federal Election 2004

Elections Canada

On February 3, 2004, representatives from the Federation and the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec (FEUQ) met with Jean-Pierre Kingsley, Canada's Chief Electoral Officer. The meeting was called to explore the possibilities for using the student movement's membership communications networks to disseminate Elections Canada materials to students. Elections Canada has been given a specific mandate to increase youth voter turnout. At the meeting, Elections Canada agreed in principle to purchasing advertising in joint Federation/FEUQ elections materials and collaboration with the Federation and FEUQ in the development of Elections Canada materials to be distributed on campus.

In the following weeks, National Chairperson Ian Boyko participated in several teleconferences to finalise details about the arrangement. A poster to advertise the Elections Canada's website has been developed, and will be produced immediately following the beginning of the federal election. Also, the Federation's elections website, www.VoteEducation.ca, has been furnished with a graphic to link to the Elections Canada website.



VOTEEDUCATION.CA FEATURED IN TORONTO RALLY

Voter Engagement Conference

On March 26, the Federation was asked to attend an invite only gathering of the Ginger Group, a network of researchers, policy analysts, and former politicians. Chaired by Tom Axworthy, former Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Trudeau, the mandate of the Ginger Group is "to foster non-partisan public policy debate."

National Researcher Michael Conlon attended the conference to address the issue of youth voter turnout and review the Federation's strategies in recent provincial elections. Conlon also stressed the need for policies responsive to the needs of underrepresented groups by drawing on research that makes a direct link between civic engagement and socio-economic status.

The event culminated with a Town Hall meeting with Toronto Mayor David Miller. After a short speech, Miller took questions from the audience for over 90 minutes. The event, open to the public, was well attended with over 200 participants. The event also garnered considerable print and television media coverage.

During the course of the meeting Tom Axworthy suggested that the Ginger Group would like to hold a similar forum in the fall on the topic of access to post-secondary education. Axworthy asked that the Federation participate in an upcoming meeting about possible themes and speakers for the event.

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"Vote For A Change" Campaign

In December 2003, the Fédération joined a coalition of organisations in order to prepare a joint campaign for the upcoming federal election. The coalition is composed of labour organisations, anti-poverty groups, faith organisations and a variety of other equity seeking groups. The secretariat for the coalition is housed in Toronto at the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ). CSJ Executive Director David Langille has been assigned to the campaign full-time. Shortly after the formation of the coalition the

Fédération was asked to sit on the steering committee of the coalition. The Fédération accepted and is represented by National Researcher Michael Conlon.

Two primary goals were set for the campaign: first, to provide a clearinghouse of

materials and research for smaller organisations seeking to mobilise for the federal election. Second, to boost the voter turnout of marginalised Canadians. The steering committee reviewed research that suggests that voter turnout for youth, new Canadians, and the working poor lags far behind the national average. Though the campaign is non-partisan, the coalition decided to focus on these underrepresented groups by crafting messages not espoused by the governing Liberals. In addition to producing materials and research, the coalition is also committed to providing personnel in as many communities as possible to help underrepresented groups register to vote. Six different focus groups (representing the interests of immigrant women, youth, the homeless, peace groups, ecumenical organisations, and the working poor) were formed to develop messages that would resonate with those currently not served by the electoral process.

The core message developed by each focus group was honed by several prominent Canadian writers and activists. Writers such as Rick Salutin, Linda McQuaig, and Margaret Atwood volunteered their services. In addition to these individuals, the coalition also benefited from the volunteer services

of consulting firm, Strategic Communications. By the end of February the coalition had agreed on ten slogans to frame the campaign. The slogans now adorn a series of ten postcards and stickers as well as a poster template. The Fédération purchased a bulk order of materials that were distributed to member locals in April, several weeks before the anticipated election call in May 2004. Each member local received a sample order of the materials and was provided with the opportunity to order additional supplies.

In addition to the materials a website, www.voteforachange.ca, was designed to communicate the messages. Modelled on www.moveon.org, the site is a clearinghouse of research and analysis on government policy. However, it is also a virtual meeting place for activists to exchange ideas and strategies. Closer to the election call, the CSJ will be co-coordinating a fundraising campaign that will reach over 100,000 Canadians through direct mail.

The campaign materials and website were officially launched in Ottawa on March 1, 2004. National Chairperson Ian Boyko represented the Fédération at the press conference. In addition to media garnered by the launch, the campaign has received local media coverage in the Toronto Star and on several television stations.

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 Fédération with a venue to exchange research and provide updates on organising initiatives pertaining to education.

At meetings in January and March, the Network began developing a common platform for the spring federal election. One of goals for the campaign will be to make education a priority of the federal parties and the public throughout the election.



Solidarity Work



“My local works with groups in our community to get things done for our members. Solidarity has to extend beyond the campus if we’re going to be successful.”

►► *Les MacFadden, Memorial University of Newfoundland Students’ Union
Canadian Federation of Students Local 35*

Federation members’ lives continue past their campus gates and no invisible wall keeps the activities of the world off of our campuses. Childcare, workers and tenants rights, trade, and electoral reform are among the many public policy issues that affect students directly.

Members of the Federation have consistently chosen to work on a variety of provincial, national and international concerns. And, the Federation has been most successful when combining efforts with other provincial, national and international organisations.

WORKING TOGETHER

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 realises by bringing together students from across the country is achieved to an even greater extent when members of other organisations also articulate our goals.

Canadian Consortium for Research

The Federation is an active member of the Canadian Consortium for Research (CCR). The Consortium's members include national organisations representing researchers in specific disciplines (i.e. the Canadian Psychological Association), the three granting councils, the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, and the Canadian Association of University Teachers. The CCR meets to discuss federal research policy issues and has submitted briefs to the Standing Committee on Finance. From time to time, the Federation attends lobby sessions with Members of Parliament organised by the CCR secretariat. In recent months, the CCR has been very active meeting with the new parliamentary secretaries whose portfolios have relevance to university research.

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 Organisation 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 a valuable resource for research, government relations and campaign work.

The next meeting of the Trade Initiatives Research Project is planned for May 27 in Montreal.

Common Frontiers

Common Frontiers is a coalition of organisations that undertakes research, analysis and action to seek alternatives to the social, environmental and economic effects of free trade in the Americas. Common Frontiers brings together student, labour, human rights, environmental, religious, economic, and social justice organisations. The Federation joined the coalition in January 2001 and has held a seat on the Steering Committee since that time.

Common Frontiers recently concluded its most recent awareness campaign about the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and is monitoring the status of current trade talks. An FTAA ministerial meeting will be held in late summer or early fall 2004 in Monterrey, Brazil. Common Frontiers will be working with international organisations by participating in events promoting fair trade and offering alternatives to the Free Trade Area of the Americas to coincide with the ministerial meeting.

The coalition will be sending delegates to the first Americas Social Forum in Quito, Ecuador from July 25 to 30, 2004. Organised to analyse in greater depth the regional impacts of current and proposed trade agreements, the Forum is an opportunity for

different organisations to compare strategies and develop alternatives to the current trade negotiation processes.

The federal government is currently conducting an international policy review, which will encompass all of Canada's international policies including trade. Although the federal government has promised a short window for civic consultations, there are strong indications that it is already soliciting input from corporate interests. In order to ensure that other interests are considered, Common Frontiers has submitted a brief entitled "Trading Up to Hemispheric Well Being: Priorities for a Policy of Engagement in the Americas". The brief argues that Canada should focus on ensuring that human rights, labour standards, and environmental sustainability are paramount in any agreement, and that health care and education are kept out of trade deals.

International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group

Formed in 2002, the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group (ICLMG) serves to act as means for activist, faith-based, civil liberties, and humanitarian organisations to exchange information about the impact of Canadian security legislation. The Group has 32 members including the Canadian Association of University Teachers, the Canadian Bar Association, Amnesty International, and the Canadian Arab Federation. The Group has one full-time staff person who maintains regular communication with Group members about worldwide developments in civil liberties issues. From time to time, the co-ordinator issues statements, writes letters, and engages in media relations on issues of common concern to members. In April 2004, the National Executive resolved to join the ICLMG.

Most recently, the Group has been active in the Senate Transport Committee debate of Bill C-7: the Public Safety Act. Bill C-7 strives to legislate the principles of the "Smart Border Action Plan" developed by Canada and the United States after the events of September 11, 2001. The Bill significantly

increases the powers of Canadian authorities to collect personal information about Canadians, and share this information with foreign governments with minimal controls for privacy or civil liberties. The ICLMG gave testimony to the Committee in March 2004 outlining a number of area of concern of members. Although the Bill eventually passed, many Liberal Senators voted against it (a rarity in the Senate) and several Senators commented that the debate had been the most provocative policy discussions during their time in the Chamber.

It is envisioned that with the Bill C-7 lobbying experience and growing membership, the ICLMG will be an even more effective force in fall 2004 when the mandatory review of the Anti-Terrorism Act gets underway.

Currently, most of the Group's focus is dedicated to its participation in the "Commission of Inquiry into the Actions of Canadian Officials in Relation to Maher Arar". Maher Arar is a Canadian citizen who was detained by U.S. Customs officials at a New York airport and flown to Syria, where he was born. Arar was held without charge and tortured in a Syrian prison for almost a year before he was freed and returned to Canada. The ICLMG has been granted standing at the public inquiry and will make a written submission as well as consult with Arar's legal counsel on questions for inquiry witnesses.

Canadians for Equal Marriage

"Vote Equality 04" Election Campaign

Canadians for Equal Marriage is a coalition of labour unions, student groups, social justice and religious organisations formed to support the right of same-sex couples to marry. The campaign is non-partisan and focuses on the track records of candidates in all ridings regarding their stance on same-sex marriage. The Coalition sent surveys to candidates from all political parties asking about their position on same-sex marriage, the results of which are available on the Coalition's website www.equal-marriage.ca. Over 450 candidates have responded and supportive

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candidates outnumber those who are opposed to equal marriage by almost a 2:1 ratio. The campaign was launched at press conferences held in Toronto, Ottawa and Vancouver on April 28, 2004. National Deputy Chairperson James Pratt attended the launch in Ottawa and Ontario National Executive Representative Rick Telfer attended the launch in Toronto.

Campus Awareness Campaign

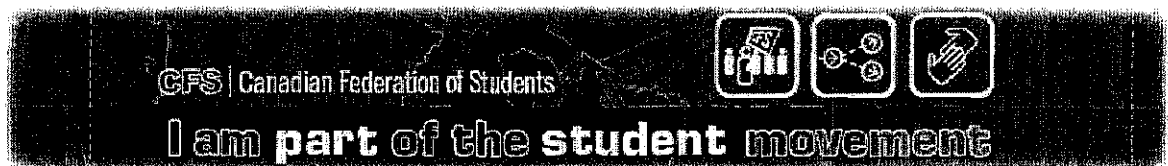
Canadians for Equal Marriage has also approached the Federation about running a campus awareness campaign in student newspapers in September, 2004. Statistics show that university and college educated people (both straight and LGBT) support equal marriage rights. The campaign is in early development stages but will focus on mobilising pressure on policymakers in regards to same-sex marriage.

World March of Women

Since its inception the Federation has participated in the Canadian Committee of the World March of Women. The March, focused on the elimination of poverty and violence against women, was held in October, 2000, and included participants in 163 countries. Since its conclusion, the members of the March Committee have met on a number of occasions to develop a Canadian strategy for proposed follow-up activities in 2005.

The Canadian Committee is currently in the process of applying for funding to hire an organiser to coordinate Canadian participation in the 2005 March. A draft proposal was circulated for discussion but it has since been rejected as the funding criteria within Status of Women Canada have changed. Simultaneously, discussions have begun to determine the scope of Canadian organising. Drawing from the experience gained during the March in 2000, the Committee hopes to successfully pressure the federal government to address priority policy areas: poverty, violence, health, education, and childcare.

Communications



“When we heard our building insurance cost would be doubling, the Students’ Union Directory helped us get in touch with other students’ unions similar to ours which, in turn, helped us negotiate a better deal.”

►► *Scott Payne, Director of Services, University of Victoria Students’ Society
Canadian Federation of Students Local 44*

Sharing information is key to our success as local students’ union directors and as a Federation. The Students’ Union Directory enables member locals to communicate with each other and the Federation’s new website provides detailed information on current issues and Federation programmes and campaigns.

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Communications

2004-2005 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, as well as non-member students' unions, government agencies, and non-governmental organisations.

Publication Timeline

In the past, the National Executive has experienced difficulty soliciting information for the Directory from individual students' unions in a timely manner. These late submissions resulted in a delay in publishing the Directory, which was not delivered until early September. Last year, surveys were sent

to member locals and non-member students' unions in mid-April; this year they were distributed in late March. The deadline for receipt of information, originally set for May 14 has been extended to May 28 to provide students' unions with

ample opportunity to be included in the publication.

Enhancements

As reported at the November meeting, the National Executive resolved to include a section with contact information for teaching assistants' unions at each

institution. In addition, the April National Executive meeting resolved to solicit contact information for campus food banks. It is expected that these new sections will further enhance the Directory's comprehensiveness and broaden its appeal.

The National Executive intends to increase the number of full-colour divider tabs in the 2004-2005 Directory to include a wide range of Federation campaigns and services.

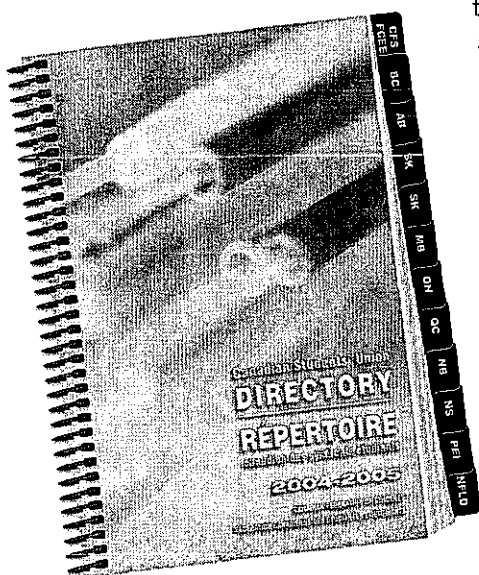
Production Costs and Sales

This past year, the National Executive amended the price structure of the Directory to encourage member locals to purchase additional copies: the price of the Directory decreased for each of the first five Directories purchased and an additional discount was provided to locals that purchased ten or more Directories.

Because the price of publishing additional copies was offset by increased sales revenue, the change proved cost-neutral for the Federation, and member locals benefited from the price reductions. The overall cost however of the project increased by close to \$3,000. The increase is due to the higher number of students' unions that submitted contact information, which in turn required additional pages in the Directory.

2004-2005 Member Local Communications Kit

Most member locals utilise a number of tools, such as handbooks/dayplanners, newsletters, and ongoing promotions or campaigns to communicate with their members throughout the year. These serve to convey information about the work of the local, including the work that they undertake provincially and nationally as part of the Federation. To assist with the inclusion of information in such publications, the Federation produces a Member Local Communications Kit each year. The kit, which in the last four years has included a compact disk with Federation logos and customized images, contains information about Federation campaigns



and services and an overview of key post-secondary education issues.

The National Executive hopes to distribute the 2004-2005 Communications Kit on CD-Rom shortly following the national general meeting. This will enable locals to use the material in the production of orientation materials and other materials.

Web Site

The Federation's website has undergone a number of substantial revisions over the course of the past eight years in response to the growing reliance on the Internet as a primary source of information.

In June 2002, the National Executive resolved to again redesign 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 new web site and databases in summer 2003. The English language version of the site was launched in September. Due to some technical problems with the translation of the database structure to French, the launch of the new French language website occurred shortly thereafter. Both sites have now been fully functional for close to six months and the popularity as measured by the hits on the site has been climbing, with approximately 400,000 hits in April.

The new site incorporates a number of features intended to improve the ease of navigation for web users, including members, media and others. A pop-up window feature has been added, permitting the Federation to relay important news and announcements with regards to campaigns and programmes. As well, the new media and news release database has simplified the process of posting, modifying and searching for the Federation's releases.

Programmes



“We recently switched to the National Student Health Network from a for-profit broker. Our members are paying less and they are receiving better benefits.”



Phil Robinson, President, Carleton University Graduate

Students' Association, Canadian Federation of Students Local 78

From Travel CUTS to Homes4Students to the National Student Health Network, the Canadian Federation of Students operates programmes to save members time and money and to improve their daily lives.

WORKING TOGETHER

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Discount Programme

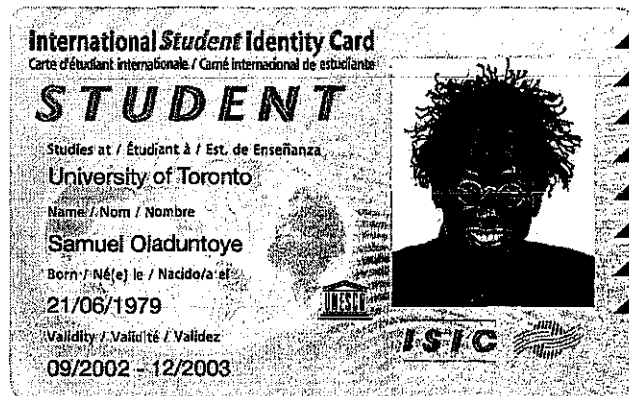
The International Student Identity Card is the most-widely recognised and accepted form of student identification worldwide. The Card is produced and distributed by the International Student Travel Confederation (ISTC) and endorsed by the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). (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 the 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 expand access to the ISIC 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.

Over the last two years ISIC sales have decreased slightly. The major change, however, is due to the recent growth of the Federation. Because Federation members receive the ISIC for free, there has been an increase in the number of cards members receive at no cost and a decrease in cards sold to non-members. As well, some of the decrease can be attributed to the reduction of discounted student fares requiring the ISIC on Air Canada.

ISIC Issuing

Close to six years have now passed since the ISTC introduced the new version of the ISIC requiring the printed data label. In order to continue issuing the Card, the Federation had to equip all issuing offices with ISIC label printers. During the phase-in period from 1998 to 2001, the Federation purchased 75 label printers, at a unit cost of roughly \$600.00 per printers, and deployed those in student union and regional Federation offices across the country.

Maintaining the printers in working order has been a logistical challenge. Due to frequent turnover within students' unions, there are often individuals entrusted with the equipment who have not been trained to use it. Problems have ranged from incorrect installation of printer ribbons to missing parts. Twelve of the original 75 printers are now irreparable while another three cannot be located at all. Several other printers are not working but appear to be repairable.

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In fall 2002, 16 additional label printers that were purchased; however, they have not been deployed because they are configured to read the labels provided by the ISTC. Efforts to develop a software patch to solve this problem are ongoing.

Currently, several member locals are unable to issue cards because their printers are broken and, in the case of several newer member locals, because the Federation has not yet been able to supply printers. Arrangements are being made for the broken printers to be repaired by the Canadian distributor in Toronto.

As reported in November, last year it became evident that providing the on-going technical support required for the Cardmaster software used to issue the ISIC data labels had become an unsustainable problem. The Cardmaster software was designed to function with early Microsoft Windows operating systems.

The National Executive decided that in order to resolve the situation, the Cardmaster software needed to be replaced. Last summer, the Federation developed web-based issuing software. 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 but a few issuing offices are now issuing cards using the web-based software. Efforts are underway to ensure that the remaining offices are switched to the new system before September.

Discount Guidebook

The Federation is preparing for the production of the 2004-2005 discount guidebook. Since 1999, the Federation has been producing a publication containing listings of the discounts in communities across the country. Last year, the Federation produced a total of 400,000 guidebooks: 296,000 with the Studentsaver card affixed to the cover and 104,000 with an "ISIC 2004 Canadian Benefits Guide" cover, which were printed primarily for distribution through Travel CUTS outlets and some VIA Rail outlets. The number of guidebooks produced for the 2004-2005 year will be increased slightly.

In order to further the Federation's effort to increase programme awareness and maintain continuity with students and local businesses, the design and format of the 2004-2005 guidebook and card will be remain unchanged from 2003-2004.

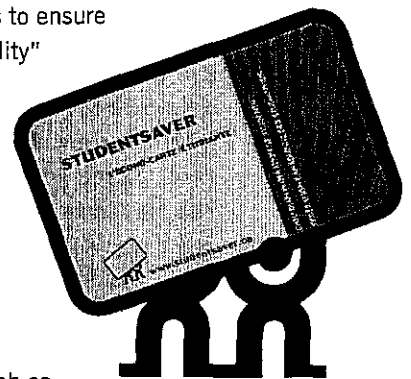
Discount Solicitation

Discount solicitation for the 2004-2005 programme is underway in most regions. The National Executive will continue to work toward the goals it set out for the 2003-2004 programme including maintaining and improving the regional distribution of local discounts and continuing efforts to ensure that solicitors are securing "quality" discounts. The quality of a discount must be evaluated based on the value to a member in terms of both cost-savings and whether the discount provides savings on a product or service that students regularly use.

For 2003-2004 some locals, such as Local 32-Lakehead University Student Union and Local 3-Okanagan University College Students' Association, undertook research to determine those businesses that were frequented by students in the community and targeted solicitation accordingly. The National Executive discussed the importance and logistics of ensuring that similar research and targeted solicitation was undertaken across the country.

The option of offering multi-year discounts, introduced for the first time in 2003-2004, has proven quite popular and will continue for 2004-2005. Multi-year discounts reduce the resources the Federation must commit every year to renewing existing discounts and demonstrate the stability of the programme to businesses.

The National Executive continues to discuss strategies to expand both national and regional discounts. Thus far, efforts to expand the number of regional and national discounts have been met with little success. Many national chains that would



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have an affinity for the student market already have exclusivity agreements with the Federation's for-profit competitors.

Programme Awareness

As reported at the previous meeting, the National Executive has identified that one of the biggest challenges is accurately determining the level of use of the Programme.

In order to gain a better understanding of how the Programme is received on campuses the National Executive created an online survey for member locals. Although not every local submitted a response, the results indicated that members were generally content with the direction of the Programme and its evolution over the past several years. Not surprisingly, many respondents noted the need to secure discounts with larger retail chains and better quality discounts. The National Executive will review the survey results in detail and develop strategies for improving the Programme at the July National Executive meeting.

Local promotion is the key to improving general awareness and growth of the Programme. Over the last few years it has been the case that some member locals do an excellent job of securing discounts and promoting the Programme to their members, while others continue to need to be encouraged to improve in this area. Many member locals distribute cards and guidebooks extensively during orientation week(s) in early September, either at events or by inserting them in handbooks. Strategies to increase the promotion and distribution of guidebooks throughout the rest of the year need to be developed and implemented on a campus-by-campus basis.

Studentphonestore.com

For the past two years the Federation has been working with Studentphonestore.com to negotiate reduced student rates for cellular telephones and cellular service by using the collective purchasing potential of the combined Federation membership to attract the interest of service providers. To-date,

a 20 percent discount off monthly plans has been secured with Fido Networks. In addition, substantial discounts have been secured with Bell Mobility and Rogers AT&T.

Efforts to secure discounts with the remaining cellular networks are ongoing; however, exclusivity arrangements with cellular phone providers at some campuses have hampered negotiations. For example, in British Columbia, Telus has negotiated exclusivity deals with several institutions in which the institution and, on occasion, the students' union are paid fees. In return, Telus receives the exclusive rights to advertise on the campus. The market penetration enjoyed by Aliant in many parts of Atlantic Canada makes leveraging a discount from it a challenge that has been unsuccessful to-date.

Negotiating with multiple carriers has meant that it has been possible to leverage discounts offered by one service provider against those offered by others. This approach has also promoted greater choice in carriers and plan design for Federation members. However, when service providers are permitted to purchase monopoly rights, the incentive to offer competitive discounts is neutralised and the ability to secure cost-savings for students is undermined. While a students' union may receive an exclusivity fee, its members will collectively pay far more for the service and the lost savings will exceed those fees paid to the students' union.

In addition to the regular discounts, a number of special, limited-time offers have been negotiated since the previous general meeting. The special offers have increased the variety and quality of discounts available to students. Promoting the special offers has been a challenge because in most cases there has been very little lead-time and the offers are only available for a few weeks.

The response to the discounts has varied considerably from campus to campus, depending on the amount of effort put into promotion. Certain members, such as Local 18-Douglas Students' Union and Local 24-Ryerson Students' Union, have been very successful in promoting both the regular

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discounts and the short-term offers. Corresponding to these promotional efforts, it should also be noted that participation in the programme by Local 24 members is higher than any other student union. In large part, this is because the Local has established itself as a retail outlet for Studentphonestore.com and sells the cellular telephones and services directly from its office. The National Executive is eager to establish other member locals as retail outlets for the phones and service.

The switch to the web-based issuing software for the ISIC was also necessary in order to provide the Federation with immediate access to a data-base of ISIC holders. Many of the cellular phone and service deals available through studentphonestore.com require the applicant to be an ISIC holder. Applicants submit their ISIC number when purchasing on-line. The national office is emailed each morning a list of applicants and their ISIC numbers that the Federation verifies. To-date, only one application was found to be invalid. The applicant was using an expired ISIC.

Because some ISIC issuing offices are not yet using the web-based issuing software, no data for cards they issue is in the data-base. This necessitates searches through the paper records in the national office or, in those cases in which the paper records have not yet been sent to the national office, contacting the local issuing office to provide confirmation.

homes4students.ca

INTRODUCTION

In March 2003 the Federation launched a national web-based student housing database, homes4students.ca. The site was designed to allow students the opportunity to search and compare affordable and suitable accommodation, find roommates, sublet their existing accommodation and buy and sell used furniture.

Since the web site launch in spring 2003 the number of users has grown substantially. Since

November 2003 the site has received over two million hits, the majority of which were during the peak months of March and April.

In spring 2003 the National Executive identified two challenges: the need to increase landlord and student traffic to the site and the need to expand the resources and services available on the site without increasing costs to the Federation.

PROMOTION

To address the first of these challenges 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. These promotional posters will be re-distributed in fall 2004 to further promote the service. A description of the service and the homes4students.ca logo will once again be included in the Federation's communications kit.

In early February, the Federation attended the Western Association of College and University Housing Officers, a student housing conference and trade show, to promote homes4students.ca. The conference provided an opportunity to showcase the site and develop contacts with off-campus housing offices. Member locals should continue efforts to integrate the homes4students.ca national database with off-campus housing services at their institutions.

TECHNOLOGICAL EXPANSION

As reported in November, the Federation is working with a company called Ecom Media Group (EMG) based out of Kelowna, British Columbia to expand the homes4students.ca services. EMG operates a network of web-based housing search sites including a specialized off-campus housing site aimed at post-secondary students.

EMG will provide its specialised software (including database) and all of the necessary technical support as well as web design. Most importantly, EMG maintains partnerships with major rental associations

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homes 4 students.ca

in Canada. This will increase the number of postings on the website and expand the number of communities in which students can search for housing. The Federation will continue to promote the site to students through the development of materials and promotion in Federation publications.

Over the past year, the National Executive has experienced difficulty securing acceptable and sufficient advertising to offset the operating costs associated with the service. Working with EMG has eliminated this problem because it does not accept advertising on its website and instead covers its costs by charging landlords, not students, a nominal fee for posting. Although there were initially some concerns that this system would deter landlords from posting, it is consistent with the practices of other national apartment listing resources and EMG has not detected any reluctance on the part of landlords as a result of the fee. There is no fee for students posting to the site, and landlords will receive the first posting for free.

Enhancements

In addition to the improved appearance, functionality and increased traffic to the site, EMG's software will enable the integration of homes4students.ca into local websites. The software that supports the website can be customised for a member local and localised to the community in which it is situated. This serves to showcase homes4students.ca as a service of the local.

Following the November 2003 national general meeting, a number of member locals indicated an interest in participating in the first phase of the personalized homes4students.ca portals. The set-up and implementation of these customised sites will be complete within six weeks.

The homes4students.ca site will now feature more comprehensive specifications about the accommodation including photos, a link to Mapquest.ca, provincial tenant/landlord legislation, sample leases and contact information for organisations working to protect tenants' rights. Finally, the site includes "frequently asked questions" for students and tips on seeking accommodation and moving.

The newly developed homes4students.ca site will be launched in early summer. The National Executive has prepared materials to assist member locals with the promotion of the site. These materials will be sent to member locals within the coming weeks, and should be distributed widely.

National Student Health Network

Introduction

After years of dealing with health and dental plans that were expensive and failed to cover many of the drugs and services commonly used by students, Federation members created the National Student Health Network, a buying consortium for health and dental insurance. The Network was formed with the view that the collective expertise and combined buying size would mean lower rates and better coverage for all members.

From the Network's inception it was felt that the role of insurance professionals such as agents and carriers should be kept to a minimum in order to maintain student control. Additionally, it was felt that administrative costs could be reduced if the Network assumed some of the administrative work for which insurance brokers had been charging. Certain tasks require the services of insurance professionals.

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The Network has contracted these services to Heath-Lambert Benefits Consulting and Green Shield Canada. Since 1996, the Network has retained the services of Heath-Lambert to negotiate with carriers and analyze claims data. Although members of the Network are free to pursue coverage from any of the country's insurance carriers, almost all Network members have selected Green Shield Canada as their carrier. Green Shield is the only national not-for-profit insurance carrier in Canada and as such is able to offer the lowest rates for student plans in the country. The Federation has negotiated an exclusivity agreement with Green Shield; only Network members have access to the health and dental plans offered by it.

Network Services

HEALTH PLAN "AUDITING"

Over the past few years, the Network has provided, as a service to students' unions, assessments of plans that are negotiated by other brokers. The Network began offering these assessments to address members' concerns that they were being overcharged for their health and dental plans. Through these assessments it has become increasingly apparent that questionable practices, including charging students' unions' administrative fees in excess of industry-standards, are widespread among student health and dental plans.

During the past twelve months an increasing number of students' union have requested audits. These continue to provide students' unions with the tools to better understand their current plan and make informed decisions about the future.

RENEWALS

Currently, the Network is in the process of negotiating and coordinating the renewal process for all member plans. In addition to reviewing claims experience and premium levels, Network members have a chance to review plan design. It is anticipated that the 2004-2005 renewal process will proceed smoothly.

INSURANCE FOR STUDENT LOAN PAYMENTS

The Network has developed a program that will cover student loan payments in the event a plan member cannot attend school due to a catastrophic illness or injury. The plan will be available to Network members as of September 2004 at a minimal cost.

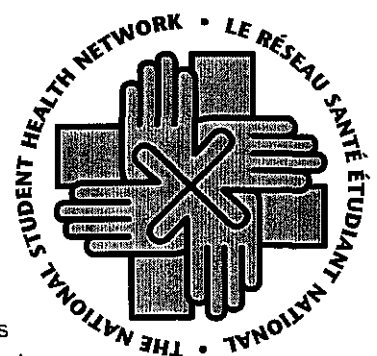
OTHER TYPES OF INSURANCE

A significant number of students' unions have faced massive premium increases in the areas of director's liability insurance, event and building insurance, and errors and omission insurance. Some insurance companies are viewing students' unions as a high risk to insure. This has resulted in substantial premium increases and in some cases insurance companies have terminated the coverage with little or no notice.

In response to the difficulties that many member locals are experiencing with their insurance, the November 2003 general meeting directed the National Executive to investigate the possibility of creating a property and casualty insurance network similar to the National Student Health Network. Several of the country's largest property and casualty insurance carriers have been approached about developing a property and casualty insurance programme designed specifically for students; however, interest to date has been limited. Negotiations to establish affordable premium levels are ongoing.

New Network Members

Over the past several years the Network has seen significant growth. The work that has been done to expose the practices of some for-profit brokers has generated much interest in the National Student Health Network. Since the previous national general meeting, several member locals have contacted the Network requesting audits and/or quotes through the Network. Since November, Local 3-Okanagan



WORKING TOGETHER

Programmes

University College Students' Association, Local 46-College of the North Atlantic Students' Association and Local 102-Brock University Graduate Students' Association have joined the Network. There are now more than 30 students' unions that form the Network.

Network Administration

This year all of the Network materials, including master agreements, claim forms, and enrolment forms were reviewed. Green Shield has assembled a committee to deal exclusively with plan communications for student plan users and has hired someone to deal solely with student plans.

Efforts have been made to eliminate language that is more commonly used by insurance companies and replace it with plain language designed specifically for student users. Forms will be more specific to a local plan design and eliminate references to non-covered claim categories. Thus far, reactions to the materials have been positive and all Network members will be distributing the new materials during the 2004-2005 year.

User Group Meeting

Every year, members of the Network hold a User Group meeting. The meeting is an opportunity to review the work of the Network, examine technical changes and industry developments, develop new initiatives and discuss ways of making health and dental plans more responsive to the needs of students. Last year's User Group meeting was very successful, with higher participation than in previous years. Planning for this year's meeting is underway and will be held in July.

2004-2005 Handbook Project

The handbook project is entering its third year as a national service of the Federation after starting as a project of the BC Component in the late 1990s.

The handbook project was initiated primarily to reduce the cost of producing the handbooks,

particularly for small member locals. It was also viewed as means of improving the overall content and design of the publications.

The volume of books produced allows for better quality paper, more colour pages and fewer advertisements, while achieving savings in writing and editing, design, printing and binding. These economies of scale have enabled some students' unions to eliminate local advertising from their handbook. Other locals have chosen to continue to maintain local advertising and, thereby reducing their costs even further. This flexibility has proven to be a particularly attractive feature of the project.

Each handbook consists of a unique local section, a common provincial and national section and common calendar and time management pages. Participating students' unions provide local content in text format, that is then formatted by Federation provincial offices to be consistent with the overall design of the handbook.

For the 2003-2004 year, 40 students' unions from seven provinces participated in the project. Over 150,000 handbooks were produced. For 2004-2005, 42 students' unions in eight provinces have confirmed their participation in the project. Over 210,000 handbooks will be printed.

The 2004-2005 handbook will include design enhancements first introduced in the 2003-2004 handbooks: full colour pages in the provincial and national sections, full bleeds in the calendar section, and tear-off corners on the calendar pages. The 2004-2005 handbook will also be available in English, French and bilingual versions as required by member locals. In addition, students' unions have been provided the opportunity to sell advertising on the inside front cover and the option of determining the order of the local, provincial and national sections.

Prior to 2004-2005, handbook pricing was based on a 48 page local section. In recognition that students' unions selecting 16 and 32 page local sections reduced the cost of their books, it was

decided that those savings would be passed directly on to those students' unions for 2004-2005.

In order to further reduce the cost of the project, a more aggressive effort is being made to sell divider advertising in the 2004-2005 handbook. Already, a number of government and not-for-profit agencies have expressed interest in purchasing ads.

Student Work Abroad Programme (SWAP)

Overview

The Student Work Abroad Programme (SWAP) is Canada's largest international work exchange programme. Each year, about 20,000 Canadian students receive visas allowing them to work in other countries and the Canadian government issues a similar number of visas to students from abroad. Of the nearly 40,000 Canadian students on working holidays, approximately twenty-five percent participate through SWAP.

SWAP Updates

SWAP BRITAIN

Britain remains the most popular destination for Canadian students who wish to take a working holiday. For the coming year, SWAP staff will be able to assist Canadian students in submitting an electronic application for the British Work Visa. Students will no longer be required to travel to the nearest British consular office to apply for a British work visa. This simplified process will result in an increase in enrolment for SWAP Britain.

SWAP IRELAND

The Irish government has recently asked the Federation to manage a new programme allowing up to five hundred Canadians under the age of 35 to obtain Irish work visas. This will allow part-time students to participate in SWAP Ireland for the first time.

SWAP AUSTRALIA

Earlier this year, Australia became the first country to allow Canadian students to apply for work visas via the Internet. This has resulted in a significant increase in SWAP Australia participants.

SWAP USA

Until recently, the United States of America allowed students and recent graduates access to its student work visa. However, the US government recently changed its visa rules and now students may only receive work visas prior to graduation. This has resulted in a significant decline in participation in SWAP USA. This change has affected students from all countries. As a result of these changes, the United States of America is issuing significantly fewer student work visas.

The reduction in US work visas has resulted in a massive increase of inbound students for SWAP. Many students from abroad who were interested in North America as a destination have now made Canada their destination of choice. As a result, SWAP will host more than 6,000 students from abroad in 2004.

New SWAP Destinations

The Federation will begin offering students the opportunity to take a working holiday in Thailand and Brazil in 2005. Earlier this year, the Canadian government began granting work visas to Thai and Brazilian students and a few dozen of them are already participating in SWAP.



Travel CUTS



“In the last few years, student travel agencies have had a rough time. A number have gone under. Not only has Travel CUTS weathered the storm, we’re set to provide even better service in the years to come.”

▶▶ *Joey Hansen, Travel CUTS Board Chair*

With the downturn in world travel, rising fuel prices, and major airlines moving into web booking systems, the entire travel industry has suffered in the past three years.

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

WORKING TOGETHER

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 Turk-Browne
Staff Representative	Robert Keddy
Staff Representative	Monica Miller
Travel CUTS President (non-voting)	J. Rodney Hurd

Financial Issues

2003-2004 Fiscal year

At the previous general meeting it was reported that the company's first quarter had been incredibly difficult and that the company had experienced a significant decline in sales. Although the company's sales levels increased during the second and third quarters, expenses were significantly higher than budgeted, resulting in the company incurring a significant loss for the first three quarters of the fiscal year.

Much of the higher than anticipated expense is related to salary and office administration costs. These costs were made necessary because, to offset the decline in domestic ticket sales, the company began selling international flights more aggressively. Although the strategy resulted in an increase in sales, selling tickets to destinations in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America is much more labour intensive than selling domestic airfares.

As a result, the company expects to incur a loss of approximately \$1,000,000.

Planning for 2004-2005 Fiscal Year

The 2003-2004 fiscal year will mark the third consecutive year in which the company failed to generate a profit. The company achieved a "break-even" position in 2001-2002, incurred a \$1,000,000 loss in 2002-2003 and expects to incur another loss of approximately \$1,000,000 in the current fiscal year. Although continued significant investment by the Federation has helped maintain the company's equity position, such losses are not sustainable for an extended period of time.

Travel CUTS senior management has commenced the budgeting process for the 2004-2005 fiscal year. Although the final budget will not be finalised for several weeks, it is expected that the company will project a small profit for the 2004-2005 fiscal year.

Operational Issues

Update on Canadian Offices

The company has temporarily halted expansion in Canada and is currently reviewing the viability of some of its Canadian offices. As a result of this review, the company has closed an office in Montréal. The company's offices in Montréal were located quite closely together and as a result the company was incurring additional rent and administrative costs without a corresponding increase in sales.

Update on U.S. Operation

It is expected that the United States offices will incur a small loss in the current fiscal year. The loss is primarily a result of start-up costs of offices at Harvard and in New York City. The company's established offices are all operating profitably.

Web search engine

On October 8, 2003 the company launched a test of its new booking engine. At the time, although the company's full range of domestic airfares was available through the web site, only a select few trans-border and international airfares were available. And, with the exception of travel insurance, none of the company's non-flight "products" were available through the web. Finally, in order to minimise negative publicity that could result from technological difficulties associated with the site, no promotion of the web-booking engine was undertaken.

To date, the site has not experienced any major technological difficulties. In fact, the company has now added all of its trans-border and most of its international airfares to the site. Recently, the company also added the ability to purchase Eurail passes through the site.

The web site is becoming more popular and currently sales levels are well over \$100,000 per month. Since February, the site has generated enough sales to cover its ongoing operating costs and the company



expects the site to generate higher sales volumes than any single Travel CUTS office in the 2004-2005 fiscal year.

Finally, the site has allowed the company to effectively offer its services in communities that have traditionally been unable to access the company's services. This has led to a sales boom in certain regions such as Prince Edward Island and Northern Ontario. The company is currently developing a marketing strategy to ensure that students in these regions are aware that they can now easily access the Travel CUTS' services.

Relations with Suppliers

Air Canada

Air Canada has been experiencing financial difficulties for nearly three years. These difficulties culminated in Air Canada filing for bankruptcy protection slightly more than one year ago. To date, the company has not successfully emerged from bankruptcy protection.

Air Canada's financial difficulties have forced it to reduce capacity and the number of discounted fares that it offers travel agents such as Travel CUTS. In addition, when Air Canada believes sales levels are

WORKING TOGETHER

Travel CUTS

too low it often announces significant industry-wide seat sales that limit the value of the Student Class Airfares that Travel CUTS has negotiated.

Nearly half of all airline tickets issued by Travel CUTS are for Air Canada flights. As a result, changes in the airline's operations have a significant impact on Travel CUTS' financial performance.

Discount Airlines

In the last few years, a number of discount air carriers, such as Westjet, Canjet and Jetsgo have begun offering domestic flights in Canada. These airlines are very interested in increasing their share of the student market and as a result, have approached Travel CUTS to discuss methods through which Travel CUTS can sell more tickets on their airlines. Several of these airlines currently only accept payment via credit cards. The company has convinced them that many students either do not have credit cards or do not have a sufficient credit limit to purchase flights with their card. All three of these companies have agreed to allow students buying flights from Travel CUTS to pay cash for the fare.

In addition, one discount airline has agreed to link its fare database directly to Travel CUTS so that the Travel CUTS fare database will always have up-to-date fare information from the airline. Staff in Travel CUTS' technology department are currently working with staff at the airline to develop software that allows the two fare databases to communicate.

Other Airlines

Through the Federation's membership in the International Student Travel Confederation (ISTC), Travel CUTS has access, at a slightly inflated price, to fares that have been negotiated by other members of the ISTC. In addition, Air Canada is sometimes able to provide discounts on flights it code-shares with its partner airlines. However, given that Travel CUTS has become increasingly focused on selling international travel, Travel CUTS senior management have been working to secure additional discounts on airlines based outside of Canada.

By securing these discounts independently of the International Student Travel Confederation, Travel CUTS will be able to work directly with the airlines to establish terms that are most favourable to the company.

Internal Affairs



“I know of no other national organisation in Canada with such comprehensive structures to ensure the full participation of all delegates regardless of their background and experience.”

►► *Joseph Bright, Students of Colour Representative on the National Executive*

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

With two comprehensive annual national general meetings that each include constituency and caucus meeting time, no other national organisation of comparative size provides a similar level of member involvement in decision-making.

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	Joel Koette
Alberta Representative	Rashad Sader
British Columbia Representative	Steve Beasley
Francophone Students' Representative	Mike Ouellet
Graduate Students' Representative	Robert Johnson
Manitoba Representative	Michael Rosenstock
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

2004-2005 Term

Most positions on the National Executive have been elected for the upcoming year. At the fall 2003 national general meeting, Dave Hare (Local 11) was elected as National Treasurer, Angela Regnier (Local 101) was elected as National Deputy Chairperson

and George Soule (Local 1) was elected National Chairperson for the 2004-2005 term.

Scott Payne (Local 44) has been elected as the British Columbia Representative for 2004-2005. Alex Dodger (Local 98) has been elected as the Ontario Representative. Lucia Bonova (Local 79) has been elected to serve as the Québec Representative. Danielie Sampson (Local 7) has been elected as the Nova Scotia Representative. Krista Park (Local 100) has been elected as the Newfoundland and Labrador Representative. Joel Koette (Local 18) has been re-elected as the Aboriginal Students' Representative.

At this meeting, elections for the positions of the Alberta Representative, Saskatchewan Representative, Manitoba Representative, Prince Edward Island Representative, Students of Colour Representative, Francophone Students Representative, Women's Representative, and Graduate Students Representative on the National Executive for the 2004-2005 term will be conducted.

Federation Staffing

Changes Since the Previous Meeting

Maritimes Organiser Theresa Sabourin has recently left the Federation after close to three years in the position. The National Executive will be seeking to fill the position prior to the next National Executive meeting, scheduled for early July.

Prairies Organiser Elizabeth Carlyle commenced a twelve-month maternity leave in February. To assist with campaigns, membership development and programs work during her leave, the National Executive will be seeking to hire a replacement for the duration of the leave.

Second Prairies Organiser

For the past few years the Federation has relied on a single organiser, based in Winnipeg, to resource the member locals on the prairies. In the past three

years, however, the Federation's membership has gone from zero to two member locals in Alberta and from one active member to two in Saskatchewan, while maintaining a consistent membership base in Manitoba.

This year's budget allocated enough funding for the hiring of a second Prairies Organiser to start midway through the year. It was felt that revenue would be sufficient in the 2004-2005 year to maintain the position for the full year.

First interviews for the position were conducted for the position in February and second interviews were undertaken in March. Ultimately, the hiring committee could not agree on a candidate to hire and, therefore, it was agreed by the members of the committee that the position should be re-posted. The National Executive hopes to have the position filled prior to the next National Executive meeting, scheduled for early July.

Federation National Congresses

The Federation holds two national congresses each year, one in May and one in November. In addition, the Federation's two national caucuses, the National Aboriginal Caucus and National Graduate Caucus, hold national meetings each February/March.

November 2004 National General Meeting

The fall 2004 national general meeting will be held either November 17-20 or November 24-27. The National Executive will be finalising the dates at its next meeting in early July. The general meeting will be at the Hotel Jacques Cartier in Gatineau, directly across the Ottawa River from downtown Ottawa.

The hotel has been the site of the past several fall national general meetings. The National Executive is confident that recent renovations at the hotel will result in the hotel's meeting space better fulfilling the Federation's requirements.

May 2005 National General Meeting

The spring 2005 national general meeting will be held either May 12-15 or May 18-21. The general meeting will be held at Carleton University.

National Caucus General Meetings

The Federation's National Graduate Caucus consists of all member local associations composed in whole or in part of graduate students. Each year during the winter semester a national general meeting of the caucus is held. This year the meeting was held February 27-29 at McGill University in Montréal. Twenty-one of the twenty-seven eligible member local associations attended the meeting.

The Federation's National Aboriginal Caucus consists of all member local associations composed in whole or in part of aboriginal students. Each year during the winter semester a national general meeting of the caucus is held. This year the meeting was held from March 11-13 at Camosun College in Victoria. Thirty-one member local associations participated in the meeting. This constituted a significant increase in participation.

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-committee. With the recent growth in Federation

WORKING TOGETHER

Internal

membership, and a concomitant 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.

In November, the Federation experimented with a new structure in place of the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee. Instead of striking the 22-member Committee, a Campaigns Forum was struck during the scheduled plenary sub-committee time. Amongst other things, each local was permitted to exercise a vote in the forum. Though not all delegates supported the change, most expressed appreciation of the new structure. On that basis the National Executive is recommending that, for this meeting, such a Campaigns Forum be held instead of a Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

During the previous forum, several delegates only joined the Forum near its conclusion. Despite not having been present for the preceding debates, they were permitted to vote on the related motions. The National Executive is recommending that for this Forum delegates be required to register as voting participants no later than the start of the second session in order to prevent such a recurrence.

Operational Partnerships

At the November 2003 national general meeting, delegates discussed a proposal from Local 5 that would guide the Federation's consideration of partnerships with external organisations or companies. The motion was referred to the National Executive for further consideration and research.

The National Executive has contacted a number of other national organisations to solicit similar policies or background information in order to develop a draft framework. During the course of the investigations however, it became clear that the majority of the organisations had no such policies. The Federation has subsequently approached the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) with an invitation to write a joint policy that could be used as a model for both organisations.

CAUT has expressed interest in working with the Federation on this initiative; however, to-date scheduling conflicts have delayed the process. The Federation will meet with the CAUT shortly after the national general meeting to commence work developing a framework for the policy.

Office Organisation

Technology Upgrades

Last year, the Federation made a significant technological upgrade when the national office installed a Macintosh X-serve. This alleviated many of the software conflicts and technical problems caused by the out-dated Novell server the office was using previously.

The old Novell server continues to act as the national office's electronic-mail server. Unfortunately, the old system cannot handle the volume of e-mails the national office sends and receives on a daily basis and as a result it crashes frequently. The National Executive has determined that the most effective way to resolve the problem is to relocate the e-mail services to an external provider. Web Networks, the company that currently hosts the national web site, has been selected to serve as the provider. The process of switching to the external provider will commence immediately following the general meeting.

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 (ASCC) – voted to amalgamate by creating a new, single organisation to replace themselves. It was agreed that the new organisation – the Canadian Federation of Students/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 ASCC would be wound down. Among the assets and liabilities of the Association of Student Councils was its six-year old student travel agency, Canadian Universities Travel Service (Travel CUTS).

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

In December 1998 and January of 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, one students' union – the University of Alberta Students' Union – joined the suit. In addition, two alma mater societies – the Queen's University Alma Mater Society and the University of British Columbia – also joined 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 2003. The trial had been scheduled to commence in early September 2003; however, it was postponed shortly before its scheduled commencement when the plaintiffs' lawyer was suddenly unavailable. The trial is now scheduled to commence in early November and is expected to conclude in mid-January 2005.

(For a more complete history of the suit, please see the subsection titled "Legal Fund" in the Federation Finances section of this report.)

Membership Development



“The support of the Federation has been key in our struggle to maintain local representation in the face of UBC’s hostile takeover of our institution.”

►► *Shayne Robinson, President, Okanagan University College Students' Association-Kelowna, Canadian Federation of Students Local 03*

Strength in numbers works at the provincial and national level and at the local level as well. When the BC government handed Okanagan University College over to UBC, students' unions across Canada came to the defence of the Okanagan University College Students' Association. The Local is now optimistic that it will remain the democratic representative of its members.

WORKING TOGETHER

Membership Development

Membership Stability and Growth

For the past seven years, the Federation has experienced a level of membership stability unprecedented in its twenty-four year history. Since 1996, only two member locals have withdrawn from the Federation and one of those—Grenfell College Students' Union – rejoined the Federation eighteen months later. During the same period 15 students' unions have joined the Federation for the first time and another nine have either rejoined or reactivated their memberships.

The Federation now has as members all public post-secondary students in Newfoundland and Labrador and on Prince Edward Island. In British Columbia, a strong majority of college and university students are members of the Federation, while a majority of Ontario university students belong to the Federation. Membership in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Québec and Nova Scotia remains steady.

New Full Member

In November the Brock University Graduate Students' Association was granted prospective membership in the Federation. On March 30 to April 1 this year, in accordance with Bylaw 1.5, a referendum was conducted in which the members of the Association voted 96.3 percent in favour of full membership in the Federation.

In accordance with Bylaw 1.2-b-vi, the National Executive recommends that full membership be granted to the Brock University Graduate Students' Association.

Extension of Prospective Membership

At the May 2003 national general meeting, the Northern Lights College Students' Association was granted prospective membership. Due to a variety of circumstances, the Association was unable to hold a referendum on full membership during the

2003-2004 academic year, as required by the Federation Bylaws.

In accordance with Bylaw 1-2-b-xii, the National Executive is recommending that the Association's prospective membership be extended.

Other Membership Issues

Local 3-Okanagan University-College Students' Union-Kelowna

In 2002, the BC government accepted a report from the BC Progress Board, a panel struck to provide recommendations for promoting economic development. Contained in the report was a proposal to divide Okanagan University College, with the primarily academic campus becoming a satellite of the University of British Columbia. By no coincidence, UBC President Martha Piper is a prominent member of the Board.

In early January 2004, Local 3 learned that the BC government planned to proceed with the BC Progress Board recommendation and turn over the North Kelowna campus of the University College to the University of British Columbia. The Local immediately sought meetings with government, with its own administration and with the University of British Columbia. The Federation secured a meeting with the Deputy Minister for the Local. However, the Deputy Minister did not appear to be authorized to share information of any substance.

In the absence of information from government, and with the Federation's support, the Local launched a major campaign throughout the Okanagan. The campaign was called "Stop the Takeover" and included a campus-based campaign centred on two referenda questions and a radio advertising campaign.

The referenda questions, which sought to solidify the Local's position as the democratic representative for the students at the campus, were both approved by a 94 percent majority.

WORKING TOGETHER

Membership Development

On March 17, the BC Government announced that it was proceeding with the takeover. Beginning in September 2005, the largest and newest campus serving about 3500 students will become a campus of University of British Columbia, while the remaining campuses will be made into a two-year community college named Okanagan College.

The Local has learned that the government and the University of British Columbia intend to respect the wishes of local students in determining their own model of representation. Moreover, the University of British Columbia Alma Mater Society has indicated that it will also support Local 3 as the continuing representative of the members at the North Kelowna campus.

Currently, Local 3-Kelowna is composed of students at both the South and North Kelowna campuses. Without a structural change, the Local would represent members at two different institutions governed by two different pieces of legislation: the College and Institute Act and the University Act. In response to the change in the institutional structure, the Local intends to split itself into two unions and recognizes that members at each institution will continue their membership in the Federation. The Federation is working closely with the Local to develop the new structure and to ensure that the new Locals are certified as the unions at the two campuses.

Local 31- University of Prince Edward Island Students' Union

The University of Prince Edward Island Students' Union was a founding member of the Federation in 1981 and has been an active member ever since. In fact, the University of Prince Edward Island Students' Union is the only member local that has had a representative on the Federation's National Executive every year since the Federation's formation.

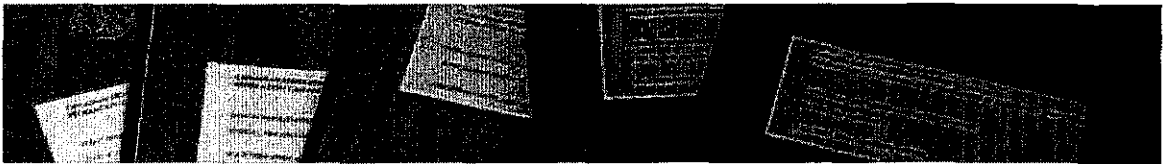
The National Executive was therefore somewhat surprised when in March of this year the Union wrote to the Federation requesting proof of the Union's membership in the Federation. A package

of information was compiled and sent to the Union; however, prior to its arrival the Union's Council apparently passed a motion in which it declared that the Union would no longer be continuing as a member of the Federation.

In early April, National Chairperson Ian Boyko and Nova Scotia Representative Dave Hare made a presentation to Council explaining the binding contractual nature of the Union's relationship with the other students' unions that comprise the Federation. Unfortunately, the Council seemed convinced that it, and not the Union's general membership, has the authority to decide the question of membership in the Federation.

To-date, the Federation has not received any formal notice from the Union informing the Federation of its "decision". The National Executive has also learned that the Union's Council intends to continue collecting the Federation membership fee and will hold it in trust until it is fully satisfied that it is not liable for the fees. In the meantime, the National Executive will endeavour to address whatever concerns the Union's Council has with the other members of the Federation.

Finances



“With all that our Federation produces, and all of the benefits for our members, I am still surprised every time I am reminded that the membership fee is only seven dollars.”

►► *Pat Barbosa, Treasurer, North Island Students' Association*
Canadian Federation of Students Local 72

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 that 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.

Finances

Overview

Membership fees have been the main source of funding for the Federation throughout its twenty-four year history. This year membership fees are expected to exceed the \$2 million mark for the first time. Currently, membership fees constitute roughly two-thirds of total national revenue for the Federation.

Over the years membership fee revenue has been supplemented to varying degrees by revenue from Federation services, particularly its travel services. Starting in the mid-1990s, the Federation experienced a large increase in revenue earned from Travel CUTS. The increased returns followed several years of strong investment in the company. Between 1995 and 2000, revenue from Travel CUTS more than doubled. In the 2001 fiscal year (year ending June 30), revenue from the Travel CUTS operation exceeded \$1.15 million.

Unfortunately, the revenue from the 2001 fiscal year constituted a "high water mark" in terms of returns from Travel CUTS. During the three years that have followed, the Federation has seen a steady decline in net revenue from the operation. September 11, 2001 had a devastating impact on the entire travel industry worldwide, including the student travel industry. The subsequent military invasions further reduced travel abroad and the SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) outbreak in summer 2003 resulted in reduced domestic travel. Even more significant has been the loss of customers to on-line booking.

Fortunately, this period has coincided with a period of significant increases in membership and, with it, a corresponding increase in membership fee revenue. While it has not entirely offset the reductions in net revenue from the travel services, it has significantly lessened the impact.

At the previous national general meeting in November, measures were adopted to reduce expenses in the face of reduced revenues from Travel CUTS and International Student Identity Card sales. While the current fiscal year does not

end for another six weeks, all indications are that the measures will have been sufficient to prevent a deficit for the year.

Membership Fees

It appears that actual membership fee revenue for the 2003-2004 year will exceed the budgeted amount by roughly ten percent. To-date, \$1,828,105 has been collected, with at least \$200,000 still expected.

Most of the increase has occurred in Ontario where the impact of the "double cohort" has been greater than anticipated. In some cases Federation fees from some campuses have increased by as much as 25 percent over totals collected the previous year.

Programme and Travel CUTS Revenue

Discount Programme Revenue

Sales of International Student Identity Cards (ISIC) during the first three-quarters of the current year (July 1 to March 31) were down 15 percent from the same period one year ago. However, the drop in sales has been smaller than anticipated. Nevertheless, it is still anticipated that the programme will incur an overall loss, likely in the range of \$25,000 to \$50,000.

Revenue from Travel CUTS

In the 2002-2003 fiscal year, referral fee revenue was \$953,559, a drop of roughly \$60,000 from the 2001-2002 fiscal year. For the current year the Federation projected that amount would decline further to \$925,000. After the first three-quarters of the current year, referral fee revenue is at virtually the same level as it was a year ago, thereby indicating that the anticipated drop in revenue will not materialize.

Student Work Abroad Programme

The Student Work Abroad Programme (SWAP) is a Federation service that is administered primarily 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. Based on that result, the Federation budgeted for a modest surplus of \$13,350 for the current year.

Given that most SWAP activity occurs in the last quarter of the fiscal year, the year-to-date figures can be deceiving. As of March 31, the programme expenses had exceeded revenues by \$153,360; however, Travel CUTS is now projecting that the programme will generate a surplus of between \$25,000 and \$60,000 by the end of the fiscal year.

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 \$28,145 loss during the 2001-2002 year, the program generated a \$11,049 surplus during the 2002-2003 year.

At this point it is not possible to state definitively what the final outcome for 2003-2004 will be. The administrative fees owing to the Network are not determined though they will be at least 25 percent higher than last year. On the expense side, some savings will be realised as a result of not filling a second Network position for which a partial year's costs were budgeted. In all likelihood, a surplus for the year will result.

Depending on the size of the surplus, the National Executive is considering the creation of a contingency fund that could be used in the event that a particular plan has an exceptional and unforeseen cost overrun.

Expenditures

At the November 2003 national general meeting, in the face of reduced revenue from the Federation's travel-related activities, the members adopted a number of measures to reduce spending for the remainder of the 2003-2004 fiscal year. Amongst other things, the measures included eliminating the capital fund allocation for the year, canceling the January National Executive meeting and not filling the vacant second researcher position.

The National Executive is anticipating that virtually all areas of spending will be at or slightly below the amounts projected in the 2003-2004 budget. The obvious exception will be certain provincial allocations that automatically increase as membership fees collected in those provinces increase.

Fund Allocations

Capital Fund

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, into joint office space in Ottawa. At the time, the new space was roughly equivalent in size to the combined office spaces that had housed the separate Canadian Federation of Students and Canadian Federation of Students-Services operations.

Initially, the Federation paid \$90,000 per year under its original five-year lease signed in 1996. 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.

On June 30, 2006 the current lease expires. At that point the Federation will have spent close to \$1.2 million on rent over the course of the preceding decade with no equity to show for it. With this in mind the member locals voted in 1999 to create a

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capital fund for the possible purchase of office space when the current lease ends. Between 1999 and 2003, \$750,000 was transferred to the fund.

As a result of the budget adopted in November, no amount was allocated to the Capital Fund for this year. However, with the increase in membership fee revenue that has materialised as a result of the size of the double cohort in Ontario, a surplus of between \$100,000 and \$200,000 is now anticipated. The National Executive is recommending that some portion be transferred to the Fund. In addition, the National Executive is recommending that in the 2004-2005 year \$150,000 be allocated to the fund.

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, that would replace the existing structures, and 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 was 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 the ownership of Travel CUTS to the Canadian Federation of Students-Services and the wind 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 (UWOUSC) 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 concocted the theory that Canadian Federation of Students-Services had improperly assumed ownership of Travel CUTS 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, in lieu of that, reversal of the transfer of ownership. In 2000, University of Alberta Students' Union and two alma mater societies joined UWOUSC in the suit.

Given the nature of the plaintiffs' claim and the amount of the damages sought, the National Executive and, indeed, the membership 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 \$575,000. The National

Executive is proposing that an additional \$125,000 in the 2004-2005 budget be allocated to the fund. The bulk of the fund will be used during the upcoming year for what is expected to be a long and expensive trial. The unused portion would be available to fund some or all of an appeal if the unexpected were to happen.

General Meeting Disabled Access Fund

At some national general meetings there may be several delegates with special needs. At other meetings there may be none. The cost of providing sign language interpretation for a hearing impaired delegate can exceed \$10,000 for a single general meeting. In the past, the dilemma for the Federation was whether to always budget for such an expense even though the need may exist at only one in ten meetings.

To allow for consistency in budgeting, the member locals established a General Meeting Disabled Access Fund in 2000. The Fund allows the Federation to allocate a consistent amount each year, rather than having costs covered from the operating budget fluctuating wildly from year to year.

At the start of the current year, the balance in the fund stood at \$40,000. \$5,000 from this year's anticipated surplus is earmarked for the fund. The National Executive is recommending that another \$5,000 be earmarked.

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 coming year:

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
2004-2005	\$3.60

As the table illustrates, the Federation's national membership fee for the upcoming academic year will be \$3.60 per student per semester.

Each year, the National Executive is faced with the challenge of trying to ensure that all member locals arrange with their respective institutions 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.

A few member locals are still collecting only a fee of \$3.00. In most cases, their respective institutions are either unable or unwilling to collect amounts that include cents.

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 \$450,000 in

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membership fees that should have been remitted by the Local since 1995 has not been. The National Executive continues to look for solutions to the problem.

Collection of Fees at the University of Toronto

In November 2002 the members of three students' unions at the University of Toronto – University of Toronto Students' Administrative Council (UTSAC), Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students (APUS) and the Scarborough Campus Students' Union (SCSU) – voted to join the Federation.

At the time the Federation and the three students' unions assumed that, as a matter of course, the University of Toronto would commence collection of the Federation fees starting with the 2003-2004 academic year. This assumption was wrong. The University refused to collect the fee, claiming that the referendum process violated the University's policy on fee collection.

From a contractual standpoint, a member local is obligated to ensure that the Federation membership fees are collected and remitted, whether through a separate levy or through its own levy. However, the action by the University appears to be in no way the fault of any students' unions and, therefore, it would be unfair to demand immediate payment. Instead the Federation is working with the three unions to get the fees collected.

Currently, the APUS is seeking a court judgment to force the University to collect the fee. To-date, the courts have already ruled that the matter must be put to the University Affairs Board for a decision, something the University avoided doing in the months following the referendum.

2002-2003 Audit

The audit for the fiscal year 2003 has now been completed and draft statements for Canadian Federation of Students and Canadian Federation of Students-Services will be presented at this meeting. As the statements illustrate, the Canadian

Federation of Students ran a modest surplus on the year. The Canadian Federation of Students-Services operation, exclusive of Travel CUTS, also ran a surplus; however, when consolidated with its subsidiary, Travel CUTS, the outcome is a sizeable loss for the year, owing to Travel CUTS' loss that year.

2004-2005 Budget

The first draft of the 2004-2005 budget as prepared by the National Executive projects only minor changes from the current year's budget. On the revenue side, membership fees are projected to be higher as a result of a small growth in the Federation's membership, the annual adjustment for inflation and the continuing impact of the double cohort in Ontario. Revenue from Federation services has stabilised and, therefore the projected revenue from those services varies very little from this year's projections. On the expense side, spending tends not to vary significantly from year to year.

Appendix I - Meetings with and Submissions to Government

DATE	MEETING	SUBJECT
January 20, 2004	Parliamentary Secretary for Student Loans MP Paul Bonwick (Simcoe-Grey)	Student loan designation, loan maximums, policy updates
January 23, 2004	Canada Student Loans Program Director General David Cogliati	Collection agent behaviour towards student loan holders, loan maximums, student loan designation
February 3, 2004	Canada Chief Electoral Officer Jean-Pierre Kingsley	Strategies for increasing youth voter participation, collaboration on communications materials
February 3, 2004	MP John Herron (Fundy-Royal)	Speech from the Throne, loan maximums, Registered Education Savings Plans, income contingent loan repayment schemes
February 13, 2004	Maxine Ifill, Elections Canada	Collaboration on communications materials for 2004 federal election
February 25, 2004	National Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance	Needs-based grants, loan maximums, part-time student loans, expected parental contributions
February 25, 2004	Parliamentary Secretary for Student Loans MP Paul Bonwick (Simcoe-Grey)	Learning Bonds, parliamentary sub-committee on post-secondary education and research
March 4, 2004	Maxine Ifill, Elections Canada	Reviewing draft materials for 2004 federal election
March 5, 2004	Government Deputy Whip MP Mauril Bélanger (Ottawa-Vanier)	Federal parliamentary reform
March 8, 2004	Prime Minister's Social Policy Advisor Jonathan Bays	Learning Bonds, student loan bankruptcy prohibition, transfer payments, Millennium Scholarship Foundation

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Appendix I - Meetings with and Submissions to Government

DATE	MEETING	SUBJECT
March 8, 2004	MP John Herron (Fundy-Royal)	Parliamentary subcommittee on post-secondary education and research
March 11, 2004	Parliamentary Secretary for Entrepreneurs and New Canadians MP Gurbax Mahli (Bramalea-Gore-Malton)	Federal research funding, international students off-campus work regulation
March 25, 2004	Millennium Scholarship Foundation Researcher Sean Junor	Millennium Foundation pan-Canadian consultations, federal budget
March 30, 2004	Millennium Scholarship Foundation mock consultation	Reforming the Millennium Bursaries
April 15, 2004	Human Resources and Skills Development Assistant Deputy Minister (Human Investment Programs) Andrew Treusch	Transfer payments, campus infrastructure
April 21, 2004	MP John Herron (Fundy-Royal)	Parliamentary subcommittee on post-secondary education and research, federal election
April 27, 2004	Council of Ministers of Education of Canada Post-Secondary Education Co-ordinator Robert Patry	Transfer payments, income contingent loan repayment schemes, loan maximums
April 29, 2004	Advisory Committee on International Students and Immigration	Post-graduate work in Canada for international students, off-campus work, priority visa processing, new regulations for Education Agents
May 3-4, 2004	Council of Ministers of Education of Canada/Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development summit on student financial assistance	Tuition fees, income contingent loan repayment schemes, personal savings schemes
May 6, 2004	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Director of Corporate Policy and Planning Christian Sylvain and Policy Analyst Garth Williams	SSHRC transformation process

Appendix II - Media

2003/11/26	Canadian University Press-Ottawa	Paul Martin's record on post-secondary education funding
2003/12/11	Chronicle of Higher Education	Food banks on campus
2004/01/14	Toronto One	Turnitin.com
2004/01/14	Globe and Mail	Turnitin.com
2004/01/15	National Post	Early intervention programs
2004/01/15	CanWest	AUCC-Federation letter to Prime Minister
2004/01/15	Montréal Gazette	Turnitin.com
2004/01/15	CBC Radio Saskatchewan	Turnitin.com
2004/01/15	940 AM News	Turnitin.com
2004/01/15	CBC Radio Montréal	Turnitin.com
2004/01/15	CJAD FM News	Turnitin.com
2004/01/15	IT Business	Turnitin.com
2004/01/15	CTV News	Turnitin.com
2004/01/15	CTV Newsnet	Turnitin.com
2004/01/16	Court TV online edition	Turnitin.com
2004/01/16	Brock Press*	Food Banks on Campus
2004/01/16	Saskatchewan Broadcast News	Education tax credits
2004/01/20	Excalibur*	Turnitin.com
2004/01/22	Globe and Mail	Individual return on post-secondary education

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Appendix II - Media

2004/01/26	Western Gazette	Food banks on campus
2004/01/28	CJSR FM	Tuition fees, federal funding
2004/02/01	CBC Radio Calgary	UBC Maclean's ranking
2004/02/02	Kwantlen Chronicle*	Speech from the Throne
2004/02/02	Ottawa Citizen	Speech from the Throne
2004/02/03	Canadian University Press-Ottawa	Speech from the Throne
2004/02/03	McGill Daily*	Speech from the Throne
2004/02/04	Broadcast News	Tuition Fees – Day of Action
2004/02/04	Charlatan	Tuition Fees – Day of Action
2004/02/04	CBC Radio Halifax	Tuition Fees – Day of Action
2004/02/04	Broadcast News	Tuition Fees – Day of Action
2004/02/04	CanWest	Tuition fees, federal funding
2004/02/04	Global TV	Tuition fees, federal funding
2004/02/04	Gauntlet*	Speech from the Throne
2004/02/16	CKDJ FM	Student loan repayment
2004/02/18	CanWest	Elimination of grants in BC
2004/02/24	CJAD AM	Tuition fees, federal funding
2004/03/17	CBC Newsworld	2004 federal budget
2004/03/22	Eyeopener*	2004 federal budget
2004/03/23	CJOB AM	2004 federal budget
2004/03/23	Toronto Star	2004 federal budget
2004/03/23	Chronicle of Higher Education	2004 federal budget
2004/03/23	CBC Radio	2004 federal budget
2004/03/23	Charlatan*	2004 federal budget
2004/03/23	CanWest	2004 federal budget

2004/03/23	Ubysssey*	2004 federal budget
2004/03/23	CFRB AM	2004 federal budget
2004/03/24	Montréal Gazette	2004 federal budget
2004/03/24	Globe and Mail	Student living conditions
2004/03/24	Muse*	2004 federal budget
2004/03/24	CTV Newsnet	2004 federal budget
2004/03/24	CJSR AM Radio	2004 federal budget
2004/03/28	Broadcast News	Bankruptcy Challenge
2004/03/31	Ottawa Sun	2004 federal budget
2004/04/26	CanWest	Statscan Report on Student Debt
2004/04/26	Broadcast News	Statscan Report on Student Debt
2004/04/26	CFRA AM Radio	Statscan Report on Student Debt
2004/04/26	Globe and Mail	Statscan Report on Student Debt
2004/04/26	CKTB AM Radio	Statscan Report on Student Debt
2004/04/26	CJUM FM Radio*	Statscan Report on Student Debt
2004/05/04	CTV	Student loan bankruptcy prohibition
2004/05/11	CJOH (CTV) Ottawa	Strategies for increasing youth voter turnout
2004/05/11	CJAD AM Radio	Strategies for increasing youth voter turnout
*student media		

