

Letter to the Members



Dear Members,

We are pleased to submit for your consideration the report detailing the work of the National Executive and the Federation over the past six months.

As you know, this meeting marks the 25th anniversary of our organisation. This milestone—unprecedented in North American student movements—compels us to review our history and what has been achieved in the fight for accessible public post-secondary education. Internally, several key democratic structures have enabled us to stay united in the face of external pressures, be they unfriendly governments or service profiteers.

Many, if not most, delegates were not yet born when the Federation was founded at Carleton University in 1981. This fact is a reminder that the future success of the student movement must not only be considered in the context of the immediate term; we might also envision a student movement that will thrive long after we have all moved on.

Indeed, the role of a strong student movement in Canada is as important as ever. Tuition fee regulation in many jurisdictions is under constant threat from parties hostile to accessible public education. The campaign adopted last May is well underway, and this meeting will serve to share organising strategies and to energise each other for the remaining days leading up to the week of action.

The Federation and its coalition partners are winning the battle against the private, for-profit education industry; but the proliferation of private post-secondary education is only one international trade tribunal ruling away. Solidarity work with other sectors and global student movements in the year ahead will be crucial to protecting public education.

From coast to coast, the Federation clearly has much important work to do. We look forward to working with you towards a great day of action.

The National Executive

November 2006

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Campaigns and Government Relations



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Day Of Action Organising

Background

During budget cutbacks in the 1990s, the federal government cut nearly 20 percent from post-secondary education funding to the provinces. Cutbacks were passed along by provincial governments to students and their families in the form of higher tuition fees. In most provinces, tuition fees and student debt more than doubled by 2000. The federal government at the time proposed income contingent repayment for student loans as a "solution" to higher fees, but intense mobilising by the Federation during the 1990s prevented that from becoming a reality.

The tide began to turn after the Federation's successful "Access 2000" campaign that culminated in a Day of Action on February 2, 2000. Demonstrations on February 2 were the largest since the Federation's 1995 mobilisation against income contingent repayment schemes. Access 2000 and ensuing campaign efforts created enough public outcry over tuition fees that, between 2001 and 2006, every province except New Brunswick had implemented some form of strict tuition fee regulation:

- British Columbia: tuition fee freeze and reduction (1995-2001), cap at rate of inflation (2005-present)
- Alberta: tuition fee freeze (2004-present)
- Saskatchewan: tuition fee freeze (2004-present)
- Manitoba: tuition fee reduction (2001), freeze (2001-present)
- Ontario: tuition fee freeze (2003-2005)
- Québec: tuition fee freeze (1995-present)
- Nova Scotia: tuition fee reduction (2006)
- Prince Edward Island: tuition fee freeze (2001)
- Newfoundland & Labrador: tuition fee freeze (1999-2001), reduction (2002-2004), freeze (2005-present)

Despite the success of the student movement at slowing (or reversing) the fee increases of the previous decade, access to post-secondary education remains severely restricted for low-and middle-income Canadians. Student debt continues to creep upwards in most jurisdictions, and a regressive prohibition on student loan bankruptcy condemns thousands of university and college graduates to years of crushing debt and harassment from collection agents. Ontario has recently suspended its tuition fee freeze, and serious cracks have appeared in the tuition fee freeze in Manitoba. In Québec, a coalition of former politicians, conservative think-tanks, and English university presidents threatens to turn the clock backward on the province's nation-leading tuition fee policy.

In response to the pressures facing the student movement's hard-won victories, the May 2006 semi-annual general meeting resolved to employ the strategy of a national Day of Action in the campaign for reduced fees, increased federal funding, and better student financial aid. Two months later, the National Executive selected February 7, 2007 as the focal point for the year-long campaign. What follows is a brief description of the political landscape in the provinces and the organising work to date.

British Columbia

In 2001, the BC government eliminated the legislation that protected students' access to post-secondary education through a province-wide tuition fee freeze. The elimination of the tuition fee freeze, and corresponding cuts to institutional budgets, resulted in average tuition fees in BC doubling between 2002 and now, and student debt rising to second highest in the country. Tuition fees now account for more than two percent of the provincial government's total revenue.

Federation locals have used a number of tactics to raise awareness about the negative effects of high tuition fees. Throughout 2004, locals organised actions on campus and collected over 37,000 signatures on a petition in support of reduced

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tuition fees. As a result of the public pressure generated by the Federation's campaign, the government re-regulated tuition fees, capping them at the rate of inflation. Building on this first step, the component launched a campaign in fall 2006 demanding a 10 percent tuition fee reduction in September 2007, and a subsequent 10 percent reduction in September 2008.

The Federation in BC is also mobilizing around a system-wide review akin to the Rae Review, "Campus 2020". As a result of the Federation's organising, students have been the largest group represented at every public consultation. Each meeting has ended with near unanimity on the importance of tuition fee reductions and the re-implementation of a provincial system of grants.

Local organizing for the Day of Action has been successfully implemented in BC and preparations are underway. Regularly scheduled regional meetings are being held across the province to organise for the Day. Several member locals have secured academic amnesty for students participating in the Day of Action or have submitted motions to their institutions' senate/education council.

The Federation attended the Canadian Union of Public Employees-British Columbia's meeting of education sector locals, at which CUPE local representatives signed up to receive information and materials for the Day of Action. The CUPE-BC executive has expressed its intent to help organise CUPE members for February, as has the BC Teachers Federation. Meetings will be scheduled with both organisations to explore participation.

Alberta

Between 1990 and 2006, fees in Alberta increased by 275 percent, outpacing both Ontario and Nova Scotia. In 2004, the provincial government began a two-year policy of re-imbursing institutions for the amount that they choose to increase tuition fees. So although fees increased, students in Alberta paid only the 2004 amount. In 2005, the government

announced a review of student financial aid and tuition fees.

After approximately eighteen months of consulting with stakeholders in a system-wide review process, the Government of Alberta passed a new tuition fee policy in November 2006. Highlights of the framework include: maintaining fees at the 2004 level plus increases at the rate of inflation as measured by the Alberta Consumer Price Index; relaxed repayment requirements during parental leave and internships; an extension to the lifetime loan limit; part-time student loans; and a small operating funding increase for institutions. Unfortunately, the new framework does not apply to all programs and does not prevent further deregulation of other programs.

For graduate students, universities in Alberta will maintain the current continuing fees structure. With the exception of deregulated programs, tuition fees are reduced significantly after the first year of study in a Masters degree and the second year of study at the Doctoral level.

Saskatchewan

As a result of chronic government under funding, students in Saskatchewan pay the third highest average undergraduate tuition fees in Canada at \$5,063 per year, and much higher fees for professional programs such as pharmacy, commerce, law, and medicine. High fees have placed a university or college education out of the reach of many low- and middle-income families in Saskatchewan. In fact, Saskatchewan was the only province that experienced a net university enrolment decline in the 1990s.

In 2004, the University of Saskatchewan Students Union re-joined the Federation as a prospective member and participated in the provincial component's campaign to freeze tuition fees. Months later, the Saskatchewan government announced a two-year tuition fee freeze. In 2006, the government announced that the policy would be extended an additional two years. This year the government is also undertaking a review of access

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and affordability of Saskatchewan's universities and public colleges. The Day of Action organising includes mobilising for the public consultations in the "McCall review". The Federation has drafted a submission that makes a thoroughly researched case for tuition fee reductions and up-front grants. The Federation is also calling for the immediate elimination of tuition fees for Aboriginal students in Saskatchewan. Coalitions are being developed on campuses with student groups and faculty associations in preparation for February 7th events.

Manitoba

In the spring of 2000, the newly elected Manitoba government followed through on its election promise to freeze tuition fees at all Manitoba universities and colleges, and reduce tuition fees by 10 percent. Studies since then have reported that the freeze and reduction were followed by a 35 percent enrolment increase across the province.

The year following the announcement of the freeze, the first flaws of an unlegislated freeze began to appear when international student tuition fees were allowed to rise, and steep tuition fee increases followed in a many professional programs. At the same time, print media and university presidents began to attack the governments' tuition fee freeze policy, claiming that it was undermining the quality of education by denying institutions a limitless source of funds.

Although public support for the tuition fee freeze in Manitoba has remained very high since it was first introduced, organised campaigns against the tuition fee freeze policy by university presidents are slowly eroding the public's confidence in the policy. In spring 2005 all universities and colleges introduced mandatory "ancillary fees"—undesignated services fees charged to all students—in an attempt to circumvent the tuition fee freeze. A second round of ancillary fee increases in 2006 and weak leadership from the Premier and the Minister of Advanced Education has totally undermined the tuition fee reduction.

University boards continue to increase international student fees. By the spring of 2006, some international students were paying as much as 180 percent more than Canadian students, forcing many international students to drop out of their programs and return home.

In November 2006, as part of the lead-up to the National Day of Action, Manitoba locals launched a province-wide student consultation campaign called "Students Say". Locals solicited responses from members on a number of issues, including tuition fees and government operating grants for institutions. The results of the consultations will be compiled in a report to be presented to the Manitoba government in January 2007.

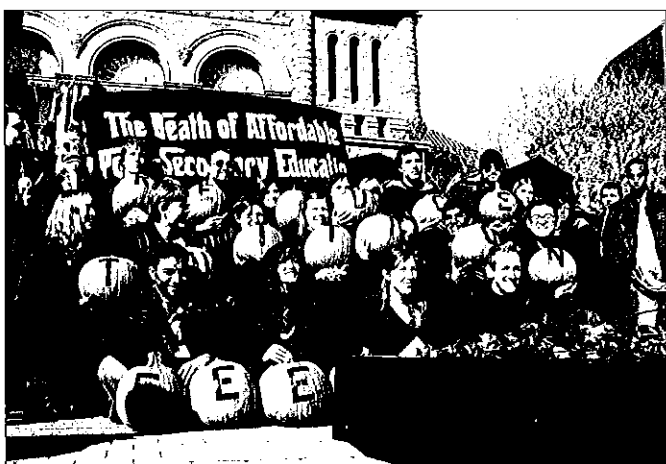
Ontario

During the 1990s, conservative Premiers Mike Harris and Ernie Eves cut hundreds of millions of dollars of funding for universities and colleges increased tuition fees every year. In 1998, tuition fees for graduate and professional programmes in Ontario were de-regulated by the provincial government, allowing college and university administrators to charge students "whatever the market would bear" to study programmes like medicine, law, and dental hygiene.

As a result of the Federation's Access 2000 campaign, Ontario students won a two percent per year cap on tuition fee increases and, in 2002, students made it politically unpalatable for the Progressive Conservative government to grant Queen's University's request for the deregulation of all undergraduate tuition fees.

In 2003, organising by member locals in Ontario shaped the platforms of both the Ontario New Democrats and the Ontario Liberals. When the Liberals were ultimately elected in October 2003, new Premier Dalton McGuinty promptly announced that tuition fees in Ontario would be frozen for two years. In total, the tuition fee freeze forced the restoration of more than \$150 million in annual government funding for public colleges and universities.

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Despite the popularity and effectiveness of the tuition fee freeze, former one-term Ontario Premier Bob Rae was commissioned by McGuinty to undertake a review of Ontario's post-secondary education system with what many observers feared was a singular mission to end the freeze. Indeed, before Rae's task force had even begun meeting with the public and education organisations, Rae was quoted as saying that the tuition fee freeze had to be lifted.

In fall 2005 Ontario member locals held on-campus plebiscites in which students voted overwhelmingly in favour of maintaining the tuition fee freeze and reducing tuition fees. In March 2006, the McGuinty government formally announced its "Reaching Higher Plan" for higher tuition fees. The Plan, based on Bob Rae's recommendations, opened the door to five percent annual tuition fee increases, eight percent for professional programs. Today, tuition fees in Ontario are the third highest in Canada, and fund nearly 50 percent of the operating budgets of universities with student loans financing more than half of the total tuition fees charged.

Campaigning for the 2007 Day of Action began with the distribution of "Tuition Fees Suck" buttons, stickers, and temporary tattoos on campus at orientation events in September. National materials have also been eagerly adopted by the members in Ontario. Samples of campaign materials and an

invitation to endorse the Federation's campaign have been mailed to coalition partners in Ontario.

In the two and one-half months since classes resumed this fall, Ontario member locals collected the signatures of 40,000 voters calling on the provincial government to roll back tuition fees and freeze tuition fees through to at least the end of the current government's mandate. Included in that total are the signatures of two Senators and ten Ontario Members of Parliament. Significant television, newspaper, and radio news coverage of the presentation of these petitions to Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP) was achieved in October and November by holding public events at the legislature building in Toronto, the Premier's constituency office in Ottawa, and offices of MPPs in other parts of the province.

A campaign video is being edited and is expected to be completed in time to be screened on campuses when the members return to classes in January. Events such as a "fax your MPP" day are planned to increase awareness about the Day of Action and to continue to put pressure on the provincial government to reduce tuition fees.

Québec

There are no tuition fees for colleges in Québec, and university tuition fees have been frozen for more than 30 of the last 40 years. As a result, tuition fees for Québec residents are by far the lowest in the country. Despite solid public support for the freeze, there are strong indications that the tuition fee freeze will be lifted if the Jean Charest government is elected to a second term in 2007.

For non-Québec residents, affordability is a serious concern. In 1996, the Québec government allowed universities to exempt international and out-of-province students from tuition fee regulation. Out-of-province students pay tuition fees that are, on average, three times higher than their Québécois classmates. Since 1990, tuition fees for out-of-province students have increased by more than 750 percent. Furthermore, many universities, particularly McGill and Concordia, have increased

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tuition fees for out-of province and international students beyond prescribed limits.

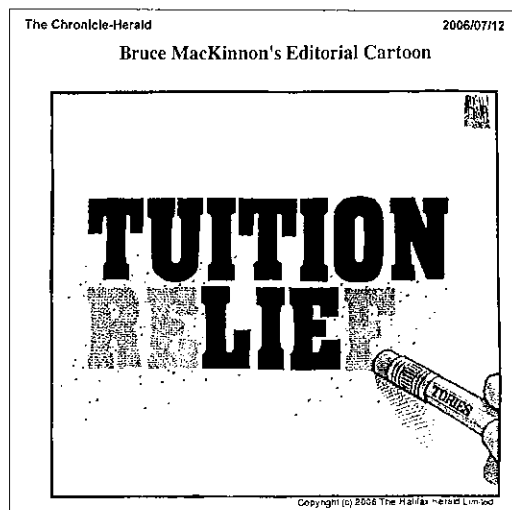
Members have resolved to implement a comprehensive campaign called "Fund the Future" that calls on the government to increase institutional funding to support the tuition fee freeze and extend it to all students. Organising committees have been struck on campuses and campaign materials and information have been developed and distributed on campuses. Activities will continue in the coming months, building toward a coordinated action in February in Montréal.

Nova Scotia

Tuition fees in Nova Scotia remain the highest in the country, at more than \$2,000 above the national average. Despite being elected on a platform to reduce tuition fees by more than \$1,000 for undergraduate students, the newly elected Premier Rodney MacDonald increased the tuition fees of every student in Nova Scotia by at least four percent in September.

This past summer, the MacDonald government attempted to undermine the previous government's commitment to use the one-time federal trust fund for tuition fee reduction (Bill C-48). The government hid a clause in the Financial Measures Act that would see \$28 million of federal funding earmarked for tuition fee reductions rerouted to university infrastructure. Intense lobbying and public pressure from the Federation ensured that all of the money went back into improving access. Unfortunately, the government decided to take a very narrow view about which students deserved a tuition fee reduction. On October 25, the Nova Scotia government announced a \$440 tuition fee reduction for permanent residents of the province. Although a tuition fee reduction was a welcomed policy change, it will exclude one third of university students in Nova Scotia.

Organising committees have been struck at most campuses, and meet weekly. Outreach to community college and high school students has already begun and has been well-received. Planning



committees have elected to hold demonstrations in Halifax and Sydney for the Day of Action.

Newfoundland and Labrador

In 1999, the Newfoundland and Labrador government responded to the Federation's lobbying by implementing a universal freeze on tuition fees. When asked by the press about his government's motivation for this decision, then-Newfoundland and Labrador Premier, Brian Tobin, responded: "Students made it impossible for me not to do it." Fees were subsequently frozen for an additional two years.

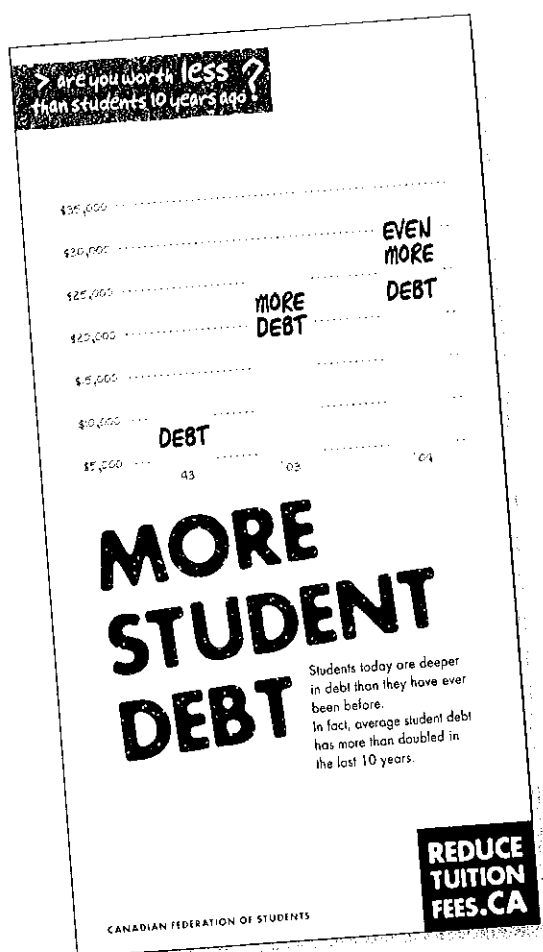
In 2001, responding again to student pressure, government announced a 25 percent reduction in tuition fees that would be implemented over the subsequent three years. Unfortunately, the reduction was not universal: medical, international, and college students benefited only from a tuition fee freeze.

A provincial election in 2003 brought the Progressive Conservative Party led by Danny Williams to power. Although during the election campaign the party had committed to implementing a four-year freeze on tuition fees, their first budget delivered a freeze for the 2004-2005 year only. Williams announced his intention to undertake a review of post-secondary education to provide

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guidance on tuition fee policymaking for the remainder of his mandate.

Students in Newfoundland and Labrador responded with an intense campaign to make the White Paper reflect the needs of students and their families. Students from each district across Newfoundland and Labrador met with their legislative representatives to press them about access to post-secondary education. When the White Paper was finally released, it recommended that tuition fees remain frozen in Newfoundland and Labrador, and that the provincial government increase core funding to the public university and college. The government has since gone on to increase operating grants far beyond the Paper's recommendation.



2007 Day of Action organising is being integrated with the campaign focused on the October 2007 provincial election. Specifically, the provincial campaign is building public support for the complete elimination of tuition fees in Newfoundland and Labrador through incremental reductions. Campaign buttons and other Federation materials were distributed and well-received during orientations weeks at all member locals. In December, Local 36 will have a campaign-themed float in their local Santa Claus Parade. The Federation has produced materials outlining "The Top Ten Reasons to Eliminate Tuition Fees" for distribution at member locals beginning in January, when heavy campaigning on campuses will begin.

Organising Manual

For the first time in several years, the Federation updated and distributed copies of the Organising Manual. The Manual contains ideas for planning and implementing campaigns, sample letters of endorsements, letters to cabinet ministers, and media relations tactics.

Posters

Posters were distributed to member locals in early September. Three types of posters were produced: federal funding, student debt, and tuition fees. The tuition fees posters were customised for each province.

Buttons

New-look "Reduce Tuition Fees" and "Grants Not Loans" buttons were distributed to member locals in early October.

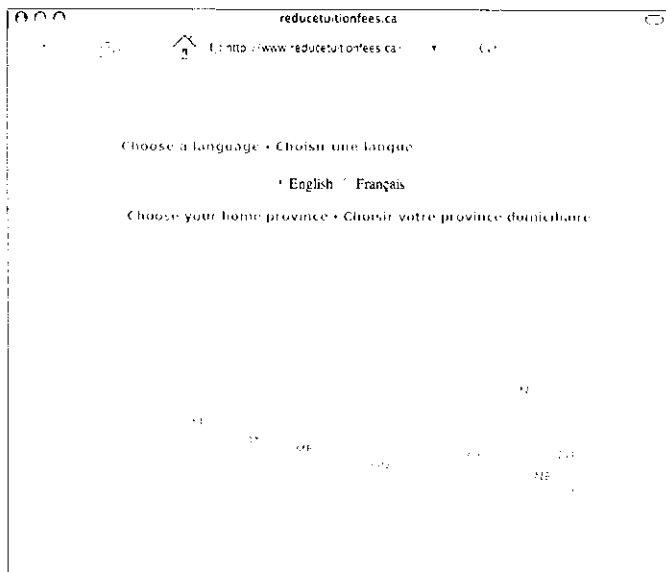
Handbills

Full-colour handbills were distributed to member locals in early October. The handbills summarise the content of all three posters and direct interested students to contact their students' union office and visit the campaign web site.

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ReduceTuitionFees.ca

The Federation redesigned reducetuitionfees.ca to serve as a site for provincial-specific content and organising information about the Day of Action. Activists can sign up online to be automatically notified about updates.



Fall Lobby Sessions

At the July 2006 National Executive meeting it was resolved that, in addition to ongoing contact with the federal government by the national office, an intense lobby effort should be organised in early October to complement the local Day of Action organising. Meetings were sought with Members of Parliament and Senators that would bring attention to the affordability of post-secondary education and student debt, build or maintain working relationships between member locals and Members of Parliament in their respective area, and increase the profile of the Federation on Parliament Hill. A list of MPs and Senators was compiled based on their involvement with post-secondary education

and research or their status within their party's caucus.

From October 2 to 5, member local representatives met with nearly one hundred Members of Parliament and Senators from their regions. Before the meetings, a preparatory session was conducted to review the issues and lobbying techniques. Representatives resolved to prioritise federal cash transfers, tuition fees, winding down the Millennium Scholarship Foundation, and the restoration of funding for the Summer Career Placement Program (SCP) in the meetings. Information folders were prepared for each policy maker that included the Federation's 2006 pre-budget submission and several fact sheets. Senators, who are currently studying the Federal Accountability Act, were provided with the Federation's submission concerning the protection of academic whistleblowers, as well as information on the Radziminski case and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) judicial review that is outlined later in this report.

At the conclusion of each day, a debriefing session was held to share information and re-evaluate strategy. Over the course of the week, several trends were identified. Many Liberal MPs raised the issue of "funding students directly" instead of undertaking negotiations with the provinces about cash transfer payments. Since the description essentially matched that of a system of vouchers, Federation representatives expressed opposition to the idea, but ongoing work with Liberal MPs was identified as a priority to discredit vouchers¹.

Many local representatives reported receiving support for a dedicated transfer payment from MPs from all parties. A few Conservative MPs even suggested it may be part of the 2007 federal budget. Support for scrapping the Millennium Scholarship Foundation was high among Conservative and New Democrat MPs, but not amongst Liberal MPs, particularly those

¹Proposed in this context, vouchers are a scheme by which the government gives the majority of public funding directly to students, rather than as an operating grant to institutions. The purpose of vouchers is to foster increased "free market choice" for students by forcing competition among institutions for a student's funding. However, without government operating grants, tuition fees would at least double and institutions would expend significant resources attempting to woo students.

who were in government when the Foundation was introduced. The Federation received strong support from Liberal and New Democrat MPs who opposed summer job cuts announced by the Conservative government. Some concern was also expressed by rural and Atlantic Conservative MPs about their government's cuts to the program.

There was strong interest among most Senators for considering amendments to the Federal Accountability Act that would specifically protect academic whistleblowers. The Federation was invited to prepare a submission for the Senate Committee's deliberation on the issue. A brief was subsequently submitted (see Academic Freedom section).

Over the course of the week, several MPs and Senators volunteered to make supportive statements in the House and upper chamber about the Federation's campaign and lobbying efforts. Several opposition MPs also expressed interest in collaborating with the Federation to ask questions about pressing post-secondary education issues during Question Period. Follow-up letters and questions were prepared and sent shortly after the meetings.

2007 Federal Budget

Presentation And Submission To The House Of Commons Standing Committee On Finance

As in previous years, the Federation was invited to submit a brief for the public consultations of the Standing Committee on Finance. The Federation's submission identified the following priorities: increased federal funding for lower tuition fees guided by a federal act; dissolution of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation and creation of a national system of needs-based grants in its place, and re-allocation of the funding for tax credits and the Registered Education Savings



Plan to up-front grants. Each of the Federation's recommendations includes cost estimates and is supported by Canadian and international data.

On September 28, the Federation's brief was presented to the Finance Committee. The Committee was receptive to many of the recommendations outlined by the Federation. In particular, Liberal MPs wanted to debate the merits of the federal government's spending on tax credits, and Conservative MPs were interested in discussing the unaccountable nature of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation. New Democratic and Bloc Quebecois MPs were interested in discussing the September cutbacks by the Conservative Treasury Board Minister, and what level of federal re-investment was necessary to maintain and improve post-secondary education. After the presentation, Conservative MP Dean Del Mastro indicated that he thought the government would introduce a dedicated education transfer in the next budget, if not sooner, and that he was certain the Committee would at least be recommending such a transfer to the government.

Alternative Federal Budget

Since 1996, the Federation has been an active participant in the Alternative Federal Budget (AFB) project. First released in 1994, the Budget was

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developed by CHOICES, a social justice coalition based in Winnipeg, and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. The budget document addresses priorities including: reducing government debt through a progressive taxation system, rebuilding Canada's social safety net, protecting the environment, and achieving full employment.

Work is underway for the post-secondary education and research chapter of the 2007 AFB, for which the Federation is responsible, with the intent of publishing the document in January 2007.

Student Financial Assistance

Human Resources and Skills Development Consultation

In August 2006, the Department of Human Resources and Social Development (HRSD) announced it was holding online consultations on policy issues in post-secondary education. The consultation focused on three themes: the role of the federal government in post-secondary education, to what objectives the government should aspire, and ways to ensure that the system was accountable. The Department did a poor job of inviting organisations to participate in the consultation, and most post-secondary groups were not informed of the consultation by the Department. Instead, organisations like the Canadian Association of University Teachers, many of the large unions, and the Federation heard about the consultations by word of mouth from other associations. In a meeting with a number of post-secondary organisations, all groups present noted concerns with the consultation process. The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada had originally resolved to not participate in the process but later reversed that position. In addition to concerns about the process of the consultation, the Federation is also concerned that a private firm was hired to compile and summarise all the submitted briefs.

Despite reservations about the lack of clear invitations, the Federation submitted a brief to HRSD. On the theme "clarifying roles", the Federation made a case for the federal government's role in financing post-secondary education. On the theme "objectives", the Federation outlined three priorities: increased cash transfers to the provinces guided by a Post-Secondary Education Act; use of federal investments to encourage tuition fee reductions; and use of needs-based grants to reduce student loan borrowing. In addition, the Federation outlined problems with tax credits as student financial aid, and reviewed the research on barriers to post-secondary education. Finally, on the theme of "accountability", the Federation outlined a number of socio-economic indicators that would demonstrate the results of a well-educated population and outlined the failure of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation with respect to student financial aid, transparency, and public accountability.

Seemingly concerned with the negative reaction many post-secondary education organisations to the approach to the consultation process, the Department held follow-up meetings with several associations in the post-secondary education sector. On October 6, the Federation presented its brief to senior HRSD officials. Results of the consultations have not yet been released.

Selection of the Canada Student Loans Service Provider

In February 2006, the federal government issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the outsourcing of service provision for the Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP). After several requests for extensions by contract bidders, the final closing date for proposals was June 7.

Several requests for clarification of details of the RFP were made by the Federation on May 17. Officials at Public Works and Government Services Canada refused to disclose any information in response to the questions, stating that the

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Federation would have to file Access to Information requests for any questions related to the content and drafting of the RFP, as well as for any questions related to the contract tendering process. The Federation has made numerous verbal and written requests for consultation with Public Works during the proposal evaluation process, but they have all been rebuffed.

Public Works is expecting the proposal evaluations to be completed by the end of 2006 and that a new CSLP service provider to be selected in early 2007.

EDULINX Service Advisory Council

After the chartered banks ceased lending and disbursing government-guaranteed student loans in 2000, the Government of Canada resumed the role of lender. Following a bidding process, the federal government contracted out the disbursement and collection of student loans. Since March 2001, EDULINX Canada Corporation has been administering and managing the Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP) for loans to students studying at public institutions and BDP Business Data Service for loans to studying at private institutions.

EDULINX hosts consultations semi-annually as per its current contract with the federal government. The most recent stakeholder meeting on November 3 in Mississauga at EDULINX headquarters. At the meeting, EDULINX representatives reviewed operations since the last meeting in March 2006. Proposals submitted to the federal government by EDULINX and other companies that are vying to obtain the next CSLP contract are still being evaluated. Accordingly, and similar to the previous meeting, senior managers of EDULINX spent much of the November 3 meeting presenting statistics that emphasised the company's efficiency. It appeared that the presentations were to serve as an additional sales pitch opportunity for EDULINX in its bid to retain the CSLP contract.

EDULINX representatives reported that overall student loan consolidation was up by 3.4 percent, the increase of revision of terms requests was

negligible, and student loan disbursement rose by one percent to two percent this September. The trend of increasing applications for Interest Relief (IR) reported at the March meeting has also continued. As previously reported, the Federation had expressed concern that students were first advised of the option of revising the repayment term to fifteen years (ultimately increasing the total amount to be re-paid) before being advised of the opportunity to apply for Interest Relief. Senior management at EDULINX has assured Federation representatives that all students are being advised of both of their options. It was also reported that an Internet based tool that gives borrowers who wish to file a Revision of Terms application the option to do so online has been created. No such tool exists for Interest Relief.

Federation representatives asked several questions during the discussion, many of which were also for the benefit of Canada Student Loans Program officials who were present. For example, the Federation's national office receives a high volume of emails and phone calls from graduates who are harassed by student loan collection agents. At the meeting it was explained that private collection agencies (PCAs) are hired separately by the federal government and most provincial governments. In most cases, borrowers who wish to express concern about the behaviour of collection agencies' representatives must contact offices that are run independently by both levels of government. The exception is student debt holders with loans received through the Canada-Saskatchewan Integrated Student Loans Program. In this case, the collections process is fully integrated and managed by the federal government. An integrated "rehabilitation" programme for New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador student loans in default is in development.

The Canadian Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators representative at the meeting echoed the Federation representatives' concerns, indicating that she has heard "horrific" reports about the harassing behaviour of some collection agents working on behalf of governments to collect the very

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small minority of student loan debts that end up in default status. Following the meeting, requests were made to take government representatives up on their offer to provide the contact information for the offices that investigate complaints about student loan collection agents. Concerns about the collection of Canada Student Loans should be directed to the Non-Tax Collections Directorate of the Canada Revenue Agency, the office that monitors the activities and the performance of the PCAs that are hired by the federal government.

It was also reported that the use of entrance counseling by Alberta student loans borrowers, which is optional when borrowers receive their loan disbursements, was lower than expected. This initiative is inspired by similar programmes that have been employed by some American state student loan plans to teach students' about their obligation to repay student debt. A formal launch of the Alberta mandatory online exit counseling is being planned.

Campaign to Wind Down the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation

Millennium Scholarship Foundation Annual General Meeting

On September 14, 2006, Federation representatives attended the Millennium Scholarship Foundation Annual General Meeting. Presentations from Foundation officials focused mostly on the newer programs negotiated between the Foundation and provincial governments. The Foundation emphasised that it had coordinated with provinces to create programs based on regional needs.

During the question and answer period, Federation representatives raised a number of concerns about the lack of transparency in awarding contracts to former Foundation staff members now working at the Educational Policy Institute (EPI). When asked about the process by which the contracts were

awarded, Foundation officials responded with vague assurances that the process was transparent and competitive but did not provide concrete answers to most questions. The Price of Knowledge 2006—a compendium of statistics available through Statistics Canada and other information gathering agencies—was supposed to be released at the meeting, but has been delayed. Instead, it appears that chapters will be released sporadically during 2006-2007 to boost the Foundation's lobby efforts.

Canadian Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators Research Conference

The Canadian Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (CASFAA) represents financial aid administrators and awards officers at colleges and universities across Canada. The original intent of CASFAA was to provide a venue for the exchange of information and best practices in administering student financial assistance; however, CASFAA has recently started taking on a more political role in advocacy and policy development.

The Millennium Scholarship Foundation and the Canadian Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators held a joint conference from September 15 to 16, 2006. The conference focused on access and communities that are under-represented in universities and colleges. Sessions discussed Canada's changing demographics, perspectives on barriers to post-secondary education, financial barriers to access, government policy changes, and student debt. Despite the fact that several of the presentations clearly indicated that finances were a barrier, Foundation-EPI solutions centred on lack of information as a primary barrier to access for under-represented groups.

The conference raised some important issues relating to Aboriginal peoples' access to post-secondary education. Financial barriers were highlighted in the data even though they were ignored as central considerations in the policy recommendations.

Intellectual Property

Renewal of the Copyright Act

The federal Copyright Act has been under review in light of the effects of new digital technology. The review of the Act was undertaken largely as a result of the increased 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 through lobbying for increased restrictions and surveillance of Internet activities with 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. The Federation has been opposing revisions to the Act that overly favour the interests of the recording industry to the exclusion of the rights and needs of students. The Federation has drafted a fact sheet that explains some of the key issues of concern to students including educational access to copyrighted works (fair dealing), opposing technologies that restrict access to the Internet and infringe privacy (digital rights management), and that impose new fees on students (Internet licensing). The Federation argues that the Internet provides new opportunities to share public knowledge, and thus any revisions to copyright legislation need to ensure reasonable access to the Internet for educational purposes. It is expected that new legislation will be introduced as early as December 2006 and current indications are that this legislation will include significant restrictions.

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 (AUCC), Council of Ministers

of Education Canada (CMEC), Canadian Libraries Association, Canadian Teachers' Federation, and Canadian Association of Research Libraries. Although all groups at the Forum have an interest in copyright law that protects the use of copyrighted materials for educational purposes, Forum members are not unanimous in an approach to the issue. Some organisations like the AUCC and CMEC lobby for narrow expansions to fair dealing and have been calling for specific exceptions that would protect universities and schools from liability or increasing costs. The Federation has joined the Canadian Libraries Association and others in calling for the expansion of fair dealing so that user rights can be enjoyed more broadly by the general public.

On September 25, the Federation attended a Forum meeting at which an update was provided on the status of legislation. It was speculated that a bill would be introduced either in the winter or not at all before the next federal election. Participants commented that Industry Minister Maxime Bernier had expressed little interest in the Copyright Act but was focusing more extensively on the deregulation of telecommunications in Canada.

The meeting discussed the danger of public disagreement among the educational community on the differences in their lobbying approaches, and explored whether CMEC and AUCC could change their lobby approach on the matter of fair dealing. The Forum agreed to continue to make efforts to publicise the needs of the educational community, particularly in opposing digital rights management, but no clear consensus was achieved.

Meeting with Susan Crean, Writer's Union of Canada

The Creator's Rights Alliance (CRA) is a coalition of national artists' associations and collectives responsible for managing authors' rights, which promotes the interests of Canadian creators in relation to intellectual property.

On August 20, the Federation met with CRA representative Susan Crean to discuss possible areas where the two groups could work together.

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The Creators' Rights Alliance has been a major proponent of the movement to increase restrictions to accessing digital materials; however, Crean explained that the Alliance was concerned about the role of the content industry in directing profit away from individual writers and artists. She said that the Alliance continued to support the role of copyright collectives in negotiating royalty fees on course packages and individual copying with universities. Crean also acknowledged that it was corporate representatives who wielded the most power in the negotiations that have led to skyrocketing copyright fees for students and that prevented individual artists and writers from earning a livable income.

It was explained that, in opposing the copyright collectives and supporting fair dealing, the Federation supported artists' rights to a livable wage but was against corporate control over access to materials in the interest of profit. Although there was acknowledgement that there would continue to be differences in some elements of the lobby efforts of the Alliance and of the Federation, particularly with respect to fair dealing and digital rights management, there was agreement that the students and creators should continue to work together to oppose the privatisation of universities and colleges in Canada. Crean invited the Federation to participate in an upcoming meeting of the Creators Copyright Coalition, of which CRA is a member, to discuss further opportunities to bridge the divide between what has come to be known as the "creators" community and students.

Creators Copyright Coalition

The Creators Copyright Coalition (CCC) is an alliance of the national associations, unions and collectives representing artists that promotes the interests of Canadian creators (e.g. writers, musicians) in relation to copyright. On September 8, the Federation attended a meeting of the CCC to discuss the ways the two organisations could work together nationally. Both the Federation and the CCC have been critical of Canadian copyright legislation and agree on the need to reduce the

power wielded by corporate distributors. Yet, there is an historical division between the vision of the CCC in its call for restrictive protections for copyright owners and the educational community's need to have reasonable access to their works for educational purposes without excessive financial barriers.

A section of the meeting's agenda was dedicated to discussing the Federation's involvement and concerns regarding copyright and intellectual property reform. It was acknowledged that students were both users and creators of copyrighted work and that their ability to create, contribute, and succeed was dependent on having access to the copyrighted work of others. There was also agreement that students should not be burdened with the cost of this work, but that more government funding was necessary so that universities could cover these costs. It was suggested that the two groups might develop a joint submission demanding increased government funding for post-secondary education to subsidise, among other things, access to copyrighted work.

CopyCamp

On September 28 to 29, the Federation attended CopyCamp, an inaugural four-day "unconference" dealing with copyright in Canada. In attendance were students, artists, lawyers, lawmakers, software developers, journalists, scholars, and activists. Held at Ryerson University, the format involved a few preprogrammed sessions but largely revolved around an open format where any attendee could hold a session on any issue they felt was of interest. These sessions included discussions of alternatives to existing copyright and intellectual property laws, the role of artists in society, as well as extensive discussion about how western copyright and intellectual property laws affect traditional Aboriginal knowledge. In addition, many practical demonstrations were given about how to use alternatively licensed tools to create and share.

Although some attendees argued for more restrictive copyright legislation, most argued for a more

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open system where users' rights and possibilities for public benefit were given precedence over commercial interests.

Canadian Association Of University Teachers Intellectual Property Conference

The Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) hosted a conference entitled "Controlling Intellectual Property: The Academic Community and the Future of Knowledge" from October 27 to 29. The conference brought together faculty, students, librarians, archivists, and intellectual property experts to discuss the challenges of intellectual property rights in the face of the privatisation of universities, the commercialisation of university research, and global trade liberalisation. Keynote Speaker Michael



Geist opened the conference with an overview of the importance of public digital space in the information age. He explained that multinational corporations were making great strides to privatise knowledge by restricting public access to digital information, such as through amendments to *The Copyright Act*. The Federation presented on a panel about action for resisting restrictive amendments to *The Copyright Act*.

The Federation's representative discussed efforts to mobilise members and lobby government officials to ensure reasonable access to the digital copyrighted works for educational purposes and the protection of privacy rights. The presentation was very well-received by conference participants, particularly by faculty association representatives who were encouraged to make increasing efforts to educate other faculty members and to forge relationships with student groups to advocate for fair copyright amendments.

Speakers also presented on the relationship between trade liberalisation and challenges for protecting knowledge in the public domain; collective bargaining issues related to intellectual property; and alternatives to traditional intellectual property models such as open access and creative commons licensing.

Participants agreed that it was important for the CAUT to continue working with members of the educational community, including the Federation, to challenge private control over knowledge in educational institutions.

Creative Commons Movement: Meeting with Andy Kaplan-Myrth, Technology and Law Program, University of Ottawa

Creative Commons is a not-for-profit organisation that offers alternatives to full copyright through a flexible range of protections and freedoms for authors, artists, and educators. Creative Commons enables copyright holders to grant some of their rights to the public while retaining others through a variety of licensing and contract schemes including dedication to the public domain or open content licensing terms. Creative Commons licensing allows writers and artists more control over how they wish to allow their works to be used, while recognising the importance of allowing private creators to make their works public. In the face of increased commercialisation of knowledge, creative commons licensing encourages collaboration, rather than competition, among academics.

On November 8, the Federation met with Andy Kaplan-Myrth of the University of Ottawa Technology and Law program to discuss possible opportunities for promoting Creative Commons to students across Canada. The Federation representative explained that, although some members had indicated their support of creative commons initiatives, there was a need for students to have access to basic information about the issue. It was agreed that the Office of Technology and Law, the Canadian Internet and Public Policy Interest Clinic, and the Federation would work

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together to produce a fact sheet explaining creative commons licensing and why it promotes public availability of information. Kaplan-Myrth was invited to participate in a roundtable discussion with the National Graduate Caucus at the national general meeting.

Academic Freedom

Federal strategies driving the commercialisation of university research pose serious threats to research integrity in Canada and little protection exists to protect those who speak out against corporate interference in university research. Students in particular are provided with little to no protection when standing up in defense of research integrity. The National Graduate Caucus has recently launched a whistleblowers forum on the Federation website to encourage students to share their experiences in defending academic freedom. A poster has also been produced and circulated to graduate student member locals.

The Case of Christopher Radziminski

Since 2004, the Federation has been supporting the efforts of former University of Toronto graduate student Christopher Radziminski in his attempts to expose research misconduct in drinking water research. Radziminski, who received public funds from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) for his Master's project, alleges that his supervisors published major sections of his thesis 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 the journals, Radziminski sought support from the Federation. Although the National Office is frequently contacted by students who have concerns about university procedure and academic appeals, the Federation took on Radziminski's case because the alleged violations to his academic freedom were so egregious and well-documented that it would serve as a strong example for the Federation's campaign.

As previously reported, the Federation has made complaints with the University of Toronto, Indiana University, the two journals in question, and NSERC. The University of Toronto has consistently refused to follow its formal procedures for responding to Radziminski's complaints. Indiana University, in contrast, undertook a formal inquiry into Radziminski's allegations in spring 2006. At the conclusion of the investigation, Indiana University confirmed that the supervisor under investigation had engaged in wrongdoing with respect to both publications. In May 2006, formal letters of apology were written to Radziminski and the other students listed as authors on the articles. The letters were copied to both journals. The conclusions of the investigation undertaken by Indiana University confirmed Radziminski's complaints of misconduct.

The Federation and Radziminski have sought retractions from the two journals that published the articles in question: *Applied & Environmental Microbiology* and *Water Research*. In January 2006, a retraction was secured from *Water Research*, and on September 13, 2006, the article was officially retracted. The publishers of *Applied & Environmental Microbiology* had given indication in 2005 that they would retract the article in question; however, in early 2006, the publishers expressed unwillingness to retract the article. In October 2006, another letter was sent to the editorial board of *Applied & Environmental Microbiology*, which included the letter of apology from Dr. Christian Chauret, one of the accused professors, to remind the publishers of the adjudicated confirmation of wrongdoing and to hopefully secure the final retraction.

Judicial Review of Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council Decision

As previously reported, in addition to the research misconduct arising from his Master's thesis, Radziminski had also made efforts to expose the false dissemination of research results from an experiment testing chlorine dioxide as an alternative disinfectant in Warton, Ontario's water distribution

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system. Despite numerous complaints by Wiarton residents regarding the odour and taste of the water, research results portrayed the experiment as “novel” and “successful”, explicitly stating there were no complaints from residents. Health Canada had been referencing these manipulated results to update their drinking water quality guidelines. The Federation had requested on three separate occasions (July 2005, October 2005, April 2006) that NSERC initiate an enquiry into the Wiarton experiment based on the

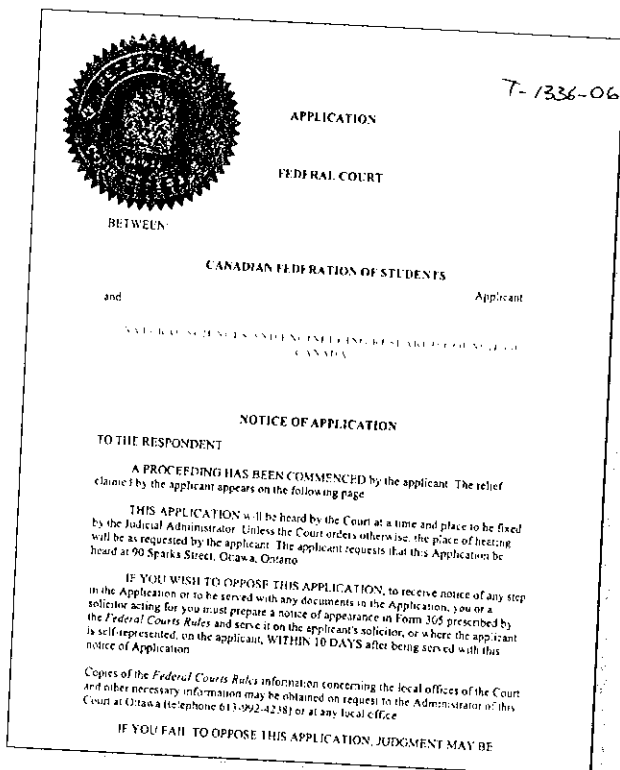
Court for a review of NSERC's decision. Materials have been compiled and an affidavit was completed and filed with the Federal Court on October 20. The Federation has several pending federal Access to Information requests as well as Freedom of Information requests in Ontario to support the review. It is expected that a hearing will occur in summer 2007.

Media coverage on the judicial review and the Wiarton experiment included a feature Canwest story that ran in six daily papers (including the National Post) followed by an editorial, articles in the London Times Higher Education supplement, Embassy Magazine, and a few independent news magazines. The daily paper in the Wiarton region—the Owen Sound Sun Times—has covered the story four times and has quoted the region's Member of Parliament, Larry Miller (Conservative, Grey-Bruce-Owen Sound) committing to writing a letter to Industry Canada regarding the experiment. Pressure from journalists also led Health Canada to reject chlorine dioxide as a safe secondary disinfectant in its updates to the Drinking Water Quality Guidelines.

Meeting with MP Brian Masse

On September 26, the Federation met with Member of Parliament Brian Masse (Windsor West), NDP Industry Critic to discuss the judicial review and to solicit information on the federal government's review of the federal granting councils. Federation representatives indicated concern that there had been little information about the process and that a narrow “value for money” approach may favour research that is commercialisable over basic or scholarly research. The Federation further expressed concern that the review may not consider the risks to academic freedom posed by university-industry research partnerships and the lack of safeguards in Canada to protect research done in the public interest.

Masse offered to move a question on the Order Paper to the Treasury Board President that would highlight the Federation's concerns, explain the



discrepancies between the academic reporting and evidence obtained through Freedom of Information requests. On June 15, 2006, NSERC replied again to the Federation that it had no intention of responding to the Federation's requests for a formal investigation into the allegations.

At the July 2006 National Executive meeting, it was resolved to investigate filing for a judicial review of NSERC's decision. On July 26, 2006, the Federation filed an application with the Federal

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judicial review, and solicit information on the granting council review process. The Federation is in ongoing contact with Masse's office to determine opportune timing to present such a question to the Treasury Board. Masse has noted that the Industry Committee will be undertaking a review of the commercialisation of research and that he is interested in inviting the Federation to testify to any future committee tasked to review the federal government's role in the commercialisation of university research.

Meeting with MP Larry Miller

On October 24, Member of Parliament Larry Miller (Conservative, Grey-Bruce-Owen Sound) was contacted by the Federation regarding his comments expressing concern for the safety of Wiarton residents' health in response to coverage of the Federation's NSERC judicial review in the Owen Sound Sun Times.

Miller expressed support for the Federation's efforts to have the Wiarton water experiment investigated to ensure that human health concerns were addressed. He reported having posed oral and written questions to the Minister of Industry to find out what role the Government of Canada or its agents played in the experiment.

An information package was sent to Miller on October 30 that included the Federation's Bill C-2 submissions to the House of Commons and Senate, the application to the federal court for a judicial review of NSERC's decision, and numerous articles detailing the circumstances of the experiment and the awarding of NSERC's 2003 Synergy Award to the parties involved in the Wiarton experiment.

Although Members of Parliament are prevented from becoming involved in matters that are before the court, Miller committed to send copies of his questions and the Minister of Industry's responses to the Federation and to consult with the Federation on further actions pending the Minister's response.

Campaign for Federal Whistleblower Protection Legislation for University Researchers

Bill C-2 Federal Accountability Act

Despite the critical role whistleblowers play in ensuring integrity in university research, they have no formal protection in Canada. With increased corporate influence in post-secondary education, university administrators seem disinclined to support researchers who stand up for academic integrity. In contrast, national regulations in the United States of America recognise the role of the whistleblower as essential for upholding research integrity through its Whistleblower's Bill of Rights. The Federation has been calling on the federal government to implement similar whistleblower protection for individuals engaged in research in public post-secondary institutions.

Bill C-2, the Federal Accountability Act, was introduced by the federal government in spring 2006, in part to clarify whistleblower protection for public servants. Because post-secondary institutions are publicly funded, the Federation is calling for the expansion of the bill to protect university researchers, including students.

Testimony to the House of Commons Committee Reviewing the Accountability Act

As a result of its lobby efforts to seek whistleblower protection legislation for university researchers, the Federation was called to testify before the House of Commons Standing Committee reviewing Bill C-2. The Federation produced a submission that included recommendations to amend the Public Servant Disclosure Protection Act to include protection for whistleblowers in public post-secondary institutions, the creation of a Deputy Commissioner on Research Integrity, and expanded rights and protections for whistleblowers. In the submission the Federation also supported the bill's existing proposals to include the Millennium

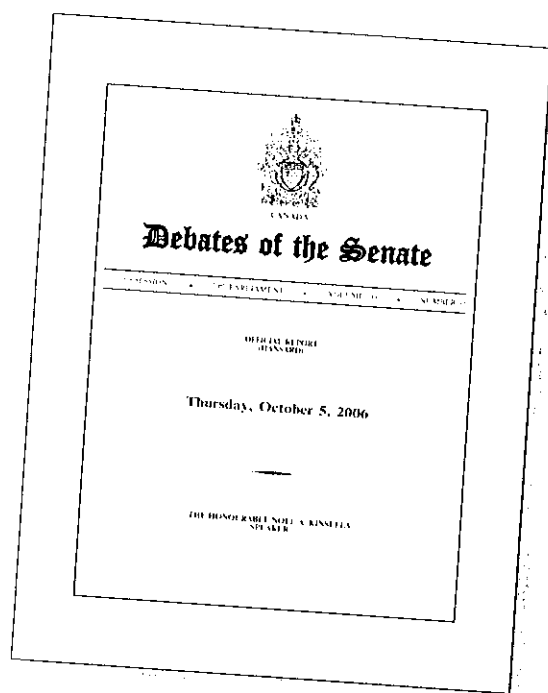
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Scholarship Foundation as one of the agencies subject to the Access to Information Act.

On May 29, the Federation testified before the Committee. Although the proposals were received warmly by most members of the Committee, a motion introduced on June 20 to amend the Act to include university researchers was defeated.

Senate Review of the Federal Accountability Act

The Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs reviewed Bill C-2, the Federal Accountability Act, in October 2006, which was adopted by the House of Commons in the spring session.



During the Federation's fall lobby days, meetings were scheduled with senators to discuss the Federation's goals with respect to expanding the Act to protect whistleblowers who speak out against academic wrongdoing in public post-secondary institutions. Federation representatives were informed that discussions regarding the whistleblowers section of the Act had already

occurred and they were directed to contact the Chair of the committee to request consideration of the Federation's submission.

On October 3, Federation representatives met with Conservative Senator Nancy Ruth who expressed interest in the Federation's whistleblower legislation proposals. Senator Nancy Ruth introduced Federation representatives to Senator Donald Oliver, chair of the committee reviewing Bill C-2, who subsequently encouraged the Federation to forward materials for potential consideration. A brief was subsequently submitted to the Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs. On October 5, Senator Nancy Ruth made a statement in the Senate Chamber about the Federation's work seeking federal whistleblower legislation.

Academic Freedom Week at Memorial University of Newfoundland

As part of its whistleblowers campaign, the Federation has encouraged member locals to initiate public discussion on the implications of the commercialisation of research on campus. Frequently, the Federation's provincial and national offices have been involved in the organisation and activities of such events. From October 23 to 26, the Federation, Local 100-Graduate Students' Union of Memorial University of Newfoundland Union, and Local 35-Memorial University of Newfoundland Students' Union held an "Academic Freedom Week". The event was launched with a panel discussion on the commercialisation of research, with University of Manitoba graduate student Ian Mauro, who has sought support from the Federation, spoke about his experiences when the University made efforts to suppress the public dissemination of his research results. The Federation provided an overview of federal policies driving the commercialisation agenda. Other activities included a roundtable discussion on intellectual property rights, and an overview of the Federation's current federal court challenge against the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council.

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Public Opinion Polling

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 per poll of specific interest and members then agree upon a broader set of public policy questions of common interest. There are several standing questions included in each poll about voting preferences and the standing of each of the major political parties. In addition, members are kept abreast of public policy developments and the results of other major national and international polls.

On June 15, The Federation attended a meeting of the Coalition. The meeting focused on responses to questions about Canadians' views on various policy mechanisms for improving access to post-secondary education; the extent to which reduced tuition fees have society-wide benefits, and support for specific arguments in favour of improved access to university and college. A highlight of the poll was that eighty five percent of respondents agreed that everyone benefits when tuition fees are lowered. The poll also revealed that sixty-one percent of respondents agreed that university and college should be free. The data suggests that family income is correlated with a belief that post-secondary education should be free: seventy-four percent of those with income under \$30,000 felt that the income tax system should support a zero tuition fee system, versus forty-nine percent of those with income above \$70,000.

Decima Polling

The July 2006 National Executive meeting resolved to collaborate with the Canadian Association of University Teachers to conduct public opinion polling in the fall and spring. By conducting fewer polls per year and collaborating with another post-secondary education organisation, it is expected

that the Federation will receive better value by getting more questions directly relevant to students.

On September 28, the Federation met with CAUT representatives to discuss the first round of joint polling, scheduled to be in the field in October. It was agreed that each organisation would pose ten questions, to be generally focused on federal funding and access to post-secondary education.

Results were returned from the first joint CAUT poll in early November. Noteworthy results include the selection by Canadians of federal investment in post-secondary education over tax cuts and national debt reduction as a superior strategy for increasing Canada's standard of living. Furthermore, those polled had a strong preference to use increased federal investment to reduce tuition fees over all of the other choices.

Testing for the popularity of Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper's policies, the poll also demonstrated that a majority of Canadians prefer a tuition fee reduction to a one percent Goods and Services Tax cut.

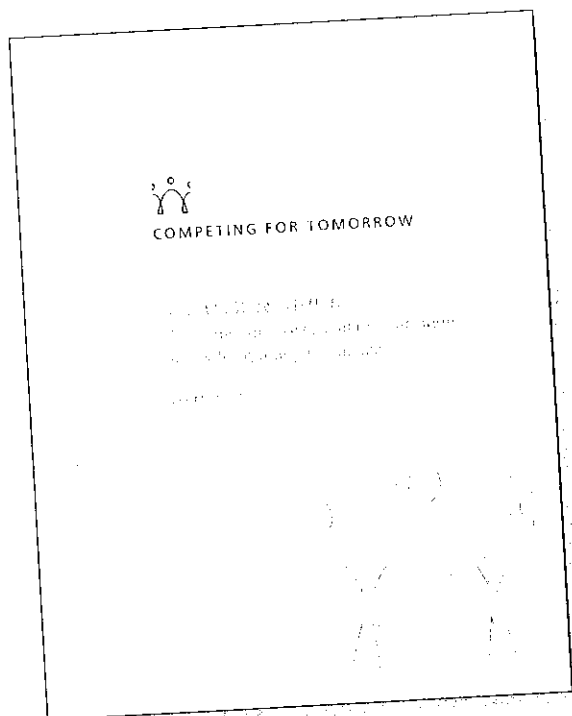
In order to update an earlier poll conducted on behalf of the Federation in 2003, a question was posed to respondents about reasons for not participating in post-secondary education. As with the earlier poll, results showed the highest-rated response to be "couldn't afford it".

Council of the Federation Meeting

The Council of the Federation is comprised of the premiers of Canada's ten provinces and three territories. The premiers created the Council in 2003 with the intent of discussing issues of common concern to provincial governments and bringing forward joint recommendations to the federal government. Last year, the Council's meeting concluded with an unprecedented call for the federal government to reinvest at least \$2.2 billion in post-secondary education transfers. Unfortunately, the federal government has not responded to this call to action.

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The Council met from July 26 to 28 in St. John's. Federation representatives attended the meeting site, ensuring students were available for comment regarding the outcomes of the meeting. Federation representatives were successful in distributing a number of backgrounders on tuition fees and funding to reporters.



On July 27, the Federation held a press conference in conjunction with the Council meeting to outline the Federation's post-secondary education priorities for the Premiers, including a call for the creation of a dedicated transfer payment with full re-investment of the \$2.2 billion cut from federal transfers; however, as the Premiers became focused on discussing the "fiscal imbalance", post-secondary education quickly fell off the agenda.

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

At the most recent meeting on October 18, discussion focused on the implementation of 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.

Private career and language college representatives continuously argue for the off-campus employment initiative to be extended to private institutions, and at each meeting, the Federation re-iterates support for limiting the program to public institutions. The federal government has stated that they will not even begin to discuss this matter until 2008.

Pro Bono Legal Research

In summer 2006, the Federation was invited to apply for the pro bono legal research project at Queen's University. Under the project, not-for-profit organisations work with law students on legal research to the benefit of both parties. The Federation successfully applied for four research projects:

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- Implications of the USA PATRIOT Act on Canada Student Loan holders' privacy;
- The right of students' unions to their membership lists;
- Assistance with the NSERC judicial review; and
- Assessment of the ethical standard of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation's research tendering processes.

Work on the projects is ongoing, and will likely be finalised in spring 2007.

Meeting with Liberal Caucus Post-secondary Education Committee Chair Mike Savage

On September 11, Federation representatives met with Mike Savage, Member of Parliament (Dartmouth-Cole Harbour). Savage is a member of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance and the chair of the Post-Secondary Education Committee of the Liberal Party Caucus. Savage was given a thorough introduction to the Federation's Finance Committee submission. He responded well to most of the Federation's proposals, but the Federation has yet to make a breakthrough with Savage on the issue of income contingent repayment for student loans. Efforts to do so will be undertaken before the next federal election.

Meeting with NDP Post-secondary Education Critic Denise Savoie

On July 5, Federation representatives met with Ed Gillis, an aide to the NDP critic for post-secondary education. Gillis expressed enthusiasm for the Federation's campaign to increase federal funding and reduce tuition fees. He said that Savoie's office would be central to the Party's education platform development leading up to the next federal election,

and that the Federation's recommendations would be valued during that process.

Months later on November 7, Savoie announced the NDP's student financial aid proposal. The NDP has proposed to cancel the Canada Education Savings Grant and the new textbook tax credit and redirect the federal savings into needs-based grants, providing approximately \$1,500 in grants (in addition to existing grants) to students using Canada Student Loans Program.

Savoie also laid out a plan to increase federal transfers to the provinces for post-secondary education so that the provinces could freeze or reduce tuition fees and enhance institutional resources and infrastructure, in part through hiring additional teaching and support staff. The NDP calls for a Canada Post-Secondary Education Act similar to that proposed by the Federation and the Canadian Association of University Teachers.

General Agreement on Trade In Services (GATS)

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 focussing on the effect of trade agreements in a range of sectors, including healthcare, postal services, and primary and secondary education. These reports have 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. In June, several TIRP members formed a subcommittee to focus more closely on the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) negotiations of the WTO.

Beginning in November 2001, negotiations of the GATS were subsumed by the Doha Round of negotiations, which include discussions on liberalising trade in agriculture and textiles, and the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement. In July 2006, the Doha Round was suspended when it became clear that WTO members were unable to resolve conflicts in the agriculture negotiations. TIRP members agreed that the failure of the WTO to reach a consensus was positive as it temporarily halted negotiations that threatened to further privatise public services, while providing additional time to raise awareness about the GATS. Updates from TIRP and Canadian Association of University Teachers observers suggest that as of November 2006, informal talks among the trade negotiators have resumed. It is uncertain what will develop from the informal negotiations but there are concerns that the process is vastly more secretive at the informal level.

On September 27, the Federation attended a TIRP meeting in Toronto that reviewed recent issues in international trade. Stephen Clarkson, University of Toronto political scientist, provided an overview of new the Canada-U.S.A. softwood lumber agreement and the status of a number of bilateral agreements that Canada was involved with negotiating.

Discussion at the meeting also highlighted the requests that had been made by countries such as the U.S.A. and Australia of countries such as Canada to expand liberalisation of education services. In particular, Education International is campaigning to encourage such governments to resist these attempts at further privatisation and instead take a position in defense of public education. Education International represents more than 29 million teachers and education workers seeking to protect the rights of teachers, education workers and students.

The Federation has agreed to utilise its Website Service to host TIRP's GATS website. The site, www.gatswatch.ca, will contain updates about trade negotiations, information about the dangers of liberalising trade in services, and ideas about how to get involved in member campaigns.

Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences

The Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (CFHSS) represents humanities and social science researchers in Canada. The core responsibility of the CFHSS is to organise the Canadian Congress for the Humanities and Social Sciences, but from time to time the CFHSS also takes on a lobbying role. In spring 2006, the Federation became an affiliate member of the CFHSS.

National Dialogue on Higher Education

On June 26, 2006, the CFHSS invited national organisations and government departments and agencies to a follow-up meeting about the National Dialogue on Higher Education held in November 2005. Attendees included representatives of the Federation, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies, the Canadian Association of University Teachers, the Canadian Council on Learning, the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC), Human Resources and Development Canada, Industry Canada, and the federal research granting councils.

Donald Fisher, CFHSS President, opened the meeting with remarks on the current national context of post-secondary education from the CFHSS' perspective, including the need for increased funding across the system. He further suggested that current national priorities include the development of a science and technology strategy, accountability of granting council funding, agreement with the provinces regarding funding, and an overall vision for post-secondary education.

The opening remarks were followed by comments from all participating groups about their campaign and lobby priorities. A number of the groups identified common priorities: a dedicated cash transfer for post-secondary education, increased federal funding for core funding and research, and national standards for post-secondary education.

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The AUCC representative announced that its lobbying would be limited to increased funding for university research and the indirect costs of research.

Government representatives provided updates on the activities in their departments. Industry Canada representative Feyrouz Kurzi said that they were currently outlining a science and technology strategy and explained that the department would be undertaking a "value for money" review of the federal research granting councils. Representatives from HRSDC said that the new Conservative minority government had a focus on accountability and advised that organisations may want to consider ways that their lobby strategies could incorporate this theme.

Other discussion at the meeting focused on the increasing effect of high tuition fees on access to post-secondary education and areas of common interest to all groups. Members of the CFHSS board, including the President-elect Noreen Golfman expressed support for the reduction of tuition fees as a key component of improving access to education. The development of a national act or standards for post-secondary education was also discussed, though no consensus was achieved as to what they would include.

The meeting concluded with a discussion about possible next steps for joint efforts. A proposal was put forward to establish a new organisation with a common voice to lobby the federal government on higher education; however, there was agreement from the organisations in attendance that a common venue for discussing current issues and campaign strategies was more practical than forming a new organisation.

Congress of the Humanities And Social Sciences

The Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences is a gathering in Canada through which scholarly societies assemble to share research. The 2006 Congress was held at York University from May 27 to June 3.

The Federation attended sessions at the Congress organised by the Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education (CSSHE). The CSSHE was founded in 1970 to provide a forum for communication among people conducting or using research in postsecondary education. Some notable papers presented at this year's Congress focused on: community colleges in the new economy; the economic imperative of internationalisation; a study of mid-career learners in Canadian graduate education; Ontario's access strategies in a comparative perspective; a comparative study of access in British Columbia and Ontario; and a case study of the Canadian Foundation for Innovation.

A presentation on "institutional branding" practices examined the process by which different interests within the university play a role in developing an institution's identity. The problems associated with applying marketing principles to a public service like post-secondary education were not addressed. Instead, universities were conceptualised as "businesses" seeking "consumers" within a competitive environment.

Policy analysts from the Ontario government gave a presentation on the issue of access and tuition fees. In the context of the lifting of the tuition fee freeze, the research focused on comparing participation rates in post-secondary education in Ontario and the United Kingdom. The analysts argued that "experiments" with low tuition fees or no tuition fees did not conclusively result in increased participation rates.

Following the presentation, questions were raised by the Federation about the McGuinty government's "Student Access Guarantee", which purports to ensure that no student will have to leave their studies as a consequence of financial difficulties. When asked exactly how the mechanisms will "guarantee" access, the policy analysts were forced to concede that no enforcement mechanisms were in place. Moreover, there is nothing in the Guarantee to address "sticker shock", that is, those who avoid post-secondary education altogether because of up-front costs.

National Association of Vice-Presidents Academic

The National Association of Vice-Presidents Academic is a network of university and college vice-president academics across Canada. The Federation was invited to make a presentation on Student Perspectives on Quality Academic Programming in Canada at the Association's annual conference on October 11. The presentation focused on the importance of core public funding in universities and colleges to ensure accessibility, accountability, and quality. The Federation demonstrated the perils of university administrators' arguments that link lower tuition fees with lower quality post-secondary education. The presentation illustrated that of key importance to quality were high faculty-student ratios and public commitment to post-secondary education rather than reliance on private sources of funding for education. The Federation also cautioned vice-president academics against sacrificing quality by allowing for technology to compensate for restrictive operating budgets. The Federation explained that it was opposed to for-profit companies providing services that took away from quality educational practices, such as the use of Turnitin.com-style anti-plagiarism software and industry interference in curriculum development. The Federation further argued that vice-presidents needed to be conscientious of the negative implications of the commercialisation of research agenda on quality learning and research training. The presentation concluded with an overview of the Federation's lobby and campaign strategies working to reinstate core public funding, advocacy for public access to information through fair amendments to the Copyright Act, and the call for federal whistleblower legislation.

Association of Atlantic Universities

On June 13, the Federation attended the Ottawa launch of the Association of Atlantic Universities' publication *Smarter Together: The Economic Impact of Universities in the Atlantic Region*. The

document examined the full economic contributions that post-secondary institutions make in their communities. According to the publication, Atlantic universities contribute \$4.4 billion to the region's economy.

The author was questioned about the methodology used to assess the effect of high tuition fees, which were counted as revenue for the institutions and therefore for the local economies. Hence, the report registered a positive economic effect as tuition fees increased, although the resulting increase in student debt was not considered, despite the fact that it likely reduces participation of graduates in the local economy.

When asked by the Federation about the effects of student debt, the author of the project had difficulty responding, at first suggesting that it would have no effect, but eventually conceding that the report had failed to consider student debt altogether. The Federation noted that this was a bizarre omission given the well-publicised increase in student debt in the region, and the widely recognised problem of graduate out-migration.

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 strengthen coalitions with the labour movement. Since the last national general meeting, the network has met twice.

June 2006 Meeting

In June, members of the Network discussed the Council of the Federation meeting scheduled for August in St. John's. As in the previous year, members resolved that PEN write a joint letter to

Campaigns and Government Relations

the advanced education ministers and premiers, encouraging federal-provincial cooperation to ensure increased core funding to universities and colleges.

The meeting also discussed campaigns to protect education from negotiation in the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), which many members of PEN are heavily involved with. Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) Executive Director Jim Turk reported that a senior CAUT staff person had been assigned to Brussels for the summer to research the GATS and to assist the coordination of the international campaign against trade in public education.

September 2006 Meeting

In September, Network members expressed concern about a rumour circulating in Ottawa that the second one percent cut to the Goods and Services Tax would go directly to the provinces to address the “fiscal imbalance”. In other words, in order to take advantage of the “transfer” provincial governments would have to increase their sales tax, something that would be unpalatable for most Premiers. What is more likely is that none of the governments would take up the extra tax room, but the Prime Minister could claim that he transferred billions to the provinces.

The meeting also expressed frustration about post-secondary education policy consultations being undertaken by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada to gauge Canadians' views on the role of the federal government in post-secondary education delivery. Each of the organisations reported that they had not been invited to participate in the consultations. The Network resolved to write a letter expressing concern to the Minister about the lack of proper consultation and discussed the current political climate in Ottawa and opportunities to collaborate on government and media relations.

Solidarity Work



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.

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) is a non-partisan research institute that provides political analysis on issues such as education, health care, the economy and trade, and social programs. The CCPA produces research reports, books, opinion pieces, fact sheets and other publications, including Missing Pieces, an annual report that reviews equity, quality, public accountability, and accessibility of post-secondary education in every province. The Centre's trade liberalisation

research consortium—the Trade and Investment Research Project—is world renowned. The Federation has had a seat on the Centre's national Board of Directors since June 2004.

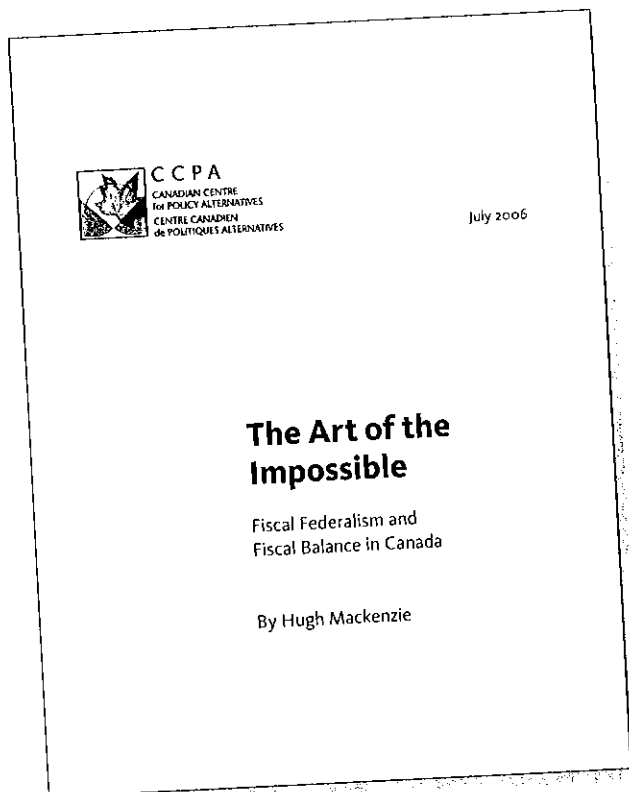
In mid-July, the Centre published a comprehensive document on federalism and the fiscal balance by economist Hugh MacKenzie. This document highlights the race by provinces to lower personal and corporate taxes as one of the root causes of the diminished fiscal capacity of all levels of government in Canada. The research points to the need for the federal government to take a leadership role in restoring the capacity to provide much-needed public services, regardless of jurisdictional concerns for delivering those programs.

The Centre received a large bequest in 2004 to sponsor a research project on poverty and economic inequality. The project will be one of the largest of its kind ever undertaken in Canada, and will attempt to not only measure certain dynamics of inequality in Canada, but also popularise the results and policy alternatives through the mainstream media. It is anticipated that the project will be finished in 2008.

Canadian Union of Public Employees University Workers Meeting

The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) represents more than half a million members across Canada, primarily in the public sector. CUPE members include workers in universities, education, libraries, health care social services, municipalities, public utilities, transportation, emergency services and airlines. CUPE represents almost 70,000 workers in post-secondary institutions, including teaching assistants, sessional lecturers, research assistants, library workers, support staff and students' union staff.

On October 12 to 14, CUPE hosted a three-day conference for post-secondary education workers to discuss bargaining and organising strategies, which



the Federation attended. The conference started off with a keynote address from Bruno Julliard, president of l'Union nationale des étudiants de France (UNEF), France's largest students' union. Julliard spoke about the student demonstrations after the French government attempted to change the labour code to introduce the First Employment Contract (CPE) that would allow for greater job insecurity for youth under 26 in France. Overall, CUPE participants confirmed the importance of continuing to educate and mobilise their membership in support of increased public funding for post-secondary education and to work in coalition with faculty and students. At the end of the conference, a CUPE member stressed the importance for CUPE members to work closely with the Federation in its call for a dedicated education transfer and for the progressive reduction of tuition fees. CUPE president, Paul Moist, confirmed that CUPE would continue to support the efforts of the Federation and encouraged CUPE members to participate in and support the Federation's February 2007 National Day of Action.

On October 26, CUPE released a public statement entitled "Post-secondary education is a right not a privilege" which outlined the Union's support for accessible high quality post-secondary education and concern for the increasing privatisation, including rising tuition fees, of public post-secondary institutions. The statement affirmed CUPE's support for increased federal funding for public post-secondary institutions, fair wages and working conditions for university and college employees, tuition fee freezes and progressive reductions, and a system of needs-based grants. It further stated opposition to federal cuts to post-secondary education, the privatisation of university funding, corporate interference in university research, and private, for-profit post-secondary institutions in Canada.

Coalition of Contingent Academic Labourers Conference

The Coalition of Contingent Academic Labourers is a group of organisations and individuals from Mexico, Canada, and the United States who are interested in strengthening the rights of non-tenured academic workers. The Coalition holds a conference every two years. This year, the conference was held August 11 to 13 in Vancouver. Participants in the conference included representatives of Teaching Assistant and Sessional Lecturers unions, national labour unions, the Canadian Association of University Teachers, the Federation, and individual contract faculty from across North America.

The conference included panels on academic freedom, the casualisation and globalisation of labour, and organising strategies both at the global and local level. Conference participants discussed the notable differences in the level of organisation among Canada, the United States of America and Mexico. The significant challenges faced by organisers across North America was a striking reminder to Canadian participants of the importance of not only preserving the protections that exist for contract faculty, but to continue to organise in Canadian universities against the dangers faced by privatisation and the continued pressures faced by the encroachment of U.S.A. policy.

National Union of Students-Scotland

The National Union of Students – Scotland (NUS-S) is the national student body representing post-secondary education students in Scotland. The (NUS-S) is participating on the Scottish Higher Education Enhancement Committee. This committee was established by the Scottish Parliament and charged with the role of supporting enhancements to quality and sharing best practices through a continuous review of the Scottish higher education system. As a part of this process, special

Solidarity Work

research projects are conducted from time to time. To this end, the Committee has embarked on a review of select systems in other countries, including Canada.

On September 27, the Federation met with NUS-S representatives and provided them with information about current developments in post-secondary education across Ontario and Canada, including recent reviews of post-secondary education, increasing tuition fees and the "quality" agenda as it has been defined by governments. A delegation of the Committee met with the Federation to discuss the perspective of students on quality and other system-wide issues in post-secondary education. Representatives included members of the National Union of Students (Scotland), administrators of Scottish universities, members of the "Critical Thinking" think-tank, elected members of parliament and other government officials. Federation representatives discussed student dissatisfaction and frustration with the recommendations set forth in the Rae Review, a perspective unique to the Federation among the other organisations with whom the delegation met.

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 the impact on human rights of Canadian security legislation 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 Federation participated in the September 18 meeting of the ICLMG. The Group had been very busy preparing for the final report of the inquiry into the treatment of Maher Arar. The ICLMG was instrumental in preparing Arar's case and also

provided intervener testimony during the inquiry. Extensive media relations were also undertaken by the Group's Coordinator, Roch Tassé, leading up to the inquiry's final report.

The ICLMG's is also engaged in lobbying and research is under way on current issues such as Canada's Anti-Terrorism Act, lawful access amendments, no-fly lists, and security certificates.

Canadian Youth Climate Summit

From September 8 to 10, the Federation attended a youth gathering on climate change in Toronto. Organised by the Sierra Youth Coalition, the summit brought together over 35 youth organisations from across Canada to form a coalition to address climate change. SYC was particularly interested in forming a coalition that could tap into existing networks of youth and students. Organisations present included the Federation, la Fédération étudiante collégiale du Québec, Sierra Youth Coalition, and the Youth Environmental Network.

The meeting included a discussion on work to combat climate change. Summit participants resolved to work in partnership and developed a decision-making structure to facilitate the coordination of resources for the coalition.

Canadian Association of Food Banks

The Canadian Association of Food Banks (CAFB) is a national network of food banks. The Association believes that food banks are only a temporary solution to poverty and also works towards long term solutions on hunger and poverty eradication in Canada. Currently, the Federation is working with the Association on a cell phone recycling program on campuses.

On September 15, the Federation met with CAFB representatives to discuss possibilities for collaboration to raise awareness around poverty and hunger among students. The CAFB explained that it

administers a survey every year to compile statistics about food bank usage and user demographics. The meeting discussed strategies to encourage increasing the response rate.

The meeting also discussed the upcoming 2nd Annual Hunger Awareness Day, a day to raise public awareness on the need for public policy that will reduce hunger and poverty in Canada, for 2007. The Federation was invited to participate on an advisory board leading up to the event. Finally, CAFB representatives were very interested in encouraging local food banks to support the local day of action events.

Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada

The Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada (CCAAC) works to promote high-quality, publicly-funded, and universally accessible childcare. The Federation represents the student sector on the CCAAC Council of Advocates, which is a coalition of supporting organisations and includes the Canadian Labour Congress, Canadian Association for Community Living, and Canadian Union of Public Employees.

The 2005 Federal Budget had announced \$5 billion towards the implementation of a national child care system. Federal-provincial agreements were being negotiated and many had been signed before the Conservative minority government was elected in January 2006. Upon entering office, Prime Minister Stephen Harper cancelled the agreements effective March 2007, replacing them with a \$1200 tax credit and an undefined plan to create 125,000 new child care spaces across the country. An additional \$25 million was cut from First Nations child care initiatives.

In May 2006, Member of Parliament Olivia Chow introduced a private member's bill entitled *Canada's Early Learning and Child Care Act* that proposes a national system of child care based on the principles of quality, universality, accessibility, accountability, educational development and

inclusiveness. On September 25, the Federation attended the Association's campaign planning meeting, followed by its annual general meeting. Meeting participants provided updates on campaign and lobbying efforts across the country. Chow provided an update on the status of the bill and announced that the Bloq Québécois and the Liberal Party had agreed to support the bill in its first reading. The group discussed strategies for the Code Blue for Child Care Campaign campaign to protect the existing federal-provincial child care agreements, build a foundation for a national system, and to provide income support for low-income families.

Federal Funding for Women's Programmes

Status of Women Canada

The federal government formed Status of Women Canada in the 1970s to encourage the full participation of women in social, political, cultural, and economic activities in Canadian society. One of the historical purposes of Status of Women Canada has been to provide funds to not-for-profit women's organisations engaged in research, services, and advocacy that encourage women's equality in Canada. Status of Women Canada focuses on three areas, including women's economic autonomy, eliminating violence against women and children, and advancing women's rights. Some organisations funded through Status of Women Canada include the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada, the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women, the National Association for Women and the Law, and the Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action. Since the Conservative government came into power in early 2006, federally-funded women's organisations have come under attack and pressure to decrease their political activities.

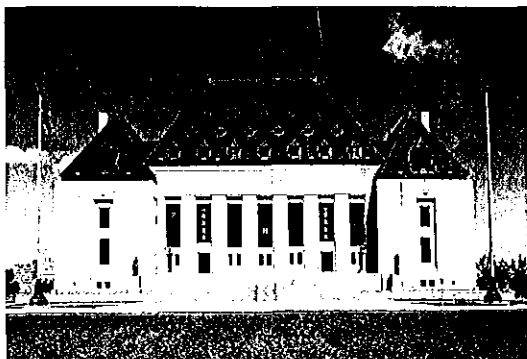
On September 25, the federal Treasury Board announced a \$5 million dollar cut over two years to the Status of Women Canada which would eliminate

Solidarity Work

funding made available to several women's organisations. In addition, the Conservative minority government redrafted the terms of reference for funding eligibility. Under the former terms of reference, organisations were required to be non-profit and focused on political, social, and economic advancement of women, new terms of reference allow for for-profit organisations to apply and prohibit eligible organisations to engage in advocacy activities.

Court Challenges Program of Canada

The Court Challenges Program of Canada was established to provide some funds to individuals and groups launching constitutional challenges.



The Treasury Board's September 25 funding cuts also included the elimination of the federal government's Court Challenges Program. Many groups, initiated by the Council of Canadians with Disabilities, immediately sought to oppose the cuts to this program. Along with over 50 organisations, the Federation is calling for the reinstatement of funds to the program. A website, www.savecourtchallenges.ca, was developed that includes a template letter to Members of Parliament and to the Prime Minister for individuals to sign and send.

Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women

Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAW) is a research institute that

provides tools to facilitate organisations taking action to advance social justice and equality for all women. CRIAW generates original research and action tools and creates links with women's groups both in Canada and abroad in order to increase understanding of local and global responsibilities. The Federation has worked in coalition with CRIAW on the World March of Women steering committee, and on various campaigns such as child care and pay equity.

On September 22, CRIAW hosted a luncheon to celebrate its 30th anniversary, which the Federation attended. Speakers at the event included current and former CRIAW executive directors and board members, as well as women's rights activists. There was significant discussion regarding the cuts in funding to many women's organisations that relied on government funds, such as the Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA) and National Association for Women and the Law (NAWL). Since the event, the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Bev Oda reconsidered and reinstated funds to FAFIA and NAWL.

Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action

The Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA) is a coalition of over 50 women's equality and human rights groups across Canada whose mandate is to further women's equality in Canada by pressing for domestic implementation of international human rights treaties and agreements, such as the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). On November 16, the Federation met with FAFIA Program Director Nancy Peckford to discuss its current campaigns. During the 2006 federal election campaign, FAFIA was able to secure commitments from all party leaders to commit to supporting women's human rights and meeting its international obligations to women's equality. 2006 marks the 25th anniversary of Canada's commitment to CEDAW. In 2003, a review of Canada noted an increase in women living in poverty, especially since budgetary cuts to social services beginning

in 1995. The meeting discussed opportunities on campuses to promote the commitments Canada made in the convention. Information packages will be circulated at the November national general meeting.

Peckford also provided an update about organising efforts for December 10, International Human Rights Day. In light of the commitments for women's equality made by Prime Minister Harper made during the federal election, events are being planned across the country to highlight the negative impact recent federal government decisions have on women; including the cuts to Status of Women, the cancellation of the federal-provincial-territorial child care agreements, the cancellation of the Courts Challenges Program, the refusal to adopt pay equity legislation, and the changes in funding criteria for women's programs. Child care will be the primary campaign focus for December 10th. Member locals are encouraged to participate in events in their regions.

National Campus and Community Radio Association

The National Campus and Community Radio Association (NCRA) is a non-profit national association of organisations and individuals dedicated to advancing the role and increasing the effectiveness of campus and community radio in Canada. NCRA membership is open to: campus/community stations; community-based English, French and native stations; community-oriented stations affiliated with broadcasting schools; and other supportive businesses and individuals. The NCRA held their annual general meeting from June 5 to 10 at the University of Ottawa. The Federation attended the opening and closing plenaries of the meeting, and learned about the lobbying efforts and projects of the NCRA board. Most notably, the NCRA's current lobby efforts are aimed at the creation of a Canadian campus and community radio fund through Heritage Canada as well as preparing for the Society of Composers, Authors

and Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN) hearings in April 2007.

Centre for Social Justice

The Centre for Social Justice is an advocacy organisation that seeks to strengthen the struggle for equality. The Centre is committed to working for change in partnership with various organisations and recognises that effective change requires the active participation of all community sectors. The Federation has worked with the Centre in the past to produce joint materials for federal election campaigns.

On June 15, 2006 the Centre for Social Justice convened a meeting of social justice, community and labour organisations for a preliminary discussion about the threat to social policies posed by certain Conservative government proposals and ways to oppose their implementation. The objective of the meeting was to involve different social justice and labour organisations to present a common and united vision for social policies leading up to the next federal election.

Meetings occurred throughout the summer and fall to determine the overall campaign message as well as the short and long term goals of the group. It was agreed that the immediate goal was action against the policies of the conservative government and a secondary goal would be work on a long term strategy of developing a broader social movement. The current focus of the campaign is on developing good jobs, strong communities, an inclusive Canada, and global justice. The campaign will include a website, www.getsocial.ca, which will eventually serve as a portal for information.

National Educational Association of Disabled Students

The National Educational Association of Disabled Students (NEADS) is a national advocacy and professional development organisation funded by membership fees and charitable donations

Solidarity Work

whose goal is to improve access to post-secondary education and the labour market for students with disabilities.

The Federation was invited to participate in the 2006 NEADS conference, held November 10 to 12 in Ottawa. The conference focused on job skills training and activism. Several speakers addressed the need for students with disabilities to assume their role as a campus community member who, like everyone else, has the right to accessible education. The conference also marked the 20th anniversary of NEADS.

Communications



Communications

Website

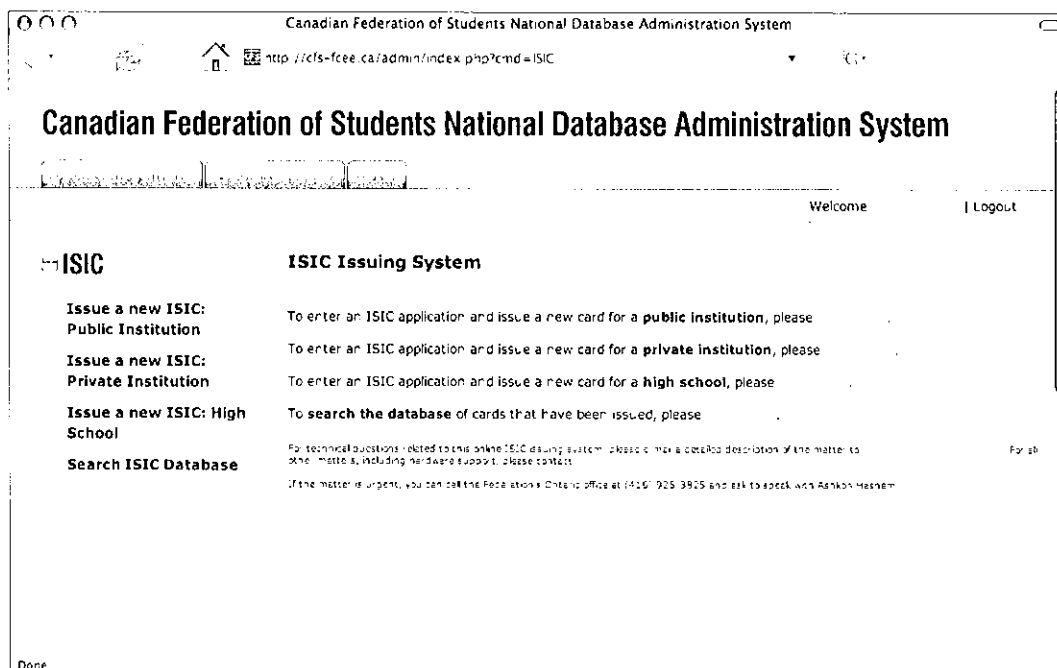
The Federation's use of websites has grown considerably over the past few years. The Federation has moved from having a simple site, with general organisational information, news updates and some of the Federation's more popular research documents, to a comprehensive "web presence". The Federation now has several national websites, 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. The new campaign website, ReduceTuitionFees.ca, is discussed in the Campaigns and Government Relations section of this report.

As previously reported, the Federation has undertaken a consolidation of national and provincial email accounts, websites, and online databases. The final site to be migrated to the Federation's leased server was cfs-fcee.ca and its associated email accounts. This was completed in September.

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

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 almost 300 students' unions, Federation national and provincial offices, campus organisations, Travel CUTS offices, the Canadian University Press, and some government departments of importance to students' unions.



Each year, the Federation publishes the Directory by compiling information from students' unions that complete and submit information surveys provided by the Federation. This year, the Federation developed a secure online database so that students' unions could submit and edit their information electronically. The database contains all information from previous years so that students' unions logging on need only update changes in their information. The majority of students' unions provided their information in this manner; however, one of the primary goals of the online system, which was to ensure for earlier delivery of the Directory was not achieved as many students' unions still failed to submit information in accordance with established deadlines. Furthermore, missed deadlines resulted in additional resources being expended on the project as considerable time had to be spent contacting some students' unions repeatedly to encourage them to provide information.

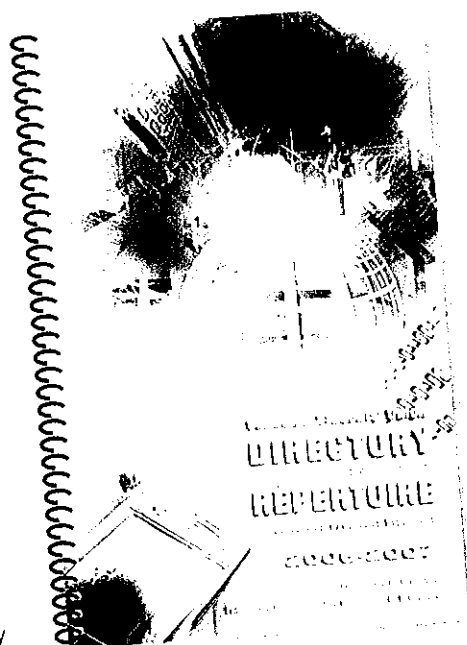
Students' unions reported some technical difficulties with the database, although for the most part, this occurred only where university or college Internet security prevented students' union representatives from being able to log in to the system. The National Executive will be working with the database designer in the coming months to attempt to rectify the situation and to develop a feature that will allow students' unions to order Directories online.

As previously reported, the Federation contracts a significant amount of the work of publishing the Directory each year to Chaos Consulting.

The National Executive is currently working to determine whether this work can be moved entirely in house for the 2007-2008 year, a move that will significantly reduce the costs currently incurred for the publication every year.

This year, sales of the Directory to member locals increased slightly but sales to non-member students' unions and other organisations remains largely unchanged in recent years. Because the

Federation highly subsidizes the cost of the Directory for members, it relies on sales to non-members to cover expenses. The National Executive is working to develop a new marketing strategy to increase the sales to non-members.



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, and customised images, information about Federation campaigns and services, and research on post-

secondary education issues. The material in the Kit is provided for possible 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 Kits were produced in the Spring and distributed to member locals in early June. There were no significant changes or additions to this year's version of the Kit.

Services



Services

Student Union Website Service

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

BACKGROUND

Over the years, the use of local websites as a tool to communicate directly with the membership has grown in importance. Yet, online communications can be costly if undertaken independently by a students' union. 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. The goal of the Students' Union Website Service, similar to that of the common handbook, is to provide better quality services that meet the needs of students at affordable prices so that all member locals, regardless of size, can improve communications with its membership.

DEVELOPMENT

In July 2005, the Federation conducted a selection process and subsequently contracted Offshoot Inc. as the web design firm to develop a website service for students' unions. Offshoot was instructed to develop a service that would be comprehensive, customisable to local students' unions needs, and accessible through an interface that any member local representative or staff member could navigate.

To subscribe to the Service, a member local representative simply needs to visit the promotional website, www.cfsadmin.org, choose from one of 29 templates, pick a hosting package that best suits their needs, select any available .ca, .com, .net, or .org domain name, and submit an online request to activate an account.

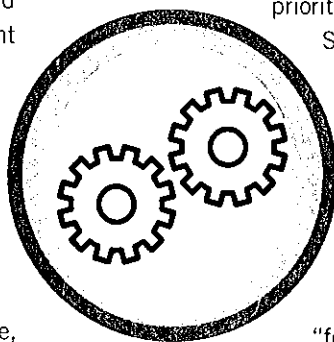
Documentation is currently being developed to assist users in making effective use of the service and a guide that summarises a best practises framework for content organisation has already been circulated. An online help manual has been developed and is currently being populated with content.

Design Coordination and Improvements

Feedback from member locals has provided valuable information that has helped to determine priorities for ongoing improvements to the Service. The Students' Union Website Service promotional site and content management system are now available in both official languages, which has allowed for francophone member locals to make use of the service.

The capability for member locals to "feed" provincial and national news releases into their sites automatically, an improvement that was developed as a feature of the Federation's new media release database, will be completed over the next few months. This will allow member locals to add this functionality to their sites. Work has also been undertaken to make provincial and national campaigns and services images available for use on local websites via the content management system. For now, the images will be distributed to member locals when requested. Finally, the Federation is exploring the setup of a self-managing mass email system for national, provincial, and local use. Initial quotes from Web developers on this request have not been economical.

Other feedback has prompted the Federation to commission developers add different content types, such as online surveys, online forms to gather members' contact information, moderated message boards, Real Simple Syndication, and search functionality. There is a plan to add rich text editing features to the content management system



that would provide users with a more intuitive and flexible interface for adding content.

Participation

Thirty member locals have signed onto the Students' Union Website Service since its inception and have websites that are either online or are in development. The Federation is also hosting web sites and/or email hosting for the British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland and Labrador Components as well as web sites for VoteEducation.ca, and the National Student Health Network (studentsbenefit.ca/avantages-etudiants.ca). In total, the Federation is now managing more than 115 domain names and hosting accounts.

Students' Union Website Service subscribers currently online:

- Local 4-Selkirk Students' Association
- 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 24-Ryerson Students' Union
- Local 30-Laurentian University Students' General Assembly
- Local 33-Emily Carr Students' Union
- Local 35-Memorial University of Newfoundland Students' Union
- Local 36-Grenfell College Student Union
- Local 61-Malaspina Students' Union
- Local 68-York Federation of Students
- Local 69-Association générale des étudiants de l'Université Sainte-Anne
- Local 71-Trent Central Student Association
- Local 73/76-Students' Unions of Vancouver Community College
- Local 78-Carleton University Graduate Students' Association
- Local 84-York University Graduate Students' Association
- Local 98-University of Toronto Students' Union

- Local 100-Graduate Students' Union of Memorial University of Newfoundland
- Local 103-University of Manitoba Students' Union
- Local 104-Laurentian Association of Mature and Part-Time Students
- Local 105-Continuing Education Students' Association of Ryerson
- Students' Union Website Service subscribers currently in development:
- Local 11-King's Students' Union
- Local 27-Queen's University Society of Graduate and Professional Students
- Local 46-College of the North Atlantic Students' Union
- Local 66-Northwest Community College Students' Union
- Local 72-North Island Students' Union
- Local 85-Saint Paul University Students' Association
- Local 88-Association des étudiantes et étudiants francophones Université Laurentienne

Students' union websites hosted on the Federation's server but not using the Federation's content management module:

- Local 54-Guelph Central Students' Association
- Local 92-Student Association of George Brown College
- Local 96-University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association

Consolidation of Hosting

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 for approximately \$300 per month. This provides enough bandwidth and hard drive space to host not

Services

only the Federation's websites and email accounts, but also every member local. Consolidating hosting in this way will save money and allow for greatly improved administration of all Federation websites and email accounts.

The migration of cfs-fcee.ca, the ISIC database, and the media release database was completed in September. The Studentsaver database will also be transferred to the Federation's server in the coming months once the new administrative interface component for it is completed by the developer. The new ISIC issuing system is discussed in more detail in the Discount Programmes report.

Members have expressed the desire to integrate studentsaver.ca with member locals' websites. Once the studentsaver.ca database has been transferred to the Federation's server, it will technically be possible to integrate the Studentsaver website as a content type for local sites. 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.

Programme Financing

PROJECT COSTS

One of the guiding principles for the Students' Union Website Service was that it be affordable for all students' unions. For that reason, the Federation does not charge member locals for the costs associated with establishing and updating the content-management system (CMS) nor site templates. Remaining competitive with commercial and institutional hosting packages, as well as the ongoing maintenance of and improvements to the service, means that the Service 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. Otherwise, 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

Handbook: 2006-2007 Edition

The handbook service is entering its seventh year as a national service of the Federation after starting as a project of the British Columbia Component in the late 1990s. The handbook service 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 students' unions to eliminate or reduce local advertising from their handbook. This flexibility has proven to be a particularly attractive feature of the service.

Each handbook consists of a unique local section, provincial and national sections, and calendar and time management pages. Participating students' 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 service has experienced significant growth over the course of the previous seven years. For the 2006-2007 academic year, 61 handbooks

were produced, including 56 member locals and 3 non-member students' unions in ten provinces. In addition, a generic handbook for graduate students was once again produced. Over 315,000 handbooks were produced, up from 298,500 individual handbooks in 2005-2006 when 53 students' unions participated. In 2004-2005, 212,000 books were produced for 46 students' unions. In 2003-2004, 154,000 handbooks were produced for 40 students' unions. This constitutes 100 percent growth in the last four years.

Once again, the Studentsaver card and a listing of regional discounts were integrated into the handbook. A 16-page signature with the listing of discounts was added to the back of each handbook produced for member locals in British Columbia, Alberta, Québec and Atlantic Canada. A 32-page signature was included in the Ontario handbooks. A divider with the Studentsaver card affixed was placed at the front of the section.

In an effort to achieve cost savings, the Manitoba discounts were incorporated into the provincial section of the handbook.

This allowed for the printing of the provincial section in colour and, as a result, only the Studentsaver Card divider was bound into the back of each book.

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 were 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 featured an introductory page that

allowed the individual to record contact information in the event the handbook is misplaced.

The most significant enhancement for 2006-2007 was the addition of a die-cut sticker page that was inserted as the first page in the handbook. The stickers were designed to be attached to specific months in the calendar and the notes pages to act as easy reference tabs. Stickers for exams and the week of action were also incorporated on the sticker page. 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. Finally member locals had the option of purchasing plastic rulers to distribute with the books.

As reported at the previous general meeting, the Federation committed to working with Campus Plus to sell advertising in the 2006-2007 handbooks. Campus Plus was successful in selling advertisements in some Atlantic Canada and Ontario handbooks including Aliant, Bulk Barn, the Certified General Accountants' Association of Canada and Pizza Pizza. Advertisement sales were up significantly from the previous year and the National Executive will evaluate the Federation's relationship with Campus Plus at its January meeting.

In order to avoid a repeat of the delivery problems experienced in summer 2006, the printing company secured the services of a logistics company to coordinate the delivery of the 2006-2007 handbooks. This arrangement was successful in that all handbooks were delivered on or before the agreed upon delivery date. In addition, member locals were provided with a customisable letter for their respective shipping and receiving departments notifying the department to expect a shipment of handbooks within a certain time frame.

With the exception of the introduction of the bulk purchasing price for larger handbook orders and a



Services

slight reduction in the per unit cost for members in Ontario, the per unit cost has not changed in five years. At its summer meeting, the National Executive discussed the possibility of slightly reducing the per unit cost of the handbook. Unfortunately, paper costs have increased by five percent since the 2006-2007 handbook was printed and the cost of paper represents approximately fifty percent of the total cost of the handbook service. Once the paper costs for the 2007-2008 edition are confirmed, the National Executive will reevaluate the issue of the per unit cost with the goal of reducing it.

Since the inception of the handbook service in the late 1990s, the books have been printed and bound by companies based in Vancouver. However, with the dramatic growth of the service in recent years, the bindery is experiencing difficulty meeting the Federation's delivery deadlines. The National Executive has discussed the possibility of dividing the books and printing and binding the books in Vancouver and central Canada. Provided the division of the 2007-2008 edition is successful, the Federation will be able to revise its internal deadlines thus providing member locals more time in which to submit their local content, images and advertisements.

Finally, the National Executive resolved to investigate the costs associated with producing the provincial sections of the 2007-2008 edition in colour. The National Executive also discussed the feasibility of including space at the bottom of local pages for which locals could sell advertisements.

Contracts for the 2007-2008 handbook are in the process of being developed and will be distributed in January 2007.

Discount Service

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

The service 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—
- ▲ available to part- and full-time
- ▲ students—in order to ensure
- ▲ that, where possible, part-
- ▲ time students who belong to
- ▲ the Federation have access
- ▲ to the same discounts.

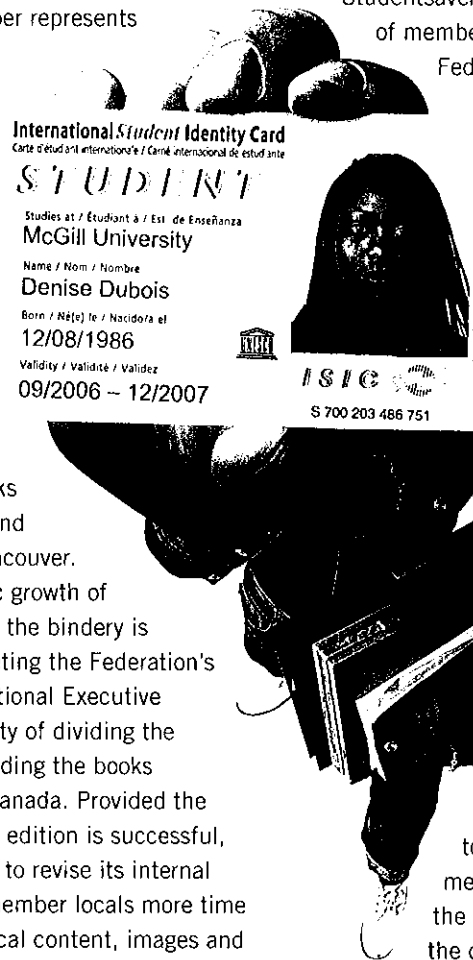
ISIC Issuing

The ratio of cards issued to students as a benefit of membership in the Federation compared to cards sold to non-members has continued to grow.

This trend is largely attributed to the growth in the Federation's membership. However, a portion of the decrease in sales is attributable to the decline in number of discounted

student airfares. In particular, Air Canada's termination of its student-fare for domestic flights, as of August 31, will likely continue to have a negative impact on sales of the card.

In 2003, the Federation moved to an on-line ISIC issuing system and database to satisfy the requirement set by cellular phone providers to obtain accurate and timely confirmation of valid ISICs. The original website made it possible for the Federation to search ISICs issued by name



and card number. However, a number of areas for improvement became apparent when the system was fully implemented. The primary issues is the inability to generate reports about issuing, such as number of cards issued by office or issued vs. un-issued cards by batch.

The move from the Cardmaster computer program to online issuing resulted in a new challenge to ISIC issuing in areas with little or no access to the Internet. However, with the increasing presence of wireless internet on campuses in conjunction with access to wired Internet connections, the number of areas where this remains a challenge has decreased markedly.

As was previously reported, a new system for ISIC issuing was being completed for use in September. It improves upon the old system of taking "Polaroid"-style photographs of students when issuing ISICs during campus orientation and promotional events, at a cost of roughly \$1.00 per shot. The new, quicker, and much less expensive option involves a digital camera and the ability to printing multiple shots on a single sheet of photographic paper. Portable issuing kits utilising the new system were assembled and successfully deployed by provincial components at orientation and promotional events in September. The Federation also unveiled its new ISIC issuing database in September that has further reduced the time and complexity of issuing ISICs.

Service Awareness

A section listing the discounts was again included in the handbooks produced through the Federation's handbook service, as the improvement was very popular last year and cuts down slightly on costs, as less stand alone Studentsaver Guides must be produced. The number of handbooks containing the discount guides increased by more

than 75,000, including 45,200 guides added to member local handbooks not produced by the Federation. The result has been improved exposure of the Federation's discount service, and increased relevance for members, as the Studentsaver Guides inserted into handbooks contain only the discounts available in the member local's region.

Discount Guidebooks

As mentioned above, the Federation was able to realise a slight reduction in the cost of promoting the service by including a listing of regionally available discounts in members' handbooks/ dayplanners, and correspondingly reducing the number of standalone Studentsaver Guides

produced. The Federation was further able to reduce costs this year by dividing the national guidebook into two regional books as used to be the practice several years ago.

A Western Canada book, encompassing Manitoba to the Pacific, and an Eastern Canada book, encompassing

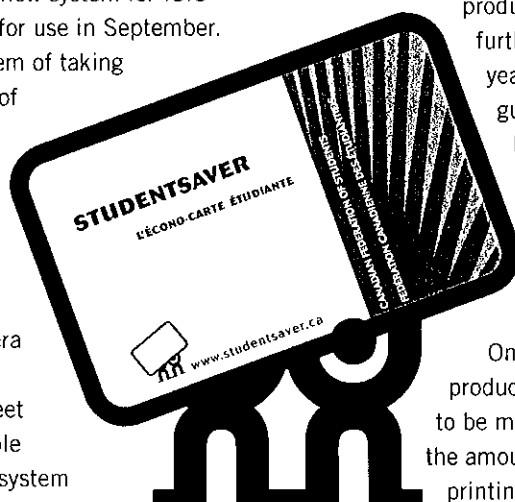
Ontario to the Atlantic were produced. This approach has proven to be more cost effective, and reduces the amount of paper used in the printing of the book.

Discount Solicitation

A total of 3,128 discounts were secured by member locals and Federation offices this year, of which more than 1,600 are the result of businesses offering the discounts on a multi-year basis.

In most of the cities where Federation member locals are located, a respectable number of discounts were secured relative to membership base, although improvement is needed in a few locations.

The National Executive has discussed ways to make signing-up and renewing participation in the service easier for interested businesses. One suggestion

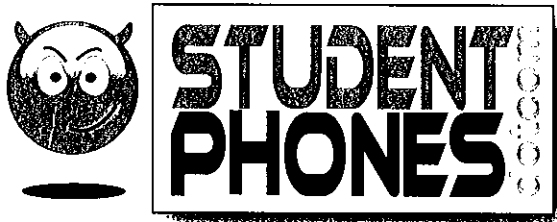


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was to create an online interface for interested and participating businesses. A request for proposal on creating such a website has been issued.

Studentphones.com

For the past four years, the Federation has been partnering with Studentphones.com to negotiate reduced student rates for cellular telephones and cellular service. The collective purchasing potential



of the combined Federation membership has attracted the interest of several cellular service providers.

Fido has consistently been the cellular carrier that provides the best discounts through Studentphones.com. Students currently receive free voicemail and call display (an approximate 33 per cent discount off a standard monthly plan) with Fido Networks, and all Fido plans available through Studentphones.com come with a free MP3 player/USB flash drive, or a further \$40 discount off of any cellular handset. Discounts have also been secured with Rogers Wireless on a wide range of discounted monthly cellular plans, Virgin Mobile, and most recently, Bell Mobility, though the Bell discount is currently only available in British Columbia.

Efforts to secure discounts with the remaining cellular networks are ongoing; however, exclusivity arrangements with cellular phone providers at some campuses, in addition to the virtual monopolies enjoyed by some regional carriers, continue to hamper negotiations.

Finally, the Federation and Studentphones.com recently partnered with Phones for Food, a cellular telephone recycling service operated by the Canadian Association of Food Banks. Through the service, the revenue generated from refurbishing

and recycling old telephones is donated to food banks. Through the partnership, Studentphones.com provides promotional posters and coordinates the delivery and pick-up of recycling boxes used by member locals participating in the service. The service was launched in September, and more than 30 member locals currently participate.

Studentminutes

Studentminutes, is a web-based pre-paid long distance service that does not require the purchase of a card. Promotional Studentminutes cards, offering sixty free long distance minutes and a ten percent discount on account recharges, were distributed to member locals for inclusion with orientation materials in September. The result has been a near doubling of the number of users of the service since the beginning of September.

UFile.ca

As reported in May, the Federation has negotiated with UFile.ca to provide free on-line tax return filing for students between February 15 and April 30, 2007. Discussions are underway to make the offer available throughout the year. Although anecdotal evidence suggests that the services is quite popular, Ufile.ca has not yet provided statistics on usage of the site.

National Student Health Network

Introduction

The first student 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 start, it was felt that it was important to minimise the role of insurance brokers in order for

students' unions to maintain control of their health and dental plans. After all the primary relationship in any insurance arrangement is between the insured and the insurer. Network personnel are able to assist in the administration of member plans, along with a variety of other tasks traditionally carried out by brokers at an additional expense.

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 Benefits Consulting to negotiate with benefit providers and analyse claims data.

Although the Network secures quotes from a variety of benefit providers, all current members of the consortium have selected Green Shield Canada as their benefits provider. Green Shield is Canada's only national not-for-profit benefits provider and, as such, is consistently able to offer the lowest rates for student plans. The Federation has negotiated an agreement with Green Shield that establishes preferred arrangements and services for Network members. Although Green Shield provides plans directly to some students' unions that are not members of the Network, these students' 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.

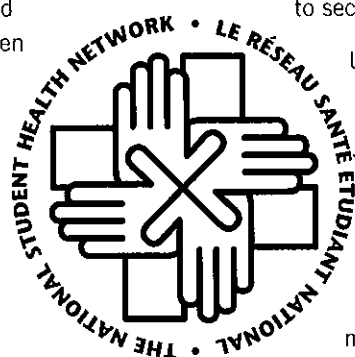
Health Plan "Auditing"

At the request of any member local that does not participate in the Network, 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 and helps identify unnecessary commissions and service fees.

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. Although the student union is not obliged to accept the quote, the Network is bound by it if the local chooses to accept it.

The Network 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 while other locals simply used the information to compel their agents to secure more favourable arrangements.



Unfortunately, some brokers have taken steps to limit students' unions' access to information about their plans, thereby minimising the likelihood that their services will be subject to such scrutiny. Some agents have reacted by locking their students' union clients into multi-year contracts that, in some cases, extend for more than three years.

This practice runs contrary to the industry standard and undermines the students' union's ability to negotiate its rates. In some cases, brokers have been known to withhold programme information or had students' unions sign confidentiality agreements preventing them from releasing the information required to conduct an audit or to otherwise evaluate plan performance. In the latter case, one such student union was only able to obtain the information directly from its insurer, bypassing the agent completely.

International Student Health Plans

The Network is currently developing more affordable options for international students who need to purchase basic provincial health insurance equivalency coverage. In some provinces, international students are not eligible for provincial

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health coverage and international students are subject to high premiums to simply maintain basic medical coverage. Trent Health Services, an insurance carrier, has offered a much lower premium than that charged by the traditional provider of health insurance for international students studying in Ontario, the University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP). Currently, Local 92-Student Association of George Brown College provides international students with primary medical and hospital coverage equivalent to the coverage provided to Ontario residents through the Ontario Health Insurance Plan through the Network.

The Network is operating the international student programme the same way it operates the extended health and dental benefits programme: by taking responsibility for opt-outs, booklet production, and by providing support to local staff and representatives. Heath Benefits assumes responsibility for the brokerage services, and is currently expanding the plan. The Network is able to offer this programme in all provinces.

Dental Discount program

The Network and Green Shield Canada have been jointly developing a dental discount programme for Network members. Through the Federation's initiative, dentists agree to provide discounts of twenty to thirty percent on their services in exchange for being promoted by the Network. The dentists also sign an agreement that guarantees that no unnecessary procedures will be performed. Green Shield has dentists on staff that review claims submitted by dentists participating in the programme and will reject claims for services that are deemed to be unnecessary. This audit process provides a value-for-service guarantee and is unique to the Network's arrangement with Green Shield.

Pay-Direct Card Expansion

Through technological and service enhancements developed by the benefits provider, National Student Health Network plans are currently the only ones in the country able to introduce an expansion

of the pay-direct card programme expansion into para-medical services and medical supplies. This new service allows Network members to save money directly at the point of purchase for a variety of medically necessary paramedical services, such as chiropractic, massage, physiotherapy, and speech therapy. This service is particularly beneficial to members required to purchase high-cost medical supplies. By reducing the out-of-pocket expenses of students, access to costly medical services will be greatly improved.

Travel Benefit

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 replaced all existing coverage on September 1 this year and extended 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 less expensive, saving all Network plans one dollar per insured student per year.

Plan Accounting Mechanisms

Traditionally, most plans are "fully funded," which means 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.

Network members discussed the possibility of altering local plan accounting mechanisms to a

system known as "retention accounting". Under this system, the insurer establishes a set profit margin at the beginning of the plan year. Should the claims paid exceed the premium collected, students would 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 students' union. This system reduces the risk incurred by the insurer, and as a result, keeps premiums low. Many Network members have already made the switch to retention accounting and many more have indicated that they will adopt retention accounting for the coming plan year.

In the first year that this model was employed, participating member locals received a collective refund of three-quarters of one million dollars. It appears that a similar amount will be refunded later this year.

Electronic Opt-Outs

Over two years ago, the Network pioneered a system of on-line opt-outs that allowed for the transfer from a fully manual system of opt-out processing and reimbursement to a system that was electronically administered and allowed for direct account crediting. This system meant incredible 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 through 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. In the second year, the number of participating Network members increased to one-half. However, there has been little progress since then. Almost half of all Network members continue to utilise a manual opt-out processing system which renders that system more costly and cumbersome.

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

Administrative and Network Member Support

The rapid expansion of the Network membership and the introduction of a variety of new services and plan enhancements have meant an increase in workload for Network staff. In order to respond to the expansion of its membership base, the Network added an Administrative and Network Member Support officer.

homes4students.ca

Introduction

The Federation's online housing database, homes4students.ca, 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 for free.



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 an effort to meet these challenges, the Federation entered into a partnership with Ecom Media Group (EMG). EMG was to provide technical support for the site, including the creation of customised interfaces for member locals, and assist the Federation in soliciting accommodation listings. EMG maintains partnerships with major Canadian rental associations, allowing for a direct relationship with individual landlords. It was hoped that this would help to increase the number of postings on the website and expand the number of communities in which students could search for housing. Working with EMG also eliminated the need to solicit third party advertisements for the site because the

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nominal fee that is charged to landlords for posting replaced that revenue.

Local Customisation

As part of the partnership, EMG also develops and manages localised sites allowing homes4students.ca to be integrated into member locals' websites. The software that supports the web interface can be customised for a member local and localised to the community in which it is situated. This software allows students' unions to brand homes4students.ca as a service of the local. Currently, 28 member locals have a localised homes4students.ca sites.

Ongoing Challenges

SITE TRAFFIC

After the website was relaunch in spring 2003, the number of users grew steadily, until fall 2005 when site traffic started to decline. This may be due, at least in part, to the fact that the local customisation technology and design has not been updated since the website was launched in 2003.

PROMOTION TO LANDLORDS

The Federation promotes the site in several ways, including posters, and advertisements in Federation materials such as the discount card guidebooks and the national section of the common handbook. EMG purchased advertising space in "Canadian Apartment Magazine", a publication targeting property owners. EMG also undertook homes4students.ca promotion at the Association of College and University Housing Organizations' international conference and trade show this summer. The trade show provided an opportunity to showcase the site and develop contacts with off-campus housing offices. Despite these efforts, the Federation's service has not yet received broad-based acceptance by independent landlords across the country. As a result, homes4students.ca has significant room to grow in the number of accommodation listings offered to students.

IMPROVED LANDLORD SERVICE

Although there has been virtually no resistance on the part of landlords to pay to post their listings on the site, many landlords have expressed difficulty in completing and posting the forms on the necessary to list accommodations on the website. In early 2005, the Federation received assurances from EMG that they would develop a listing application form that could be faxed, toll-free, to the EMG office. However, EMG has recently informed the Federation that they are no longer willing to provide this service.

BILINGUALISM

Currently, there are some bilingual areas of the site, but search features are not yet available in French. The process of updating the database software to allow for a fully bilingual site was due to be completed before September 2005; however, EMG has not yet completed this process.

Service Developments

At its July 2006 meeting, the National Executive resolved to investigate ways of improving the quality of the service provided by homes4students.ca. To make comprehensive improvements to the site, the Federation's partnership with EMG is being re-evaluated and other strategies for providing a high quality national student housing database are being investigated.

Student Work Abroad Program (SWAP)

Overview

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

SWAP continues to enjoy reasonably high participation rates in programs established with

its more longstanding destinations, such as Australia, Britain, and Ireland, while undergoing major expansion into destinations not previously offered, most notably Brazil, China, and India. Volunteer opportunities are also being expanded in Africa through partnership with Volunteer Abroad. In addition, volunteer opportunities are offered in Latin America and Asia.

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.

SWAP has developed its presence in Ghana through partnership with Volunteer Abroad, utilising Volunteer Abroad's already existing infrastructure in the country. The Federation's other partner in Ghana, the Student and Youth Travel Organization (SYTO), is working to send Ghanaian students to Canada as SWAP participants in summer 2007. Work and volunteer opportunities in South Africa have been slow to develop, but are steadily gaining in popularity.

BRAZIL

SWAP Brazil will be operational in 2007. The Federation is working with the Brazilian organisation, Student Travel Information-Intercambio (STI-Intercambio), which is headquartered in the city of Belo Horizonte.

STI-Intercambio will place Canadian participants in internship positions that relate to their chosen career goals. These placements will largely be in Sao Paulo and Belo Horizonte. Participants

will receive an orientation in São Paulo prior to beginning their internships.

CHINA

The Federation is now able to offer teaching opportunities in China through SWAP through its partnership with the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE), an American organisation with extensive operations in China.

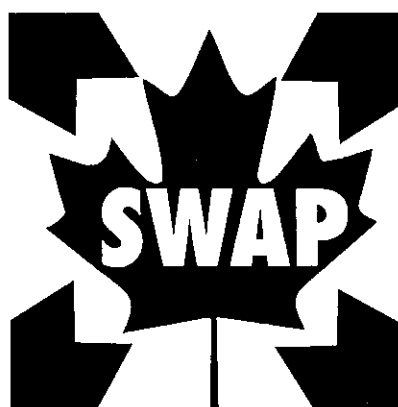
Canadian participants will be placed as English-as-a-second-language teaching assistants in local Chinese high schools. Participants will be provided with housing and a monthly allowance. CIEE will provide a two-week orientation and training period in Shanghai for participants.

BRITAIN

The Federation, through its partnership with the Canadian Association for Cooperative Education (CACE) and the British Universities North America Club (BUNAC), continues to offer its program whereby Canadian students can earn co-operative education credits while participating in SWAP Britain. The Federation's role is to assist with the expenses of a Canadian co-op coordinator who approves jobs for academic credit and arranges evaluations with British employers. The deployment of the co-op coordinator to Britain for four weeks each year prior to the start of the program allows participants to find suitable employment immediately upon arrival in Britain, saving them significant time and hassle compared to having to pre-arrange their own work positions.

INDIA

The Federation successfully negotiated an arrangement with Field Services and Intercultural Learning-India (FSL-India), an Indian organisation based in Bangalore, to establish a SWAP partnership. The first inbound Indian



Services

participant arrived in Canada in late October and additional participants are expected in December. The Federation continues to work to expand the program. It is likely that a reciprocal arrangement for Canadian students will be finalised for 2007.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

As reported at the November 2005 general meeting, the United States of America State Department indicated that undergraduate students would no longer be eligible for the J Visa Internship offered through SWAP and sponsored by the State Department.

In response to pressure mounted by the Washington DC-based Alliance for International Education, the Federation and other organisations, the State Department has reversed its decision and will propose a new regulatory framework to better facilitate undergraduate participation in the internship.

Inbound Programs

In 2006, nearly 55 percent of SWAP participants in Canada have been working in British Columbia and Alberta. Approximately 30 percent have been working in Ontario, and four percent have been working in Québec, with the rest disbursed across the country.

Internal Affairs



Internal Affairs

National Executive

CURRENT COMPOSITION

The current members of the National Executive are:

POSITION	NAME
Aboriginal Students' Representative	Starleigh Grass
Alberta Representative	Kathleen Rhodes
British Columbia Representative	Shamus Reid
Francophone Students' Representative	Katherine Boushel
Graduate Students' Representative	Meghan Gallant
Manitoba Representative	Rachel Gotthilf
National Chairperson	Amanda Aziz
National Deputy Chairperson	Angela Regnier
National Treasurer	Dave Hare
New Brunswick Representative	Colin Curry
Newfoundland and Labrador Representative	Cletus Flaherty
Nova Scotia Representative	Chris Parsons
Ontario Representative	Ken Marciniec
Prince Edward Island Representative	Elmabrok Masoud
Québec Representative	Brent Farrington
Saskatchewan Representative	Alice Collins
Students of Colour Representative	Alam Ashraful
Women's Representative	Sarah Amyot

2006-2007 TERM

Angela Regnier, who has served as the National Deputy Chairperson on the National Executive since May 2004, is resigning from the position effective the end of this general meeting. Angela will be unable to complete her current term because she accepted a position as Researcher and Policy

Analyst for the Simon Fraser Students' Union. A by-election for the position will be held at this meeting for the remainder of 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 2005. With the recent membership growth in the Prairies, the National Executive is currently reviewing the staffing requirements for the region. In the interim, Chris Galloway has been hired on a contract basis as the Member Services Officer- Saskatchewan/ Alberta.

MARITIMES ORGANISER

In early July, Danielle Sampson was hired to fill the Federation's Maritimes Organiser position. Danielle served as the Nova Scotia Representative on the National Executive from 2004-2006.

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.

MAY 2007 NATIONAL GENERAL MEETING

The spring 2007 national general meeting has been scheduled for May 22-27.

NOVEMBER 2007 NATIONAL GENERAL MEETING

The fall 2007 national general meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 21-24. The National Executive will be finalising the dates at its next meeting in early January.

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. Each year during the winter semester a national general meeting of the Caucus is held. The next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

The Federation's National Aboriginal Caucus consists of all member students' unions composed in whole or in part of aboriginal students. The next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Legal Affairs

NUISANCE SUIT

In summer 2002, Local 3-UBC 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. Local 3 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 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 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.

As reported at the previous general meeting, 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 Organisation

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 had been extended by twenty-six months, terminating on August 31, 2008. The extension provides the National Executive adequate time to examine the Federation's long-term office space needs while at the same time providing more flexibility regarding the time at which a move would take place.

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 was \$1,200,000, an amount that should cover a significant portion

Internal Affairs

of the purchase price on a space that meets the Federation's needs.

While twenty-one months remain before the end of the Federation's current lease, a search of available properties in downtown Ottawa should begin in the next six months, so that an adequate window of time is created for the suitable properties to come onto the market.

TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES

It was reported at the last general meeting that the Federation would be purchasing a new colour photocopier in the months following the meeting. After reviewing the products available from several manufacturers the Federation purchased a Docucolour 240, from Xerox at the end of September. Not only will the Federation achieve a cost savings in the per impression cost of approximately 45 percent, but the ability to handle increased paper sizes and weights means that an increasing number of jobs can be done in-house at a reduced cost.

A review of the existing workstations in the national office has been undertaken since the last general meeting. After completing the review two new workstations were purchased to replace workstations that were in excess of five years old and additional memory was purchased to increase the performance of the remaining workstations.

Membership Development



Membership Development

New Member

Continuing Education Students' Association of Ryerson

The Continuing Education Students' Association of Ryerson was accepted as a prospective member of the Federation.

On October 16-21, 2006, a referendum on full membership was conducted in accordance with Bylaw 1.5. Approximately 17 percent of the Association's membership voted in the referendum, with 95% percent voting in favour of Federation membership. The official results were: 897 in favour of membership; 51 opposed; and 2 spoiled ballots.

In accordance with Bylaw 1.2-b-ix, the National Executive is recommending that the Continuing Education Students' Association of Ryerson be ratified as a full member of the Federation.

at least one representative on the Federation's National Executive every single year, a record unmatched by any other member students' union.

As previously reported, the Union has been pretending since spring 2004 that it is not a member, was never a member and is not obligated to collect and remit membership fees. No progress has been made since the previous meeting in getting the Union to acknowledge its obligations to the other members of the Federation.

Local 64-Acadia Student Union

For several years the Acadia Students' Union has been disputing its financial obligations to the other members of the Federation. The National Executive believes that progress is being made and that the matter will be resolved in the coming year.

New Prospective Member

Students' Society of McGill University

The Students' Society of McGill University is composed of all undergraduate students' union at historic McGill University in Montréal. On November 16 this year, the council of the Society voted to seek prospective membership in the Federation. In accordance with Bylaw 1.4-b, the National Executive has reviewed the application and is recommending that the application for prospective membership be accepted.

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 remained an active member for most of the quarter century that followed. For example, from 1981 until 2004, the Students' Union had

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Overview

The overall financial health of the Federation remains very strong, primarily due to the strong growth in membership that the Federation has experienced over the past several years.

Membership fees remain the primary source of funding for the Federation. For 2005-2006 fiscal year membership fees of the Canadian Federation of Students and Canadian Federation of Students-Services will eventually total close to \$3 million, constituting roughly three-quarters of the Federation's total net national revenue.

Over the years, membership fee revenue has been supplemented to varying degrees by revenue from Federation services, particularly from its travel agency, Travel CUTS. For several years at the tail-end of the previous century, the Federation earned roughly \$500,000, net of re-investment in the company, from referral fee; however, over the past five years that revenue declined considerably on both a gross and net basis. Furthermore, under the terms of settlement of the lawsuit over the ownership of Travel CUTS, the Federation reduced its referral fee from one percent to .76 percent of gross domestic sales to students, thereby reducing its potential referral fee income even further.

On a more positive note, the performance of both the ISIC discount program and the Student Work Abroad Program (SWAP) improved in fiscal 2006 over the previous year.

On the expense side, the National Executive was able to maintain spending in most categories within the budget guidelines adopted by the membership. The one exception was legal costs; however, because it had been anticipated that legal spending would be significant in whatever year the lawsuit (noted above) advanced to trial or settlement negotiations, the legal fund was created and is available for use offsetting the overrun.

2005-2006 Performance

Membership Fees

For fiscal 2006 (July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006), membership fees totaling \$2,933,313.65 have either been collected or is due to be collected. In addition, another roughly \$60,000 is owed, but is far less likely to be collected.

Revenue from Travel CUTS

Under the referral fee agreement between the Federation and Travel CUTS, the Federation may charge a referral fee of up to one percent of gross Canadian sales to students, in recognition of the promotional and referral activity undertaken by the Federation. Effective April 1, 2006, 24 percent of the referral fee is now paid to the new minority shareholder of Travel CUTS.

During the first nine months of the year, the Federation earned \$631,890, and in the final quarter, under the new revenue sharing arrangement, the Federation earned \$190,303. In addition, the Federation used \$275,000 of the referral fee revenue generated in the first nine months of the year to pay the members of the new minority shareholder ownership group for past referrals, a term of the lawsuit settlement agreement.

National Student Health Network

Although the National Student Health Network is intended to operate on a break-even basis, the growth in Network membership resulted in modest surpluses in fiscal 2003, 2004, and 2005. For the 2006 fiscal year, another modest surplus is anticipated; however, the final revenue total was not yet available at the time of the production of this report.

SWAP Revenue

After generating annual net income of close to \$90,000 per year in fiscal 2000, 2001 and 2002, the SWAP experienced a significant drop to

\$16,912 and \$24,983 in fiscal 2003 and 2004, respectively. In fiscal 2005, SWAP rebounded, generating a \$89,038 surplus. This year the program did even better, generating a net surplus of \$116,724.

Discount Programme Revenue

International Student Identity Card (ISIC) sales revenue was up slightly during the fiscal 2006, which is expected to reduce slightly the overall cost of the ISIC/Studentsaver program.

Collection of Receivables

Membership Fees

As previously reported, the York Federation of Students has not adjusted the base membership fee that it is collection on behalf of the Federation from \$2.00 to \$3.00. Nor is the local adjusting the annual fee for inflation. As a result, more than \$500,000 in membership fees that should have been remitted by the local since 1995 have not been. The National Executive continues to look for solutions to the problem.

Outstanding Health Plan Premium

The Douglas (College) Students' Union has been a member of the CFS-Services' National Student Health Network buying consortium for student health and insurance for several years.

During the winter 2005 semester, the Douglas Students' Union failed to transfer premium it had collected for health and dental insurance to the broker from which the Network purchases brokerage services. By the time the problem was brought to the attention of the Network in late May 2005, the insurance provider had paid more than \$300,000 in claims for which it had not received reimbursement. CFS-Services was further informed that the provider intended to suspend all further payment of claims unless some portion of funds—\$276,000—was received immediately.

Faced with both having the claims of its members at Douglas College rejected and having the reputation of the Network buying group sullied, the at-large National Executive members agreed to the request by the Network' broker to have CFS-Services assume the debt from it and/or the provider until the funds could be recovered. In late July, the Network's broker informed CFS-Services that an additional \$140,000 was required to cover additional claims that had been paid and to pay all remaining claims for the coverage year.

In addition to assuming the additional debt from the broker and/or provider, the Network immediately arranged to have all health and dental insurance premium for the coverage year starting September 1, 2005 transferred directly to the Network's broker by Douglas College.

At this point none of the outstanding premium has been collected, in large part because Douglas College administration has been withholding all of the Union's operating funds since Spring 2005. Nevertheless, the Network's broker continues to actively pursue collection.

Outstanding Health Plan Opt-Out Funds

As a service to several Network member unions, the Network issues the refund cheques to those Union's members who opt out of the health plans due to pre-existing coverage. Until recently, it was the practice of the Network to commence payment of refund cheques before receiving payment from the member unions. Unfortunately, some locals fell behind on their payments. This included Local 97 which, at the start of the 2005-2006 year, owed for roughly three years of refunds issued by the Network.

The National Executive is pleased to announce that payment of the entire outstanding amount was received late in the 2005-2006 year.

The National Executive would also like to caution that, in spite of the fact that the Local owed CFS-Services money for several years, the money owed

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by the Local should not be misconstrued as having been a loan from CFS-Services.

Designated Funds

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 2005 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.

In fiscal 2006, the Federation spent roughly \$275,000, preparing for trial, negotiating settlement, and undertaking a variety of post-settlement work; however, by settling, the Federation avoided trial costs that were expected to be in the \$400,000 to \$500,000 range. Even if the entire cost for fiscal 2006 is drawn from the fund, a balance of roughly \$250,000 will remain.

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. As a result, annual costs jumped to almost \$150,000 per year.

As of 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 \$150,000, the fund now stands at \$1,200,000.

The Federation's current and final lease on its existing premises expires on August 31, 2008, giving the Federation approximately 21 months to purchase, renovate, and move into a new facility.

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 Meeting Disabled Access Fund in 2000. The Fund allows the Federation to allocate a consistent amount each year to the fund, preventing costs from the operating budget from fluctuating wildly from year to year. With this year's budgeted allocation of \$5,000, the fund will stand at \$55,000.

2005-2006 Audited Statements

Preliminary work on the audits of the financial statements of Canadian Federation of Students and Canadian Federation of Student-Services for fiscal 2006 has commenced and the auditors will return to the Federation offices during the week starting Monday, December 4, 2006.

The audited financial statements for Travel CUTS have been completed and will be distributed and reviewed by the Budget Committee at this meeting.

As the Travel CUTS statements illustrate, Travel CUTS generated a small profit in fiscal 2006. While this is positive news given the sizable losses in fiscal 2003 and fiscal 2004, there are many challenges the company faces as the travel industry remains volatile.

2006-2007 Budget Adjustments

The National Executive is proposing very few changes of significance to the current year's budget, adopted at the previous national general meeting.

On the revenue side, several membership fee projections will be revised based on information not available during the initial budgeting process in May. Likewise, some revenue projections for Federation services have been increased based on final 2005-2006 data that had not been available in May 2006.

Some minor changes are proposed to the spending projections from May. At this stage of the year, almost all of the printing costs for the ISIC/Studentsaver discount program have already been incurred, with spending exceeding projection by roughly 15 percent. Almost all of the overrun can be attributed to the increased cost of having ISIC/Studentsaver guides inserted into various locally-produced member local handbooks. Otherwise, most of the expense adjustments are small reductions based on additional information not available when the original budget was adopted.

Finally, the budget proposes that 100 percent of the referral fee revenue be reinvested in Travel CUTS, up from the 85 percent amount adopted in the original budget, due to the capital needs currently faced by CUTS. To implement, the change across the board will require the agreement of CUTS' minority shareholder.

Membership Fee Issues

Fee Adjustments for Consumer Price Index Change

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

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

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 was adjusted this year from \$3.66 to \$3.75 per student per semester.

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

Appendix I - Meetings with and Submissions to Government

DATE	MEETING	SUBJECT
9/11/2006	MP Mike Savage (Dartmouth–Cole Harbour)	Federal funding, Canada Student Loans Program
9/21/2006	Hon. Elizabeth Hubley, Senator (Prince Edward Island)	Senate inquiry into post-secondary education
9/26/2006	Brian Masse, M.P. (Windsor West), NDP Industry Critic	Judicial review of NSERC re: Warton water experiment
9/28/2006	Diane Ablonczy, M.P. (Calgary–Nose Hill); Dean Del Mastro, M.P. (Peterborough); Hon. John McCallum, P.C., M.P. (Markham–Unionville); Hon. John McKay, P.C., M.P. (Scarborough–Guildwood); Massimo Pacetti, M.P. (Saint-Léonard–Saint-Michel); Pierre Paquette, M.P. (Joliette); Michael Savage, M.P. (Dartmouth–Cole Harbour); Thierry St-Cyr, M.P. (Jeanne-Le Ber); Hon. Garth Turner, P.C., M.P. (Halton); Judy Wasylycia-Leis, M.P. (Winnipeg North)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/02/2006	Omar Alhabra, M.P. (Mississauga–Erindale)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program

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DATE	MEETING	SUBJECT
10/02/2006	Hon. Mauril Bélanger, P.C., M.P. (Ottawa–Vanier)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/02/2006	Ken Boshcoff, M.P. (Thunder Bay–Rainy River)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/02/2006	Hon. Larry Campbell, Senator (British Columbia)	Whistleblower protection for academic researchers under the Federal Accountability Act (Bill C-2), federal funding for post-secondary education
10/02/2006	Hon. Sharon Carstairs, Senator (Manitoba)	Whistleblower protection for academic researchers under the Federal Accountability Act (Bill C-2), federal funding for post-secondary education
10/02/2006	Olivia Chow, M.P. (Trinity–Spadina)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/02/2006	Hon. Anne Cools, Senator (Toronto Centre–York)	Whistleblower protection for academic researchers under the Federal Accountability Act (Bill C-2), federal funding for post-secondary education
10/02/2006	Patricia Davidson, M.P. (Sarnia–Lambton)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/02/2006	Libby Davies, M.P. (Vancouver East)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/02/2006	Hon. Stockwell Day*, P.C., M.P. (Okanagan–Coquihalla), Minister of Public Safety	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program

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DATE	MEETING	SUBJECT
10/02/2006	Yvon Godin, M.P. (Acadie Bathurst)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/02/2006	Hon. Ralph Goodale, P.C., M.P. (Wascana)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/02/2006	Hon. Bill Graham, P.C., M.P. (Toronto Centre)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/02/2006	Hon. Dan Hays, Senator (Calgary)	Whistleblower protection for academic researchers under the Federal Accountability Act (Bill C-2), federal funding for post-secondary education
10/02/2006	Hon. Jim Karygiannis, P.C., M.P. (Scarborough–Agincourt)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/02/2006	Ed Komarnicki, M.P. (Souris–Moose Mountain)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/02/2006	Brian Masse, M.P. (Windsor West)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/02/2006	Hon. Stephen Owen, P.C., M.P. (Vancouver Quadra)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/02/2006	James Rajotte, M.P. (Edmonton-Leduc)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program

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10/02/2006	Geoff Regan, P.C., M.P. (Halifax West)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/02/2006	Denise Savoie, M.P. (Victoria)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/02/2006	Hon. Judy Sgro, P.C., M.P. (York West)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/02/2006	Peter Stoffer, M.P. (Sackville–Eastern Shore)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/02/2006	Borys Wrzesnewskyj, M.P. (Etobicoke Centre)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/03/2006	Charlie Angus M.P. (Timmins–James Bay)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/03/2006	Don Bell, M.P. (North Vancouver)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/03/2006	Hon. Carolyn Bennett, P.C., M.P. (St. Paul's)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/03/2006	Garry Breitkreuz, M.P. (Yorkton–Melville)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program

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10/03/2006	Hon. Scott Brison, P.C., M.P. (Kings-Hants)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/03/2006	Rod Bruinooge, M.P. (Winnipeg South)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/03/2006	Hon. Catherine Callbeck, Senator (Prince Edward Island)	Whistleblower protection for academic researchers under the Federal Accountability Act (Bill C-2), federal funding for post-secondary education
10/03/2006	Hon. Brenda Chamberlain, P.C., M.P. (Guelph)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/03/2006	Hon. Michael Chong, P.C., M.P. (Wellington-Halton Hills), President of the Queen's Privy Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/03/2006	Hon. Jane Cordy, Senator (Nova Scotia)	Whistleblower protection for academic researchers under the Federal Accountability Act (Bill C-2), federal funding for post-secondary education
10/03/2006	Hon. Roy Cullen, P.C., M.P. (Etobicoke North)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/03/2006	Paul Dewar, M.P. (Ottawa Centre)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/03/2006	Hon. Ujjal Dosanjh, P.C., M.P. (Vancouver South)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program

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DATE	MEETING	SUBJECT
10/03/2006	Norman Doyle, M.P. (St. John's East); Hon. Loyola Hearn, P.C., M.P. (St. John's South–Mount Pearl), Minister of Fisheries and Oceans; Fabian Manning, M.P. (Avalon),	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/03/2006	Hon. Joyce Fairbairn, Senator (Lethbridge)	Whistleblower protection for academic researchers under the Federal Accountability Act (Bill C-2), federal funding for post-secondary education
10/03/2006	Stephen Fletcher, M.P. (Charleswood–St. James–Assiniboia)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/03/2006	Gary Goodyear, M.P. (Cambridge)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/03/2006	Peter Julian, M.P. (Burnaby–New Westminster)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/03/2006	Tina Keeper, M.P. (Churchill)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/03/2006	Hon. Noël Kinsella, Senator (Fredericton–York–Sunbury), Speaker of the Senate	Whistleblower protection for academic researchers under the Federal Accountability Act (Bill C-2), federal funding for post-secondary education
10/03/2006	Bill Matthews, M.P. (Random–Burin–St. George's)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program

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DATE	MEETING	SUBJECT
10/03/2006	Alexa McDonough, M.P. (Halifax)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/03/2006	Hon. Nancy Ruth, Senator (Cluny)	Whistleblower protection for academic researchers under the Federal Accountability Act (Bill C-2), federal funding for post-secondary education
10/03/2006	Hon. Marie Poulin, Senator (Northern Ontario)	Whistleblower protection for academic researchers under the Federal Accountability Act (Bill C-2), federal funding for post-secondary education
10/03/2006	Hon. Vivienne Poy, Senator (Toronto)	Whistleblower protection for academic researchers under the Federal Accountability Act (Bill C-2), federal funding for post-secondary education
10/03/2006	Todd Russell, M.P. (Labrador)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/03/2006	Hon. Raymond Simard, P.C., M.P. (Saint Boniface)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/03/2006	Joy Smith, M.P. (Kildonan–St. Paul)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/03/2006	Brian Storseth, M.P. (Westlock–St. Paul)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/03/2006	Hon. Andrew Telegdi, P.C., M.P. (Kitchener–Waterloo)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program

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10/03/2006	Hon. Robert Thibault, P.C., M.P. (West Nova)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/04/2006	Jim Abbott, M.P. (Kootenay-Columbia)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/04/2006	Catherine Bell, M.P. (Vancouver Island North)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/04/2006	Hon. Gerry Byrne, P.C., M.P. (Humber-St. Barbe-Baie Verte)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/04/2006	David Christopherson, M.P. (Hamilton Centre)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/04/2006	Hon. Gerald Comeau, Senator (Nova Scotia)	Whistleblower protection for academic researchers under the Federal Accountability Act (Bill C-2), federal funding for post-secondary education
10/04/2006	Jean Crowder, M.P. (Nanaimo-Cowichan)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/04/2006	Gerald Keddy*, M.P. (South Shore-St. Margaret's)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/04/2006	Hon. Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., M.P. (Beauséjour)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program

Appendix I - Meetings with and Submissions to Government

DATE	MEETING	SUBJECT
10/04/2006	Tom Lukiwski, M.P. (Regina–Lumsden–Lake Centre)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/04/2006	Hon. Frank Mahovlich, Senator (Toronto)	Whistleblower protection for academic researchers under the Federal Accountability Act (Bill C-2), federal funding for post-secondary education
10/04/2006	Irene Mathysen, M.P. (London–Fanshawe)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/04/2006	Peggy Nash, M.P. (Parkdale–High Park)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/04/2006	Hon. Anita Neville, P.C., M.P. (Winnipeg South Centre)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/04/2006	Andrew Scheer, M.P. (Regina–Qu'Appelle)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/04/2006	Hon. Greg Thompson, P.C., M.P. (New Brunswick Southwest), Minister of Veterans Affairs	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/04/2006	Merv Tweed, M.P. (Brandon–Souris)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/04/2006	Tom Wappel, M.P. (Scarborough Southwest)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program

Appendix I - Meetings with and Submissions to Government

DATE	MEETING	SUBJECT
10/04/2006	Blair Wilson, M.P. (West Vancouver–Sunshine Coast–Sea to Sky Country)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/05/2006	Ruby Dhalla, M.P. (Brampton–Springdale)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/05/2006	Hon. Marlene Jennings, P.C., M.P. (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce–Lachine)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/05/2006	Hon. Wilbur Keon, Senator (Ottawa)	Whistleblower protection for academic researchers under the Federal Accountability Act (Bill C-2), federal funding for post-secondary education
10/05/2006	Bradley Trost, M.P. (Saskatoon–Humboldt)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/05/2006	Maruice Veliacott, M.P. (Saskatoon–Wanuskewin)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/06/2006	Marie-Josée Thivierge, Assistant Deputy Minister (Learning Branch); Andrew Treusch, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister (Strategic Policy); Neil Bower, Director General of the Learning Policy Directorate; Sylvain Segard, Program Policy and Planning; Brad Bauer, Policy Advisor (Labour Market Issues)	Student financial assistance

Appendix I - Meetings with and Submissions to Government

DATE	MEETING	SUBJECT
10/10/2006	Hon. Board John Baird, P.C., M.P. (Ottawa West-Nepean), President of the Treasury	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, cuts to the Summer Career Placements Program
10/24/2006	Larry Miller, M.P. (Grey-Bruce-Owen), Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food	Judicial review of NSERC re: Wiarton water experiment
11/06/2006	Denise Savoie, M.P. (Victoria), NDP Post-Secondary Education Critic	Need-based grants

*Member's/Senator's assistant

Appendix II - Media Activity

DATE	OUTLET	SUBJECT
2006/05/25	Canadian University Press	Liberal Party of Canada Leadership
2006/05/26	The Charlatan*	Federation Campaigns and Services
2006/05/30	CBC Radio – Saskatchewan	First Nations University of Canada
2006/05/31	The Oliver Chronicle	International Student Off-Campus Work Program
2006/06/21	Omni Television	North American Free Trade Agreement and Post-secondary Education
2006/06/18	The Manitoban*	Federation Membership and Campaigns
2006/07/25	CKWN Radio Vancouver	Educational Policy Institute Report
2006/07/21	World Wide Weekly Television (South Korea)	North American Free Trade Agreement and Post-secondary Education
2006/07/25	Siafu Magazine	Federal Whistleblower Legislation
2006/07/28	VOCM Radio – St. John's	Council of The Federation Meeting
2006/07/28	NTV – St. John's	Council of The Federation Meeting
2006/07/28	Guelph Mercury	Educational Policy Institute Report
2006/07/28	Warton Echo	NSERC Judicial Review
2006/07/29	London Times Higher Education Supplement	Council of The Federation Meeting / Educational Policy Institute Report

Appendix II - Media Activity

DATE	OUTLET	SUBJECT
2006/08/08	London Times Higher Education Supplement	Nserc Judicial Review
2006/08/08	Briarpatch	Nserc Judicial Review
2006/08/15	Kingston Whig Standard	Universities Withdrawing From Maclean's University Rankings
2006/08/15	Guelph Mercury	Universities Withdrawing From Maclean's University Rankings
2006/08/16	CBC Radio – Newfoundland	Student Housing Shortages
2006/08/30	Canwest	Statistics Canada Report on Interest Relief
2006/08/30	Dalhousie Gazette*	Hrds Online Consultation
2006/09/01	The Globe and Mail	Education Policy Institute Report & Statistics Canada Survey on Tuition Fees
2006/09/01	Radio Canada	Statistics Canada Survey on Tuition Fees
2006/09/01	CKNW Radio – Vancouver	Statistics Canada Survey on Tuition Fees
2006/09/01	Canwest	Statistics Canada Survey on Tuition Fees
2006/09/01	Star Phoenix – Saskatoon	Statistics Canada Survey on Tuition Fees
2006/09/01	CBC Radio – Vancouver	Statistics Canada Survey on Tuition Fees
2006/09/01	Winnipeg Free Press	Statistics Canada Survey on Tuition Fees
2006/09/01	CHQR Radio – Calgary	Statistics Canada Survey on Tuition Fees
2006/09/01	CBC National Online	Statistics Canada Survey on Tuition Fees
2006/09/01	CBC National TV	Statistics Canada Survey on Tuition Fees
2006/09/06	The Metro	Statistics Canada Survey on Tuition Fees
2006/09/06	Canadian University Press – Québec	Educational Policy Institute Report
2006/09/06	Canadian University Press – Central	Ancillary Fees in Manitoba

Appendix II - Media Activity

DATE	OUTLET	SUBJECT
2006/09/07	CBC Radio – The Current	Student Activism Since September 2001
2006/09/11	CBC TV – Toronto	Tuition Fees in Ontario
2006/09/11	Science Magazine	Nserc Judicial Review
2006/09/13	Sun Media	Dawson College Shootings
2006/09/13	Ottawa Sun	Dawson College Shootings
2006/09/13	Edmonton Sun	Dawson College Shootings
2006/09/17	CBC Radio – Ottawa	Dawson College Shootings
2006/09/18	The Charlatan*	Dawson College Shootings
2006/09/18	The Gradzette*	Nserc Judicial Review
2006/09/18	Embassy Magazine	Nserc Judicial Review
2006/09/19	Algonquin College Radio*	Student Employment and Tuition Fees
2006/09/20	The Globe and Mail	Women and Education
2006/09/21	Canadian University Press – Central	International Students' Tuition Fees
2006/09/21	Glue Magazine	Students Moving To Attend University and College
2006/09/21	The Charlatan*	Campus Security
2006/10/02	McGill Daily*	Membership Development in Québec
2006/10/02	CBC Radio – Sudbury	Federation Lobby Days
2006/10/02	Fanshawe College Radio*	Federation Lobby Days
2006/10/02	The Charlatan*	Federation Lobby Days
2006/10/02	Canadian University Press – Québec	Campus General Assemblies

Appendix II - Media Activity

DATE	OUTLET	SUBJECT
2006/10/03	Chat News TV – Medicine Hat	Federal Funding Cuts, including Summer Career Placement
2006/10/03	CBC Newsworld	Federation Lobby Days
2006/10/03	The Manitoban*	Operation Objection
2006/10/03	Algonquin Times*	Federal Funding Cuts, including Summer Career Placement
2006/10/04	The Excalibur*	Federal Funding Cuts, including Summer Career Placement
2006/10/04	Canadian University Press – Ottawa	Federal Funding Cuts, including Summer Career Placement, Federation Lobby Days and National Campaigns
2006/10/04	CBC Radio Canada	Federal Funding Cuts, including Summer Career Placement, and Federation Lobby Days
2006/10/04	The Charlatan*	Federal Funding Cuts, including Summer Career Placement, and Federation Lobby Days
2006/10/04	The Muse*	Federal Funding Cuts, including Summer Career Placement, and Federation Lobby Days
2006/10/04	Centretown News	Federation Lobby Days
2006/10/04	The Durham Chronicle	Federal Funding Cuts, including Summer Career Placement
2006/10/06	Owen Sound Times	NSERC Judicial Review and Wiarton Water Experiment
2006/10/07	The Ryersonian*	Federal Funding Cuts, including Summer Career Placement
2006/10/07	The Concordian*	Federal Funding Cuts, including Summer Career Placement, and Federation Lobby Days
2006/10/10	Chok 1070 Radio – Sarnia	Federal Funding Cuts, including Summer Career Placement
2006/10/11	Toronto Star	Municipal Elections
2006/10/11	Owen Sound Times	NSERC Judicial Review and Wiarton Water Experiment
2006/10/12	The Gazette*	Academic Freedom
2006/10/13	McGill Daily*	Tuition Fees and Military Recruiting on Campus

Appendix II - Media Activity

DATE	OUTLET	SUBJECT
2006/10/13	The Manitoban*	Federal Funding Cuts, including Summer Career Placement
2006/10/13	Canadian University Press – Ottawa	Tuition Fees and Military Recruiting on Campus
2006/10/17	Algonquin Times*	Millennium Scholarship Foundation
2006/10/19	Nexis*	Students' Associations' Structures
2006/10/23	Cord Weekly*	Federal Funding Cuts, including Summer Career Placement
2006/10/23	The Gazette*	Commercialisation of Research
2006/10/24	CBC Radio – Newfoundland and Labrador	Academic Freedom Week At Memorial University of Newfoundland
2006/10/27	Canadian University Press – Ottawa	Millennium Scholarship Foundation
2006/10/29	London Times Higher Education Supplement	Copyright and Intellectual Property
2006/10/30	University of Western Ontario Gazette*	Violence on Campus
2006/11/03	Algonquin Times*	Benefits of Federation Membership
2006/11/06	Canadian Living Magazine	Tuition Fees As A Barrier To Post-secondary Education
2006/11/06	The Gazette*	Student Poverty and Foodbank Usage
2006/11/06	The Muse*	Nserc Judicial Review
2006/11/06	The Ryersonian*	Federal Funding Cuts, including Summer Career Placement
2006/11/07	Canwest	NDP Grant Announcement
2006/11/07	Canadian University Press – Ottawa	NDP Grant Announcement
2006/11/07	The Langara Voice*	International Students' Day
2006/11/08	Canadian University Press	Beverage Exclusivity Contracts
2006/11/13	The Ryersonian*	Course Evaluations

Appendix II - Media Activity

DATE	OUTLET	SUBJECT
2006/11/14	Winnipeg Free Press	Manitoba Tuition Fee Tax Credit Announcement
2006/11/14	CBC – Winnipeg	Manitoba Tuition Fee Tax Credit Announcement

*Campus Media

Appendix III - News Releases and Media Advisories

Following is a list of news releases and media advisories issued by the Federation's national office between May 27, 2006 and November 21, 2006.

DATE	SUBJECT
2006/06/13	"Liberals, Conservatives Defeat Motion to Protect Academic Freedom"
2006/07/24	"Tuition Fees Are the Real Time Bomb"
2006/07/26	"Students File for Judicial Review of NSERC Decision"
2006/07/26	"Students Call for Premiers to Follow Through With Year-Old Commitment"
2006/07/27	"Premiers Must Engage the Federal Government to Restore Funding to Post-Secondary Education"
2006/07/28	"Premiers' Post-Secondary Education Strategy is Lacking"
2006/08/30	"Interest Relief Inaccessible: Statistics Canada Report"
2006/09/01	"Conservative Inaction in Ottawa Forces Tuition Even Higher"
2006/09/05	"Ken Dryden Takes Policy From Stockwell Day"
2006/09/14	"Direct Line Set Up for Messages to Dawson College Students"
2006/09/15	"Millennium Foundation Officials Evasive About \$4M Contract"
2006/09/29	"Conservatives Cut 25,000 Summer Jobs"
2006/10/01	"Students to Begin Lobbying Blitz on Parliament Hill"
2006/10/04	"Students call for the Reinstatement of the Summer Career Placement Program"

Appendix III - News Releases and Media Advisories

DATE	SUBJECT
2006/10/25	"Students Ask Auditor General to Investigate Millennium Foundation"
2006/11/02	"Minister Fails to Justify Job Cuts"
2006/11/07	"NDP Grant Proposal Welcomed by Students"