

National Executive **report**

November 23, 2005 to May 23, 2006

du 23 novembre 2005 au mai 23 2006

rapport de l'exécutif national



Canadian Federation of Students
Fédération canadienne des étudiantes et étudiants

Letter to the Members



Dear Members,

We are pleased to submit for your consideration the semi-annual report of the National Executive. The last six months have been an exciting period of growth and evolution for the Federation.

The national landscape has shifted substantially since the November general meeting. Most significantly, the federal government has changed hands, making it the first Conservative government in over thirteen years. Early indications suggest that access to post-secondary education is not a priority for Prime Minister Stephen Harper. It is up to all of us to change that.

This fall we will celebrate a quarter century in student solidarity through our Federation. Grassroots campus organising and cooperative student-owned and operated services are the cornerstones of our successful movement. These efforts have served our members well and, as you will see in this report, there are ongoing campaigns and services developments that strengthen this work for the future.

As a result of the hard work of member locals from coast to coast, the Federation remains well-positioned to advance the fight for a post-secondary education system that is of high-quality and affordable to all. We look forward to building an even stronger movement in the months ahead.

The National Executive

May 2006

Table of Contents

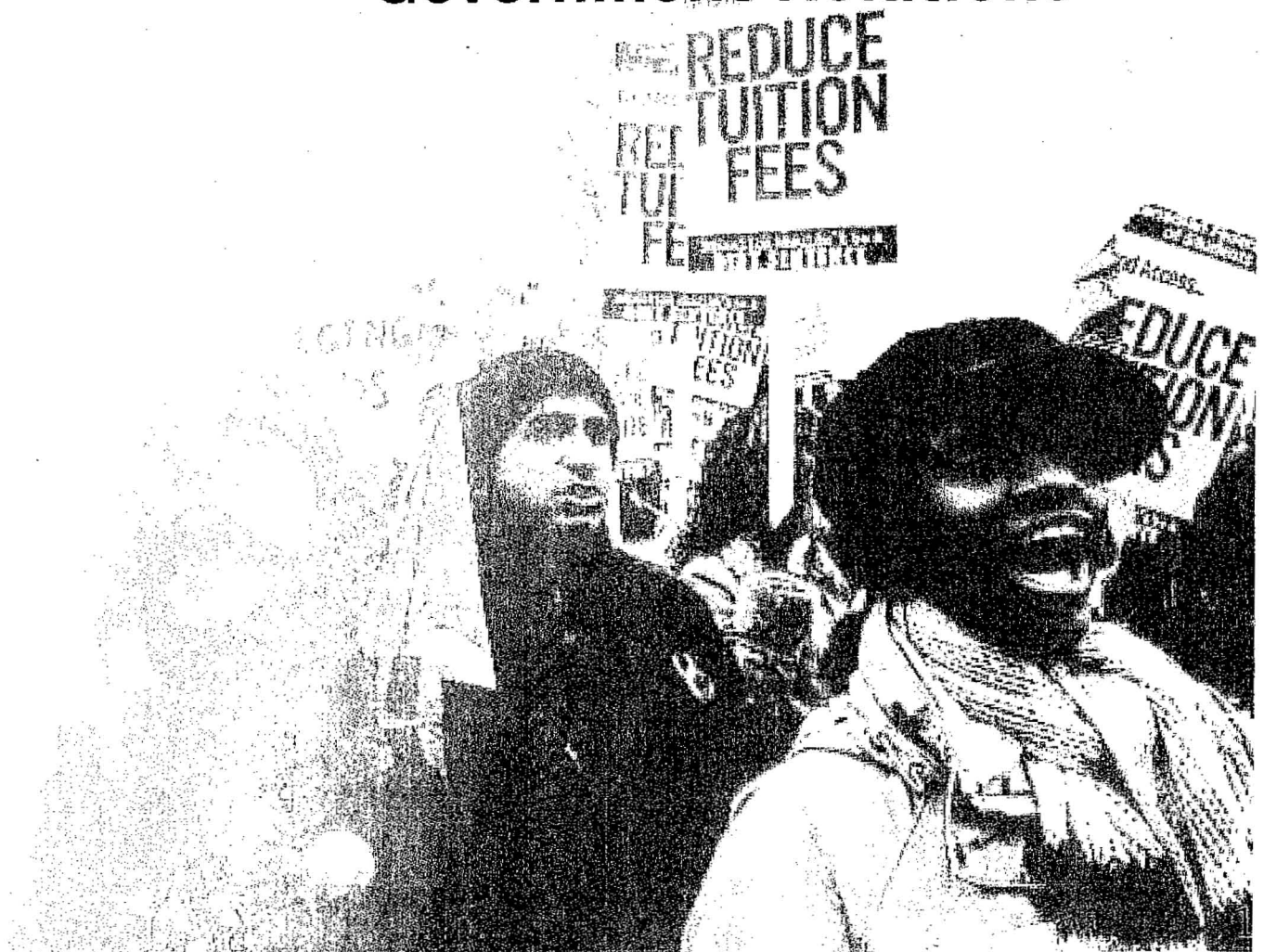
▶▶ Letter to the Members	i
▶▶ Campaigns and Government Relations.....	1
2006 Federal Election Campaign.....	2
2006 Federal Budget Process	4
Federal Funding For Post-secondary Education.....	9
Student Financial Assistance.....	10
General Agreement on Trade in Services.....	13
Department of Human Resources and Skills Development	15
Renewal of the Copyright Act.....	16
Academic Integrity in University Research	17
International Students.....	20
Public Education Network	21
Canadian Opinion Coalition	22
Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences	23
Canadian Consortium for Research	24
▶▶ Solidarity Work.....	25
Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada.....	26
Common Frontiers.....	27
Canadian Council for International Cooperation.....	27
Campaign 2000.....	27
Campaign to "Make Poverty History"	28
International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group.....	29
▶▶ Communications	31
2006-2007 Member Local Communications Kit.....	32
Students' Union Directory	32
Website	33

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Table of Contents

▶▶	Services.....	35
	Discount Programme	36
	National Student Health Network	39
	2006-2007 Handbook Project	43
	Student Union Website Service	45
	Student Work Abroad Program	47
▶▶	Internal Affairs.....	49
	National Executive	50
	Federation Staffing	50
	Federation National Congresses	51
	Legal Affairs.....	51
	Office	54
▶▶	Membership Development	55
	New Members	56
	New Prospective Members	56
	Current Prospective Members.....	56
	Other Membership Issues	57
▶▶	Finances	59
	Introduction.....	60
	Membership Fees	60
	Services Income and Expense	60
	Fund Allocations.....	61
	Third Party Election Advertising Report.....	62
	Membership Fee Issues.....	62
	2004-2005 Audited Statements.....	63
	2006-2007 Budget	63
▶▶	Appendix I - Meetings with and Submissions to Government.....	I
▶▶	Appendix II - Media Activity.....	III

Campaigns and Government Relations



25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Campaigns and Government Relations

2006 Federal Election Campaign

Election Website: VoteEducation.ca

The Federation's online election resource for students, VoteEducation.ca, was launched in the summer of 2003. It has since been used to post information about organising efforts for elections in three provinces—Ontario, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador—and for the 2004 and 2006 federal elections.

In spring 2005, the site underwent extensive re-modelling. It was given a new look and several campaign and communication tools were added, including: "eCards"; an online fax generator; a sign up list for students to receive campaign updates; and a database of the voting records of members of parliament on issues of importance to students.

For the 2006 federal election campaign, the site featured the Federation's first podcast. The Federation commissioned TV personality Rick "the Temp" Campanelli to interview National Chairperson George Soule on student issues in the federal election.

As with previous election campaigns, the site served multiple purposes. As an educational resource, it provided background information for voters about federal funding, student financial assistance, university research, and specific information for Aboriginal students, students with disabilities, and part-time and international students. The political parties' responses to the Federation's questionnaire were posted as a resource for campaigners and voters. Information on the voting process, including links to Elections Canada's riding database, was also posted on the website.

The Federation made numerous resources available for downloading from the site including: fact sheets, sample questions for candidates, and radio ads. Member locals could also learn about other campus organising efforts across the country via the online events calendar.

The site was promoted primarily by member locals and coalition partners through links on their websites. The site's address was also featured prominently on all of the election campaign materials produced by the national office. The Federation purchased advertising on Rabble.ca and through the Google web search engine to gain greater visibility beyond member campuses.

Nationally Televised Town Hall

The Federation was contacted in early December 2005 by the Cable Public Affairs Channel (CPAC) and encouraged to co-ordinate a national town hall meeting for candidates on the issue of post-secondary education to be broadcast by CPAC. The Federation agreed, and on December 22, representatives from the major federal parties met to discuss and debate student financial aid, federal transfer payments, student debt, and improving the quality of post-secondary education. The event was held at the University of Toronto before a crowd of students, staff, and faculty members from local university and college campuses. CPAC's Kent Rockburn moderated the discussion and questions were asked from the audience.

The Liberal Party representative and incumbent MP Mark Holland did not attend the event. However, the content of the debate was comprehensive, as the participating candidates had been well-briefed about their respective parties' visions for post-secondary education.

The event helped the Federation publicise student issues during the election campaign. CPAC aired the show in French and English throughout the month of January 2006 leading up to the election.



25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Campaigns and Government Relations

Campaign Materials

Campaign Kit

A Campaign Kit was produced and distributed at the November 2005 national general meeting. The Kit provided campaigning tips, an overview of federal post-secondary education issues, and sample questions for local candidates.

Report Card and Platform Analysis

Following the release of the parties' platforms, the Federation published a "Party Report Card" that assigned a letter grade to each of the platforms based on their commitment to improving accessibility and the quality of post-secondary education.

Throughout most of the election campaign, the Conservative Party neither admitted nor denied that Income Contingent Repayment (ICR) student loan schemes would be part of a Conservative government's post-secondary education strategy. Before the Canadian Alliance and Progressive Conservative Parties merged to form the Conservative Party in December 2003, the Alliance was a strong proponent of lifelong student debt under income contingent repayment. In the 2000 federal election campaign, income contingent repayment for student loans was the only education policy advocated by Alliance Leader Stockwell Day. Throughout both the 2004 and 2006 campaigns, several Conservative candidates made specific references to ICR on their websites and in public remarks. For this stealthy commitment to ICR, the Federation assigned the Conservatives an "F".

However, in the final days of the

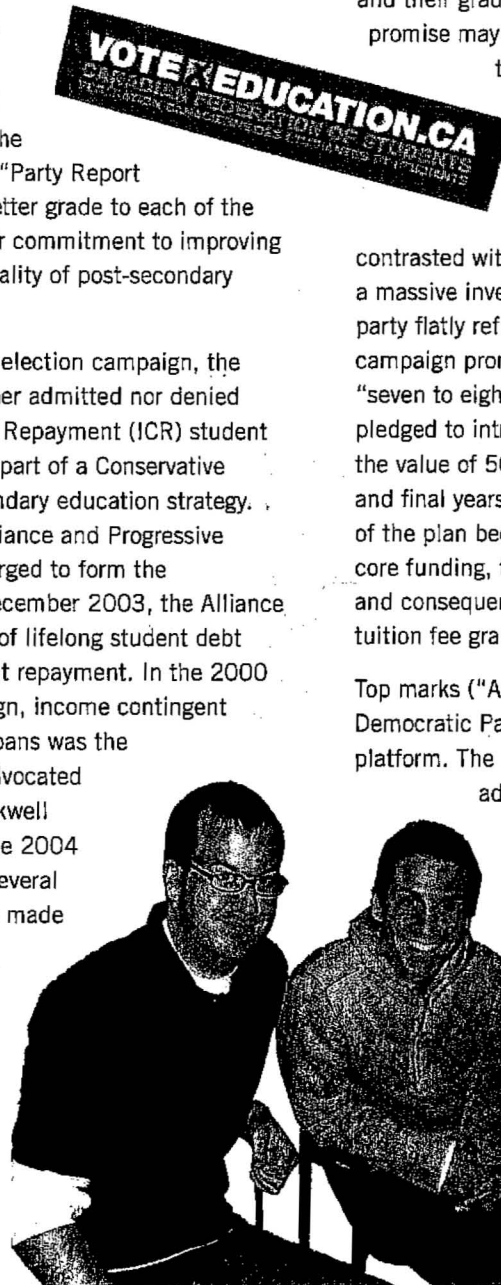
campaign, the Conservative Party headquarters submitted responses to the Federation's questionnaire that included a soft promise to reject ICR. The Federation contacted the Party and informed the communications branch that if a more firm rejection were put into writing, the Conservatives' grade would be revised. Party officials subsequently submitted stronger language, and their grade was elevated to a "C -". This written promise may prove useful in future campaigns if the Conservative government reverts to its ICR plans.

The Liberal Party received a "B -" for its dismal record on post-secondary education and research, contrasted with its 2006 campaign promise for a massive investment in grants. Although the party flatly refused to uphold Paul Martin's 2004 campaign promise to increase core funding to "seven to eight billion dollars", the Liberals pledged to introduce a grant for students equal to the value of 50 percent of tuition fees in the first and final years of study. The Federation was critical of the plan because, without the restoration of core funding, tuition fees would continue to rise and consequently undermine the value of any partial tuition fee grant.

Top marks ("A -") were assigned to the New Democratic Party's post-secondary education platform. The NDP was the only party that advocated a role for the federal government in reducing tuition fees by restoring transfer payments to the provinces. The NDP's grade also reflected its ability in the previous minority parliament to achieve \$1.5 billion for tuition fee reductions.

Other Materials

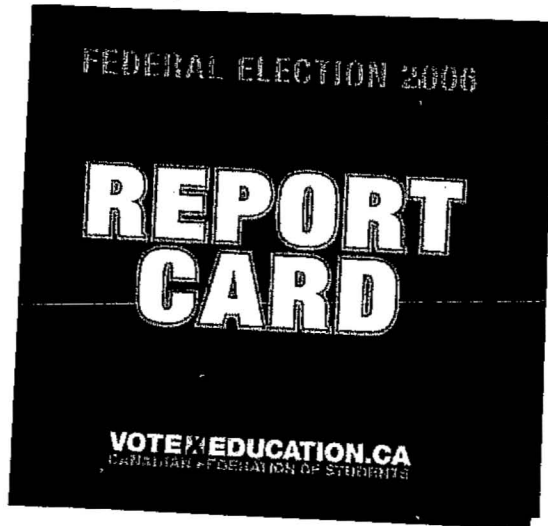
A folded leaflet with a summary of the platform analysis was produced for distribution on



25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Campaigns and Government Relations

campus. Delivery was delayed in some regions because of problems with the printing company. Stickers, pens, and presentation folders with the VoteEducation.ca logo were also produced for use by member locals.



Meetings with Elections Canada

Leading up to the election call in November 2005, the Federation sought a meeting with Elections Canada officials to propose a collaborative project to boost student voter turnout. Elections Canada staff were slow to respond and were reluctant to make any commitments to a national strategy. Instead, they insisted that the Federation communicate with local returning officers who were authorised to hire "youth outreach officers" on a part-time basis to, in part, liaise with students' unions. Elections Canada officials also refused to make any arrangements from their national office to secure polling stations on campuses and instead appeared content to rely on part-time, inexperienced individuals to run a decentralised campaign to promote student voting.

Representatives of the Federation and from the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec (FÉUQ) and Fédération étudiante collégiale du Québec (FÉCQ) met with Elections Canada officials on December 20 to again attempt to develop a national strategy. Some gains were made in bringing

polling stations to campuses, but no comprehensive strategy was agreed upon.

The Federation will be contacting Elections Canada in the coming weeks with the objective of developing a plan for a collaborative student voting strategy for the next federal election.

MuchMusic Coverage

Federation representatives were invited to appear on MuchMusic's election night coverage. Members were invited to participate in the audience, federation representatives were interviewed, and many musicians and media personalities wore Reduce Tuition Fees buttons on television.

2006 Federal Budget Process

Submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance

Before the 2006 federal election, the Federation was invited to submit a brief to the Standing Committee on Finance. The Federation's submission identified a number of priorities, including: increasing the low-income grant and creating a system of needs-based grants, increasing core federal funding to lower tuition fees, increasing Aboriginal participation in post-secondary education, and re-allocating the funding for tax credits and the Registered Education Savings Plan to up-front grants. Each of the Federation's recommendations were cost accounted and supported by Canadian and international data.

In November 2005, the Liberal government unveiled a pre-campaign Economic and Fiscal Update, or "mini-budget". The update included commitments for new investment in post-secondary education; however, the defeat of the Liberal government and subsequent election of a Conservative minority effectively nullified the document. The commitments to new investments were not included in the Conservative government's May 2006 budget.

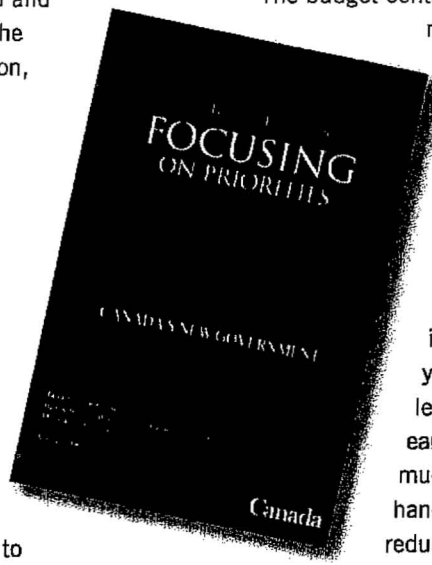
25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Campaigns and Government Relations

April 2006 Pre-Budget Consultations

During April 2006, the Conservative government scheduled pre-budget consultations outside of the all-party Finance Committee, as was also the occasional practice of the previous government. The Federation and other civil society organisations were invited to meet with Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and Parliamentary Secretary Diane Ablonczy on April 19.

Federation representatives illustrated how an effective national system of needs-based grants could be established and completely funded by scrapping the Millennium Scholarship Foundation, the Canada Education Savings Grant, and most of the federal government's post-secondary education tax credits. Although Finance Department officials seemed anxious to learn where cuts could be made, they were less responsive to the Federation representatives' emphasis on the fact that students and their families have been subjected to severe funding cutbacks for the last decade, and that new, focused spending on access to post-secondary education is long overdue.



2006 Federal Budget

As in previous years, the Federation was invited to participate in an advanced reading of the federal budget immediately prior to its tabling in the House of Commons on May 2, 2006. Immediately following the "lock up", Federation representatives scrummed national and regional media on Parliament Hill with other civil society organisations. A detailed membership advisory was prepared by the national office and circulated on the Federation's listserve on May 9.

The Conservative government's first federal budget introduced a number of initiatives to restructure

the role of the federal government vis-à-vis the provinces and to replace state social benefits and programmes with reduced taxation—a signal that their goal is to reduce the role and size of the federal government.

The tax cuts and debt reduction payments in the 2006 budget exceed social program investment by an alarming two-to-one margin over the next two years. Furthermore, the government has announced its intention to cut over one billion dollars from operating departments in the coming year.

The budget contained even more tax cuts than most pundits had predicted. A total of more than \$20 billion was spent on cutting taxes, including eliminating capital taxes on corporations and reducing the Goods and Services Tax. Unfortunately, most Canadians will see little relief or assistance from the tax cuts; an individual earning \$30,000 per year will pay approximately \$300 less in taxes, whereas individuals earning over \$100,000 will pay as much as \$1,987 less. On the other hand, most Canadians will encounter reduced social benefits and programs as a result of reduced government funding.

This budget sends some signals that the Conservatives are keen to establish a smaller federal government, withdrawing it from areas of joint responsibility with the provinces. The tax cuts introduced in the 2006 federal budget are so extensive that there is a real danger of sustained cuts to program spending in order to maintain the Conservative's preferred policy initiative: reduced taxation. Public remarks by the Prime Minister and Finance Minister emphasise the pressing need to relieve the supposed "over taxation" of Canadians. Never have they communicated the same zeal for improving access to post-secondary education. Such a fixation on drastically cutting taxes indicates

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Campaigns and Government Relations

that increased funding for post-secondary education is unlikely under this government, which will create upward pressure on tuition fees across the country.

Rethinking Federal-Provincial Relations

The budget addendum entitled "Restoring Fiscal Balance in Canada" outlined the division of powers in the federation as defined by the Constitution Act, 1867. The government argued that federal and provincial roles should be better defined, as overlapping jurisdictions result in confusion and reduced accountability.

In a move to reduce its own responsibilities, the Conservative government suggested that previous governments have been too intrusive in areas of provincial responsibility (e.g. social programs, education) and did not focus enough spending in areas of core federal jurisdiction (e.g. defence, security, immigration).

Over the next year, the federal government will be reshaping its role in post-secondary education vis-à-vis the provinces:

"In relation to post-secondary education and training, the Minister of Human Resources and Social Development will also undertake consultations with her provincial and territorial counterparts with a view to identifying appropriate roles and responsibilities for each order of government in support of post-secondary education and training. These consultations will serve as the basis for the development, within the next year, of proposals by the Government for long-term federal support for these priorities."

Already this consultative announcement has led some pundits to suggest that the federal government intends to download its role in post-secondary education and encourage the provinces to experiment with such regressive initiatives as Income Contingent Repayment student loan schemes. It is very likely that, given the overall tone of this budget, the federal government will

be reluctant to introduce or uphold any kind of national standards to improve the quality of or access to post-secondary education.

Federal Transfer Payments and Core Funding

Despite massive federal surpluses over the past several years and another surplus this year, Budget 2006 does not increase core funding for post-secondary education. Although it is difficult to calculate precisely the amount cut from transfers for post-secondary education during the past decade, provincial governments estimate the annual reduction of federal funding to be \$4.9 billion. These cuts have created a climate in which tuition fees more than doubled in all provinces except Québec and Newfoundland and Labrador. As a direct result, access to universities and colleges has been severely compromised and quality has declined.

Leading up to the 2006 federal budget, the government was forecasting a surplus of \$17.4 billion in 2005-06 and \$17.8 billion for 2006-07. Conservative tax cuts reduced the anticipated surpluses to \$8 billion and \$3.6 billion respectively, and the Conservatives have since committed all budget surpluses to further reducing the national debt, which is already among the lowest debts in the world. The Conservatives have also failed to create a dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, breaking their promise from the 2006 federal election.

C-48: NDP 2005 Budget Amendment

In the previous parliament, the New Democrats brokered a deal with the governing Liberals to amend the 2005 federal budget to add \$1.5 billion in funding for post-secondary education.

Although the Conservatives' 2006 budget claims to uphold that commitment, a closer look reveals a betrayal of the spirit of Bill C-48. Whereas the Liberal/NDP budget amendment committed to funding "for supporting training programs and enhancing access to post-secondary education, to benefit, among others, Aboriginal Canadians,

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Campaigns and Government Relations

an amount not exceeding \$1.5 billion"; the Conservative budget allocated only \$1 billion to a fund to "enhance universities' and colleges' infrastructure and equipment...as well as related institutional services."

In this light, the budget removed the heart of C-48: affordability. It is of course acknowledged that years of federal funding cuts have had a negative impact on the physical condition of Canada's universities and colleges; however, pitting equality of access against deferred maintenance is callous policy-making. This new allocation may also be part of a larger move to focus the federal role in post-secondary education toward research and development, relegating issues of access to the provincial governments. Furthermore, restrictions dictate that money will only flow under the auspices of Bill C-48 in the event of a federal surplus of at least \$3 billion, a much less likely scenario now than had been previously anticipated given the substantial tax cuts brought in by the 2006 budget.

Taxation

The staggering level of tax cuts in the 2006 federal budget leaves very little room for unforeseen changes in the economy. According to the *Globe and Mail*, even a one percent rise in interest rates could put the federal government into a deficit position because of the massive reduction in government revenue.

The 2006 budget instituted over two-dozen tax cuts that will ultimately do little to benefit post-secondary students. Those cuts forfeit resources that could have easily and responsibly been directed toward universities and colleges to reduce tuition fees.

The Conservative Party's 2006 federal election platform was thin on policy ideas for student financial assistance. Only minor tax changes were proposed, and students were promised nothing in the way of up-front assistance. In that vein, the 2006 federal budget lives up to its minimal expectations.

The federal budget ends the taxation of scholarships, bursaries, and grants. Prior to 2000 when the Federation exposed the inadequacy of the Millennium Scholarships, these monies were taxable over \$500. At that point, the federal government increased the threshold to \$3,000 (the average Millennium Scholarship amount). The elimination of all taxes on scholarships will have no impact for most students, because the average grant is less than \$3,000, and thus would not have otherwise been taxed. Effectively, this tax cut only applies to graduate student research grants and exceptional need or merit-based grants.

In the case of graduate students receiving Canada Graduate Scholarships (the most generous federal research grants for students), the elimination of the tax will save Master's students an average of \$1,500, and PhD students will save approximately \$4,000 in federal income tax. However, the majority of graduate students do not qualify for federal research grants. Thus, although select students will be able to keep the full amount of their grants, federal policy still ignores the financial needs of most graduate students. Additionally, the Conservative government has eliminated the 50 percent increase in the number of Canada Graduate Scholarships that was announced in the November 2005 Economic and Fiscal Update.

Stephen Harper's first budget also introduces a non-refundable income tax credit for textbooks of \$65 per month for full-time students and \$20 for part-time students. This tax credit will be available to all students, and is transferable to their parents or spouses. Because it is a non-refundable credit, the net benefit for a student enrolled full-time for eight months will be a reduction in their tax payable of \$80, less than the cost of one average textbook. However, because most students' incomes are not high enough to have any tax payable after claiming their tuition credits, very few students will actually derive any benefit from this initiative.

Although the Liberals championed tax credits as a form of student financial aid while in government, in a news release following a meeting with

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Campaigns and Government Relations

Federation representatives on April 6, prior to the federal budget, Liberal Human Resources Critic Geoff Regan said: "tax credits and exemptions aren't the right approach to student assistance because they don't help lower and middle income students with tuition costs up front". He added that loan increases for middle-income students will "likely be eaten up by tuition hikes".

The Federation welcomed the Liberal Party's about-face on the issue of student assistance, and will work with all opposition parties to advance alternatives to the inadequate measures introduced in Budget 2006.

University Research

The 2006 federal budget has been characterised as a "bad news budget" by the university research community. Organisations, such as the Canadian Consortium for Research and the Canadian Association of University Teachers have harshly criticised the budget.

The federal budget increases the base budgets of the research granting councils—NSERC and SSHRC—by only two percent. Taking inflation into account, which is expected to be at least three percent as measured by the Consumer Price Index for 2006, this constitutes a cut to federal research funding.

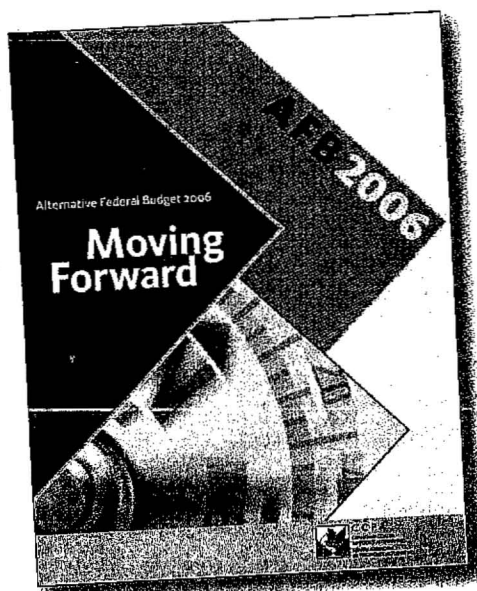
The federal budget expands the annual funding for the indirect costs of research for the fourth year in a row. This program will grow by more than fifteen percent in 2006 to \$300 million annually. Unfortunately, university presidents have not chosen to use this funding to relieve the upward momentum of tuition fees.

Of the \$100 million being directed toward the federal research agencies, the Social Sciences and

Humanities Research Council received only \$6 million. By contrast, \$60 million was allocated to the Canadian Foundation for Innovation and the Indirect Cost of Research Program.

Perhaps most noteworthy under the research section of the federal budget is the pledge to conduct a "value for money" review of the granting councils' activities. This review must be considered in the context of the latest report from the Expert Panel on the Commercialisation of University Research, which argues for new research initiatives such as the creation of a commercialisation

advisory body, student fellowship programs oriented to commercialisation, and the development of a "commercialisation superfund". While in opposition, Conservative MPs regularly belittled many university research projects based simply on a project's title. The Federation will work closely with its coalition partners to ensure that the government's response to this report does not serve to attack the integrity of Canadian research.



Canada Student Loans Program

No fundamental changes to the Canada Student Loans Program were included in the federal budget.

A minor change was made to the Canada Student Loans Program needs-assessment by lowering the "expected parental contributions". As a result, it will be easier for students from some middle-income households to qualify for a CSL. This is a positive change, especially since it could allow some individuals to participate in post-secondary education who could not otherwise secure a student loan.

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Campaigns and Government Relations

2006 Alternative Federal Budget

Since 1996, the Federation has been an active participant in the Alternative Federal Budget (AFB) project. First released in 1994, the AFB was developed by CHOICES, a social justice coalition based in Winnipeg, and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. The AFB addresses priorities such as reducing government debt through a progressive taxation system, rebuilding Canada's social safety net and national standards, protecting the environment, and achieving full employment.

In light of the short period of time between the January election and the May federal budget, the 2006 AFB was streamlined to concentrate on the healthy fiscal capacity of the federal government and the importance of maintaining the gains in social program investment made in the last parliament.

The Federation was once again invited to write the post-secondary education chapter of the AFB. The 2006 chapter focused on the need to restore core transfer payments to the provinces for post-secondary education that were cut in the 1990s. The chapter also emphasised that future student financial assistance in Canada must avoid the pitfalls of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation's characterisation of "income" versus "need" and, instead, that the federal government should establish a national system of needs-based grants through the Canada Student Loans Program to complement the existing low-income grant program introduced in 2004.

The AFB was launched at a press conference on April 27, 2006 and is available online from www.policyalternatives.ca.

Federal Funding For Post-secondary Education

"Competing for Tomorrow" Post-Secondary Education Summit

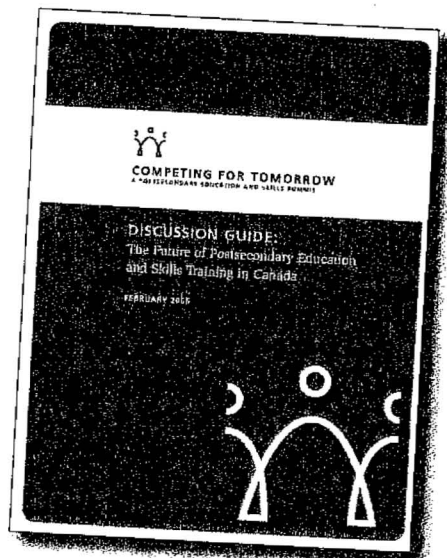
The Council of the Federation is comprised of the premiers of Canada's ten provinces and the three territorial leaders. The Premiers created the Council in 2003 with the intent of discussing issues of

common concern and bringing forward joint recommendations to the federal government. Since their annual meeting in August 2005, the premiers and territorial leaders have used the Council several times to demonstrate consensus about the need for more federal support in a variety of areas, including post-secondary education.

After their August 2005 meeting, the Council of the Federation's communiqué called for meetings between federal and provincial governments, as

well as the post-secondary education community. Subsequently, a one-day Summit was scheduled for February 24, 2006.

In preparation for the Summit, the Federation worked with the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec (FÉUQ) and Fédération étudiante collégiale du Québec (FÉCQ), faculty, and labour organisations to organise a press conference on February 23, 2006. The united call for the creation of a dedicated transfer payment, including the full reinvestment of the \$4.9 billion that has been cut from federal transfers, received significant media attention. It was also very effective in setting the tone for the Summit. In fact, Jean Charest acknowledged the \$4.9 billion shortfall in his opening remarks; something the Premiers had not done up to that point.



25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Campaigns and Government Relations

The Premiers described the Summit as an opportunity for post-secondary education stakeholders to help “form a vision for a strategy in this vital area, a plan that will reflect our country’s regional diversity”. Faculty representatives, students, staff representatives, university presidents, senior civil servants, corporate executives, and advocates for higher tuition fees such as Education Policy Institute staff, representatives from the Millennium Scholarship Foundation, and Bob Rae, were all invited.

The Summit itself was organised in a similar manner as other recent government-initiated consultations, in which participants were divided into smaller groups and discussions were moderated by a facilitator who had been instructed to limit conversation to specific issues. The moderator was also responsible for ensuring that discussions were reported back to the larger group. By organising in advance with the FÉUQ and the FÉCQ, the Federation was able to ensure that at least two representatives from the three student federations were in each of the breakout groups.

The majority of the moderators tried to avoid discussing federal funding and tuition fees. However, the most widely supported demand during the group report to the general assembly was for the federal government to introduce a dedicated transfer for post-secondary education and to increase the amount of its cash transfer by \$4.9 billion. The second most reported demand was for a national strategy to reduce tuition fees. This was particularly significant given that the Summit organisers had specifically excluded these issues from all but two of the breakout groups.

The Summit was a success for the Federation, both in terms of setting the tone of the Summit’s public conclusions and in terms of persuading the other stakeholders that federal re-investment in transfer payments, including tuition fee regulation, was needed.

Meeting with Liberal HRSDC Critic Geoff Regan, MP

On April 6, 2006 the Federation met with Geoff Regan (Liberal, Halifax West), the critic for Human Resources and Social Development Canada. The meeting was also attended by MP Michael Savage (Liberal, Dartmouth—Cole Harbour), the Chair of the Liberal Post-Secondary Education and Research Caucus.

Regan and Savage were provided with recent polling data compiled by the Federation that demonstrated the deterrent effects of high tuition fees. Federation representatives highlighted the dangers of income contingent repayment for student loans and briefed Regan about the failures of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation (MSF). Despite being an experienced MP from the province with the worst record of MSF funding abuse (Nova Scotia), Regan was unfamiliar with any of the cases of provinces misusing the grants.

Federation representatives agreed to work with Regan to pressure the Conservative government to follow through on their promise of a dedicated transfer payment as well as the post-secondary education measures introduced in the fall 2005 Economic and Fiscal Update (the “mini-budget”).

Student Financial Assistance

Selection of the Canada Student Loans Program Service Provider

After the departure of the chartered banks from Canada Student Loan lending and disbursement in 2000, the Government of Canada assumed the role of lender. It subsequently contracted out the disbursement and collection of student loans. After a bidding process in 2000, Edulinx Canada was granted the contract for the provision of student loans at public institutions and the contract for private institutions was awarded to BDP Inc. These contracts, the public portion of which pays the contractor over \$268 million, expire in July 2007.

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Campaigns and Government Relations

The federal government is tendering applications for a new CSLP service provider until May 31, 2006, at which point it will begin evaluating contract applications.

A notable difference in the design of the 2006 CSLP Request for Proposals is the consolidation under a single contract of loan services for students at public and private institutions. Both Edulinx and Resolve Corp. (formerly BDP Inc.) have indicated interest in submitting bids. In addition to administering the public portion of the CSLP, Edulinx administers all student loans to students in public institutions.

Details of the Request for Proposals (RFP)

On February 24, 2006, the federal government issued the Request for Proposals for the service provision contract of the Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP). There are two specific provisions of note outlined in the RFP. The first is an 80% "Canadian Content" requirement for potential bidders. The second stipulates "all work must be performed in Canada, by a company incorporated in Canada". A clarification has been sought as to the meaning of these stipulations. The Federation has also inquired as to what data protection measures, if any, have been changed in the 2006 RFP from its predecessor.

Throughout the process for awarding the next contract, the Federation will be in contact with the departments that are responsible for this outsourcing: Human Resources and Social Development Canada and Public Works and Government Services Canada. The Federation will work to ensure that it is consulted in the service provider selection process, as in 2000.

Privacy and the US Patriot Act

Along with continued privatisation of the delivery of the CSLP, the Federation has concerns about the privacy of students' personal information. The Federation has specific concerns about the application of the United States Patriot Act to CSLP contractors. The Act empowers the U.S. government

to seize data, including personal information, from U.S. corporations without public disclosure of the seizure. As has been previously reported, Edulinx was sold by CIBC to a U.S. corporation called Neinet on December 1, 2004.

Federation representatives have met on several occasions with representatives from the CSLP to express concerns about student loan holder privacy. In July 2005, an Access to Information request was filed by the Federation to ascertain what threats to personal privacy had been identified by the Department of Justice. Most of the documents the Federation received had been blacked out as a result of loopholes in the Access to Information Act. Although most of the documents were unreadable, it was clear from the available information that the government has identified potential risks to CSLP borrowers' privacy under the Patriot Act.

Edulinx Service Advisory Council

Semi-annually, Edulinx hosts a consultation as per its current contract with the federal government. The Federation attended the most recent stakeholder meeting on March 3, 2006 in Mississauga. At the meeting, Edulinx representatives reviewed operations since the last update in June 2005. Given that the Request for Proposals for the next CSLP contract had recently been issued, and Edulinx was in the process of developing a bid for the contract, much of the meeting was spent by Edulinx emphasizing their efficiency and with discussion of new initiatives that are being developed for the future.

Edulinx representatives reported that the number of applications received for Interest Relief (IR) had been increasing. Senior management pointed out that, in response to ongoing pressure from the Federation, Edulinx had begun to ensure that all students who reported difficulty making payments on their loans were made aware of IR. Previously, in the initial screening for IR, students were first advised of the option of a 15-year amortisation period before being advised of the IR option. Edulinx claimed that all students are currently

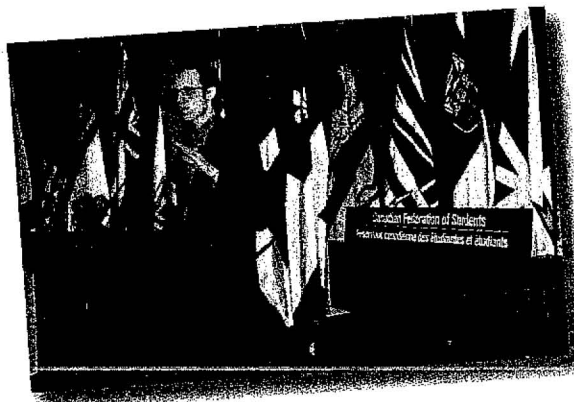
25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Campaigns and Government Relations

informed of the IR program. This is important because IR is a substantial government program that pays a borrower's interest, whereas the option of 15-year amortisation merely extends the life of the loan and increases the overall cost of borrowing.

EduLinux management also provided an update on the technological retrofit they are implementing for the "backbone" of their operations. The process began in spring of 2005 and is expected to be complete by February or March of 2007. They have also started to test online loan applications in Alberta, where the provincial government has plans to implement paperless loan disbursement.

EduLinux is in the early stages of developing one-time authentications, through which students would sign a single promissory note at the time they receive their first loan that would cover all subsequent public loans. Federation representatives argued that this could result in a lack of transparency and accountability. Furthermore, the representative from the Canadian Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators agreed with the Federation that increased core funding is needed for post-secondary institutions to ensure that sufficient staff are available in financial aid offices on campus to provide personal assistance to students.



Campaign Against Student Loan Bankruptcy

On June 3, 2005, the federal government tabled legislation to change the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act as it pertains to student loans, among other things. Under the proposed legislation, students would be prohibited from declaring bankruptcy for a period of seven years as opposed to the current ten-year ban. This proposal contradicted virtually all of the expert testimony heard by both the House of

Commons and Senate in reviewing the student loan bankruptcy prohibition.

As previously reported, the report by Industry Canada's Insolvency Task Force recommended that the bankruptcy prohibition be reduced to five years. A Senate Committee report issued in 2003 described the ten-year prohibition as "too harsh", and also called for the prohibition to be reduced to five years, with access to a hardship hearing after the first year. The Senate Committee's proposed hardship hearing was limited to a very narrow set of circumstances including permanent disability, chronic disease, or other health catastrophes.

The proposed legislation offered no access to such a hearing.

Debate on the legislation began on November 3, 2005 with a presentation by Liberal Industry Minister David Emerson. The legislation was subsequently "fast-tracked" and passed by Parliament on

November 21. The reduced student loan bankruptcy prohibition is not yet in effect, but should be in place by fall 2006 following Senate review. The Federation will follow up with Alexa McDonough (NDP-Halifax) and Wilfred Moore (Liberal Senator)—parliamentarians who have previously tabled student-friendly bankruptcy legislation—about further reducing the prohibition period.

Millennium Scholarship Foundation Research Conference

On December 13 and 14, 2006, the Millennium Scholarship Foundation hosted a workshop with the stated purpose of discussing barriers to post-secondary education and the effectiveness of policies designed to alleviate them. In addition to the Federation, participants included federal and provincial bureaucrats, university and college

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Campaigns and Government Relations

administrators, faculty members, financial aid administrators, and staff of the Education Policy Institute (EPI), an U.S.A based think tank.

The Foundation promised in-depth discussion on access to university and college. Various presentations were made about studies that investigated barriers to post-secondary education. These were followed by a discussion about some of the issues and questions that participants felt had not been addressed.

Longitudinal studies were presented from both Canada and the United States. The American studies were much more comprehensive and, in some cases, included decades worth of data. All of the available research pointed to socio-economic background as a strong indicator of whether students would have access to and whether they would complete a post-secondary education. In spite of this proven link, a number of the presenters, especially the Foundation and the EPI, downplayed the barriers created by high tuition fees.

A presenter from the EPI stated that parental education was one of the most salient indicators of academic achievement. He was forced to acknowledge that parental education was directly linked to parental income; however, he refused to concede that family income must therefore have a significant effect on access to university and college.

Another study, which consisted of a survey of students at Canadian colleges, demonstrated that all students with debt are "significantly worried" about what they owed. It also found that cost played a "significant" role in the choice of post-secondary program and that cost was cited as one of the main reasons that students choose to suspend or terminate their studies. Despite the evidence collected in his own survey that cost was a significant factor in accessibility, the researcher from Mohawk College cited insufficient information about the benefits of a post-secondary education and a lack of proper institutional student services as the main barriers to post-secondary education.

Federation representatives highlighted the results of the research that clearly pointed to financial barriers as the prime determinant of accessibility. It was also stated that while the discussion of other issues was not invalid in the context of a comprehensive plan for improving access, it was disingenuous to ignore the effect of financial barriers for the sake of focussing on secondary issues.

Although the workshop proved to be another example of the Foundation's campaign for higher tuition fees and student debt, it was also clear that the Foundation's goal is to extend its mandate beyond 2009. While discussing future research initiatives, all of the Foundation representatives noted repeatedly that in order for the work to be completed, the Foundation's life would have to be prolonged.

The Federation was not alone in noting the dismissal of the significance of financial barriers. Some of the representatives from various institutions as well as a researcher from the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission noted the bias of the workshop and questioned the Foundation representatives on their position. Most participants expressed the belief that the Foundation's efforts to extend its mandate was in vain; the Foundation's ineffectiveness had already been widely publicised and it would be wound down, as originally planned, by 2009.

General Agreement on Trade in Services

World Trade Organization Meetings

The bi-annual ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) was held December 12 to 18, 2005. The Federation, in concert with the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), was part of the official non-governmental delegation to the meeting. As an official delegate, the Federation had access to all of the main areas of the meeting and the country and media briefings.

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Campaigns and Government Relations

In addition, the Federation presented a paper on the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and its potential effects on public post-secondary education at the adjacent summit organised by social justice organisations.

The meeting was labelled a "development" round with the main focus supposed to have been the needs of the poorest countries. However, it quickly became clear that the developed countries, led by the European Union, New Zealand, Australia, the United States, and Canada, were only interested in discussing liberalised trade. In particular, the EU exerted considerable pressure on developing countries to open their "markets" to foreign management of their municipal services, health care, education, banking, and telecommunications. Developing countries have thus far been unwilling to even discuss liberalising trade in services.

Prior to the meeting, the WTO Secretariat circulated a draft of a new agreement, "Annex C", to be added to the main WTO framework. Annex C would move the WTO away from a universal system of bilateral trade negotiation practices and toward a plurilateral system, wherein multiple countries negotiate simultaneously. Critically, Annex C contains compulsory language that would require countries to enter into negotiations whenever requested by other member countries. The standard of plurilateral negotiations creates the likelihood that greater pressure would be levied on countries that are hesitant or resistant to liberalise trade. Under the proposed agreement, developing countries would have no choice but to expend time and resources rebuffing demands for trade pacts.

The compulsory nature of the annex made it unpopular with most developing countries. Opposition was led by Brazil, Venezuela, South Africa, and the Philippines. In the end, a highly diluted version of Annex C was submitted to the final plenary in brackets, indicating that there was not a consensus on the wording. The compromise was presented to avoid the embarrassment of a total collapse in talks, as occurred in Seattle in 1999, and more recently in Cancun.

Despite considerable pressure, the developing countries refused to consider liberalising trade in services without considerable concessions from the developed countries on agricultural subsidies and tariffs. The world's least developed countries were well-prepared for the meeting and, much to the frustration of the world's richest countries, organised themselves into a block with the informal title of the G90. The main complaint of the G90 was that the agricultural markets of Europe and North America were all but closed to the agricultural products of the developing world.

Despite the impasse on Annex C and agricultural subsidies, there was also discussion of the privatisation of education. Under the terms of Annex C, countries that form a block for negotiations in a particular sector are called "friends of the sector". It was confirmed that there is now a friends of education group comprised of the United States, New Zealand, and Australia. Canadian delegate chief Don Stephenson stated Canada was not a member of the group and had no plans to join. It is likely that the "friends of education" will begin pushing Annex C for the next ministerial meeting to ensure that their demands for trade in education "services" cannot be ignored. The weak consensus reached in December resulted in a series of meetings being called for spring 2006 in Geneva. The WTO Secretariat hopes to build on the negligible progress in December to strengthen the wording of Annex C and explore ways to convince developing countries that they should accept expanded trade in services.

Trade and Investment Research Project

The Trade and Investment Research Project (TIRP) is a consortium of organisations that meet quarterly to review international trade agreements and the global literature devoted to analysing them. The Project is currently one of the world's key sources for research critical of international trade agreements. It has funded research focusing on the effect of trade agreements in a range of sectors, including healthcare, postal services, and primary and secondary education, which have

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Campaigns and Government Relations

prompted formal responses from governments and the World Trade Organization (WTO). The project operates under the auspices of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and is composed of approximately 25 members, including the Federation.

On March 9, 2006, Federation representatives attended a TIRP meeting in Ottawa that reviewed recent international trade meetings and those upcoming throughout the remainder of the year. There was a discussion on how the WTO negotiations have intensified to focus on generating a deal as of early 2007. Plurilateralism may have the effect of isolating some member countries and is designed to make countries go further and faster in liberalising certain sectors. Many of the services identified as targets for greater liberalisation include financial, engineering and architecture, legal, computer-related, construction, audio visual, environmental, telecommunications, energy, maritime transport and air transport. There was also some speculation that, overall, the new federal Conservative government will be similar to the Liberal government in terms of promoting liberalised trade policy.

One of the plurilateral requests moved by New Zealand on behalf of Australia, Chinese Taipei, Malaysia, and the United States sought a commitment from countries to support private education. The request also suggested that the search for a universal definition of "public" and "private" was futile and that governments should avoid seeking to define public and private. The request demonstrated a number of ways that countries can commit to supporting trade in education and liberalisation of the education "market". The Federation has argued that Canada should not negotiate education through GATS, because to do so would invite threats to Canada's public education system.

Department of Human Resources and Skills Development

International Policy Research Symposium

The Federation attended a government conference on post-secondary education policy issues on January 9, 2006. Hosted by the department of Human Resources and Skills Development (HRSD), the conference featured speakers from governments of four countries: Finland, Australia, South Korea, and Ireland. Surprisingly, the speakers represented countries that have a diverse approach to post-secondary education. This was a welcomed change from the one-sided conferences hosted in the past by the Millennium Scholarship Foundation.

Unfortunately, the European speakers were not asked to speak about their zero tuition fee policies. Instead, the Irish and Finnish speakers were invited to talk about monitoring quality, and the rationalisation of the polytechnic (applied college degree) programs, respectively. The federal government chose to have the speaker from Australia, Colin Walters, discuss the recent reforms to the Australian post-secondary education system, including their ICR program, called the Higher Education Contribution Scheme. This was a particularly disturbing move by HRSD, given that the reforms in Australia have moved their system toward being among the least student-friendly of any OECD country. If the federal government intends to follow Australia's lead, it would mark a substantial shift towards reduced accessibility through higher tuition fees and deeper student debt.

In response to the Federation's query about the longer repayment rates and larger debts of Maori graduates since ICR was implemented in Australia, Walters denied knowledge of discrepancies in repayment rates across class or ethnicity.

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Campaigns and Government Relations

Renewal of the Copyright Act

Background

The federal Copyright Act has been undergoing review to respond to the effects of new digital technology. The review of the Act was undertaken largely as a result of the availability of copyrighted works on the Internet.

Through the Canadian Recording Industry Association (CRIA), large movie and music labels have conducted an aggressive campaign to protect their profit interests by lobbying for increased restrictions and surveillance of Internet activities through the use of technological protection measures (TPMs). As part of its campaign to win new restrictive measures to curb access to the Internet, CRIA has targeted students as culprits of unlawful file-sharing. In response, the Federation has been opposing revisions to the Act that overly favour the interests of the recording industry. The Federation argues that the Internet offers new opportunities to share public knowledge and thus any revisions to copyright legislation need to ensure reasonable public access to the Internet.

Bill C-60: An Act to Amend the Copyright Act

In June 2005, Bill C-60, An Act to Amend the Copyright Act, was tabled. Although the bill included significant improvements from previous recommendations, it remained skewed in favour of the restrictions advocated by the recording and software industry. Little protection was secured in the bill to ensure access to educational materials. However, the 38th Parliament did not have the opportunity to vote on the bill and it died on

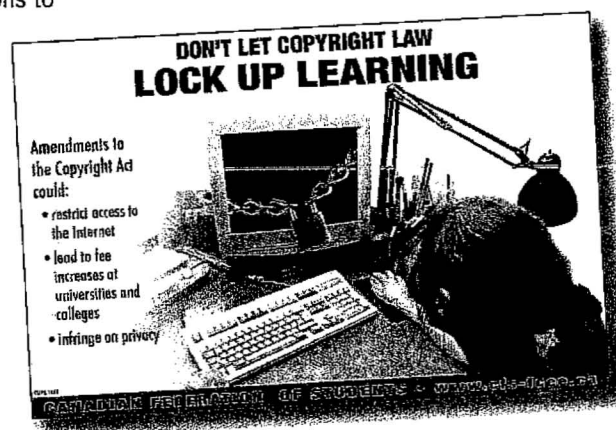
the order paper with the defeat of the Liberal government.

Copyright Forum

As part of its campaign activities, the Federation participates in the Copyright Forum, a network of national organisations concerned about educational issues with respect to copyright law. Members include the Canadian Association of University Teachers, the Association of Universities and Colleges in Canada, the Canadian Libraries Association, the Canadian Teachers' Federation, and the Canadian Association of Research Libraries.

On February 21, 2006, the Forum hosted a special meeting to discuss opportunities in the educational community to work together on approaches to educational exceptions in future legislation. In anticipation of new amendments to

the Copyright Act with the new government, representatives have been preparing to advance the most unified demands possible to effectively voice the needs of the educational community. Participants of the meeting discussed the merits of expanding the



rights of educational users within various clauses of the Act. University administrators and ministers responsible for post-secondary education continue to press for limited exceptions for educational access in the Act, favouring instead to limit the potential liability of university administrators from copyright infringement claims. The Federation, librarians, faculty, and advocates for the public argue that broader access rights ought to be enshrined in the Act through its fair dealing clause. The clause currently allows users to make single copies of portions of copyrighted work for narrow

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Campaigns and Government Relations

categories of use, including "research and private study".

Lobbying Efforts

In April 2006, Heritage Minister Bev Oda announced that the federal government would be introducing new copyright legislation, likely in the fall session. It is believed that drafting of the legislation will commence sooner than the fall. Oda publicly stated that the primary intent of new legislation would be to ratify two World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) treaties that would significantly alter Canada's approach to digital rights management and anti-circumvention measures for digital works. These treaties regulate the kind of restrictions that distributors can impose on access to digital works. It is anticipated that draft legislation would include exceptions for educational use of the Internet. While the Federation has supported the intent of educational exceptions, it has argued, along with many of its coalition partners, in favour of addressing educational exceptions by expanding the fair dealing clause of the current Copyright Act.

The Federation has sent letters to the two ministers responsible for the Copyright Act, Bev Oda (Heritage Canada), and Maxime Bernier (Industry Canada), to outline the Federation's position on copyright legislation. These letters also requested that the Federation be involved in consultations on new legislation. In addition, letters outlining the Federation's concerns were sent to Members of Parliament including Charlie Angus (NDP, Timmins-James Bay, Heritage Critic), Mauril Bélanger (Liberal, Ottawa-Vanier, Heritage Critic), Jean LaPierre (Liberal, Outremont, Heritage Critic), Brian Masse (NDP, Windsor West, Industry Critic), Mike Savage (Liberal, Halifax-Dartmouth, Chair of the Liberal Post-Secondary Education Caucus), and Denise Savoie (NDP, Victoria, Education Critic). In April, a template letter was circulated for member locals to send to Members of Parliament. Meetings will be sought with Oda and Bernier, as well as with other members of the Heritage and Industry Committees.

On May 8, the Federation signed an open letter to the federal government in coalition with the Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic, the Canadian Library Association, the Canadian Association of University Teachers, the Public Interest Advocacy Coalition, and other public interest organisations outlining concern for the threats to individual privacy rights posed by the use of digital rights management and legal protection measures. The letter outlined how these could be used to monitor and collect information about individuals' browsing habits and use of works on the Internet.

Academic Integrity in University Research

The Federation's Whistleblowers campaign seeks protection for university-based researchers who expose misconduct, including that which results from corporate interference in research. The increasing commercialisation of university research, promoted by various federal government programs, poses serious threats to research integrity in Canada. Students are currently provided with little or no protection in defending the integrity of their research from commercial manipulation. The Federation's Whistleblower fact sheet has been updated to include recent cases of Canadian students who have exposed research misconduct.

The Case of Christopher Radziminski

In 2004, the Federation was approached by a former graduate student from the University of Toronto, Christopher Radziminski, who sought support to expose research misconduct by his supervisors. Radziminski, who received public funds from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) for his master's work, alleges that his supervisors plagiarised his research in two journal articles without his knowledge or consent and that they manipulated his research results. Having received threats of a defamation suit from the University after attempting to contact

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Campaigns and Government Relations

the journals, Radziminski is working with the Federation in calling for legislation to protect academic whistleblowers in Canada.

Since January 2005, when the Federation retained legal counsel to assist with Radziminski's case, correspondence with the University of Toronto and NSERC has yielded few results. Calls for a formal investigation into research misconduct were ignored, and Radziminski was barred from giving testimony at an inquiry into the matter held by the Faculty of Engineering in fall 2005. Further, NSERC has stated that it "has no mandate to protect whistleblowers".

In addition to requesting an investigation at the University of Toronto, Radziminski pursued allegations against one of his supervisors at Indiana University. In August 2005, the University of Indiana's Office of Research Compliance initiated an inquiry into Radziminski's allegations. Unlike the informal and cursory review process undertaken by the University of Toronto, Indiana University performed a systematic inquiry and investigation into his complaints, which included the opportunity for Radziminski to provide information and testimony. The Federation provided both legal support and research to Radziminski throughout the process. On April 18, 2006, after the conclusion of the investigation, the Office of the Provost confirmed that the supervisor had engaged in wrongdoing with respect to both publications. The supervisor has been directed to write formal letters of apology to Radziminski and the other students listed

as authors on the articles and to copy the letters to both journals.

Correspondence with Water Research and Applied & Environmental Microbiology

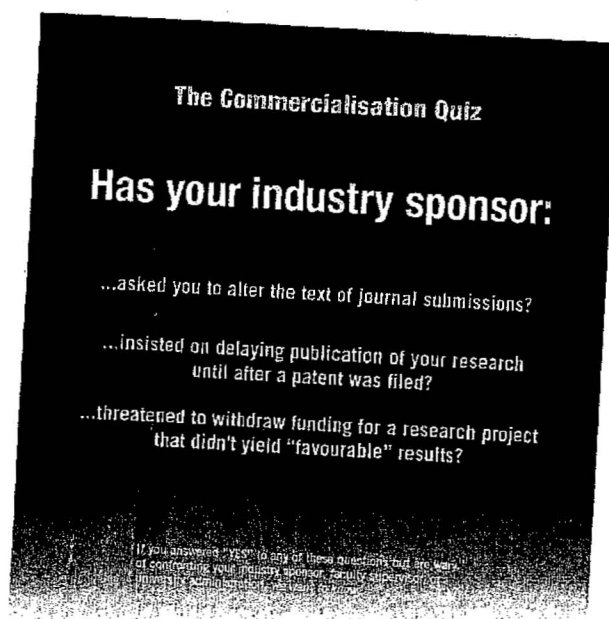
In January 2006, the Federation secured an agreement from the Water Research journal to retract one of the articles in question. The details of the retraction proposed by the editor of Water Research and accepted by Radziminski include publishing the reason for retracting the article and prohibiting the supervisor from publishing in the journal for two years.

The Federation will continue to seek a retraction on Radziminski's behalf for the article published in Applied & Environmental Microbiology.

Research Misconduct in Warton, Ontario

In addition to the research misconduct arising from his Master's thesis, Radziminski is also working to expose the false dissemination of research results from an experiment testing chlorine dioxide as an alternate disinfectant in the Town of Warton's water distribution system. Despite numerous complaints by Warton residents regarding the odour and taste of the water, research results portrayed

the experiment as a "novel success", explicitly stating there were no complaints from residents. Health Canada is currently referencing these manipulated results to update their drinking water quality guidelines. In October 2005, Radziminski submitted a report to Health Canada to expose discrepancies in the research, providing evidence acquired through Freedom of Information



25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Campaigns and Government Relations

requests. The Federation has requested three times (July 2005, October 2005, April 2006) that NSERC undertake an investigation of the Wiarton experiment based on significant discrepancies between the academic reporting and evidence obtained through Freedom of Information requests.

The winter 2006 edition of the National Graduate Caucus newsletter, *Standpoints*, included an article on the alleged research misconduct in the Wiarton experiment. The newsletter has been circulated to concerned citizens in Wiarton who have provided positive feedback of the Federation's efforts in exposing the case.

On March 28, 2006, the Federation met briefly with Maude Barlow, National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians, to alert her of the research misconduct allegations associated with the Wiarton drinking water experiment. Barlow expressed concern and interest about Radziminski's discoveries and requested that the Federation provide her with more information to review the case.

Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee of the Canadian Association of University Teachers

The Federation was invited to speak to the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) regarding the case of Christopher Radziminski. On March 3, 2006, the Federation reported to the Committee on its efforts supporting Radziminski's case. Support was solicited from the Committee to lobby for whistleblower protection in the federal Accountability Act for researchers funded by the granting councils. The committee also discussed possible avenues through which the CAUT could support the Federation's efforts to expose alleged research misconduct on the drinking water experiment in Wiarton. The committee concluded that it was supportive of the case and since that time, the CAUT has written a letter to NSERC supporting the Federation's request for an investigation into the University of Toronto's ethical framework.

Meeting with Dr. Suzanne Fortier, President, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council

On April 11, 2006, the Federation met with Dr. Suzanne Fortier, the new President of NSERC, and Isabelle Blain, Vice-President of Scholarships and Awards, to present the Federation's concerns about the lack of whistleblower protection for university researchers and NSERC's dismissive responses to Radziminski's complaints. Federation representatives presented a letter to Dr. Fortier outlining the significant shortcomings in NSERC's response to Radziminski's complaints, and specifically, that NSERC had informed the Federation that it was satisfied with the results of the cursory investigation undertaken by the University of Toronto in fall 2005 and that complaints related to the Wiarton experiment continued to be ignored. Concern was also expressed that NSERC was not fulfilling its public duty to uphold the highest standards of research excellence, and that students in Canada lacked protection for defending research integrity.

It was explained by NSERC representatives that there are restrictions surrounding the types of complaints to which it may respond. Federation representatives were informed that inquiries regarding complaint procedures should be directed to the NSERC corporate secretary. It was noted that it had been close to a year since the Federation initiated correspondence with the President's Office of NSERC, and that this was the first time that the Federation was encouraged to contact the corporate secretary. NSERC representatives agreed to deliver the most recent letter from the Federation on this matter to the office of the corporate secretary. The Federation has yet to receive any response.

Campaign For Federal Whistleblower Protection For University Researchers

Meeting with Brian Masse, MP

On April 25, 2006, the Federation met with New Democrat Member of Parliament Brian Masse (Windsor West) to discuss protection for academic whistleblowers and the renewal of the Copyright

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Campaigns and Government Relations

Act. In his position as NDP critic for Industry Canada, Masse is responsible for policy analysis of both the federal granting councils and legislation pertaining to intellectual property.

Masse was provided with the Federation's fact sheet on whistleblowers and academic freedom. Federation representatives cited the case of Chris Radziminski as an example of the lack of sufficient regulation to protect disclosure of wrongdoing at universities. It was stressed that whistleblower protection is an especially timely issue given that Bill C-2, the Federal Accountability Act, could incorporate protection of university researchers. Although Masse assured the Federation that foundations, including the Canada Foundation for Innovation, would be considered in C-2, he was skeptical that the Act covered any aspect of the federal granting councils, and therefore would not protect university research integrity.

Masse was also briefed on the Federation's position regarding the educational exemptions and fair dealing in the Copyright Act. Masse indicated that his party's Heritage critic, Charlie Angus, was taking the lead on the Copyright Act amendments, but that he was working closely with Angus because the legislation also affects Industry Canada. He requested more information and suggested that Copyright Act amendments might not be tabled until the fall.

Meeting with Paul Dewar, MP

On May 1, 2006, the Federation met with New Democrat Member of Parliament Paul Dewar (Ottawa Centre) to discuss the elements of whistleblower protection in the Accountability Act. It was communicated that the Federation is seeking protection for university researchers in the Act. The Federation explained the lack of whistleblower protection in the granting councils' ethical guidelines, and feedback was sought on the possibility of including granting councils in C-2. Dewar expressed interest and support for the Federation's initiatives to seek whistleblower protection for university researchers. He added

that the granting councils were not covered in the Conservative's legislation, and that it would be difficult to add them as it appears the government will attempt to fast-track the bill with little opportunity for amendments or public consultation. He said that a committee had recently been struck to review the Act, and that there was an overwhelming majority of Conservative MPs represented on the committee. Dewar stated that he would examine the possibility of including whistleblower protection for university researchers under Bill C-2, and encouraged the Federation to follow-up with NDP MP Denise Savoie (Victoria), the party's Education Critic.

The Federation has been added to the list of potential witnesses to appear before the House of Commons Standing Committee reviewing Bill C-2.

National Guidelines for Intellectual Property

The Canadian Association of University Teachers shares the Federation's concerns over the implications of the commercialisation of research for intellectual property rights. In March 2005, the CAUT and the Federation sought a legal opinion on intellectual property rights for students and faculty. Upon reviewing a first draft of the legal opinion, it was clear that there was little case law to guide either organisation's position on intellectual property matters in joint research projects. In March 2006, the Federation and the CAUT agreed to create a joint task force to review and develop policy recommendations to be considered by the two organisations.

International Students

The Federation holds the only student seat on the Advisory Committee on International Students and Immigration (ACISI). ACISI meets twice yearly and provides Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) with recommendations on policy pertaining to international students. Participation on the Advisory Committee allows the Federation to ensure that the student perspective is considered when regulations pertaining to the internationalisation

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Campaigns and Government Relations

of education are being discussed. Additionally, membership on ACISI helps the Federation keep informed of developments in federal immigration policy, regulations, and programmes. It also further strengthens the voice of the Federation when lobbying the federal government on immigration issues that affect international students.

At the most recent meeting on April 5, 2006, discussion focused on the federal initiative to allow international students to work off-campus. This initiative was first announced in early 2005 by the Liberal government, but final implementation was delayed when the government fell in November 2005. In April 2006, it was finally implemented across the country.

As previously reported, the new federal policy includes two programmes. The first allows international students at public degree-granting post-secondary institutions to work off-campus. The second extends the period that university and college graduates can work in a position related to their field from one to two years. A significant shortcoming of this reform is the exclusion of the two-year work permit extension for students who studied or wish to work in the Metropolitan Community of Montréal, the Greater Toronto Area, and the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

Students who qualify for the new initiatives still require a work permit, but are able to apply for one without having to obtain a labour market opinion from Human Resources and Social Development Canada, an onerous process for both the student and employer.

With respect to the extension of the post-graduation work term, the majority of the committee, including the Federation, reiterated that by excluding Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver, the government was denying the right to work off-campus to the majority of international students. Government representatives maintained their initial position that although students in those cities would not automatically be granted a two-year work visa after graduation, they could still apply for one-

year extensions to their visas. The government representatives also stated that the intention was to encourage international students to study in smaller communities with the hope that they would settle in those areas and encourage future immigration. Other committee members joined the Federation in arguing that this reasoning contradicts Canadian immigration policy, which screens out applicants who appear to be using the student visa as a back door to immigrate permanently to Canada.

The April meeting also heard from representatives from New Zealand who discussed their policies regarding international students. The presentation was similar to the one delivered by representatives from Australia in April 2005. New Zealand views post-secondary education not as a public service but rather as an "export industry". The New Zealand model has offloaded a great deal of the cost, and much of the monitoring of the student visa program onto the educational institutions, who in turn pass the costs onto students through higher tuition fees. The Federation and the Canadian Association of University Teachers argued that the New Zealand and Australian models were not appropriate for Canada.

In the coming months, the Federation will take a more active role in the Committee, including taking part in sub-committee work, in order to make sure there is a clearer recognition by the Committee of the social benefits of international students studying in Canada.

Public Education Network

The Public Education Network (PEN) is composed of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), the Canadian Labour Congress, Québec labour and teachers' groups, la Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec (FÉUQ), the Canadian Teachers' Federation, and the Federation. The Network provides the Federation with a forum to exchange research and organising updates with partners in the education sector, as well as to strengthen coalitions with the labour movement.

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Campaigns and Government Relations

January 2006 Meeting

The January meeting was held the day after the federal election and provided Network members the opportunity to share information about their ongoing campaign efforts and to debrief on the election campaign. Québec organisations explained that the post-secondary education sector (students, staff, and faculty members) had achieved a consensus about the priorities and the level of required provincial financial re-investment. Québec representatives also noted that the newly elected Conservative Members of Parliament from Québec are political "lightweights," and that their lack of experience would not bring greater influence for Québec in the Conservative government.

April 2006 Meeting

In April, Network members shared frustration about the unwillingness of the new government to meet and discuss education issues. Each of the organisations reported that they had been unsuccessful at securing meetings with newly-elected cabinet members. The Network resolved that if the situation does not improve by the fall session, a joint strategy will be developed to ensure that members gain access to key ministers.

The meeting also discussed the importance of continuing to pressure the federal government to exclude public education from all international trade negotiations. The CAUT provided detailed updates on the most recent round of trade in services negotiations at the World Trade Organization. It was noted that the Canadian negotiating team had not received any new instructions from the Conservative government and, as a result, were still rejecting any trade proposal that includes education. This approach would likely change if the Conservatives were to form a majority government. The Network resolved to lobby provincial governments about trade negotiations scheduled for summer 2006 and to pressure the federal government to continue to exclude education from all trade negotiations. Briefing notes

will be developed for Network members to prepare for their meetings with provincial governments.

Canadian Opinion Coalition

In March 2001, the Federation joined the Canadian 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 of specific interest per poll, and members 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 major parties. In addition, members are kept abreast of public policy developments and the results of other major national and international polling.

A meeting of the coalition was held on February 26, 2006 in Toronto. The meeting focused on responses to questions about Canadians' trust in the Federation as a source of information on post-secondary education policy, provincial accountability standards for funding, and the impact of professional program fees on access. Responses to the questions asking about trusted sources of information on post-secondary education policy were favourable to the Federation. Among all groups listed, the Federation was the most trusted, at 61 percent. The Canadian Association of University Teachers received 60 percent approval and ministers responsible for universities and colleges received 40 percent approval. In questions about provincial accountability, 72 percent of respondents supported federal accountability standards for the provinces to qualify for funding. With respect to access to professional programs, one out of four people polled reported having decided not to attend a professional program in university because of cost. Women reported being priced out of professional programs at a higher rate than men, responding at a rate of 30 percent, as compared to men at 22 percent. Around 30 percent of people in lower-income households agreed that a professional program at a university

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Campaigns and Government Relations

is too expensive. The same percentage are "very concerned" about not being able to repay student debts.

Another Coalition poll was conducted in April 2006. The Federation's questions examined public views on the best policy mechanisms to improve access, and will be reviewed at a Coalition meeting in late May 2006.

Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences

National Dialogue on Post-Secondary Education and Research

The Canadian Federation for the Humanities and the Social Sciences (CFHSS) is an umbrella organisation for scholarly societies. On an annual basis, the CFHSS organises a congress that showcases social sciences and humanities research being conducted in Canada. Although the primary role of the CFHSS is to organise this scholarly meeting, it has also occasionally undertaken an advocacy role in Ottawa. Under the auspices of this work, the CFHSS organised a "National Dialogue on Higher Education," a symposium dedicated to topics in higher education.

The Dialogue, held November 27 to 29, 2005, brought together educators, administrators, students, and senior provincial and federal policy makers, for a series of discussions about the direction of post-secondary education policy. Several delegates represented the Federation, including some members of the National Executive and Federation staff.

Presenters included government officials and representatives of the media, such as Jeffrey Simpson (Globe & Mail) and Anne Dowsett Johnson (Maclean's). Students and faculty representatives were only invited to participate after pressuring conference organizers. The majority of speakers were government representatives

who avoided discussing government funding for post-secondary education. Disturbingly, increased commercialisation of research and the need for increased corporate funding of post-secondary education were recurring themes throughout the dialogue. Alarming absent from the dialogue was a critical analysis of the growing disparity in government funding between science and social science research.

Only the CAUT and the Federation discussed the need for increased federal funding to address the importance of accessibility and affordability. However, those messages were relegated to second-tier venues. For example, organisers scheduled CAUT Executive Director Jim Turk to deliver his speech during a wine and cheese the night before the official conference commenced.

Following the conference, concerns were raised by the Federation and other conference participants about the lack of diversity in the presentations and the blatant attempts by facilitators to minimise the number of questions that students were allowed to ask. Conference organisers at the CFHSS later conceded that the panels could have been more diverse and suggested that if another National Dialogue were convened, this feedback would be taken into consideration.

Affiliate Membership

The CFHSS has recently created the Affiliate Member category to open up membership in the organisation to national organisations with common goals. Affiliate membership includes access to publications and events, as well as participation in CFHSS general meetings. In March 2006, the Federation was invited to apply for membership in the CFHSS, and the Federation's membership application was subsequently accepted.

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Campaigns and Government Relations

Canadian Consortium for Research

The Canadian Consortium for Research brings together over 600,000 researchers, students, and practitioners from fifteen national organisations to lobby the federal government for increased funding for public research. The Consortium meets monthly and members regularly participate in lobby sessions with government officials. Member organisations of the Consortium include the Canadian Association of University Teachers, the Chemical Institute of Canada, the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies, the Canadian Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences, the Canadian Association of Physicists, and the Federation.

Meeting with Assistant Deputy Minister David Fransen, Industry Canada

On November 30, 2005, the Federation joined other Consortium representatives in meeting with Industry Canada Assistant Deputy Minister David Fransen. The purpose of the meeting was to present highlights from the Consortium's submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance. The meeting discussed the need for equitable distribution of funds to the granting councils. Fransen, as well as other aides, indicated no interest in increasing support for the social sciences and humanities, arguing that such disciplines did not contribute to the goals of Industry Canada. Such an attitude illustrates the inherent problems with housing the granting councils in the Industry portfolio, which is focused almost exclusively on commercial interests. Members of the Consortium addressed concerns over increasing pressure from Industry Canada to commercialise research and the absence of appropriate protection for academic whistleblowers in Canada.

Pre-Budget Activities

In order to introduce the concerns of the Consortium to the newly elected government, the

Consortium purchased an ad in the Hill Times in April 2006. The ad was an open letter to the government addressing the major concerns facing researchers in Canada. The Consortium requested a dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, increased and equitable distribution of the funds to the federal granting councils, and increased funding for government science research.

Until April 18, 2006, the federal government was accepting public submissions for input on the federal budget. The Consortium submitted a brief outlining the major concerns as detailed in the open letter.

Meeting with Maurizio Bevilacqua, MP

On May 15, 2006, the Federation and other Consortium representatives met with Liberal Member of Parliament Maurizio Bevilacqua in his capacity as critic for "Competitiveness and the New Economy." Bevilacqua was presented with the Consortium's submission to the 2006 pre-budget consultations and the news release that followed the tabling of the budget. It was discussed with Bevilacqua that the research community is eager to work with the opposition parties to continue the momentum achieved under previous parliaments with respect to research funding. Bevilacqua was also told that graduate students were disappointed that the Conservative budget did not follow through on the increases to graduate scholarships announced in the fall 2005 Economic and Fiscal Update.

Solidarity Work



25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Solidarity Work

It has been a 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 strengthened when members of other organisations also support the Federation's goals.

Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada

The Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada (CCAAC) advocates for high-quality, publicly-funded, and universally accessible child care. The Federation has been a member of the Association's board of directors for several years.

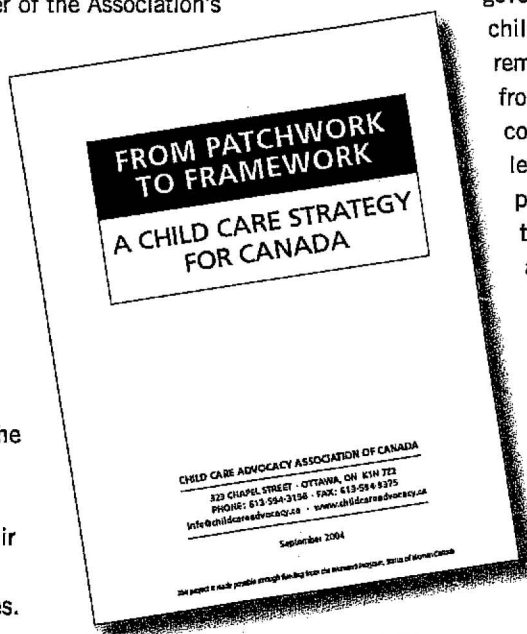
In the 2005 federal budget, the federal Liberal government committed \$5 billion over five years for new child care funding, and subsequently developed agreements on the allocation of funds to all ten provinces. The provincial governments and territories agreed to use the funds to begin a high-quality, affordable, community-based child care system, ensuring fair and effective income support programs for Canadian families, a national child care system. During the 2006 federal election, the Conservative party promised to develop an alternative program for child care, providing benefits amounting to \$1,200 per year per child under the age of six. The benefit, in the form of a tax credit, falls far short of the Association's vision as it does not actually create child care spaces and will only benefit primarily high-income families.

After the 2006 federal election, the new Conservative minority government announced that

it will cancel the existing agreements by 2007. In response, the Association launched the "Code Blue For Child Care" campaign, that included an online petition calling on the federal government to protect the progress made on child care in the 2005 federal budget. the campaign was launched at a rally in Ottawa on March 8, International Women's Day. On April 18, the Association made a submission to the federal government's pre-budget consultations, calling on the government to meet the commitment made in the 2005 budget to provide the provinces and territories with funding of at least \$1.2 billion annually.

Despite widespread public support for a national child care program, on May 2, the Harper government cancelled the child care agreements, thereby removing close to \$3.6 billion from what had previously been committed to early childhood learning and child care. In place of these agreements, the Harper government announced funding for a universal child care benefit that will provide \$1,200 a year to parents for each child under the age of six, taxable at the rate applied to the lower income earning spouse. In addition, only \$250 million was allocated for the creation of new

child care spaces across Canada, beginning in 2007. The Association has denounced Harper's funding model for child care because it lacks mechanisms to ensure accountability in child care spending, accessibility, or quality of child care services. The Association will continue to lobby the federal government to implement a viable plan for child care in Canada.



Common Frontiers

Common Frontiers is a working group of labour, human rights, environmental, ecumenical, development and economic, and social justice organisations, that advocates alternatives to the economic integration of the Americas through a combination of research, analysis and action. The Federation joined Common Frontiers in January 2001 and has participated on the Steering Committee since that time.

At the January 16 meeting in Ottawa, a series of guest speakers provided updates on current issues affecting the Americas. Jesus Arnaldo Perez, the Venezuelan ambassador to Canada, provided an update on the Social Charter of the Americas which developed as an alternative trade model to the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). The Charter emphasises human rights and social justice and outlines a path for eradicating poverty, inequity, and social exclusion in the hemisphere. Canadian author and filmmaker Avi Lewis spoke about the democratic workers' movement in Argentina and John Clarke of the Polaris Institute provided an overview of the threats to human rights posed by harmonising Canadian policy with that of the United States of America.

On February 27 and 28, Common Frontiers held a two-day visioning session to review its mandate. While the original mandate of the coalition was to focus on the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). Increasingly it appears that the FTAA will be superseded by bilateral agreements as the driving force for trade in the Americas. At this meeting, three working groups were struck, including a committee to review the internal structure of the organisation, one to review trade negotiations in the Americas, and one to review relations between Canada and the United States of America.

On March 16, a meeting was held with Common Frontiers Coordinator Rick Arnold to discuss the session and the role of the Federation in the coalition. Since significant student mobilisation

has been occurring in Latin America, it was agreed that the Federation would attempt to connect with the Latin American student movement through the hemispheric coalition networks that exist within Common Frontiers.

Canadian Council for International Cooperation

The Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC) is a coalition of Canadian non-governmental organisations working globally to achieve sustainable human development. The CCIC seeks to end global poverty and to promote social justice and human dignity. It undertakes research, advocacy, and lobbying on various federal policies and issues, including foreign aid, trade and poverty, peace, international food security, and public engagement. The CCIC was the key organiser of the Make Poverty History campaign over the past year, members include the Canadian Labour Congress, Oxfam-Canada, the World University Services of Canada, and the Sierra Club of Canada. In January 2006, the Federation was invited by the Council to join.

At its April 2006 meeting, the National Executive resolved to apply for membership in the CCIC because it provided the Federation with the opportunity to connect with several non-profit organisations engaged in national and international anti-poverty activities.

Campaign 2000

Campaign 2000 is a Canada-wide coalition working to build Canadian awareness and support for the 1989 all-party House of Commons resolution to end child poverty in Canada by the year 2000. Campaign 2000 was established in 1991 out of concern for the lack of progress in addressing child poverty. The coalition has adopted a non-partisan approach to urge all Canadian elected officials to keep their promise to end poverty for Canada's children. Every year, Campaign 2000 releases an

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Solidarity Work

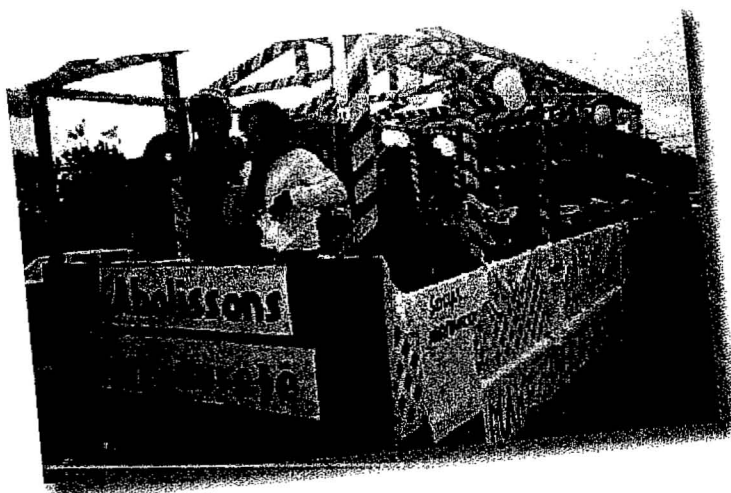
annual report that includes information on rising student debt in Canada and the need for a national strategy to reduce tuition fees. The Federation has been a member of Campaign 2000 since 2001.

On March 8, the Federation attended a Campaign 2000 meeting in Ottawa. The purpose of the meeting was for member organisations to provide updates on developments in their areas. Participants included representatives of the National Anti-Poverty Organization, the Canadian Council for Social Development, the National Association of Friendship Centres, and the Child Poverty Action Group. Updates focused on activities undertaken during the federal election and strategies for the minority Conservative government. There was general agreement that it was particularly important for Campaign 2000 to continue to campaign in support of the child care agreements signed by the federal and provincial governments.

On May 4, the Federation attended a Campaign 2000 Steering Committee policy discussion in Toronto. The focus of the discussion was on the federal government's fiscal and taxation policies as they relate to child and family poverty. The meeting analysed the 2006 federal budget and began to develop a strategy for to ensure that the elimination of poverty is a government priority. There was also discussion on the direction of Campaign 2000 and ways to build consensus among the various member groups. The meeting was, in part, an examination of whether Campaign 2000 was adequately responding to the trend towards greater government emphasis of taxation policy as a replacement for programs that promote social equality and poverty reduction.

Campaign to "Make Poverty History"

The Make Poverty History Campaign is the Canadian chapter of the "Global Call to Action Against World Poverty", an international initiative to eliminate poverty. The campaign's goals include securing increased federal funding for international aid, fair trade rules, debt cancellation for the poorest countries, and an end to child poverty in Canada.



The Federation is a member of the campaign's national steering committee. Members of the Steering Committee also include the Canadian Labour Congress, Engineers Without Borders, the National Anti-Poverty Organization, the World University Services of Canada, and a number of other social justice organisations in Canada. The Campaign was launched in January 2005 and has focused on both domestic and international activities that have implications for poverty throughout the world.

During the campaign, the Federation has worked with the steering committee to coordinate events on campuses during orientation week. Numerous member locals have distributed materials and coordinated anti-poverty events on their campuses.

The campaign dedicated a number of days called "White Band Days" throughout the 2005 year to

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Solidarity Work

highlight specific components of the campaign. The goal of the December 10 White Band Day was to focus attention on the World Trade Organization's sixth Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong and to call on developed countries to support demands for trade justice. Several member locals held educational workshops on international trade and organised concerts on campus to raise awareness.

During the 2006 federal election, members actively lobbied candidates to commit to eradicating poverty. At all-candidates debates organised by member locals, candidates were asked about their commitments to the goals of the campaign. Organisers successfully solicited commitments from 987 electoral candidates, including all party leaders and candidates of the New Democratic Party, Liberal Party, and Green Party, as well as 55 Conservative candidates and eight Bloq Québécois candidates. During the election, the Conservatives committed to bringing Canada's foreign aid spending in line with all other donor countries by 2010. They also promised to add a further \$425 million to Canada's foreign aid expenditure.

Leading up to the May 2006 federal budget, the campaign made a submission to the government's online pre-budget consultations and encouraged individual supporters to submit messages through the campaign's website. Unfortunately the Conservative government failed to uphold its commitments to reduce poverty and global debt in the federal budget.

While the Make Poverty History campaign was originally scheduled to conclude in December 2005, the steering committee resolved to continue the campaign for at least another eighteen months.

the impacts of Canadian security legislation on civil liberties and to collectively respond to threats to civil liberties. The Group has 32 members including the Canadian Association of University Teachers, the Canadian Bar Association, Amnesty International, and the Canadian Arab Federation. The Federation joined the ICLMG in April 2004.

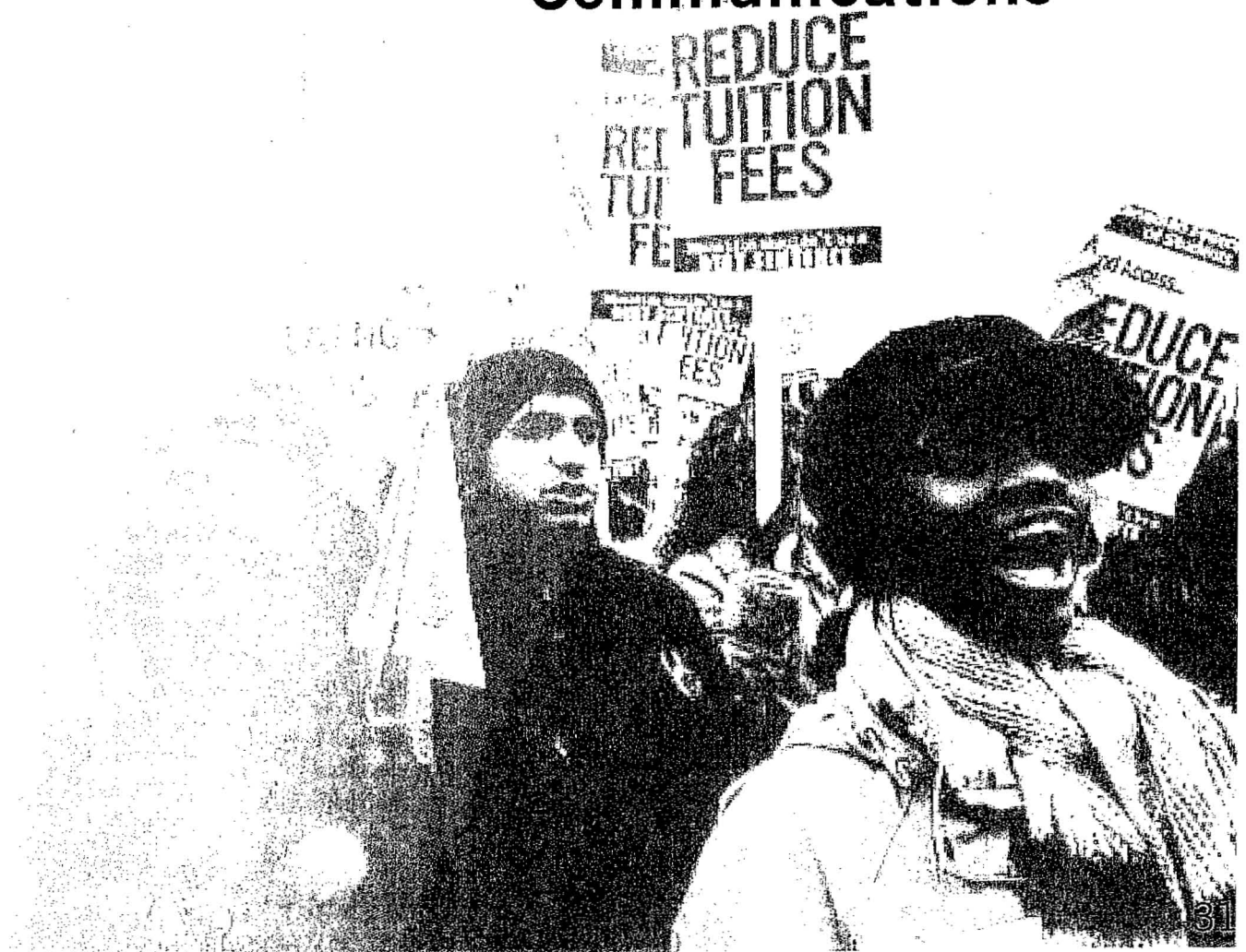
The work of the ICLMG continues to focus on the Parliamentary review of the Anti-Terrorism Act. The ICLMG argues that the current Act was ill-conceived and gives unnecessary powers of detention and surveillance to Canadian law enforcement agencies. The Group further argues that the Act is fundamentally flawed and must be repealed in its entirety, as existing criminal law already suitably protects Canadians from terrorism.

The Standing Committee of Justice Canada was unable to complete its review of the Act before the Liberals were defeated in December 2005. On May 18, 2006, the Standing Committee on Public Safety and Security struck a sub-committee to continue the review of the Anti-Terrorism Act. It is anticipated that the sub-committee may call new hearings, and the ICLMG could be called again to testify. The dissolution of the previous government also meant that a report to Parliament about the Act will be delayed until fall 2006. Since the election, the Senate has also re-constituted a special committee to continue a review of the Act.

International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group

Formed in 2002, the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group (ICLMG) serves as a venue for activist, faith-based, civil liberties, and social justice organisations to exchange information about

Communications



25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Communications

2006-2007 Member Local Communications Kit

The Member Local Communications Kit, produced and distributed each spring to member locals, is a compact disc containing Federation logos, campaign materials, customised images, information about Federation campaigns and services, and research on post-secondary education issues. The material in the Kit is provided for use by member locals in their handbooks/dayplanners and newsletters, on their websites, and in campaigns and promotional materials.

The 2006-2007 version of the Communications Kit is currently in production and will be distributed in early June.

Students' Union Directory

The first edition of the Students' Union Directory was published nearly 30 years ago by the Association of Student Councils (Canada), the predecessor organisation of the Canadian Federation of Students-Services.

The Federation assumed responsibility for publishing the Directory in 1982 and has published it every year since. The Directory contains contact information for roughly 300 student unions, Federation national and provincial offices, campus organisations, Travel CUTS offices, the Canadian University Press, and some government departments of importance to student unions.

Each year, the Federation publishes the Directory by compiling information from student unions that complete and submit information surveys provided by the Federation. Because many student unions did not submit information in accordance with

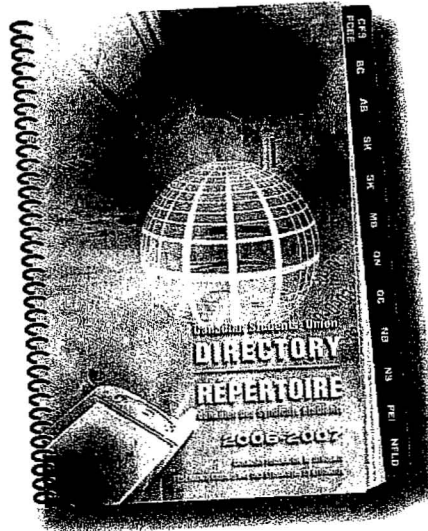
established deadlines in past years, the Directory has often not been delivered to student unions until mid-September. In order to make it easier for student unions to submit listings and to reduce the amount of data entry required, the Federation has developed a secure online database option for student unions to use to provide their information. The database contains all information from previous years so that student unions logging on need only update changes in their information.

In mid-April, the Federation mailed information surveys, along with information about the online database, to student unions. Individual emails were sent to each student union with its unique username and password, and directions on how to submit information online. In both cases, a May 19 deadline was set for the submission of information. By the deadline, more than 130 student unions had submitted information, and two-thirds of those were completed online. The total number of submissions is an improvement of more than 30 percent, compared to the previous year; however, as the Directory lists roughly 300 student unions, the deadline for submission was extended by one week

for those who failed to provide their updated information on time. Tracking down information from those unions that do not submit information continues to require significant resources and time from the Federation. It is hoped that as student unions become more familiar with the online system, the response rate will continue to improve.

The popularity of submitting information online was tempered somewhat for those student unions that experienced difficulties with the database. Fortunately, it appears as though technical

difficulties arose only where university Internet security prevented individuals from logging on to the site or student unions attempted to utilise web



25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Communications

browsers that were not compatible with the system's security. The National Executive will be working with the database designer in the coming months to improve the visibility and clarity of instructions in order to prevent this situation from recurring.

It is anticipated that the Directory will be delivered by mid-August.

The National Executive endeavoured to create a mechanism by which student unions could submit orders for Directories online at the same time as they submitted their information. Unfortunately, it was not possible to implement this system in time for the 2006-2007 Directory. Instead, a PDF version of the Directory order form was made available on the front page of each student union's survey, along with submission instructions. Online ordering will be available for the 2007-2008 publication.

To date, Directory orders from members are down more than fifteen percent from the previous year. Several locals, particularly those in Ontario, Saskatchewan, and the Maritime provinces, have yet to place orders. The Federation highly subsidises the price of the Directory for members every year and attempts to defray some of the costs of the publication by selling to non-member student unions, community groups, and government departments; however, in recent years, including this one, sales to non-member student unions and other agencies have declined.

The National Executive determines the number of books to be printed each year based on orders placed in the spring; member locals that have not already done so are encouraged to place orders as soon as possible.

Website

The Federation's use of websites has grown considerably over the past few years. The Federation has moved from having a simple site, with general organisational information, news updates, and some of the Federation's more popular research documents, to a comprehensive "web presence". The

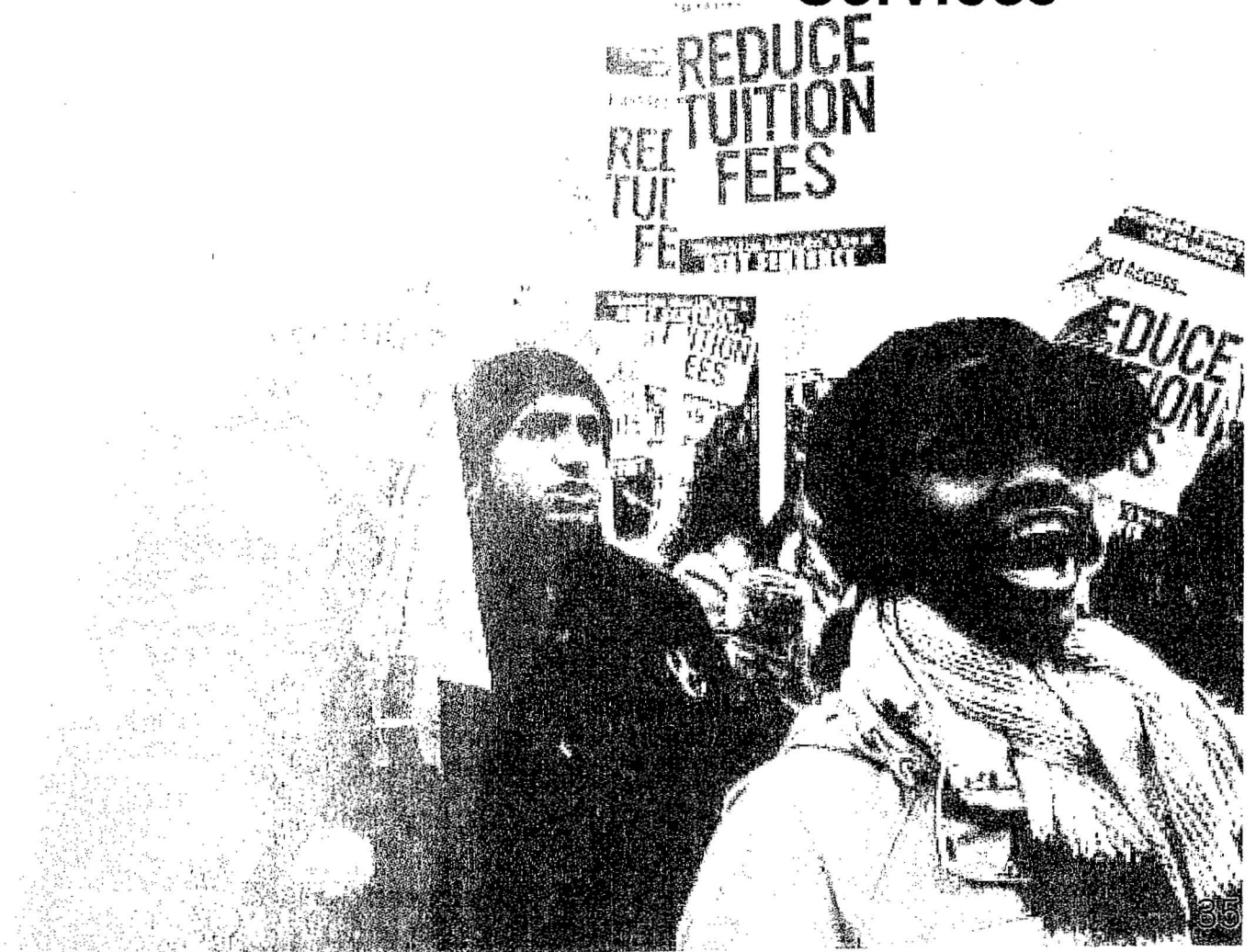
Federation now has several national sites, ranging from VoteEducation.ca, used for disseminating information during federal and provincial elections, to isic.cfs-fcee.ca, used for issuing International Student Identity Cards and verifying student status for Studentphones purchases.

In conjunction with the establishment of the Students' Union Website Service, work has been undertaken to consolidate the hosting of the Federation's national and provincial email accounts, websites, and online databases. Consolidation offers three benefits: more flexibility to easily integrate services such as the searchable Studentsaver discount database with member locals' websites; savings on hosting costs; and an improved ability to manage the various components of the Federation's web presence. The National Executive has been working with a developer to migrate cfs-fcee.ca and its databases to the server that is being leased by the Federation for the Website Service. It is expected that the migration will be complete by the end of the summer. To date, the British Columbia component, the Newfoundland and Labrador component and the Ontario component have consolidated some or all of their email and website hosting. The Manitoba component has recently initiated the process.

As reported at the previous meeting, the National Executive has identified improving the appearance and utility of the Studentsaver database as a priority. The current database and online search interface have been in place since 2002. The National Executive intends to commission the necessary work over the coming months.

For the second year, the Federation's homepage featured a link to Ufile.ca during the tax-filing season.

Services



25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Services

Discount Programme

The Federation has operated a national student discount programme since its formation in 1981.

The programme utilises two discount cards: the International Student Identity Card (ISIC) and the Studentsaver card. The ISIC is issued as a benefit of membership to those members of the Federation who are full-time students. International rules governing the issuing of the ISIC stipulate that only full-time students are eligible to receive the ISIC. Consequently, the Federation created the Studentsaver card—which is available to part-time students—in order to ensure that, where possible, part-time students who belong to the Federation have access to the same discounts.

ISIC Issuing

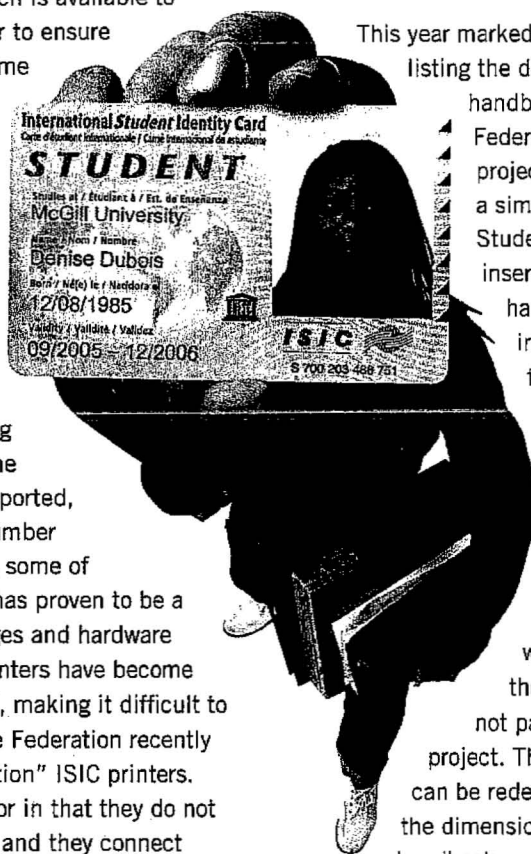
Currently, close to seventy student unions, provincial components, and institutions serve as ISIC issuing offices, using label printers supplied by the Federation. As previously reported, maintaining such a large number of printers in working order, some of which are seven years old, has proven to be a challenge. As equipment ages and hardware and software evolve, the printers have become increasingly temperamental, making it difficult to find workable solutions. The Federation recently purchased 15 “next generation” ISIC printers. The new printers are superior in that they do not require a customised driver and they connect using standard USB and serial ports, as opposed to the outdated parallel port. A new printer is approximately \$350, half the price of the older model. While it is not necessary to replace the majority of printers at this time, the new printers will make it simpler for the Federation to replace printers that have become irreparable.

In anticipation of the large number of ISICs that will be issued on-campus in September, work is ongoing to perfect a portable system for immediate card issuing that uses digital photographs and the online card issuing database. To that end, the functionality of the web-based ISIC issuing system is currently being reviewed in an effort to increase the ease and speed with which the relevant information can be entered. Methods for decreasing the time from capturing a student's photo to printing the image are also being explored.

Service Awareness

This year marked the first time that a section listing the discounts was included in the handbooks produced through the Federation's handbook/dayplanner project. A 16-page section with a similar design to that of the Studentsaver Guidebook was inserted at the back of each handbook. The books also included a Studentsaver divider that featured a peel-out Studentsaver card. Feedback from both members and participating businesses regarding the enhancement has been positive. For 2006–2007, a digital copy of the Studentsaver discounts will be made available to those student union's that are not participating in the handbook project. The Studentsaver artwork can be redesigned to correspond to the dimensions of the student union's handbook.

In addition to the discount guidebook and handbook insert, the Federation promotes the discounts on the Studentsaver website at studentsaver.ca, which is searchable by city, province, and type of business. Local 3-University of British Columbia Students' Union-Okanagan, has integrated the



25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Services

search fields of the Studentsaver site into the local site with the first two fields—city and province—set to automatically default to Kelowna, British Columbia, the Local's city and province. Students can specify the type of discount they want to find or simply leave the field blank and get a complete listing for their city/region. The National Executive is currently exploring the possibility of integrating a similar function into those member local websites that have been designed through the Federation's website service.

Discount Solicitation

Each year, Federation member locals solicit discounts in their communities. This year, discount solicitation began in February, with the majority of discounts being secured by early May. The early timeline ensured sufficient time for the discount listings to be published in member local handbooks. The majority of discount solicitation took place in April, which initially caused concern regarding the availability of students to solicit discounts during a busy academic month. However, in most regions and provinces, with the exception of Alberta, solicitors were secured and solicitation ran relatively smoothly.

The discount contract has been updated to include additional information from participating businesses, including the wheelchair accessibility of their premises, and whether they sell certified fair trade and/or certified organic products.

Although discount solicitation for 2006-2007 has been completed in most regions, it is anticipated that businesses will continue to join the programme throughout the year. To date, 2,873 discounts have been secured for 2006-2007, 1,628 of which are new discounts while 1,245 are renewals.

The national and regional offices once again assumed responsibility for distributing renewal letters to participating businesses. While some businesses responded to the initial letter, regional offices and discount solicitors often had to follow-up to secure the discount. This also provided an opportunity for the Federation to solicit feedback about the programme from participating businesses.

Discount Guidebook

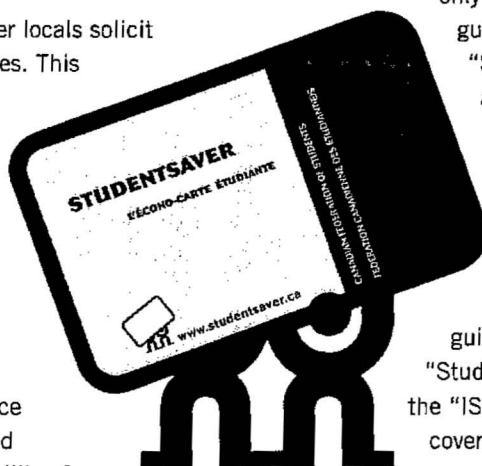
Due to the inclusion of discount listings in the 2005-2006 handbooks, the Federation printed only 200,000 separate discount guidebooks: 120,000 with the "Studentsaver" cover and card affixed, and 80,000 with the "ISIC 2006 Canadian Benefits Guide" cover for distribution with ISICs sold at Travel CUTS and VIA Rail outlets. By comparison, in 2004-2005, the Federation produced a total of 380,000 guidebooks: 285,000 with the "Studentsaver" cover and 95,000 with the "ISIC 2005 Canadian benefits Guide" cover.

The National Executive anticipates that the number of books produced for the coming year will remain the same, as a discount listing will once again be included as part of the handbook project.

Studentphonestore.com

The Federation's partnership with Studentphones continues to provide ISIC holders substantial discounts on cellular phones and phone plans. However, the service is experiencing difficulty expanding the number of carriers involved due to the virtual monopolies that dominate the cellular phone market in some regions of the country, and the obstacle created by campus exclusivity agreements.

Studentphones is working to expand the Network Programme in an attempt to combat the exclusivity agreements that have been signed by institutions,



25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Services

and in some instances, student unions. To participate in the Network, institutions and student unions sign "anti-exclusivity" agreements that prohibit a cellular service provider from gaining exclusive advertising rights on campus. Cellular providers are then required to offer a student discount in order to have access to the campus. As the number of campuses that participate in the Network has increased, one provider that had previously abstained from offering a discount has resumed discount negotiations because of the growing presence of the Network.

Through Studentphones, the Federation currently provides discounts with Fido Networks, Rogers Wireless, and Virgin Mobile. By consistently providing the best discounts, Fido continues to be the most popular carrier available through Studentphones. For 2006–2007, Fido will provide its \$30 per month plan to ISIC holders for \$25 per month. ISIC holders will also receive a free gift with purchase when they order through Studentphones. In addition, this new student plan will be available from all Fido dealers ISIC holders can receive the discount meaning wherever Fido phones are sold.

While Studentphones has primarily focused on securing discounts with cellular phone providers, there has always been a desire to expand into other phone and communication services. Studentphones is currently exploring discounts with other types of phone providers such as Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) carriers.

Finally, the Federation and Studentphones have been working to implement a cellular phone recycling service. In researching the initiative, it was discovered that the Canadian Association of Food Banks already operates a recycling service called Phones for Food. Through this service, the revenue generated from refurbishing and recycling old phones is donated to food banks. Instead of creating a new service, the Federation and Studentphones have agreed to participate in the Phones for Food service. Participation is simple, Studentphones provides promotional posters and coordinates the delivery and pick-

up of the recycling boxes. Member locals simply provide space for the box and posters. Member locals that are interested in participating in the programme should contact the national office or Studentphones.

Studentminutes

In September, Studentphones launched a pre-paid long distance service called Studentminutes. It is a web-based service that does not require the purchase of a card. While the initial launch of the programme was limited, promotional cards explaining how students could receive sixty free minutes of long distance service were distributed to member locals in January 2006. The offer of sixty free minutes and a ten percent discount on account recharges will remain in effect for 2006–2007.

While response to the service has generally been positive, some students have expressed frustration that a credit card is required to recharge accounts. Studentphones is currently working with the long distance provider to develop additional payment methods.

In addition, work is underway to develop a French version of the Studentminutes website.

UFile.ca



The Federation has once again secured free online tax return preparation with UFile.ca. The service will be available between February 15 and April 30, 2007. While usage statistics for the 2006 UFile.ca discount are not yet available, the volume of telephone call and emails the national and regional offices received seem to indicate that the service was widely used.

The National Executive is working on securing the service for a multi-year period and attempting to make it available year-round.

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Services

homes4students.ca

The Federation's online housing database, homes4students.ca, was first launched in summer 2002. The site was created with the goal of providing students with the ability to search for and compare accommodations, find roommates, and sublet their existing accommodation from anywhere in the country at no cost.

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 site's resources and services without increasing costs to the Federation. In response to these challenges, the Federation entered into a partnership with the Canadian based Ecom Media Group (EMG). Under the terms of the agreement, EMG provides technical support for the site, including the creation of customised interfaces for member locals, and assists the Federation in soliciting accommodation listings. EMG operates a network of searchable housing websites, including a specialised off-campus housing site aimed at post-secondary students in the United States. EMG also maintains partnerships with major Canadian rental associations allowing for a direct relationship with individual landlords. Working with EMG eliminated the need to solicit third party advertisements for the site because a nominal fee charged to landlords for posting replaced that revenue.

To date, thirty member locals have opted for customised homes4students interfaces that reflect the design of the student unions' main sites, thereby showcasing homes4students.ca as a service of the local. Five of these locals have requested the development of a customised site since the previous national general meeting. While member locals continue to demonstrate interest in customizing the housing database, traffic to the site has declined in the last year.



At its April meeting, the National Executive discussed the need to improve homes4students.ca to provide a higher quality and more user-friendly service, especially in light of the growing number of for-profit online housing databases. The

National Executive identified the level of bilingualism, the number and type of listings available, and promotion of the service as key areas that needed improvement. A meeting with EMG is planned for early summer to determine its capacity to improve the level of service, specifically with respect to expanding their existing landlord relationships.

In addition, the National Executive will continue to explore other options for improving homes4students.ca.

National Student Health Network

Introduction

The first health and dental plans to emerge on Canadian campuses were based on employee plans. They were expensive and failed to cover many of the drugs and services commonly required by students. The Federation created the National Student Health Network to secure lower rates and better coverage for students by employing the collective expertise and combined buying power of the Federation's membership.

From the beginning, the importance of minimising the role of insurance brokers and carriers was recognised in order for student unions to maintain control of their health and dental plans. Additionally, it was realised that administrative costs could be reduced if the Network assumed a portion of the administrative work often performed by brokers.

The Network could not entirely replace a broker, though, as certain functions are required by law to be performed by a licensed brokerage. Since 1996, the Network has retained the services of Heath

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Services

Benefits Consulting to negotiate with carriers and analyse claims data.

Although the Network secures quotes from a variety of insurance carriers, all current members of the consortium have selected Green Shield Canada as their carrier. Green Shield is Canada's only national not-for-profit insurance carrier and, as such, is consistently able to offer the lowest rates for student plans. The Federation has negotiated an exclusivity agreement with Green Shield that establishes preferred arrangements and services for Network members. While Green Shield provides plans directly to some student unions that are not members of the Network, these student unions do not enjoy the reduced administrative costs provided to Network members.

The National Student Health Network is currently composed of 34 student unions with a combined membership of more than 200,000 students.

Network Expansion and Promotion

New Plan Members

Since the previous national general meeting, Local 4-Selkirk Students' Association, Local 33-Emily Carr Students' Union, and Local 69-Association générale des étudiants de l'Université Sainte-Anne have established health and/or dental plans to be operated through Network. Local 93-Glendon College Students' Union members voted to join the health and dental plan offered by Local 68-York Federation of Students. In addition, Local 36-Grenfell College Student Union and Local 19-University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union have added dental plans to their existing health insurance benefits.

Network Profile and Materials

As reported at the previous meeting, a graphic identity has been established for the Network that focuses on the theme "Students Benefit". This theme has been incorporated into the

Network's promotional materials, letterhead, forms, presentation covers, and other documents. These materials will be phased in to replace existing Network publications in order to create uniform appearance and streamlined production.

Educational materials are also being developed for student union representatives about how to negotiate fair student health and dental plans and identify the questionable practices used by some health and dental plan brokers/agents.

In addition, the Federation is working with Green Shield to revise the benefits booklets to be more user-friendly.

Network Services

Website

The Network's new website, studentsbenefit.ca, is undergoing expansion in order to include customised interfaces for every Network member. While each site will maintain a consistent visual identity with studentsbenefit.ca, the information and materials will be unique.

While this customised interface is available to all Network members, it is optional. Network members that choose to host plan information and opt-out functions on their own sites will continue to receive assistance.

The Network has recently developed a web-based pilot project for the purpose of surveying members' opinions about benefits, coverage, and rate priorities. Locals with access to membership email addresses are now able to send mass email messages to their members asking them to visit a customised survey URL to provide feedback on aspects of plan design and coverage. A report on the results from the survey is produced and distributed to member local representatives for the purpose of plan assessment and renewal planning.

Earlier this year, the Network tested the survey system in conjunction with the Local 4 health plan



25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Services

referendum. Prior to the referendum, a survey was created to gauge student opinions about plan design priorities and to determine the overall demand for a health and dental plan. An email with a link to a customised version of the site was sent to each member of the Local and over 25 percent responded. The site was de-activated after one week and the survey results were tabulated automatically by the website program.

Health Plan "Auditing"

At the request of any member local, the Network will undertake an assessment of the local's health and dental plan in order to determine if the local is being charged fair rates for its coverage. By examining the administrative costs charged by the carrier, fees charged by the agent/broker, plan design, and local administrative costs, the audit process determines whether the same plan could be provided at lower cost.

Upon completion of the audit, the local is presented with an assessment of its existing plan, and is typically provided with a "no obligation" quote for an alternative plan with equal or superior coverage through the Network. While the student union is not obliged to accept the quote, the Federation is bound by it if the local chooses to accept it.

The Federation has conducted several audits of health and dental plans over the past few years. In most instances, it was determined that the locals were being overcharged for their coverage. Most of those locals chose to join the Network. Other locals simply used the information to compel their agents to secure more favourable arrangements.

Unfortunately, some agents have taken steps to minimise the likelihood that their services will be subject to such scrutiny. Some agents have reacted by locking their student union clients into multi-year deals. This practice runs contrary to the industry standard, making an audit somewhat irrelevant and undermining the student union's ability to negotiate its rates. In some cases, contracts extend for three or more years. Other agents either withhold programme information or have student unions sign

confidentiality agreements that prevent them from releasing the information required to conduct an audit. In the latter case, one such student union was only able to obtain the information directly from its insurer, bypassing the agent completely.

Travel Benefits

Some Network members have identified travel insurance benefits needs that are not currently available within the Green Shield travel insurance plan. Students studying abroad, participating in co-operative placements, and engaging in extended research stays in foreign countries have found the 60-day travel maximum imposed by the Green Shield travel insurance pool re-insurer too restrictive.

In fall 2005, the Network's travel benefits pool was put to tender, which has resulted in an arrangement with ETFS, a specialty insurance company. The new arrangement will replace all existing coverage on September 1, 2006 and will extend annual coverage from \$1 million (already many times greater than most Network competitors) to \$5 million. Moreover, with this new plan the Network will be capable of providing flexible insurance packages for 60, 180, or 365-day travel coverage that will be slightly less expensive, saving all Network plans one dollar per insured student per year.

Provincial Health Insurance Equivalency

In most provinces, international students are not eligible for coverage under existing public health plans and are required to purchase private insurance for basic health care costs. Over the past six months, the Federation has researched the different options for student unions to offer this insurance and has selected ETFS as the provider. Network members that wish to do so will be able to offer provincial health insurance equivalency to international students at the most competitive rates in the industry.

Dental Discount program

As previously reported, the Federation and Green Shield Canada are jointly developing a discount programme for dental services. In order to participate

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Services

in the programme, dentists are required to provide discounts of 20 to 30 percent in exchange for promotion by the Network. The dentists also sign an agreement that guarantees that they will not perform unnecessary procedures and will submit to random audits. This audit process provides a value-for-service guarantee and is unique to the Federation's arrangement with Green Shield.

Since launching the pilot project of this programme in early 2005, almost 300 dentists have been contracted to provide exclusive savings to students and thousands of claims have been made through the programme. This discount programme will be further developed in the coming months and expanded throughout the country. Network members can assist Green Shield in expanding the discount programme by identifying dentists not currently providing the discount to students.

Pay-Direct Card Expansion

Through technological and service enhancements developed by Green Shield, pay-direct cards can now be used for paramedical services and medical supplies, a feature unique to Network plans. This new service will allow Network members to save money at the point of purchase on a variety of medically-necessary paramedical services, such as chiropractic, massage, physiotherapy, and speech therapy. This service will be particularly beneficial to students who rely on high-cost medical supplies by reducing the out-of-pocket expenses of students.

Network Administration

Plan Accounting Mechanisms

Traditionally, most plans are "fully insured" meaning that the insurer incurs any loss generated by claims paid exceeding the premium collected. Conversely, under this arrangement, should the premium collected significantly exceed the claims paid, the insurer receives a financial windfall.

During the 2004-2005 year, several Network members switched local plan accounting mechanisms to a system known as modified

"retention" or "refund" accounting. Under this system, Green Shield set the profit margin at the beginning of the plan year and established billed rates each year based on the projected cost of the plan. Should the claims paid exceed the premium collected, students continue to have their claims paid, but any loss incurred by the plan would have to be repaid in future plan years. Similarly, should the premium collected exceed the claims paid, the insurer would refund the difference to the student union. Green Shield has agreed to accept liability for any deficit that exists at plan termination. The potential combined savings for Network members could exceed \$500,000.

Retention Accounting Plan Performance

Local 92-Student Association of George Brown College, Local 98-University of Toronto Students' Administrative Council and Local 99-Scarborough Campus Students' Union (University of Toronto) are medium to large student unions that joined the Network two years ago. Prior to joining the Network, all three had their previous health plans underwritten on a "fully insured" basis. In each instance, significant plan surpluses had been generated and retained by the insurance carrier. Based on past plan performance and the size of each account, the Network proposed a switch to modified retention accounting.

The first year under the retention accounting arrangement resulted in a combined surplus of \$726,849.34 for the three student unions. Of that total, \$437,560.01 was available for immediate refund to the unions.

Originally, each of the three unions joined the Network because the Network was able to offer identical or improved coverage with lower rates. Under the more expensive plans proposed by Network competitors, all of the monies refunded to the three unions would have been retained by either the insurance broker or the carrier.

Electronic Opt-Outs

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Services

More than four years ago, the Network pioneered a system for refunding health plan fees paid by students with other sources of coverage. This system has enabled the transfer from a manual system of opt-out processing and reimbursement to a system that is electronically administered and allows for direct student account crediting.

Switching to electronic opt-outs resulted in large cost savings for plan administration, through the elimination of banking, mailing, and handling charges related to cheque processing. In addition, students benefited directly, both through timely and hassle-free reimbursement and the elimination of unclaimed cheques resulting from out-dated mailing addresses.

In the first year of this initiative, one-third of Network members transferred to the new system of electronic opt-out processing. By the second year, almost three-quarters had switched to the new system. Unfortunately, there has been little progress since then. Approximately one-quarter of all Network members continue to utilise the more costly and cumbersome opt-out processing system.

The full transition of all Network plans to an electronic opt-out administration continues to be a priority for the 2006-2007 year.

Renewals

Renewals for the 2006-2007 benefit year are currently underway. While most locals are experiencing moderate inflationary pressure, plan usage is increasing in most plans. The result is average rate increases between five and ten percent although, in a few instances, dramatic usage increases have caused rate increases as high as thirty percent. On a positive note, the Network has been successful in negotiating a rate reduction with ACE INA, the Network's supplier of accidental death and dismemberment insurance. This, combined with the new travel insurance plan negotiated with ETFS to provide better coverage at lower rates, will temper some of the anticipated rate increases. Overall, despite reduced administrative fees, rate increases

on many member plans are being driven directly by the cost and volume of claims.

2006-2007 Annual Network Meeting

Every year, members of the Network meet 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.

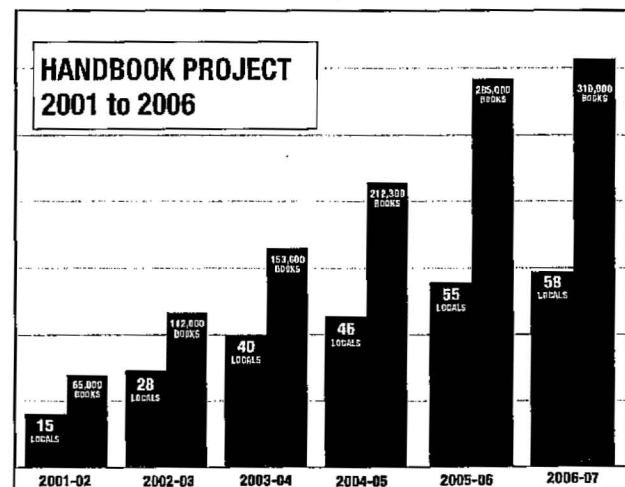
The 2006 Network meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 20 to 22 in Toronto.

2006-2007 Handbook Project

The handbook project is entering its sixth 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 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, colour pages, and fewer advertisements, while achieving savings in writing and editing, design, printing and binding. These economies of scale have enabled some student unions to eliminate or reduce local advertising from



25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Services

their handbook. This flexibility has proven to be a particularly attractive feature of the project.

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

The handbook project has experienced significant growth over the course of the previous six years. For the 2006-2007 academic year 58 student unions, 55 member locals and 3 non-member student unions in ten provinces have confirmed their participation in the project. In addition, a generic handbook for graduate students will once again be produced. Over 310,000 handbooks will be produced, up from 298,500 individual handbooks in 2005-2006 when 53 student unions participated. In 2004-2005, 212,000 books were produced for 46 student unions. In 2003-2004, 154,000 handbooks were produced for 40 student unions. This represents 100 percent growth in the last four years.

The growth of the project this year is attributed in large part to the addition of Local 91-Concordia Students' Union and prospective member union Continuing Education Students Association of Ryerson. In addition, a non-member union University College of the Fraser Valley Students' Union has joined the project. 53 versions will be produced in English, three in French, and two versions will be bilingual.

Once again, the Studentsaver card and a listing of regional discounts will be integrated into the handbook. A 16-page signature with the listing of discounts will be added to the back of each handbook. A divider with the Studentsaver card affixed will be placed at the front of the section.

After five years of fine-tuning, the handbook required little modification to its base design for 2006-2007. Feedback from the 2005-2006 handbooks indicated that member locals and individual members were pleased with the calendar design and with the presentation of information in the local, provincial and national sections.

For 2006-2007, all of the enhancements that were introduced in previous handbooks will be included

such as: full colour pages in the national section of the handbook, full bleeds throughout the handbook, and tear-off corners on the calendar pages. All handbooks will feature an introductory page that allows the individual to record contact information in the event the handbook is misplaced.

The most significant enhancement for 2006-2007 is the addition of a die-cut sticker page to be inserted as the first page in the handbook. The stickers have been designed to be attached to

specific dividers or months in the calendar,

to act as easy reference tabs. Member local unions also had the opportunity to produce the local section in full colour at an additional cost and to produce banner advertisements in the calendar section of the handbook. The National Executive is researching the option of producing plastic rulers that member locals can purchase separately to distribute with the books.

As reported at the November general meeting, the National Executive reviewed the advertising sales strategy at its summer 2005 meeting and resolved to solicit proposals from other advertising agencies in an effort to improve sales. A request for proposals was distributed to a number of well-known agencies in the early fall; however, the responses have been limited. As a result, the Federation committed to working with Campus Plus to sell advertising in the 2006-2007 handbooks. Campus Plus agreed to work to sell the front inside cover, back inside and outside cover, and three



25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Services

dividers. To-date advertisements have been sold to Aliant, Bulk Barn, the Certified General Accountants' Association of Canada, and Pizza Pizza.

In addition, the National Executive has assumed more responsibility for pursuing advertisements for the handbook in order to offset some of the costs associated with producing the book.

Student Union Website Service

Programme Implementation

Background

Online communications can be costly if undertaken independently by a member local. Website and email hosting, email listservs, domain name registration, data backup, the design and creation of websites and content management require significant resources and technical knowledge.

At the May 2004 national general meeting, the membership identified the design and hosting of high quality local websites as a service that could be provided at a lower cost through the Federation.

Development

Similar to the model of the common handbook project, the Students' Union Website Service was developed to provide better quality services that meet the needs of members at affordable prices. In July 2005, the Federation conducted a selection process and subsequently contracted Offshoot Inc., a web design firm, to create a student-run website service for student unions. Offshoot was instructed to develop a service that would be comprehensive, customisable to each locals' needs, and accessible through an interface that requires very little web programming skills.

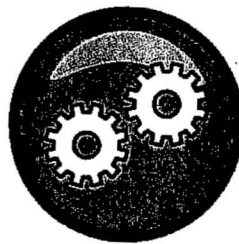
In addition to a custom content management system for local websites and a dedicated web/email server for the Federation, 23 common website templates have been developed from which member locals

can select, with more being added this summer. To subscribe to the service, a member local representative simply needs to visit the promotional website, www.cfsadmin.org, choose a template and hosting package that best suits their needs, and submit a request to activate an account.

Along with providing the first and only student-run, non-profit hosting service, the Federation is now also a bulk domain name reseller, allowing student unions to register and renew their .ca, .com, .net, and .org domain names at little to no cost.

Consolidation of Hosting

The Federation currently manages more than eighty domain names. These are used for provincial components, services, campaigns, and member locals' sites.



Prior to establishing the Students' Union Website Service, the Federation's provincial and national websites and email accounts were hosted on a patchwork of servers across the country with domain names registered with approximately ten different registrars. Each of these arrangements required the payment of retail prices for services that were difficult to oversee in a coordinated fashion.

The Federation now leases a dedicated server from a professional hosting services company, saving money and improving administration of all Federation websites and email accounts. This provides enough bandwidth and hard disk space to host all of the Federation's websites and email accounts as well as the potential to host websites for each and every member local.

Since the November 2005 general meeting, the British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Ontario Components have moved their websites and/or email hosting to the Federation's leased server. The National Student Health Network website, studentsbenefit.ca (avantages-etudiants.ca), has also switched. Presently, the Federation's national website, email, and the three integrated

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Services

databases for ISIC issuing, media releases, and Studentsaver are hosted with Web Networks, although work is ongoing with Offshoot to move the www.cfs-fcee.ca site to the Federation's national server. This consolidation will reduce the costs of redundant services and enable greater integration of the Studentsaver and news release database into member locals' websites.

Participation

Prior to the formal launch of the Students' Union Website Service at the November 2005 general meeting, seven member locals had signed onto the service. Since then, 14 more student unions have signed up:

- Local 8-University of Winnipeg Students' Association
- Local 13-College of New Caledonia Students' Association
- Local 15-Thompson Rivers University Students' Union
- Local 18-Douglas Students' Union
- Local 23-Simon Fraser Students' Society
- Local 35-Memorial University of Newfoundland Students' Union
- Local 46-College of the North Atlantic Students' Union
- Local 54-University of Guelph Central Students' Association
- Local 69-Association générale des étudiants de l'Université Sainte-Anne
- Local 71-Trent University Central Students' Association
- Locals 73/76-Students' Unions of Vancouver Community College
- Local 84-York University Graduate Students' Association
- Local 103-University of Manitoba Students' Union,
- Local 104-Laurentian Association of Mature and Part-time Students.

Of these, Locals 8, 73/76, and 103 have commissioned Offshoot to create custom templates.

Design Coordination and Improvements

As a result of member feedback from "beta testing" that was undertaken, a number of improvements have already been made, including the enhancement of both the homepage editor and section displays.

Other feedback has prompted the Federation to commission Offshoot to add new content types, including: online surveys, forms to gather members' contact information, and moderated, password protected message boards. The capability to have provincial and national campaigns and services information "fed" into member locals' sites automatically has also been commissioned as part of the work being done to migrate the national media release database to its new server. As well, an image bank of ads for Federation services is being developed and is expected to be completed by mid-summer and Really Simple Syndication (RSS) of news releases is being explored with Offshoot.

Finally, some members have expressed interest in a self-managing mass email system for national, provincial, and local use. Initial quotes from Offshoot have been prohibitively expensive, and the National Executive will continue to investigate options for developing this online communications tool.

Member locals have reported some difficulty with the usability of the content management system when uploading text. As some Hyper Text Markup Language (HTML) coding is still required for formatting basic text, members have expressed a desire to see either a guide, or an online key to some HTML code. Mechanisms to improve the ease of use of text entry fields will be explored in the coming months and an online key explaining how to change basic text attributes with HTML has been added.

Studentsaver Integration

Members have expressed the desire to integrate studentsaver.ca with member locals' websites. Once the studentsaver.ca database has been transferred

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Services

to the Federation's server, it will technically be possible to integrate the Studentsaver website as a content type that any member local can easily utilise. This will be similar to the Studentphones programme, through which a customised "skin" of Studentphones.com is provided for each participating member local to co-brand the Studentphones website with their own site.

Program Financing

Project Costs

One of the guiding principles for the Students' Union Website Service is that it be affordable for all student unions. For that reason, the Federation does not charge member locals for the costs associated with establishing and updating the content-management system (CMS) and for site templates. Removing financial obstacles to facilitate member locals' participation while remaining competitive with commercial and institutional hosting packages, as well as the ongoing maintenance of and improvements to the service have meant that it has been heavily subsidised during its first year. A strategy for maintaining the affordability of this service is being developed.

Billing

As explained above, member locals that do not require customisation pay only a modest site and email hosting fee, which will be billed to member locals on a semi-annual basis. The Students' Union Website Service price schedule is as follows:

Hosting Package	Sm	Med	Lg
Disk Space:	250 MB	500 MB	1,000 MB
Monthly Data Transfer Limit:	8 GB	15 GB	30 GB
Domain Name:	1	1	2
Email Accounts:	15	30	75
Mailing Lists	5	10	20
Price (per month):	\$20	\$35	\$58

Student Work Abroad Program

Overview

The Federation's Student Work Abroad Program (SWAP), now marketed as SWAP Working Holidays, remains Canada's largest international work exchange programme. Of the nearly 25,000 Canadian students on working holidays abroad, approximately twenty percent participate through SWAP.

Traditionally, SWAP has focused on sending students to countries with strong economies that can absorb a large number of participants. While the Federation has continued to explore expansion of these programs, it has increasingly focused on establishing new programs in Central and Eastern Europe, Africa, Latin America and Asia. The economic realities of these countries mean that the programs will likely be quite small and primarily volunteer-based. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) has waived its strict reciprocal guidelines thereby allowing SWAP to host students from several countries that are not as of yet in an economic position to provide similar opportunities to Canadians.

Outbound Programs

Africa

The Federation continues to expand its SWAP programs in Ghana and rural South Africa. Although there are not a significant number of work opportunities in either location, there is a tremendous demand for volunteers to engage in teaching and development work. Both the work and volunteer activities in South Africa enjoyed a small increase in Canadian participation in 2006.

Australia

Two years ago the Australian government began accepting online applications for its Working Holiday Visas. The Federation was initially concerned that Canadian students would opt to apply directly for the Work Holidays Visa rather than applying through

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Services

SWAP; however, the number of Canadian SWAP Australia participants increased slightly for 2006.

Traditionally one could only work for a maximum of three months for any single employer in Australia. This was in order to encourage mobility; however, the Australian government has just announced that participants may now work for any employer up to a maximum of six months before participants are required to seek work elsewhere. In addition, the categories of harvest-related work have been expanded. Any Working Holiday participant who works for three months in harvest-related work immediately qualifies for another full year on their Australian working visa.

Brazil

Barring any unforeseen events, a programme of short-term internships in Brazil will likely be finalised and announced in the near future.

SWAP Britain

The Federation and its British partner, the British Universities North America Club (BUNAC), have developed a programme that enables Canadian students to receive co-operative education credits for participating in SWAP Britain. The Federation and BUNAC are working on this project in cooperation with the Canadian Association for Cooperative Education. As the programme develops, it is anticipated that the Federation and BUNAC will be able to approach British employers to ensure a large number of jobs that would qualify for co-op credits will be available to Canadian students.

This project is now in its second year and there has been a marked increase since 2005 in the number of participating Canadian students. SWAP Britain continues to be the most popular of all SWAP destinations.

India

Both DFAIT and Citizenship and Immigration Canada have agreed to accept a small number of students from India for the remainder of 2006. It

is likely that a reciprocal arrangement for Canadian students will be finalised for 2007.

United States of America

As reported at the previous general meeting, in addition to the usual SWAP USA activity, through which roughly 500 Canadian students will work in the United States of America this coming summer, the Federation is currently operating two "work experience" programs in the United States of America. Internship USA is designed for students and recent graduates and Practical Training USA is designed for Canadians who have a few years of work experience. The United States of America State Department recently proposed a major change to its Internship Visa program that would exclude undergraduate students. This news has caused a huge stir within the international education community not only in the United States of America and Canada, but worldwide. Over the next several weeks the Washington-based Alliance for International Education will be mounting a coordinated campaign to calling on State Department officials to abandon this proposal.

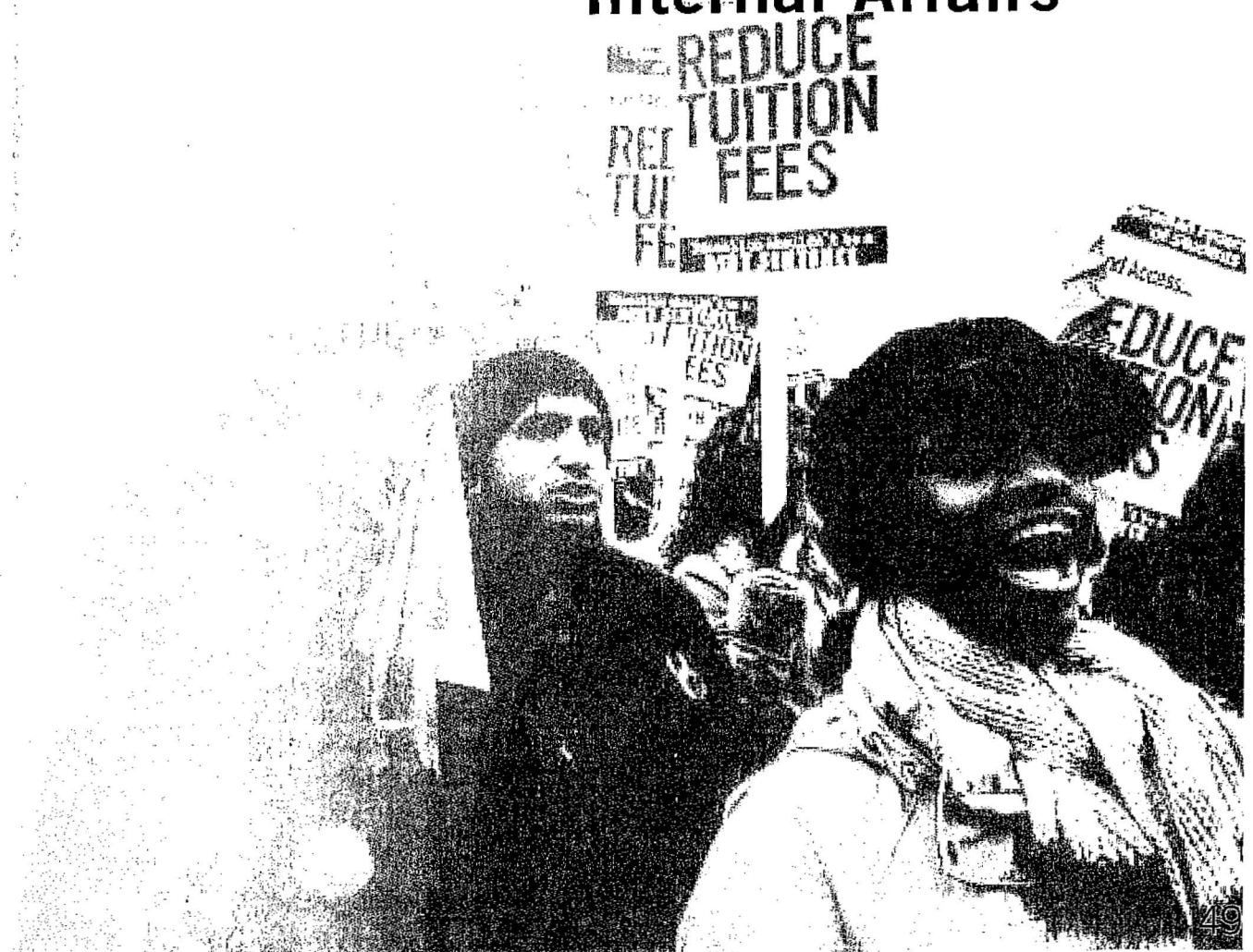
Inbound Programs

Hosting Centres

As reported at the previous general meeting, during the 2005 calendar year, the programme hosted approximately 6000 students from abroad participating in working holidays in Canada. The programme will likely host a similar number of students in the 2006 year.

Services are provided at SWAP hosting centres in Vancouver, Toronto, and Montréal. The Vancouver and Toronto centres function year-round and the Montréal centre is open every Friday throughout the year. An additional Inbound Hosting Centre may be opened in 2007 in Calgary to accommodate those travelers working in the city, Banff, and the surrounding area.

Internal Affairs



25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Internal Affairs

National Executive

Current Composition

The composition of the Federation's National Executive remains unchanged since the previous national general meeting. The current members of the National Executive are:

POSITION	NAME
Aboriginal Students' Representative	Starleigh Grass
Alberta Representative	Jennifer Reid
British Columbia Representative	Scott Payne
Francophone Students' Representative	Katherine Boushel
Graduate Students' Representative	Phil Robinson
Manitoba Representative	Amanda Aziz
National Chairperson	George Soule
National Deputy Chairperson	Angela Regnier
National Treasurer	Dave Hare
New Brunswick Representative	Vicky Landry
Newfoundland and Labrador Representative	Krista Park
Nova Scotia Representative	Danielle Sampson
Ontario Representative	Ken Marciniec
Prince Edward Island Representative	Faiz Ahmed
Québec Representative	Brent Farrington
Saskatchewan Representative	Gavin Gardiner
Students of Colour Representative	Omari Mason
Women's Representative	Sarah Amyot

2006-2007 Term

Most positions on the National Executive have been elected for the upcoming year. At the fall 2005 national general meeting, Dave Hare (Local 11) was re-elected as National Treasurer and Angela Regnier (Local 101) was re-elected as National Deputy Chairperson for the 2006-2007 term. Amanda Aziz (Local 103) was elected as National Chairperson.

Earlier this year, Ken Marciniec (Local 24) and Brent Farrington (Local 91) were re-elected as the Ontario and Québec Representatives, respectively. Shamus Reid (Local 44) has been elected as the British Columbia Representative, Rachel Gotthilf (Local 103) has been elected as the Manitoba Representative, Chris Parsons (Local 11) has been elected as the Nova Scotia Representative and Cletus Flaherty (Local 35) has been elected as the Newfoundland and Labrador Representative. Jarita Greyeyes (Local 8) has been elected as the Aboriginal Students' Representative.

At this meeting, elections will be conducted for Alberta Representative, Saskatchewan Representative, Prince Edward Island Representative, New Brunswick Representative, Graduate Students' Representative, Students of Colour Representative, Francophone Students' Representative, and Women's Representative on the National Executive for the 2006-2007 term.

Federation Staffing

Prairies Organiser (Saskatchewan and Alberta)

As reported at the previous meeting, the Organiser position for the Alberta and Saskatchewan region was vacated in early November. Given that most applicants for Federation organiser positions are student union activists who are unavailable to start work with the Federation during the academic year, the National Executive chose to wait until now to seek a replacement. The National Executive hopes to have the position filled by mid-June.

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Internal Affairs

Maritimes Organiser

The permanent Maritimes Organiser position remains unfilled. As reported at the previous meeting, the National Executive was unable, by the start of the 2005-2006 academic year, to identify a suitable candidate to hire on a permanent basis. To ensure that the regional office in Halifax remained staffed, the Nova Scotia Representative on the National Executive was made a full-time position for the academic year.

The search for a permanent employee for the Maritimes Organiser position will recommence in the next few weeks.

Research

In early January this year, Federation Research Director Michael Conlon started a one-year leave-of-absence.

In mid-February, James Beaton was hired to fill the Federation's second Researcher position. James is currently studying corporate influence over academic freedom while working towards a doctorate at York University. In the late 1990s, while working on his master's degree at the University of Victoria, James represented the Federation on the BC Government's Student Assistance Advisory Committee.

Director of Organising

Director of Organising Lucy Watson will commence a maternity leave in late June. The National Executive will be seeking to hire a replacement for the duration of the leave to assist with membership development, services work, and internal coordination in her absence.

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 the National Graduate Caucus, hold national meetings each February or March.

November 2006 National General Meeting

The fall 2006 national general meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 22-25. The National Executive will be finalising the dates at its next meeting in early July.

May 2007 National General Meeting

The spring 2007 national general meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 22-27. The National Executive will be finalising the dates at its next meeting in early July.

National Caucus General Meetings

The Federation's National Graduate Caucus consists of all member students' unions composed in whole or in part of graduate students. This year the Caucus annual general meeting was held March 3-5 at the University of Manitoba. Seventeen of the twenty-nine eligible member graduate unions participated in the meeting.

The Federation's National Aboriginal Caucus consists of all member students' unions composed in whole or in part of Aboriginal students. This year the Caucus annual general meeting was held from March 16-18 at Camosun College in Victoria. Fourteen member local unions participated in the meeting.

Legal Affairs

Travel CUTS Ownership Issue

In the 1970s two national student organisations existed in Canada, outside of Québec: the National Union of Students (NUS) and the Association of Student Councils Canada (ASCC). The primary role of the National Union of Students was to represent student issues and concerns to the federal government. The primary role of the ASCC

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Internal Affairs

was to provide services, the main one being low-cost student travel. The majority of the member associations belonging to each organisation belonged to both.

In 1978, the NUS and the ASCC began the process of merging to form a new organisation, that would provide both representation and services, to replace the existing structures. This resulted in the establishment of the Canadian Federation of Students/Canadian Federation of Students-Services in 1981.

Although the development plan called for NUS and ASCC to initially operate in tandem with the new organisation, all activity of the old organisations was to be fully transferred to the new structure after a few years of transition. The activity of NUS was to be transferred to the Canadian Federation of Students and the activity of ASCC was to be transferred to the Canadian Federation of Students-Services.

By 1985 all of the activity of NUS had been transferred to the Canadian Federation of Students and, thus, NUS was wound down. During the same period, most of the ASCC activity was transferred to the Canadian Federation of Students-Services; however, Travel CUTS remained, technically, the property of the ASCC.

In fall 1987, an ASCC meeting was convened for the purpose of formally approving the transfer of Travel CUTS' ownership to the Canadian Federation of Students-Services and the wind down of the ASCC. The ASCC motion to transfer ownership directed the ASCC Board to enact the transfer by June 30, 1988, as the members were anxious to have the amalgamation process completed as quickly as possible. Despite the motion, however, the transfer of CUTS ownership 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 1980s, had been members of the Canadian Federation of

Students/Canadian Federation of Students-Services. Both had ceased to be members of the Canadian Federation of Students-Services by summer 1991. In 1997, the business managers of the two students' associations concocted the theory that the Canadian Federation of Students-Services had improperly assumed ownership of Travel CUTS from the ASCC. In fall that same year, the UWOUISC filed suit against the Canadian Federation of Students-Services, Travel CUTS, and the ASCC seeking damages of \$100 million dollars or, in lieu of that, reversal of the transfer of ownership. In 2000, the UWOUISC was joined in the suit by the University of Alberta Students' Union and the only two alma mater societies in Canada: the Queen's University Alma Mater Society and the University of British Columbia Alma Mater Society.

By August 2003, all examinations of the original and new parties in the suit had been completed and the matter appeared ready to proceed to trial; however, just weeks before the trial was scheduled to commence, the plaintiffs applied for and were granted a postponement. The trial was re-scheduled to commence in early November 2004 only to be postponed a second time in September 2004, again at the request of the plaintiffs. Ultimately, the court in London, where UWOUISC filed the suit, ordered late last year that the trial commence on February 6 this year.

As reported by the National Executive over the years, it had always been assumed that the matter would proceed to court and that the possibility of an out-of-court settlement was very remote; however, in January the Federation's lawyers proposed that, with the trial looming, consideration had to be given to possible settlement in order to limit the Federation's potential risk. While the lawyers remained confident in the merit of the Federation's case, they felt that the level of uncertainty was such that it would have been irresponsible not to explore settlement.

Discussions were initiated in mid-January and, by the end of the month, a general basis of agreement for further negotiations had been achieved. Face-to-

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Internal Affairs

face negotiations followed over the course of several days, and with the scheduled start of trial less than one week away, a settlement was achieved.

While the details of the settlement are lengthy, the major change is that the Canadian Federation of Students-Services will no longer wholly own Travel CUTS. Instead, 24 percent of the common and preferred shares in the company will be owned by a new, not-for-profit organisation consisting of some portion of the 16 students' unions that both belonged to the ASCC, but not to the CFS-Services, on November 6, 1988 (the date of the last ever ASCC general meeting) and that do not currently belong to the CFS-Services. In addition, the new minority owner will have two director positions on the Travel CUTS Board and will receive 24 percent of any referral fees paid by CUTS to its owners, effective April 1, 2006.

As part of the settlement, the four plaintiffs were paid varying amounts for past referrals totaling \$275,000. This constituted approximately 7.4 percent of referral fee revenue, net of investment, between Fiscal 1992 and Fiscal 2005. Each side assumed responsibility of its legal and related costs.

In addition to maintaining majority ownership of Travel CUTS, it was of primary importance to the Federation to preserve the existing role historically played by Travel CUTS in the delivery of Federation services, such as the Student Work Abroad Programme (SWAP), ISIC discount programme and *Student Traveller* magazine.

Provisions in the settlement ensure that the SWAP will continue to be fully managed, as it has always been, by Travel CUTS, with any profits accruing to the Federation. In the case of the ISIC discount programme, the Federation relies on CUTS outlets to act as the primary issuers of the card. This will continue, although CUTS will now be paid a fee per ISIC issued rather than receiving 50 percent of the net ISIC revenue, which had been the practice. The change is expected to be approximately revenue neutral.

Finally, CUTS will continue to produce *Student Traveller* magazine on behalf of the Federation, with all profit and losses accruing to the Federation.

Nuisance Suit

In summer 2002, Local 3-UBC Students' Union Okanagan signed a contract extension with Gallivan and Associates (Gallivan), its agent at the time for health and dental insurance. Although there is zero benefit for a student union to enter into a multi-year contract with an insurance agent, unless that agent can somehow guarantee insurance rates for the duration of the contract, Local 3 nevertheless signed a five-year extension.

In spring 2004, Local 3 alleged that Gallivan violated its fiduciary responsibility as an agent for the organisation and immediately notified Gallivan that it considered the contract terminated.

In summer 2005, Gallivan filed suit for breach of contract against Local 3, various directors and former directors of the Local, and various employees of the Local. For some inexplicable reason, Gallivan also named the Canadian Federation of Students as a defendant in the suit.

In its statement of claim, Gallivan alleged that the termination of the agreement was "part of a concerted and continuing pattern of conduct by the CFS to destroy the Plaintiff's business and eliminate its market share by direct interference in its contractual relationship with student bodies at post-secondary institutions across Canada."

It appears that Gallivan did not realise that it is the Canadian Federation of Students-Services, the Canadian Federation of Students' sister organisation, and not the Canadian Federation of Students, that provides student health and dental insurance and works to expose unethical and corrupt practices in the student health and dental insurance brokering industry.

As the evidence will show, in the highly unlikely event that the matter ever proceeds to trial, the Canadian Federation of Students was not then, and

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Internal Affairs

is not now involved in the provision of health and dental insurance as alleged by the plaintiff, and did not in any way induce Local 3 to terminate its agreement with Gallivan, as alleged by the plaintiff.

Gallivan is seeking unspecified punitive damages and legal costs from the Canadian Federation of Students. The Canadian Federation of Students is seeking dismissal and legal costs. The Canadian Federation of Students-Services is continuing its work on providing the best possible health and dental insurance coverage at the lowest possible rates, unencumbered by any legal challenges.

Office

Preparations for Relocation of the National Office

At the previous general meeting it was reported that the five-year lease for the Federation's national office in Ottawa would be expiring on June 30, 2006 and that the terms of the lease did not provide the Federation with the option to extend. Shortly after the meeting, however, the Federation was able to secure a twenty-six month extension on the premises. Other than a modest four percent increase in the base rent, the terms of the new lease will remain unchanged.

The lease extension allows the Federation to avoid a costly and disruptive office move within five weeks of the close of this general meeting. More importantly, it gives the National Executive more opportunity to explore long-term options for the Federation's national headquarters.

In 2000, the membership established a capital fund for the possible purchase of office space upon the expiry of the current office lease. As of June 30, the balance in the fund will be \$1,150,000, an amount that should cover most of the purchase price on the space required by the Federation.

Nevertheless, given the degree of uncertainty surrounding the lawsuit over the ownership of Travel CUTS, the National Executive felt at the time it

negotiated the extension that it would have been imprudent to make such a purchase. Now, with the lawsuit settled and the future more certain, the National Executive is in a better position to explore options over the next twelve to eighteen months.

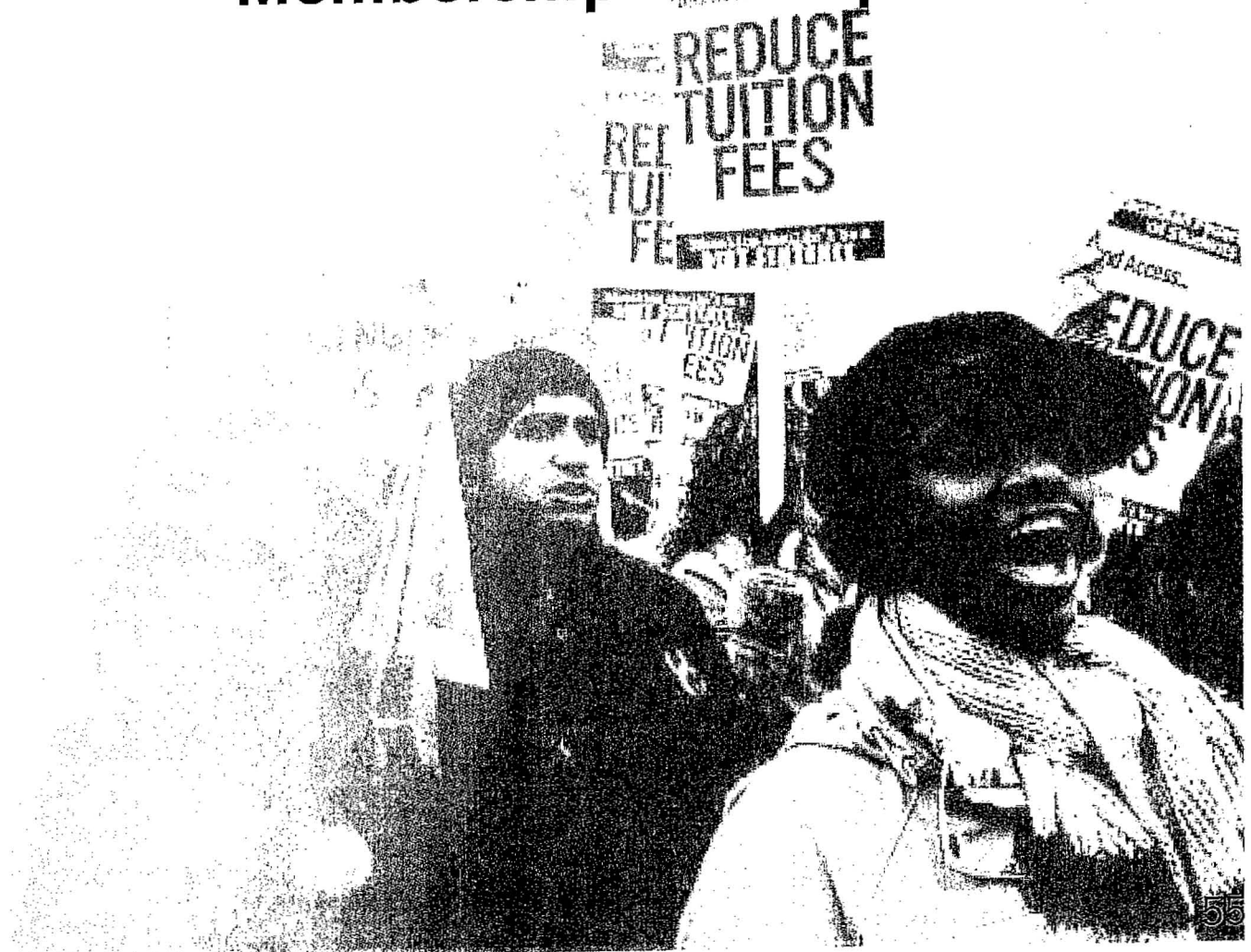
Finally, by securing a lease extension of 26 months, rather than the more conventional 24 months, the Federation is assured that it can move operations, whether into owned or leased facilities, during the less hectic July-August period in 2008.

Technology Upgrades

During the past six months the National Executive has reviewed the technological needs of the national office. Outside of minor hardware and software upgrades, a need to improve the Federation's ability to backup its server data was identified. In March, the Federation implemented a network overhaul that has resulted in a more rigorous backup regiment of server data.

The Federation purchased its last colour photocopier nearly three and one-half years ago. Since then, advances in colour photocopier technology have led to significant reductions in the cost per copy for colour copies. In fact, given the volume of colour printing now being done by the Federation, it will be no more expensive to replace the existing equipment with new equipment, even accounting for the capital costs, than to continue using the existing equipment with its much more expensive per copy rate. It is expected that new equipment will be ordered within the next four to six weeks.

Membership Development



25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Membership Development

New Members

Thompson Rivers University Students' Union (Local 15)

In November 2005, the Thompson Rivers University Students' Union (formerly the Cariboo College Student Society) was accepted as a prospective member of the Federation. On February 7-9 this year, a referendum on full membership was conducted in accordance with Bylaw 1.5. A total of 1636 students voted in the referendum, with 79 percent voting in favour of Federation membership. The official results were: 1290 in favour of membership; 345 opposed; and 1 spoiled ballot.

In accordance with Bylaw 1.2-b-ix, the National Executive recommends that the members of the Thompson Rivers University Students' Union be ratified as full members of the Federation.

University of New Brunswick Graduate Students' Association (Local 67)

A year ago, the University of New Brunswick Graduate Students' Association was accepted as a prospective member of the Federation. On February 20-22 this year, a referendum on full membership was conducted in accordance with Bylaw 1.5. A total of 357 students voted in the referendum, with 92 percent voting in favour of Federation membership. The official results were: 328 in favour of membership; 28 opposed; and 1 spoiled ballot.

In accordance with Bylaw 1.2-b-ix, the National Executive recommends that the members of the University of New Brunswick Graduate Students' Association be ratified as full members of the Federation.

Laurentian Association of Mature and Part-time Students (Local 104)

In November 2005 the Laurentian Association of Mature and Part-time Students (formerly the Association of Laurentian Part-time Students)

was accepted as a prospective member of the Federation. On March 22 this year, a vote on full membership was conducted, in accordance with Bylaw 1.5, at a general meeting of the members. One hundred percent of those in attendance voted in favour of Federation membership.

In accordance with Bylaw 1.2-b-ix, the National Executive recommends that the members of the Laurentian Association of Mature and Part-time Students be ratified as full members of the Federation.

New Prospective Members

University of Windsor Organization of Part-time University Students

In January, the Federation received an application for prospective membership from the University of Windsor Organization of Part-time University Students. The application was accepted at the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario provincial general meeting later that month. Nevertheless, a motion to ratify the association's membership nationally is required at this general meeting.

In accordance with Bylaw 1.4-b, the National Executive, having reviewed the application, recommends that the application for prospective membership be accepted.

Current Prospective Members

There are currently five prospective member students' unions:

- Continuing Education Students' Association of Ryerson;
- Association étudiante de La Cité collégiale;
- Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students;
- Northern Lights College Student Association; and
- Trent Graduate Students' Association.

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Membership Development

Continuing Education Students' Association of Ryerson

The Continuing Education Students' Association of Ryerson was accepted as a prospective member of the Federation in November 2005. It is anticipated that the referendum on full membership will be conducted in Fall 2006, prior to the next national general meeting.

Association étudiante de La Cité collégiale

The Association étudiante de La Cité collégiale was accepted as a prospective member of the Federation at the previous national general meeting. It is anticipated that the referendum on full membership will be conducted in Fall 2006, prior to the next national general meeting.

Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students

The Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students was accepted as a prospective member of the Federation in November 2004. Although it should have held a referendum on full membership prior to the May 2005 general meeting, the Association failed to do so. At the May 2005 national general meeting, the Association's prospective membership was extended in accordance with Bylaw I, Article 2-b-xii. At this point, the referendum on full membership has not yet been scheduled.

Northern Lights College Student Association

The Northern Lights College Student Association was accepted as a prospective member of the Federation in May 2004, which obligated the Association to conduct a referendum on full membership prior to the November 2004 national general meeting. Unfortunately, due to severe turnover and other internal difficulties, the Association was not in a position to conduct a full membership referendum at the time or in the two years since then. The Federation's BC office is working with the Association to restore internal stability.

Trent Graduate Students' Association

The Trent University Graduate Students' Association was accepted as a prospective member of the Federation in November 2004. Although it should have held a referendum on full membership prior to the May 2005 general meeting, the Association failed to do so. At the May 2005 national general meeting, the Association's prospective membership was extended in accordance with Bylaw I, Article 2-b-xii. At this point, the referendum on full membership has not yet been scheduled.

Other Membership Issues

Local 31-University of Prince Edward Island Students' Union

The University of Prince Edward Island Student Union was a founding member of the Federation in 1981 and was a very active member in the years that followed. In fact, from 1981 until 2004, the Students' Union had at least one representative on the Federation's National Executive every single year, a record unmatched by any other member students' union.

As reported previously, the Union wrote to the Federation in March 2004 requesting proof of UPEI students' 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 both that the Union was discontinuing its membership and that the Union had never actually joined the Federation.

Given that the students of UPEI had voted for full membership by referendum in 1984, a fact well documented in archived copies of the campus student newspaper, a referendum vote have would been required to withdraw from the Federation. Although this was communicated to the Union's new president in May 2004, she publicly maintained the stance throughout the 2004-2005 year that UPEI students had never been members

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Membership Development

of the Federation. In addition, all attempts by the Federation to enter into a dialogue with officials of the Union were rebuffed.

As reported at the previous meeting, the National Executive was hopeful that the new executive of the Student Union that took office last May would, at the very least, be open to discussing the matter. Unfortunately, this past year's executive maintained the previous executive's position.

The National Executive intends to continue efforts to open a dialogue with the current executive of the Union.

Local 64-Acadia Student Union

In 1995, the Acadia University Students' Union conducted a referendum on Federation membership in which the members of the Union voted in favour of continued membership. A few months later, the Federation received notice from the Union that it intended to conduct another referendum on membership in early 1996.

The National Executive at the time informed Local 64 in writing that such a referendum could not be held until 1997. The Federation Bylaws stipulate that there must be at least a two-year waiting period between referenda on Federation membership.

In late February 1996 the Federation received a letter from the Union claiming that it had conducted a referendum on membership and that a majority of its members had voted against continued membership. The Federation responded that the referendum, if held, had been invalid, the results would not be recognised, and the Union remained contractually obligated to collect and remit Federation membership dues.

The letter, and all subsequent correspondence, went unanswered. In fact, most of the Federation's correspondence to the Union since that time has been returned unopened. Even letters from the Federation's legal counsel have gone unanswered.

In early 2002, the National Executive was advised by counsel that, if the Federation intended to

pursue legal action to recover the fees owed it by the Union, it had to file suit before June 30, 2002 due to the time limitations established by statute. The National Executive resolved at the time that a suit to recover the monies owed the Federation would be launched if no resolution were reached before the deadline established by statute.

As expected, no negotiations occurred and, consequently, no settlement was reached. A suit was filed in late June 2002. The Union responded by filing a counter suit. Citing the Charter of Rights¹, the Union claims that the Federation was violating its rights by "harassing" it (by sending correspondence). The Federation's legal counsel is extremely confident that the Union's claim is without any merit.

During the past year, the Federation's has examined several individuals, who were connected to the Acadia Student Union at the relevant time, in preparation for trial. Surprisingly, it appears as though the Union has not sought to examine anyone from the Federation.

Although it seems at this point that the dispute is likely to proceed to trial, the National Executive remains hopeful that the issue can be settled out-of-court; however, for that to happen, some willingness on the part of the Acadia Students' Union to discuss the matter is required.

¹ This is the same section of the Constitution under which the Federation argued in the Superior Court of Ontario that 1998 Bankruptcy Act amendments discriminated against students.

Finances

REDUCE
TUITION
FEES



25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Finances

Introduction

As the 2005-2006 fiscal year draws to a close, it can be reported that, with only a few notable exceptions, most of the financial targets established in the Federation's national budget will be met.

The few exceptions, which relate mostly to the settlement in March of the lawsuit over the ownership of Travel CUTS, were not foreseeable in November when the 2005-2006 revised budget was adopted. On the revenue side, final referral fee revenue will be lower than projected due to a new arrangement under which the amount being paid to the Federation was reduced from one percent to .76 percent of gross domestic sales to students, effective April 1, 2006.

On the expense side, the Federation is now obligated to pay Travel CUTS a commission for each ISIC issued, significantly increasing the overall cost of the discount programme. In addition, the Federation agreed, as a condition of the lawsuit settlement, to make payments totaling \$275,000 for past referrals made by the plaintiffs to Travel CUTS.

Membership Fees

Membership fees remain the primary source of funding for the Federation. This year, the Federation projected to collect membership fees of just over \$2.5 million, an amount that the Federation should have no difficulty achieving. As of April 30, \$2,034,369 had been received. At least \$600,000 remains outstanding, but collectible.

Services Income and Expense

Referral Fees from CUTS

For the fiscal 2006 year, the budget projected referral fee revenue of \$925,000 and, in turn, a re-investment of \$900,000.

After the first three-quarters of the current year, referral fee revenue stood at roughly \$600,000,

indicating that the \$925,000 projection will not be achieved. In addition, as noted earlier, in the final quarter the referral fee paid to the Federation drops from one percent to .76 percent of domestic sales to students which will likely result in a referral fee revenue of approximately \$225,000 for the period. Overall, referral fee revenue will be approximately \$100,000 below budget.

Student Work Abroad Program

The Student Work Abroad Program (SWAP) is a Federation service that is administered primarily by Travel CUTS. In 2004-2005, the programme generated a net surplus \$89,038, an amount more in-line with the recent historical levels of SWAP net revenue than the drop to \$24,983 experienced in 2003-2004.

For the current year, it is expected that SWAP net revenue will not exceed the amount budgeted in the 2006 revised budget. Although SWAP expenses at March 31 exceeded revenues by \$228,326, most SWAP revenue is generated in the last quarter of the fiscal year, while expenses are mostly consistent from month to month. It is now expected that the surplus for the year will be approximately \$60,000, compared to the budgeted amount of \$50,000.

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 slightly from the same point a year ago. More significantly, there has been a substantial increase in overall cost, due largely to the new commission that the Federation is required to pay Travel CUTS for each ISIC issued. Consequently, the programme will without doubt generate a loss, rather than the small surplus of \$11,450 projected in the 2005-2006 revised budget.

National Student Health Network

The National Student Health Network is intended to operate on a break-even basis. Although the

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Finances

programme inevitably generates small surpluses in some years and small losses in others, over time it is essentially revenue neutral. After incurring a loss of \$34,815 in fiscal 2001 and a surplus of \$57,885 in 2002, the surplus dropped to \$11,049 in fiscal 2003.

In 2004 the net revenue jumped to \$89,034 due to growth in Network membership. The additional revenue that resulted was not immediately offset through higher costs. In 2005, however, the additional funds were used, largely, to hire a second Network employee in order to help better serve the Network's members. Consequently, net revenue dropped to \$33,068.

For 2005-2006, final administrative fees are still projected to be roughly 10 percent higher due to another increase in Network membership; however, increased administrative costs are likely to offset the additional revenue.

Fund Allocations

Capital Fund

In 1996, the Canadian Federation of Students' operations, based in Ottawa, and the Canadian Federation of Students-Services' operations, based in Toronto, were moved 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 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 capital fund for the future purchase of office space. With this year's budgeted allocation of \$100,000, the fund now stands at \$1,150,000.

Legal Fund

The legal fund was started in 2000 to ensure that the Federation would have sufficient resources to fund its defense in the lawsuit challenging its ownership of Travel CUTS.

Between the 1999 and 2004 fiscal years, a total of \$675,000 was transferred to the fund without any costs being charged to the fund. In fiscal 2005, a net \$149,687 was charged to fund, reducing the balance to \$525,313 at the start of the current year.

To this point in the current year, the Federation has spent close to \$200,000, preparing for trial, negotiating settlement, and undertaking a variety of post-settlement work; however, by settling, the Federation has avoided trial costs that were expected to be in the \$300,000 to \$400,000 range.

Once all costs are applied to the fund at year-end, a balance of roughly \$300,000 should remain. A decision will be required, likely at the next general meeting, on whether to maintain the fund, transfer the balance to another designated fund, or undesignate the remaining balance.

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 or not 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 from year to year, the member locals established a General

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Finances

Meeting Disabled Access Fund in 2000. The Fund allows the Federation to allocate a consistent amount each year, rather than having costs that fluctuate wildly from year to year paid from that year's operating budget.

With this year's budgeted allocation of \$5,000, the fund now stands at \$55,000. The National Executive is proposing that an additional \$5,000 be transferred to the fund during the upcoming fiscal year.

Third Party Election Advertising Report

The Canada Elections Act defines a third party as "...a person or a group, other than a candidate, registered political party or electoral district association of a registered party". Under the Act, any third parties that engages in federal election advertising that exceeds \$5,000 is required to submit an audited Third party Election Advertising Report to the Chief Electoral Officer no later than four months after Election Day.

This year's federal election was the third in which the Federation has engaged in federal election advertising as a third party as defined by the Act. In total, the Federation spent \$54,827 on activity defined by the Act as third party advertising.

The National Executive is pleased to report that the Federation's Third party Election Advertising Report was completed, audited, and submitted to Canada's Chief Electoral Officer by the May 23 deadline.

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
1995-1996	\$3.00
1996-1997	\$3.06
1997-1998	\$3.12
1998-1999	\$3.16
1999-2000	\$3.20
2000-2001	\$3.28
2001-2002	\$3.38
2002-2003	\$3.42
2003-2004	\$3.50
2004-2005	\$3.60
2005-2006	\$3.66
2006-2007	\$3.75

As the table illustrates, the Federation's national membership fee for the upcoming academic year will be \$3.75 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 some cases, their respective institutions are either unable or unwilling to collect amounts that include cents.

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Finances

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, other than one small change a few years ago that increased the fee to \$2.06 per semester. As a result, more than \$550,000 in membership fees that should have been remitted by the Local since 1995 has not been. The National Executive continues to seek solutions to the problem.

inflation and, most significantly, the addition of five new full members.

On the expense side, the proposed allocation for national general meetings is being increased to reflect higher travel costs, while decreases in legal and audit fees are projected resulting from the settlement of the lawsuit challenging the Federation's ownership of Travel CUTS.

2004-2005 Audited Statements

Audited combined financial statements for Canadian Federation of Students and Canadian Federation of Students-Services will be presented at this meeting.

A first glance it may appear that the Federation lost in excess of \$1.8 million dollars in fiscal 2005; however, the audited statements include all of the financial transactions that formed part of the terms of settlement of the lawsuit challenging the Federation's ownership of Travel CUTS. According to auditing standards, a reserve must be recorded to account for significant subsequent year events. In this case, it meant that the 24 percent reduction in Travel CUTS shares (\$2,660,865) and the payments for past referrals (\$275,000) have been recorded in the audited statements for the 2005 fiscal year, even though the transactions occurred during the 2006 fiscal year.

2006-2007 Budget

The first draft of the 2006-2007 budget, presented by the National Executive, proposes relatively few changes from the 2006-2007 budget. Membership fees, the primary revenue source, are projected to be approximately 10 percent higher due to enrolment increases, the annual fee adjustment for

Appendix I - Meetings with and Submissions to Government

DATE	MEETING	SUBJECT
November 30, 2005	Assistant Deputy Minister David Fransen, Industry Canada	University research funding
December 20, 2005	Jean-Pierre Kingsley, Chief Electoral Officer and other Elections Canada Directors	Youth voter registration and campus polling stations
December 22, 2005	MP Barry Devolin (Haliburton—Kawartha Lakes—Brock)	Income contingent student loan repayment schemes
January 9, 2006	Human Resources and Skills Development Policy Conference	Student financial aid, foreign credential recognition
February 3, 2006	Jack McDonald, Consultant, Canada Council on Learning	Research gaps in post-secondary education policy, Canada Council on Learning governance
February 24, 2006	First Ministers' meeting on post-secondary education and stakeholders summit	Federal funding for post-secondary education
April 5, 2006	Meeting of the Advisory Committee on International Students and Immigration	Changes to regulations for international students
April 6, 2006	MP Geoff Regan (Halifax West), MP Mike Savage (Dartmouth—Cole Harbour)	Student financial aid, federal funding for post-secondary education, university research
April 10, 2006	Senator Terry Mercer	Federal funding for post-secondary education
April 10, 2006	Gerard Kennedy, Liberal Party of Canada Leadership Candidate	Federal post-secondary education policy

25 YEARS OF STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Appendix I - Meetings with and Submissions to Government

DATE	MEETING	SUBJECT
April 11, 2006	Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council President Suzanne Fortier and Vice President Scholarships and Awards Isabelle Blain	Whistleblower protection, academic integrity
April 12, 2006	Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, MP Diane Ablonczy (Calgary—Nose Hill)	Federal funding for post-secondary education, Millennium Scholarship Foundation, student financial aid
April 25, 2006	MP Brian Masse (Windsor West, NDP Industry Critic)	Federal whistleblower legislation & amendments to the <i>Copyright Act</i>
April 26, 2006	Senator Elizabeth Hubley	Income contingent student loan repayment schemes, federal transfers for post-secondary education, Post-Secondary Education Act, the new federal government
April 26, 2006	Charlie Angus (Timmins-James Bay, NDP Heritage Critic), Mauril Bélanger (Ottawa-Vanier, Liberal Heritage Critic), Maxime Bernier (Minister of Industry), Jean LaPierre (Outrement, Liberal Heritage Critic), Brian Masse (Windsor West, NDP Industry Critic), Bev Oda (Heritage Minister), Mike Savage (Halifax-Dartmouth, Chair of the Liberal Post-Secondary Education Caucus), and Denise Savoie (Victoria, NDP Education Critic)	Correspondence regarding amendments to the Copyright Act
May 1, 2006	Paul Dewar (Ottawa Centre, NDP critic for Treasury Board)	Federal whistleblower legislation
May 15, 2006	Paul Cappon, President, Canada Council on Learning (CCL)	Canada Council on Learning education index
May 15, 2006	Gary Evans, Director of Government Relations, Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada	Canada Council on Learning education index
May 16, 2006	MP Maurizio Bevilacqua (Vaughn)	University research, graduate students

Appendix II - Media Activity

DATE	OUTLET	SUBJECT
2005/12/07	CKCU Radio*	Expectations for Election Platforms on Post-Secondary Education
2005/12/15	CKNW Radio (Vancouver)	Post-Secondary Education and Federal Election Debates
2005/12/22	CBC Radio	Post-Secondary Education and Federal Election Debates
2005/12/22	MuchMusic	Post-Secondary Education and Federal Election Debates
2005/12/22	CPAC	Federal Election Debate
2006/01/05	CJOB Radio (Winnipeg)	Liberal Party Post-Secondary Education Platform
2006/01/05	CHYR Radio (Windsor)	Liberal Party Post-Secondary Education Platform
2006/01/05	940 Radio (Montréal)	Liberal Party Post-Secondary Education Platform
2006/01/05	570 News Radio (Waterloo)	Liberal Party Post-Secondary Education Platform
2006/01/05	CJD 800 Radio (Montréal)	Liberal Party Post-Secondary Education Platform
2006/01/05	CFRN Radio (Edmonton)	Liberal Party Post-Secondary Education Platform
2006/01/05	Le Devoir	Liberal Party Post-Secondary Education Platform
2006/01/05	Global Television	Liberal Party Post-Secondary Education Platform
2006/01/05	Canwest News	Liberal Party Post-Secondary Education Platform
2006/01/05	CTV	Liberal Party Post-Secondary Education Platform
2006/01/05	CKNW Radio (Vancouver)	Liberal Party Post-Secondary Education Platform

WORKING TOGETHER

Appendix 2

2006/01/05	Radio Canada (Winnipeg)	Liberal Party Post-Secondary Education Platform
2006/01/05	Telegraph Journal (Saint John)	Liberal Party Post-Secondary Education Platform
2006/01/05	Radio Canada (Sudbury)	Liberal Party Post-Secondary Education Platform
2006/01/05	Canadian University Press	Liberal Party Post-Secondary Education Platform
2006/01/05	CBC Television	Liberal Party Post-Secondary Education Platform
2006/01/10	Radio Canada	Post-Secondary Education and Federal Election Debates
2006/01/10	La Presse	Post-Secondary Education and Federal Election Debates
2006/01/10	Le Devoir	Post-Secondary Education and Federal Election Debates
2006/01/10	Radio Canada Television	Post-Secondary Education and Federal Election Debates
2006/01/10	940 Radio (Montréal)	Post-Secondary Education and Federal Election Debates
2006/01/10	CTV	Post-Secondary Education and Federal Election Debates
2006/01/10	CBC Television	Post-Secondary Education and Federal Election Debates
2006/01/10	24 heures	Post-Secondary Education and Federal Election Debates
2006/01/11	CKNW Radio (Vancouver)	Post-Secondary Education and Federal Election Debates
2006/01/17	Radio Canada	Post-Secondary Education and Federal Election Debates
2006/01/23	MuchMusic	Post-Secondary Education and Federal Election Debates
2006/01/23	Rogers Television (Ottawa)	Post-Secondary Education and Federal Election Debates
2006/01/23	Radio Canada	Post-Secondary Education and Federal Election Debates
2006/01/23	Guelph Mercury	Post-Secondary Education and Federal Election Debates
2006/01/23	The Excalibur*	Post-Secondary Education and Federal Election Debates
2006/01/23	The Chronicle of Higher Education	Post-Secondary Education and Federal Election Debates
2006/01/23	The Underground*	Post-Secondary Education and Federal Election Debates
2006/01/23	Ottawa Sun	Post-Secondary Education and Federal Election Debates

WORKING TOGETHER

Appendix 2

2006/01/24	The Kingston Whig Standard	Post-Secondary Education and Federal Election Debates
2006/01/24	Alert Radio	Post-Secondary Education and Federal Election Debates
2006/01/24	The Martlet*	Post-Secondary Education and Federal Election Debates
2006/01/24	Radio Canada (Toronto)	Post-Secondary Education and Federal Election Debates
2006/01/24	Radio Canada (Sudbury)	Post-Secondary Education and Federal Election Debates
2006/01/28	CFRA Radio (Ottawa)	Post-Secondary Education and Federal Election Debates
2006/01/28	Toronto Star	Post-Secondary Education and Federal Election Debates
2006/01/28	Centertown News	Post-Secondary Education and Federal Election Debates
2006/01/28	The Resin*	Post-Secondary Education and Federal Election Debates
2006/02/10	The Brunswickan*	Benefits of Federation Membership
2006/02/14	The Eyeopener*	UFile Service
2006/02/23	Dose	Federal Funding for Post-Secondary Education
2006/02/23	Radio Canada	Federal Funding for Post-Secondary Education
2006/02/23	CBC Television	Federal Funding for Post-Secondary Education
2006/02/23	Canwest Global Media	Federal Funding for Post-Secondary Education
2006/02/23	Canadian University Press	Federal Funding for Post-Secondary Education
2006/02/23	Sun Media	Federal Funding for Post-Secondary Education
2006/02/23	Canadian Press	Federal Funding for Post-Secondary Education
2006/02/23	Evolution Radio*	Federal Funding for Post-Secondary Education
2006/02/23	Globe and Mail	Federal Funding for Post-Secondary Education
2006/02/23	CTV	Federal Funding for Post-Secondary Education
2006/02/23	CFML Radio*	Federal Funding for Post-Secondary Education
2006/02/24	CPAC	Premiers' Summit on Post-Secondary Education

WORKING TOGETHER

Appendix 2

2006/02/24	Toronto Star	Premiers' Summit on Post-Secondary Education
2006/02/24	The Plant*	Premiers' Summit on Post-Secondary Education
2006/02/24	Canwest Global News	Premiers' Summit on Post-Secondary Education
2006/02/24	CHUM TV	Premiers' Summit on Post-Secondary Education
2006/02/24	CTV	Premiers' Summit on Post-Secondary Education
2006/02/24	La Rotonde*	Premiers' Summit on Post-Secondary Education
2006/02/24	The Charlatan*	Premiers' Summit on Post-Secondary Education
2006/02/24	Impact-Campus*	Premiers' Summit on Post-Secondary Education
2006/02/24	CBC Television	Premiers' Summit on Post-Secondary Education
2006/02/24	The Chronicle of Higher Education	Premiers' Summit on Post-Secondary Education
2006/02/24	Dose	Federal Funding for Post-Secondary Education
2006/02/24	Radio Canada	Premiers' Summit on Post-Secondary Education
2006/02/24	CBC Radio	Premiers' Summit on Post-Secondary Education
2006/03/08	The Gateway*	Travel CUTS Settlement
2006/03/08	The Varsity*	Federal Funding for Post-Secondary Education
2006/03/08	CBC Radio (Edmonton)	Government Funding Issues Related to the Ontario College Faculty Strike
2006/03/08	CBC Radio (Moncton)	Government Funding Issues Related to the Ontario College Faculty Strike
2006/03/08	CBC Radio (Ottawa)	Government Funding Issues Related to the Ontario College Faculty Strike
2006/03/08	CBC Radio (Regina)	Government Funding Issues Related to the Ontario College Faculty Strike
2006/03/08	CBC Radio (St. John's)	Government Funding Issues Related to the Ontario College Faculty Strike

WORKING TOGETHER

Appendix 2

2006/03/08	CBC Radio (Thunder Bay)	Government Funding Issues Related to the Ontario College Faculty Strike
2006/03/08	CBC Radio (Toronto)	Government Funding Issues Related to the Ontario College Faculty Strike
2006/03/08	CBC Radio (Vancouver)	Government Funding Issues Related to the Ontario College Faculty Strike
2006/03/08	CBC Radio (Victoria)	Government Funding Issues Related to the Ontario College Faculty Strike
2006/03/08	CBC Radio (Windsor)	Government Funding Issues Related to the Ontario College Faculty Strike
2006/03/08	CBC Radio (Winnipeg)	Government Funding Issues Related to the Ontario College Faculty Strike
2006/03/09	CBC Radio (Halifax)	Plagiarism Detection Software
2006/03/09	Radio Canada	Plagiarism Detection Software
2006/03/09	CBC Radio (Vancouver)	Plagiarism Detection Software
2006/03/18	The Sheaf*	Academic Freedom and the Chris Radziminski Case
2006/03/23	Radio Canada	Ontario College Faculty Strike
2006/03/23	The Charlatan*	Tuition Fees
2006/03/24	L'Organe*	Post-Secondary Education Funding in Québec
2006/03/26	National Post	Academic Freedom and the Chris Radziminski Case
2006/03/29	Rogers Television (Ottawa)	Federal and Provincial Funding for Post-Secondary Education
2006/03/29	CTV	University Residence Fees
2006/04/25	Rogers Television (Owen Sound)	Tuition Fees, Student Debt, and Student Employment
2006/04/27	Toronto Star	International Student Off-Campus Work Announcement
2006/04/27	CJBK Radio London	International Student Off-Campus Work Announcement
2006/04/27	The Charlatan*	International Student Off-Campus Work Announcement

WORKING TOGETHER

Appendix 2

2006/04/27	Globe and Mail	International Student Off-Campus Work Announcement
2006/04/27	Omni 2 Television	International Student Off-Campus Work Announcement
2006/04/27	CBC Radio (Ottawa)	International Student Off-Campus Work Announcement
2006/04/27	CBC Radio (Halifax)	International Student Off-Campus Work Announcement
2006/04/27	CBC Television	International Student Off-Campus Work Announcement
2006/04/27	Radio Canada	International Student Off-Campus Work Announcement
2006/04/27	The Chronicle of Higher Education	International Student Off-Campus Work Announcement
2006/04/28	CBC Television	Graduate Employment Opportunities
2006/05/02	Canwest Global News	2006 Federal Budget
2006/05/02	Globe and Mail	2006 Federal Budget
2006/05/02	CPAC	2006 Federal Budget
2006/05/02	CBC Radio	2006 Federal Budget
2006/05/02	Radio Canada	2006 Federal Budget
2006/05/02	Dose	2006 Federal Budget
2006/05/02	Canadian Press	2006 Federal Budget
2006/05/02	National Post	2006 Federal Budget
2006/05/02	The Charlatan*	2006 Federal Budget
2006/05/02	Canadian University Press	2006 Federal Budget
2006/05/03	CBC Television	Federal Funding for Post-Secondary Education
2006/05/03	CTV	International Student Enrolment in Québec
2006/05/13	Night Views*	Federal Funding for Post-Secondary Education
2006/05/15	CTV	Canada Student Loans Program
2006/05/16	The Charlatan*	Federal Funding for Post-Secondary Education

WORKING TOGETHER

Appendix 2

2006/05/16	The Charlatan*	International Student Off-Campus Work Program
2006/05/17	The Charlatan*	Tuition Fees and Accessibility
2006/05/23	Toronto Sun	International Student Off-Campus Work Program

***Campus Media**