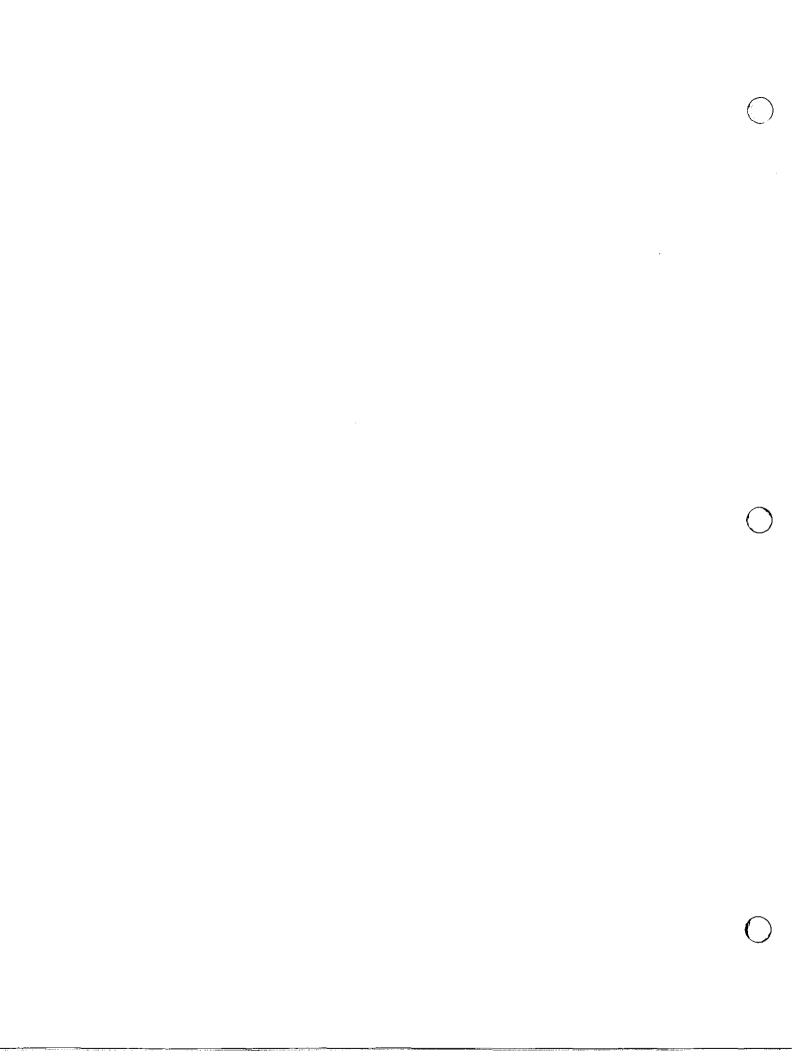


NATIONAL EXECUTIVE REPORT

November 21, 2007 to May 21, 2008

RAPPORT DE L'EXÉCUTIF NATIONAL

du 21 novembre 2007 au mai 21 2008



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.

Over the last ten years, our Federation has been at the centre of exposing the deficiencies of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation and providing a critical analysis to government about alternative and more effective ways to distribute grants to students. The Federation's "Grants NOT Loans" campaign has, year after year, been an ambitious call for a national system of grants, and the tireless campaigning, principled lobbying, and thorough research have helped shape the way decision-makers view student financial assistance.

Over the last year, the Federation organised an intensive lobbying effort and collected tens of thousands of signatures in support of replacing the controversial Millennium Scholarship Foundation. These efforts paid off. The 2008 federal budget announced the replacement of the Millennium Foundation with a national system of grants administered by the Canada Student Loans Program.

Naturally, the campaign does not stop here. At this meeting and beyond, we will discuss the transition into a new phase of the long-standing campaign, one that aims at improving the reach and effectiveness of our new grant program.

The new grant program follows on the heels of a significant re-investment in federal transfers to the provinces for post-secondary education. This fact, coupled with strong public support for reducing tuition fees, means that provincial governments are quickly running out of excuses.

Grassroots campus organising combined with cooperative student-owned services form the foundation of our collective work. This report reviews the exciting details of service additions and enhancements. The Federation continues to build on the many bulk purchasing services available to member unions, from the handbook and health and dental insurance, to bulk purchasing of sustainable and fairly made orientation materials.

With the Federation's environmental sustainability tour visiting campuses across Canada this fall, and a federal election looming, we have a busy and exciting year ahead. Working together, we can continue the success of our movement.

In solidarity,

The National Executive

May 2008

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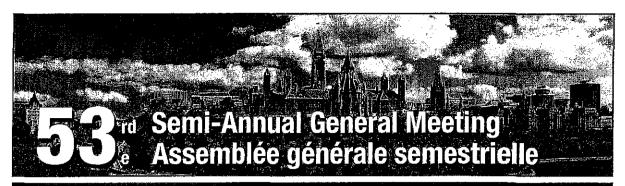
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Canadian Federation of Students(-Services) • Fédération canadienne des étudiantes et étudiants(-services)

Campaigns & Government Relations

2008 Federal Budget

Presentation to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance

On November 27, the Federation appeared before the Standing Committee on Finance to present its recommendations for the 2008 federal budget. The Federation's presentation and accompanying brief identified the following priorities: increased federal funding for lower tuition fees guided by a federal act, replacing the Millennium Scholarship Foundation with

a national system of need-based grants, and increased federal funding for Aboriginal students. In addition, the Federation's brief outlined the necessity for a strong and viable tax base in order to support public programs such as post-secondary education. The Committee was receptive to the recommendations outlined by the Federation, and in particular, Conservative Members of Parliament were interested in learning more about the

increasing costs associated with the administration of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation. Other Committee members asked about the different mechanisms for providing grants to low-income students and the treatment of Quebec under federal grant programs such as the one advocated by the Federation.

PETITION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA; GRANTS NOT LOANS WHEREAS average subton sees, as a share of a spicial family a income, see higher today then at any point in the lest skey years. WHEREAS average student debt for an undergradulate degree range from \$2,000 to \$18,000 to

Petition Campaign

The 2007 Campaign Strategy called for a petition to demonstrate widespread support for replacing the Millennium Scholarship Foundation with a national system of grants. In fall 2007, member locals received petitions and other materials related to the standing Grants Not Loans campaign. Thousands of signatures were gathered throughout the fall and winter, and member locals submited petitions to their respective Members of Parliament in early 2008.

Canada Student Grants Program

The 2008 federal budget marked a pivotal moment in the Federation's campaign for a national system of student grants. Instead of renewing the Millennium Scholarship Foundation, the Conservative government announced plans to wind down the Foundation and replace it with a national system of grants to be administered by the Canada Student Loans Program.

The new grant, which shares a name with the grant proposed by the Federation in Strategy for Change, will be disbursed to students

in two amounts: \$2,000 per year for students from low-income backgrounds and \$800 per year for students from middle-income backgrounds. Human Resources and Social Development officials have confirmed that income thresholds will be sensitive to factors such as family size. Many details of the program's design are still under development.

Unlike the Foundation's grants, the new grants will be available to students in the first year of study. The annual budget for the new program

starts at the same level—\$350 million—as the Foundation's peak theoretical grant disbursement and will increase to \$430 million by 2012, mostly as a result of consolidating Canada Study Grants and Access Grants. The Study Grants primarily serve student populations with high financial need, such as students with disabilities and students with dependants. The Federation will seek clarification as to how this "consolidation" will take place and its impact on students.

Under the current Student Financial Assistance Act, Quebec receives a payment in lieu of any changes to the Canada Student Loans Program if it operates a similar program. As there is no income-tested grant in Quebec, there is some question as to whether or not Quebec can qualify for its share of the new grant. It seems likely that this will be dealt with by an amendment to the Act.

Registered Education Savings Plans

Registered Education Saving Plans are investment accounts that allow contributors to avoid taxes on post-secondary education savings. The foregone tax revenue is tantamount to a grant payable to RESP investors. For the second year in a row, the Conservative government made Registered Education Savings Plans more attractive for families who can afford to save. In accordance with policy, the Federation was critical of the change, noting that this indirect grant is only useful to individuals and families wealthy enough to set aside thousands of dollars each year.

The 2008 federal budget extended the contribution period from the beneficiary's 21st birthday to 31st birthday. The plan's maximum lifetime limit of \$50,000 remains the same.

In 2008, the Government of Canada expects to forego \$588 million in tax revenue from RESP subscribers.

University Research

The 2008 budget focuses on research "excellence". To accomplish this goal, the budget creates 500 new Canada Graduate Scholarships to be awarded to

eligible PhD students from Canada or abroad. The 2008 budget allocates top-up funding for existing Canada Graduate Scholarship holders to study for one semester in another country; 250 recipients will receive up to \$6,000 for studies abroad.

The 2008 federal budget offers very little for basic research. Instead, the Conservative government continues to fund a narrow range of research pursuits. In keeping with the excellence agenda mentioned above, the budget creates "Global Excellence" Research Chairs in the following targeted areas: the environment, natural resources and energy, health, and information and communication technologies.

The granting councils received an additional \$80 million per year: \$34 million for the Canada Institutes for Health Research, \$34 million for the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, and \$12 million for the Social Sciences. In accordance with Federation policy, the Federation expressed concern that the lack of additional funding for social sciences will further exacerbate the existing funding disparities among the councils. All of the new funding is for projects in a narrow range of fields, such as the automotive industry or food and drug safety.

The budget increases the annual funding for the so-called indirect costs of research by \$15 million, bringing the total to \$330 million per year. Cuts during the 1990s greatly reduced individual institutions' ability to properly support the infrastructure costs associated with conducting research. These costs, such as research support staff and electricity, are a direct result of work undertaken on projects funded by the federal granting councils. Unfortunately, there is no evidence to suggest that the relief provided by funding the indirect costs of research has reduced the so-called "need" for higher tuition fees as a source of revenue, as some university presidents suggested before the program was introduced. Consequently, more money for the indirect costs of research does not serve as a substitute for increased transfer payments.

Consultation with Minister of Human Resources and Social Development

The Federation met by telephone with Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Monte Solberg a few hours after the 2008 budget was introduced on February 26, 2008. The Minister was interested in receiving feedback from the Federation on the budget's announcements, and in particular, on the new Canada Student Grants Program. The Federation expressed appreciation that the Conservative government had taken a positive step forward by creating a national system of grants administered by the federal government, and dissolving the Millennium Scholarship Foundation. Concern was raised about the grant being incomebased rather than need-based, and the Minister said that his office was aware of this issue, and that the mechanics of the grant were still being developed to ensure that the maximum number of students will receive the grant. The Minister expressed interest in working with the Federation over the months ahead to ensure that the implementation of the grant would be seamless and that any issues with the new program would be fixed in time for grants to be disbursed in September of 2009.

Student Financial Assistance

Millennium Scholarship Foundation

BILL C-50

As part of a suite of legislation implementing the 2008 federal budget, Bill C-50 Section 94, entitled "Dissolution of the Foundation", articulates the process for winding down the Millennium Scholarship

Foundation, including liquidation. Bill C-50 is currently under review by the Standing Committee on Finance.

On May 7, the Federation presented its analysis of the federal budget, specifically on the decision to dissolve the Millennium Scholarship Foundation, to the Standing Committee on Finance.

The national office will continue to monitor the status of the bill and any amendments that may arise.

"NEITHER A MOMENT NOR A MIND TO WASTE" CONFERENCE AND POLICY SUMMIT

The Millennium Scholarship Foundation held a research conference from April 5–9 in Toronto. The stated purpose of the conference was to bring together researchers from around the world to present their research about groups underrepresented in post-secondary education. Although many countries with tuition fee and financial aid policies dissimilar to Canada were represented in the smaller, concurrent sessions, the keynote speakers still presented the monolithic policy perspective that has formed the cornerstone of MSF conferences. Four of five keynote speakers identified higher tuition fees as an important policy goal for "equity" and "quality".

Although the rhetoric in most of the sessions conveyed an urgent concern for underprivileged students, there was very little attention given to policies or strategies that went beyond targeted funding or early intervention. Few, if any, of the papers and discussions even attempted to address the underlying causes of poverty and socioeconomic inequality. It seemed as though the organisers of the conference were more concerned with

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PART 4 PARTIE 4

CANADA MILLENNIUM SCHOLARSHIP FONDATION CANADIENNE DES
FOUNDATION BOURSES D'ÉTUDES DU MILLÉNAIRE

DISSOLUTION OF THE FOUNDATION DISSOLUTION DE LA FONDATION

identifying the most successful and efficient "bandaid" solutions to boosting access for low-income students than with affecting meaningful change for marginalised communities. There was no discussion about minimum wage, unionisation rates, the Kelowna Accord for First Nations, public child care, or any broad social programs that would improve the material conditions of the families that most conference participants seemed eager to "rescue".

The conference was followed by a one-day invitationonly policy "summit" at which a smaller group of representatives from post-secondary education organisations discussed priorities and policy recommendations that stemmed from the conference. Although there was some interesting discussion, the majority of participants were university or college administrators, essentially guaranteeing that the issue of reducing tuition fees was unwelcome. As such, the scripted conclusion of the summit was that in the post-MSF era, there should be another organisation to take up the research role that the Foundation played.

CANADIAN POST-SECONDARY ACCESS PARTNERSHIP

At a gala dinner sponsored by the MSF on April 8, the Foundation's CEO Norman Riddell announced the establishment of the "Canadian Post-Secondary Access Partnership". Riddell described the Partnership as an organisation that could continue the work of the Foundation beyond 2009 by partnering with the private sector and institutions. The first such partnership has been forged with Ernst & Young and Ryerson University. Few details are available as to what the relationship is between the Access Partnership and the MSF, such as what MSF resources were used to establish it.

Privately funded foundations are more common in the United States, where corporate philanthropy is a cornerstone of the contemporary social safety net. In Canada, it remains to be seen how an unaccountable private foundation can insert itself into the policy and program framework, although, if the MSF is any indication, the Access Partnership will no doubt be a failure.

Income Contingent Loan Repayment

In summer 2007, Access to Information requests were filed for government documents related to the study of income contingent repayment of student loans. The Federation was informed in January 2008 that virtually all of the documents compiled for the request would be exempted due to a loop-hole in the legislation that excludes documents that have been distributed to Cabinet. The commissioner indicated that there was over 700 pages of information that would be blocked from release.

As a result of this level of activity, and given the Conservative Party of Canada's previous support for income contingent repayment for student loans, member locals mobilised and wrote to their nearest Conservative MP to explain the impacts of ICR and the Federation's opposition to the plans. Several responses were received, although none were unequivocal about rejecting ICR in the future.

After reviewing the 2008 federal budget, it is likely that the records that were blocked from the Access to Information request related to the federal government's intentions to implement a Repayment Assistance Plan (see below).

Repayment Assistance Plan

The 2008 federal budget includes \$45 million to "modernise" the Canada Student Loans Program. CSLP officials have indicated that this funding will be used to revise the Interest Relief program to include a sliding eligibility scale, providing more assistance as a graduate's debt-to-income ratio increases. A very similar program, the Repayment Assistance Program, is already in place in Nova Scotia. The Federation has received assurances that the program's design does not lead to compounding interest, a key characteristic of ICR. Repayment Assistance Programs are similar to ICR in that they place considerable emphasis on finding complicated ("flexible") solutions to repayment, rather than problematise student debt. It is this feature of ICR—normalising student debt—that has created political cover for tuition fee increases in jurisdictions where ICR has been implemented.

Student Loan Bankruptcy Prohibition

LEGISLATIVE CHANGE

A reduction in the student loan bankruptcy prohibition to seven years was first proposed as part of bill C-55 passed by the Paul Martin government in November 2005. After more than two years of stalling and examination by the Steven Harper Conservative government, the reduction received royal assent as part of bill C-12 in December 2007. The seven year prohibition has not yet been entered into force by the government.

The Federation testified to the Senate Committee on Banking, Trade, and Commerce on February 13, as part of undertakings to examine the state of bankruptcy in Canada. Although the hearing was technically unrelated to bill S-205 (see below), the Federation's testimony lent support to reducing the prohibition on student loan bankruptcy and pledged support to bill S-205.

BILL S-205

First introduced on May 29, 2007 in the previous session of Parliament (as S-227) and re-tabled on October 17, private member's bill S-205, "An Act to amend the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act (Student Loans)", proposes to reduce the student loan bankruptcy prohibition from seven years to two years, and make a hardship hearing available at any time during repayment, allowing those with student debt experiencing long-term financial difficulty to apply for a court order to relieve them from all or part of their student loans. The bill has been put forward by Liberal Senator Yoine Goldstein, who contacted the Federation in advance of the bill's launch to express a desire to work with the Federation in building support for the bill within the House of Commons, the Senate, and the general public.

In testimony to the Senate Committee on Banking, Trade, and Commerce on both March 13 and April 3, outgoing Canada Student Loans Program Director General Rosaline Frith was categorical in her denial of the need for a bankruptcy provision for student loan holders. In fact, she said that there was "no

reason" to declare bankruptcy on student loans, and suggested that if the prohibition was lowered, student loan debtors would be "cavalier" and declare bankruptcy as an option to rid themselves of debt, "as they were doing prior to 1998". Frith's testimony was inconsistent with the reality of student debtors: in 1998, those bankrupts with student loans among their debts had a median household income of just \$14,000. Far from being cavalier about their debts, student bankruptcies were more likely driven by pure desperation.

The Federation has applied to testify before the Committee to respond to the government's claims.

Bill C-253 An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act (Deductibility of RESP Contributions)

In 2007, Liberal Member of Parliament Dan McTeague (Pickering—Scarborough East) contacted the Federation about his private member's bill to make contributions to RESPs tax deductible. The Federation thanked McTeague for his interest in affordable post-secondary education, but told him that the Federation could not support the measure. It was explained to him that the benefits of RESPs went disproportionately to higher income families, and that the Federation's position was that public funding should be used to reduce tuition fees and supplement student grants.

On March 5, the bill passed through the House of Commons when, to the surprise of most, the opposition parties all voted in favour of C-253. The bill's passage created a media frenzy, due to both the unexpected outcome and the hefty price tag of the policy (approximately \$1 billion per year). The Federation when asked for comment by several media outlets in the days following the vote reiterated the position that the RESP program is not an effective policy for increasing access to post-secondary education. The Conservative government was forced to add language to budget implementation legislation that effectively nullified McTeague's bill.

Federal Election Preparations

Parties' Platforms

Although the minority parliament has accomplished important gains for students, it has a level of instability and unpredictability that makes its dissolution possible at virtually any time. Speculation about a federal election is almost constant.

In April, a customised letter was written to each federal party leader encouraging them to make high-quality, affordable post-secondary education a priority in their respective party's platforms. The letters provided an analysis of each party's platform on post-secondary education in the last election, as well as the government's performance on post-secondary education policy. The letters also outlined the Federation's proposals for high-quality, affordable post-secondary education.



Meeting with Elections Canada

In anticipation of the upcoming federal election, the Federation met with representatives of Elections Canada, including Chief Electoral Officer Marc Mayrand on February 19. The meeting focused on how to facilitate students' and young people's participation in the next federal election, including what preparation Elections Canada had already undertaken to encourage voter participation in the electoral process. As discussed at the November 2007 national general meeting, the Federation also put forward to Elections Canada a number of proposals, including setting up enumeration tables and polling stations on campus, as well as producing and circulating materials targeted at students and other youth clearly explaining the process for voting.

Elections Canada representatives outlined a number of initiatives already underway to facilitate youth voter turn-out. They noted that a Community Relations Officer would be hired in all areas that included a campus, and that these officers would be responsible for liaising with local students' unions and other organisations in order to collaborate as much as possible on increasing youth voter turnout. Returning Officers for the election have already been instructed to set up polling stations in as many campus residences as possible, and Elections Canada representatives discussed plans to go door-to-door in residence ensuring students are aware of new proof-of-residence regulations.

A media strategy was also identified as a priority for Elections Canada, including use of the Internet and mainstream media to promote the vote. Federation representatives offered to assist in the dissemination of promotional material from Elections Canada, including a proposed "E-Bulletin" being developed specifically for distribution to youth. Once the election has been called, Elections Canada officials also agreed to facilitate meetings between their own regional staff and regional Federation representatives across the country.

Federation representatives raised concerns about recent changes to the electoral vouching process that eliminated "serial vouching", that is, the ability of those who have been vouched for to vouch for others as a valid means of proof of residence. Concerns were also raised about the high burden of proof on students to prove their permanent residence during study. The Federation argued that the transient nature of residence during study periods makes it difficult for many students to assemble the required photo identification to vote. Elections Canada officials indicated that they would consider this during training of Returning Officers and take measures to work with university and college administrations to ensure that students in residence receive acceptable documents to prove their residence.

Environmental Sustainability Campaign

At the May 2007 national general meeting, member locals adopted an environmental campaign aimed at curbing climate change, stop privatisation, upholding environmental sustainability, and increasing environmental sustainability on campus.

As there are already many local, provincial, and national campaigns underway to "green" campuses and fight environmental degradation, the focus of the Federation's campaign is to raise awareness about students' role in affecting positive change, and to increase collaboration between student activists and other groups already engaged in environmental campaigns. Three broad themes were established under which students are encouraged to get involved: reducing carbon emissions, reducing waste, and reducing the commodification of water.



Cross-Canada Campus Tour

As previously reported, the Federation has partnered with the Sierra Youth Coalition and the David Suzuki Foundation on a cross-Canada campus tour, called the Generations Tour. The tour will bring presentations and events to universities and colleges across the country over the span of 30 days, and aims to mobilise students and the broader community to pressure all levels of government to take greater action to combat climate change. Additionally, the

tour will highlight ways in which students across the country are making a difference in their homes, on their campuses, and in their communities, and will utilise different campaign tactics, including petitions, video messages, and rallies to mobilise students and raise awareness.

The tour has the following goals:

- garnering support for a major contribution from the federal government for sustainable initiatives on campuses and in communities across Canada;
- highlighting the methods in which students, student groups, staff and administration at campuses across the country can improve campus sustainability; and
- emphasising ways in which students can make changes in their everyday lives in order to decrease their ecological footprints.

The tour will focus on information sharing amongst campuses and increasing enthusiasm for local mobilisations. Key projects at Canada's most advanced campuses in the area of sustainable development and research will be presented to inform students of the successful, innovative, and effective projects that have substantially reduced waste, cut carbon emissions, or decreased environmental footprints.

It is anticipated that at each participating campus, lectures will be given by prominent figures in the area of sustainable development. Speakers who are currently committed to some tour dates include David Suzuki, Stephen Lewis, George Stromboulopoulos, Severn Cullis-Suzuki, James Hoggan and Brandon Braizer.

Generations Tour Launch and Sustainability Campaign Survey and Guide

On March 3, the Federation launched the Generations Tour at the University of Victoria. National Chairperson Amanda Aziz gave opening remarks and David Suzuki delivered a keynote speech. Both Aziz and Suzuki convened a joint news conference before the launch.

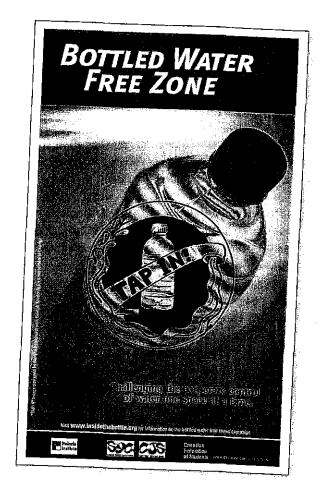
The March 3 event also served as a launch of the Federation's national sustainability survey at www. generationstour.ca. The survey asks students questions about what action they are currently taking in their personal lives and on campus to promote sustainability, as well as what role they see the federal government and campus administrations playing in helping to create environmental sustainability on campus and in the broader community. As previously reported, the results of the survey will be used to compile a guide that will highlight the methods by which students, student groups, staff and administrations can take action and endorse sustainable initiatives. The guide will be developed using the combined research and resources of the Federation, the Sierra Youth Coalition, and the David Suzuki Foundation, and will be distributed in fall 2008 in conjunction with the tour.

World Water Day

As part of the environmental sustainability campaign, the Federation and the Sierra Youth Coalition have partnered with one of Canada's leading activist thinktanks—the Polaris Institute—to initiate a campaign to resist corporate control over public water systems.

One of the manifestations of the corporatisation of water is the proliferation of the bottled water industry in Canada and in other Western industrialised countries. Coca-Cola, Pepsi, Nestle, and Danone have all profited substantially from bottling what is essentially tap water from public sources. The plastic bottles used by the industry contain harmful chemicals such as Bisphenol A and the production and shipping of plastic bottles is very energy intensive, generating tonnes of greenhouse gases each year.

In the lead-up to World Water Day in mid-March, Federation member locals were encouraged to create bottled-water free zones on campus in which no bottled water would be sold or distributed. Over the course of the campaign, over two dozen zones were created on Canadian campuses.



Copyright Act

The federal Copyright Act has been undergoing review in light of the effects of new digital technology and the availability of copyrighted works on the Internet.

In early 2008 it was expected that the federal Conservative government was going to introduce overly restrictive amendments to the Copyright Act, the result of which would not only have been detrimental to students but to the educational community as a whole. Following a public outcry, the government decided not to table amendments to the Act, and it is unknown as to whether the government has decided to rewrite the legislation to address the public's concerns, or whether they have simply abandoned the legislation altogether.

The Federation has been working closely with the Canadian Association of University Teachers and the Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic to develop strategies to raise awareness about the importance of balanced copyright legislation for post-secondary education. All three groups have been opposing revisions to the Act that overly favour the interests of the recording and publishing industries to the exclusion of the rights and needs of students. In addition to the Federation's fact sheet. a formal statement was released on April 28 setting out the Federation's vision for balanced copyright reform, including the expansion of Fair Dealing, the elimination of crown copyright, and the importance of moral rights. As well, the Federation states its opposition to anti-circumvention technologies, the extension of copyright terms and the establishment of an education-specific exception in the Copyright Act. The statement argues that the Internet offers new opportunities to share public knowledge and, thus, any revisions to copyright legislation need to ensure that access to the internet for the general public remains without hindrance.

Parliamentary Intellectual Property Caucus

On May 6, the Federation met with Member of Parliament and Opposition Human Resources Critic Mike Savage (Dartmouth—Cole Harbour) to express concern about the ongoing meetings of the Parliamentary Intellectual Property Caucus. Led by Liberal Member of Parliament Dan McTeague, the IP caucus meets in secret to discuss, among other things, the Copyright Act.

McTeague has made no secret of his desire to see Canada join other nations with restrictive copyright regulation. As far as can be determined, only those who favour copyright modeled after the U.S. Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DCMA) have been invited to speak to the I.P. caucus.

The Federation urged Savage, as an advocate for postsecondary education within his party's caucus, to become more active on the copyright file. Federation representatives also asked Savage to assist with getting an invitation for the Federation to testify at the I.P. caucus.

International Students

Advisory Committee on International Students and Immigration

The Federation holds a seat on the Advisory
Committee on International Students and
Immigration (ACISI), a body meets twice yearly to
provide 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
programs, as well as developments in domestic
regulations surrounding international students.

On February 21, the Federation participated in an ACISI roundtable discussion on institutional accreditation (CIC recognition of a school who can host students from abroad). The roundtable focused on gaps in the regulation of private for-profit schools that attract students from abroad. A growing number of fraudulent schools in Canada (mostly language schools) are exploiting students from abroad by charging exorbitant tuition fees for a substandard education.

The Federation expressed concern that CIC has not done enough to protect students from fraud and pushed for greater regulation of study permits for language schools. Over the next year, the Federation will continue to lobby provincial and federal governments to enact greater oversight of fraudulent schools that prey on international students.

Post-Graduation Work Permit Program

On April 22, Citizenship and Immigration Canada announced changes to the Post-Graduation Work Permit Program, similar to those lobbied for by the Federation, that allow qualifying international students to obtain an open work permit with no restrictions on the type of employment and no

requirement for a job offer. In addition, the duration of the work permit was extended to three years across the country. Previously, the program only allowed international students to work for one or two years, depending on the location.

These changes allow international students increased flexibility and make it easier for them to successfully immigrate to Canada upon graduation. All international students studying at public post-secondary institutions are eligible for the program with the exception of those who are participating in the Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship Program, the Foreign Affairs and International Trade Government of Canada Awards Program and those receiving funding from the Canadian International Development Agency and participating in a distance learning program.

Presentation to Liberal Post-Secondary Education Caucus

On November 21, the Federation was invited to present to the first meeting of the Liberal Post-Secondary Education Caucus for the 2nd Session of the 39th Parliament. The Federation's presentation focused on the priorities outlined in Strategy for Change, including the disparity in post-secondary participation between low- and high-income families in Canada. The meeting was attended by Liberal MPs and Senators, and questions after the presentation focused on the Federation's position on the Millennium Scholarship Foundation and proposals for a new grant system in Canada. In addition, the Senators present were particularly interested in discussing how to increase enrolment of low-income Canadians, and the different factors affecting participation in higher education.

Support for Whistleblowers

Since 2004, the Federation has been supporting the efforts of former University of Toronto graduate student Christopher Radziminski who has been attempting 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 work, 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.

As previously reported, the Federation has made complaints with the University of Toronto, 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, where the other faculty member involved in the experiments is based, undertook a formal inquiry into Radziminski's allegations in spring 2006. After the conclusion of the investigation, Indiana University confirmed that the faculty member under investigation had engaged in wrongdoing in the authorship of both publications. Formal letters of apology were written to Radziminski and the other students listed as authors on the articles and were copied to both journals.

2008 Judicial Review

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 Wiarton, Ontario's water distribution system. Despite numerous complaints by Wiarton residents regarding the odour and taste of the water, research results portraved the experiment as "novel" and "successful", explicitly stating there were no complaints from residents. Health Canada has referenced 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 discrepancies between the academic reporting and evidence obtained through Freedom of Information requests. On June 15, 2006, NSERC replied to the Federation, stating that it had no intention of initiating a formal investigation into the allegations.

In July 2006, the National Executive resolved to investigate filing a judicial review of NSERC's decision to ignore the Federation's complaints. On July 26, 2006, the Federation filed an application with the federal court for review. Supporting materials were compiled and an affidavit was submitted. During the court appearance on October 30, 2007, the Federation's counsel argued that NSERC erred in interpreting its statutory obligations to respond to the complaint and that NSERC demonstrated a reasonable apprehension of bias in that it treated the Federation unfairly in dismissing its request for an investigation.

On April 24, federal court Judge John O'Keefe delivered his judgement upholding NSERC's decision to ignore complaints regarding the Wiarton experiment. O'Keefe ruled that NSERC acted reasonably, in part due to the lack of an outright NSERC sponsorship of the Wiarton experiment, but also because the University of Toronto's assurances that it completed an investigation—which was not exactly true—gave NSERC a reasonable assurance that a fair process was followed. The Federation's legal counsel has advised that although it was not the expected outcome, there appears to be no "over-riding or palpable" error by Justice O'Keefe that makes an appeal worthwhile.

The ruling exposes an alarming gap in accountability for publicly-funded research. Although NSERC technically has a minimal duty to demand ethical behaviour from universities that receive funding, there is virtually no pragmatic oversight by NSERC, even in the face of complaints. The O'Keefe judgement confirms that universities are responsible for policing themselves and no appeal mechanism is available for whistleblowers who have evidence of misconduct and procedural abuse.

In a conference call following the judgement, Radzminski indicated that he was keen to continue attempts to expose wrongdoing, perhaps by submitting editorials to prominent journals in the area of science ethics.

Aboriginal Rights

Last May, Federation members voted unanimously in support of the 2007 First Nations National Day of Action organised by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), in conjunction with communities and organisations across the country. The Assembly of First Nations is a national organisation representing First Nations citizens in Canada. Many members participated in activities across the country, and the Federation produced placards, buttons and other materials in support of the actions.

Another national day of protest has been called for May 29.

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On April 17, the Federation participated in an AFN press conference to launch the Day of Action and challenge the federal government to take action in support of First Nations people. The Federation spoke specifically about the importance of increased federal funding for Aboriginal students. Other groups in attendance and delivering similar remarks in solidarity included Make Poverty History and the Canadian Labour Congress.

The National Aboriginal Caucus resolved to endorse the May 29 Day of Action. Federation themes for student mobilising include highlighting missing and murdered Aboriginal women, and demanding that their perpetrators be brought to justice; calling for increased federal funding for Aboriginal students, including an immediate lift of the two percent cap on Post-Secondary Student Support Program funding; calling on the federal government to sign the United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Rights; demanding the release of all Aboriginal political prisoners, and in particular, the KI6; and calling on the federal government to respect Treaties. Materials are again

being produced for this year's day of protests, and circulated to member locals for participation in local events.

During the past year, the Federation has worked more closely with the AFN. The Federation was invited by the AFN to attend two lobby sessions with Conservative Members of Parliament. The last lobby sessions occurred on February 6. The joint presence of both the Federation and the AFN was well received by the Members of Parliament present.

In conjunction with marches highlighting missing and murdered Aboriginal women in communities across Canada, the Federation issued a news release on Mother's Day, May 11, calling on the federal government to take action to stop violence against Aboriginal women. The National Aboriginal Caucus' Stolen Sisters campaign highlights the need for governments to take action in support of missing women. New materials for the campaign are currently being developed.

Public Opinion Polling

Twice yearly, the Federation conducts national public opinion polling. Since fall 2006, the Federation and the Canadian Association of University Teachers have polled jointly using the firm Harris-Decima.

The most recent round of polling was completed on April 28. Results from the spring poll are mostly consistent with opinions seen in the previous poll in November 2007. Overall, health care and the environment continue to top Canadians' stated priorities, followed by poverty. Post-secondary education tied with taxes for fourth. Although well behind health care and the environment, post-secondary education still outperforms crime and fighting terrorism by a significant margin.

Despite aggressive campaigns by university and college presidents, American consultants, and most of the mainstream press, the Federation and its allies have still been able to keep tuition fee reductions a priority for most Canadians. Those polled identified student debt relief and tuition fee reductions as the

top priorities for government investment in postsecondary education. Over 80 precent of Canadians want to see fees either frozen or reduced, and just over half of those polled would pay higher taxes to achieve this. The support for eliminating tuition fees appears to be on the rise, with over half of respondents agreeing to the proposal that fees be eliminated. This is the strongest support for eliminating tuition fees since the Federation began polling in 2001.

For university research, Canadians continue to see university-industry partnerships as positive, although four in ten indicated that they would trust university research less if they knew it had a private sponsor. This result could be taken to mean that Canadians want to see a portion of university research dedicated to solving real world problems (perhaps fighting disease, "greener" products), but that the research conducted by universities should maintain independence from corporate influence.

Alternative Federal Budget

Since 1996, the Federation has been an active participant in the Alternative Federal Budget (AFB) project. First released in 1994, the AFB project is coordinated by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. The AFB document addresses social priorities, including: reducing government debt through a progressive taxation system; rebuilding Canada's social safety net; protecting the environment; and achieving full employment.

The theme for the 2008 AFB was "A Budget Canadians Can Count On", highlighting the enormous tax cuts (\$190 billion) introduced in just two years by the Conservative government. The AFB proposes to roll back tax cuts and focus on poverty reduction.

As in previous years, the Federation was invited to write the chapter on post-secondary education and research. For the 2008 chapter, the Federation was able to incorporate new research and detailed proposals tabled in *Strategy for Change*. The chapter focused on the need to increase federal funding for post-secondary education through a dedicated

transfer for post-secondary education. The Federation also highlighted the pressing need for a Post-Secondary Education Act to re-assert the federal government's role in elevating the affordability and quality of Canadian post-secondary education.

The 2008 Alternative Federal Budget was launched on February 25 in Ottawa and garnered significant media throughout the day. A graphic link to the AFB was located on the Federation's home page from February to May.

Public Education Network

The Public Education Network (PEN) is composed of the Federation, the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), the Canadian Labour Congress, Québec labour and teachers' groups, the Canadian Teachers' Federation, and Canada's two national student federations, la FEUQ and the CFS. The Network provides a forum in which to exchange research and organising updates with partners in the education sector.

Although Network meetings usually occur quarterly, only one meeting has occurred since November, in December. At the meeting, Network members provided an overview of recent activities of their respective organisations and discussed the current political climate in Ottawa. David Robinson of the Canadian Association of University Teachers provided a thorough overview of the OECD Review of Tertiary Education, released in April 2008, It was discussed that the review contains a number of positive recommendations for post-secondary education, including the need to address issues of inequity and barriers to participation in higher education, and the implementation of a national system of needbased grants. However, the report also contains a series of regressive policy recommendations, including a proposal for countries to implement income contingent student loan repayment schemes and restrictions on academic freedom that would tie funding for researchers to an institution's declared research agenda. Robinson also reported that the report includes recommendations for countries to

increase tuition fees as a means of addressing a lack of adequate public funding, the call for a public debate on the "heavy reliance" on public money for higher education in countries without tuition fees, and the introduction of tuition fees in those countries where none exist.

Network members also discussed preparation for the next federal election and amendments to the federal Copyright Act. Each organisation present discussed their plans for a federal election campaign, and Network members agreed to share materials among the group. Discussion also focused on holding joint town halls or candidates debates, and targeting key ridings in order to raise the profile of public post-secondary education throughout the election. Meeting participants agreed to also be in touch with regards to activities opposing regressive amendments to the Copyright Act, including exchanging of campaign materials.

Canadian Blood Services

At the November 2006 general meeting, the voting members directed that Health Canada and Canadian Blood Services (CBS) be lobbied to remove their policy prohibiting men who have sex with men from donating blood.

As a result of the Federation's lobbying, CBS undertook a review of its current policy that defers blood donation if a man has had sex with a man (MSM) even once since 1977. Extensive consultations were held to gather the input of stakeholder groups including representatives of blood recipients, the Federation, the Canadian AIDS Society and Egale Canada. CBS also conducted an independent risk assessment through the McLaughlin Centre for Population Health Risk Assessment at the University of Ottawa. Following this, the Board of Directors of CBS determined that, before any potential change to the policy could be considered, further study was required in a number of different areas.

On March 24, CBS launched an initiative in conjunction with the Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR) to conduct research in three areas:

donor deferral strategies and the risk of blood-borne diseases; policy development and social aspects of blood system risk; and emerging pathogens in specific populations.

CBS has stated that "should the data support a change to the policy, Canadian Blood Services will consult with stakeholders and determine next steps in terms of a submission to Health Canada and its regulator the Public Health Agency of Canada" in support of changing the MSM policy.

The Federation has developed awareness materials for distribution to member locals. The materials profile fictitious individuals who have healthy blood, but who are banned forever from being able to donate due to the MSM policy.

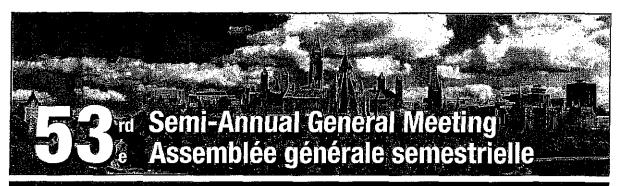
No Means No

Since 1992, the Federation has distributed "No Means No" awareness materials on campuses and in the community, particularly in on-campus and local bars and pubs encourage men to confront and end male violence, and empower women.



As previously reported, the Federation was informed in February 2007 that clothier Bluenotes Inc. was selling t-shirts in their stores across Canada with the slogan "NO MEANS have aNOther drink". The Federation immediately advised the company that, not only was its slogan morally reprehensible, but it violated the Federation's long-standing trademark on the slogan "No Means No". Five days later, Bluenotes Inc. began recalling their "NO MEANS have anOther drink" t-shirts. In the weeks following the removal of the t-shirt, the Federation and Bluenotes Inc. worked in collaboration to design a new series of t-shirts with No Means No messaging that were included in the clothier's summer 2007 line of clothing.

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Solidarity Work

Introduction

It has been long-standing practice of the Federation to work in coalition with other groups and organisations on issues of interest and concern to students. Over the last six months, students' rights, environmental issues, poverty, equity and childcare, as well as international cooperation in the student movement, have been priorities in the Federation's coalition work.

Environment

Sierra Youth Coalition

The Sierra Youth Coalition (SYC) is the youth arm of the Sierra Club of Canada, an environmental protection organisation. SYC works to integrate sustainability into all aspects of the economy and individuals' lifestyles and works closely with campus environmental groups across the country. One of the SYC's main projects is the Campus Sustainability Assessment Framework—a tool used to measure a variety of indicators to assess sustainability on campus, and develop a plan of action.

As part of the Federation's ongoing environmental campaign, the Federation has met with the SYC regularly during the last reporting period to discuss collaboration and implementation of campaign goals. The Federation's sustainability campaign website and materials are a joint effort between the Federation and the SYC. In addition, the SYC is collaborating with the Federation on the cross-campus tour launching this fall.

The SYC will be producing a guide for environmental action aimed at students' unions this summer. The Federation has agreed to assist with logistics related to gathering and disseminating information to member locals.

Polaris Institute

The Polaris Institute is a non-governmental organisation that advocates for clean and accessible public water infrastructures. The organisation's primary campaign is targeted against the bottled

water industry's erosion of the public's confidence in public water systems, which has led to increasing prices and increasing corporate control over water resources. The Polaris Institute has identified exclusivity contracts in primary, secondary, and post-secondary institutions as one of the main tactics the bottled water industry uses to target youth.

The Federation and the Polaris Institute have distributed campaign kits outlining actions students' unions can undertake in order to combat the commercialisation of campus public water systems. The kits include buttons, stickers, coasters, information pamphlets, and bumper stickers.

In order to broaden the understanding of the growing tide of commercialism on Canadian university and college campuses, the Federation and the Polaris Institute, along with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, and the Sustainable Campuses Coalition, developed a short survey on the growing trends of commercialisation and their effects on campus environmental sustainability. The results of the survey showed that over 80% of university and college campuses have exclusivity contracts with corporations for the sale of bottled water and soft drinks. In a number of cases these contracts have lead to the removal of water fountains and students' access to clean public drinking water on campus.

As part of World Water Day, held on April 21, the Federation, along with the Sierra Youth Coalition and the Polaris Institute encouraged member locals to create bottled-water free zones on campus, in which no bottled water would be sold or distributed (see the related campaigns and government relations section of this report).

Canadian Youth Climate Coalition

Formed in September 2006, the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition (CYCC) is a coalition of youth organisations from across the country that advocate for immediate and meaningful action on curbing climate change from governmental leaders and the private sector. Along with 48 other youth

organisations, the Federation is a founding member of the Coalition and continues to participate and engage in the activities of the Coalition.

The CYCC assisted with the coordination of Canadian demonstrations on the International Day of Climate Action. On December 8, heads of states from 190 countries met in Bali, Indonesia for the United Nations Kyoto Climate Talks. There was a world-wide call for action to hold leaders accountable and to push them to enforce the Kyoto protocol and create real change to curb greenhouse gas emissions. The Federation endorsed the International Day of Climate Action, and worked in partnership with the CYCC and other groups to promote and support the events.

Trade and Human Rights

Common Frontiers

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

On January 16 and 17, Common Frontiers held a two-day visioning session on the mandate of the Coalition. While the original mandate of the Coalition was to focus on the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), the organisation is considering broadening its mandate because it increasingly appears that the FTAA has been displaced by bilateral and plurilateral trade agreements as the driving force for trade in the Americas. At the meeting, three working groups were established, including a committee to review the internal structure of the organisation, one to review trade negotiations in the Americas, and one to review relations between Canada and the U.S.

On March 16, the Federation met with Common Frontiers representatives to receive an update on the events and actions of the coalition. Since there is significant student mobilisation occurring in

Latin America, discussions were had on ways for the Federation to connect with the Latin American student movement through the hemispheric coalition networks that exist within Common Frontiers.

On May 12, the Federation attended the working group's most recent meeting. Reports from group members were given with regards to the continuing resistance to the Security and Prosperity Partnership, NAFTA and other trade agreements occurring among the North and South Hemispheres. Problems regarding the Canada-Columbia free trade negotiation were discussed, including the agreements oppressive actions toward trade unions in Columbia. Preliminary discussions were held on the organisation's upcoming pan-hemispheric tour to network with other social justice groups who work on trade reform. The tour members will include representatives of labour, social justice organisations and student groups.



No One is Illegal

No One is Illegal (NOI) is a group of immigrants, refugees, and allies who fight for the rights of all migrants to live with dignity and respect. NOI believes that granting citizenship to a privileged few is part of a racist immigration and border policy designed to exploit and marginalize migrants. NOI works to oppose these policies, as well as the international economic policies that create the conditions of poverty and war that force migration. On February 22, the Federation participated in a roundtable planning

Solidarity Work

session for the organisation's May 3 Day of Action, at which goals were developed, including:

- a national regularisation program for non-status people;
- · an end to detentions and deportations;
- an immediate end to security certificates and secret trials;
- · sn end to racial or religious profiling;
- · recognition of the right to free movement;
- · recognition of indigenous sovereignty; and
- an end to imperialist wars and occupations (including support for war resisters).

The Federation endorsed the and worked with NOI and other groups to promote and support the Day of Action.

ACORN Canada

ACORN Canada (the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now - Canada) is a grassroots organisation founded in 2004 that has rapidly grown into one of the country's most effective voices for low- and moderate-income Canadians. With over 15,000 members, ACORN's central purpose is to effectively represent and champion the interests of Canada's low- and moderate-income urban citizens on the critical issues of social democracy and economic justice. ACORN advocates that transforming the conditions that adversely affect millions of Canadians can best be achieved with an active membership invested in their communities and focused clearly on lasting, transformative socio-economic change.

On April 14, the Federation met with ACORN representatives to discuss the injustices facing persons residing in government housing, including students. The Federation agreed to help ACORN Canada distribute petitions to members and also assist in distributing information to raise awareness for positive transformative socio-economic change.

On April 20, the Federation resolved to join ACORN.



Canadian Friends of Burma

The Canadian Friends of Burma (CFOB) is a national non-governmental organisation founded in 1991 to support the Burma pro-democracy movement in the struggle for peace, democracy, human rights and equality in Burma.

On December 2, the Federation co-signed a letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper demanding that the government take immediate action to ensure that its junta government respects the security of the people of Burma.

On May 7, the Federation wrote a letter to all Canadian party leaders urging them to take emergency action to ensure that the junta government of Burma allows foreign aid to reach disaster-affected areas.

Anti-Poverty

Make Poverty History

The Make Poverty History (MPH) campaign was launched in 2005 to act as the Canadian chapter of the Global Call to Action Against World Poverty, an international initiative to eliminate poverty. The campaign's goals include securing increased federal funding for international aid, improving fair trade regulation, canceling debts of the poorest nations, and ending child poverty in Canada. The Federation is a member of the campaign's national Steering Committee. At each meeting, discussions focus on the current status of the G8 talks on poverty and debt forgiveness, the Government of Canada's anti-poverty commitments, and updates on lobby sessions with Members of Parliament.

On April 11, the Steering Committee set out the following campaign goals for the year ahead:

 deepen citizen engagement and provide meaningful mobilisation opportunities in communities across

MAKE POVERTY HISTORY

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Canada to build the profile and support for the campaign's policy goals;

- redesign and re-launch Make Poverty History's online presence to offer an exceptionally clear, dynamic and inspiring call to action with highly accessible interactive tools:
- develop on-the-ground capacity through more active participation of Make Poverty History Steering Committee organisations and coalition partners, and endorsing organisations;
- organise local Make Poverty History groups to sponsor local events and take action in at least 30 key ridings;
- participate in global actions organised by the Global Call to Action Against Poverty focusing on the G8 mobilization and October 17, 2008; and
- achieve significant policy results on more and better aid, debt cancellation, trade justice and ending child poverty in Canada.



8 Goals for a Better World Campaign

The CanadAt the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000, 189 countries, including Canada, pledged in writing to reduce poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women. This pledge generated the Millennium Development Goals, eight objectives placing human well-being and development at the forefront of the global agenda.

In Canada, the youth wing of the Millennium
Development Goals campaign, under the title of
the "8 Goals for a Better World Campaign", unites
youth from across the country to share materials
and campaign ideas. The main goal is to raise

awareness about poverty, hunger, health, education, environmental sustainability, and equality. The Federation is a member of the Campaign's national Steering Committee.

The Federation has been working with the campaign to distribute a campus kit for students' unions that may be interested in holding Millennium campaign events on campus.

Equal Rights

Ad Hoc Coalition for Women's Equality and Human Rights

The Federation is a member of the Ad Hoc Coalition for Women's Equality and Human Rights, a group of over 30 women's and social justice organisations working together to share strategies and develop common campaigns to oppose the cuts to Status of Women Canada funding implemented by the Conservative government in 2006.

On December 10, International Human Rights Day, the Federation attended a press conference organised by the Coalition to raise awareness about the lack of basic rights of many women in Canada and the increase in inequity caused by the government's cuts and changes to program spending on women's issues.

On February 9, the Federation attended an election organising strategy forum organised by the Coalition. Participants discussed key messaging that could be effective during an election and how to effectively coordinate activities across the country. Meeting participants also reviewed polling data from the previous federal election in order to prioritise main issues to focus on during the next federal election. All participants were in agreement that education should be a major focus in the Coalition's efforts during an election campaign, and expressed an interest in distributing the Federation's election report cards during an election to their respective members.

The Coalition was active in March and April, developing a national awareness campaign against Bill C-484, the Unborn Victims Act. The bill, according

Solidarity Work



to its wording, would make "it an offence to injure, cause the death of or attempt to cause the death of a child before or during its birth while committing or attempting to commit an offence against the mother" and would be accompanied with a minimum prison term sentence of 10 years.

Many members of the Coalition, as well as pro-choice advocates within the medical community, have expressed concern that if the bill were to become law, it would provide an opportunity for anti-choice groups to petition the Supreme Court of Canada to make abortion illegal.

Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada

The Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada (CCAAC) works to promote high-quality, publicly-funded, universally accessible childcare. The Federation represents the student sector on the CCAAC "Council of Advocates".

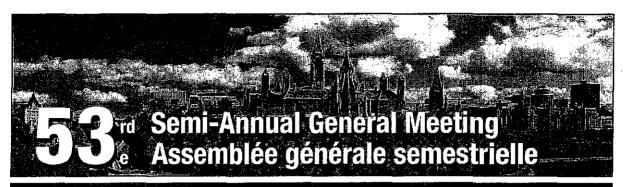
On April 7, the Federation attended the Association's campaign planning meeting. The meeting focused on multinational child care corporations', including Australian giant ABC Learning, expansion into Canada, and the damage that corporate-run childcare will have on non-profit early learning and child care in Canada.

Canadian University Queer Services Conference

The Canadian University Queer Services Conference is organised annually to bring together groups and associations on campuses across the country providing services and resources for Queer students. The conference also aims to identify common challenges and develop national strategies and initiatives.

The third annual Canadian University Queer Services Conference was held from January 17 to 20 at McGill University. The Federation provided greetings of solidarity as well as an overview of the different Federation campaigns and initiatives that had been undertaken on issues facing Queer students. Over 90

delegates from service associations, students' unions and other campus groups attended the conference. Delegates resolved to hold the next conference at the University of Guelph early 2009.



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Communications

Website

The Federation's use of websites to communicate and manage data has grown considerably over the past five years. The organisation 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 more 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.

Originally designed in 2003, the main website, cfsfcee.ca, has become increasingly difficult to update.
The National Executive is currently exploring options
for redeveloping the website so that it can be updated
using a content management system similar to that
used for the Students' Union Website Service. In the
meantime the site saw a number of notable updates
in early 2008 including the addition of a redesigned
Canada Student Loan Debt Clock to the site's home
page. The debt clock highlights the total Canada
Student Loans debt owed by students. Both the
web pages of the National Graduate Caucus and the
National Aboriginal Caucus received updates as well.

Communications Kit

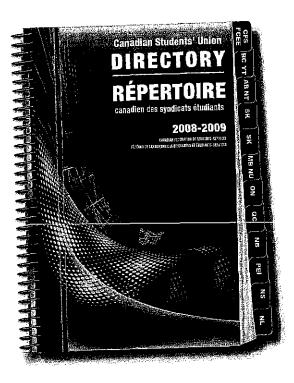
The annual Communications Kit provides member locals with images of Federation logos, campaign materials, high-resolution photos, information about Federation campaigns and services, and research on post-secondary education issues. The material in the Kit is provided for use by member locals in their local communications, including handbooks/dayplanners, newsletters, websites, campaign materials, and other promotional materials.

This year, the Kit will be distributed during the summer using the Federation's Online Resource Centre (formerly, the National Database Administration), rather than on CDs mailed to member locals, thereby reducing costs and increasing efficiency. Any locals that do not have a login for the

Online Resource Centre will be provided with one when the Kit is launched.

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 nearly 300 students' unions, national and provincial Federation offices, campus organisations, Travel CUTS offices, and several government departments of importance to students' unions.

Each year, the Federation publishes the Directory by compiling information from students' unions. This information is submitted either through a secure online database or through paper forms that are mailed to all students' unions. The online database

Communications

contains all information from previous years so that students' unions logging on need only update their information, rather than re-enter it. Since the online database was created, the majority of students' unions provide their updated information online; however, many continue to fail to remit information by the deadline, resulting in additional resources being expended to contact these unions.

At the beginning of April, the Federation mailed surveys soliciting new contact information from students' unions across the country. An information sheet providing details on how to submit information to the online database and a Directory order form were also included in the mail-out. The deadline for submissions was May 16.

As of the deadline, just over 100 students' unions out of more than 290 included in the Directory had submitted complete or partial information, with roughly three-quarters of those completed online. The total number of submissions received by the deadline is lower this year compared to 2007. As a result, the deadline has been extended to May 30.

Although hosted off-site, the online database used to input students' union information is owned by the Federation. Since launched in early April 2007, students' unions have reported some technical difficulties with the database, including not being able to access to the site using their unique login information. Although most of the technical issues are easily resolved, the database only works with Firefox or Safari web browsers. The fact that the database is not functional with more popular internet browsers, such as Internet Explorer, has been identified as an issue that needs to be addressed in future versions of the database.

For the second year, students' unions will again be able to place orders for directories online.

The Federation highly subsidises the price of the Directory for members every year and attempts to defray some of the costs of the publication by selling to non-member students' unions, community groups, and government departments.

Although the Federation currently contracts a significant amount of the production work of the Directory to a communications company, the National Executive has discussed bringing the entire production of the Directory in-house to reduce both the costs of producing the Directory and the amount of time required for its production.

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

Barring unforeseen circumstances, it is anticipated that the Federation will be on schedule to deliver the Directory by mid-August.

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3 3 Semi-Annual General Meeting Assemblée générale semestrielle

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Services

National Student Health Network

STUDENT HE WANTED The National Student Health Network is a health and dental insurance buying THE WATTON consortium established by the Federation nearly twenty years ago. The primary purpose of the consortium is to use the collective expertise and combined purchasing power of its members to secure lower rates and better coverage for member students.

Network Membership

This year, more than 200,000 students from 37 member students' unions have been receiving their health and dental benefits through the National Student Health Network. For the year ahead, the following locals will also be receiving their health and/or dental insurance coverage through the Network:

- · Local 37-Brandon University Students' Union: After being without coverage for the past five years, the members of the Union voted to implement health and dental plans for the coming year. With the addition of Local 37, 100 percent of the Locals in Manitoba will be providing health and dental plans through the Network.
- Local 70-UPEI Graduate Students' Association: After many years of securing coverage through the undergraduate students' union's plan, this year the Association will have its own plan developed and administered through the Network.
- Local 105-Continuing Education Students' Association of Ryerson: The Association will be implementing a plan for the first time this coming year.
- · Local 110-Laurentian University Graduate Students' Association: After many years of arranging coverage through the undergraduate student union's plan,

this year Graduate Students' Association will have its own plan negotiated through the Network.

Green Shield Canada

Green Shield Canada is the country's only national not-for-profit benefits provider and, as such, usually offers the lowest rates in the country on student plans. Although the Network secures quotes from a variety of insurance

carriers, most members are currently covered by Green Shield Canada. Consequently, the Network has been able to negotiate agreements with Green Shield Canada that establish preferred arrangements for Network members including Student Discount Networks, No Card Required Pay Direct, and Direct Deposit Claims Payment.

Green Shield and the Network have been working together to develop a fully integrated website, to be known as the Green Shield Canada Student Centre. that will provide easily accessible plan information to any student covered by the Network, including:

- detailed benefit plan booklets;
- · claim forms as well as help in completing them;
- · a listing of dental providers in their area who are members of the Dental Discount Network;
- · a listing of discount vision providers in their area;
- · wellness information (if selected as a plan option),
- · a link to the online opt-out site.

The site will be launched later this month.

Although Green Shield Canada provides plans to some students' unions that are not members of the Network, these students' unions do not receive the reduced administrative costs or have access to the soon to be launched Green Shield Canada Student Centre provided to Network members

Currently, through the Plan Member Online Services section, the Green Shield website offers a number of online features to plan members. Plan members have the ability to create an individual student account that offers customised, partially completed, claim forms, a detailed claims history, and an option to have claims paid via direct deposit into a member's bank account.

Each Network member plan will also allow a students' union plan administrator to access and verify member enrolment and modify general member information.

Three types of websites will be available to support health plan administrators and individual students. The Green Shield Canada Student Centre will be the primary resource for individual members needs, while the Morneau Sobeco Student Centre website (the Network's broker) will facilitate electronic opt-outs. Finally, the Network website will provide insurance industry information, advocacy, support, and promotional materials to local Network plan administrators.

The Network has recently developed a web-based survey for the purpose of canvassing members' input on plan benefits, coverage and rate priorities. Locals with access to membership email addresses will be able to direct their members to the survey site to provide specific feedback on aspects of plan design and coverage. After the survey has been completed, the results will be compiled into a report for local representatives, so they can assess the benefits in preparation for plan renewal negotiations.

Materials

The Network, in conjunction with Morneau Sobeco and Green Shield Canada, has undertaken replacing and updating local 'administration' binders. These binders provide plan administrators with the tools to operate their plans. All Network members will undergo a full operational review to document the specifics of each member plan on an annual basis. All new materials will be based upon the review data to ensure that each new administration manual contains the most up to date plan information.

Network Services

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HEALTH PLANS

In summer 2004, the Network accepted responsibility for arranging a health plan for international student members at Local 92. The plan provides international students with primary medical and hospital coverage equivalent to the coverage provided to Ontario

residents through the Ontario Health Insurance Plan. ETFS, the Network's Travel Benefits Provider is underwriting the programme this year and has offered a significantly reduced premium compared to that charged by the traditional provider of health insurance for international students.

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The Network is operating the international student programme in the same manner it operates the extended health and dental benefits programme—by establishing a system for opt-outs, producing the benefits booklet, providing support to local staff and representatives, and overseeing brokerage services. The Network is currently developing a plan for a more extensive programme to replace the University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP) for implementation in any region where provincial health care does not cover international students. While the ultimate goal of the Network is to have all international students covered under provincial health care plans, this initiative is intended to reduce costs to international students until this goal is realised.

DENTAL DISCOUNT PROGRAMME

As previously reported, the Network and Green Shield Canada are jointly developing a discount programme for dental and other medical services. In order to participate in the programme, dentists are required to provide discounts of at least 20 to 30 percent off their service fees in exchange for promotion by the Network. The dentists also agree that they will not perform any unnecessary procedures and their procedures are subject to possible audits. This audit process provides a value-for-service guarantee and is unique to the Network's arrangement with Green Shield Canada.

This coming year the Network and Green Shield are focussing on expanding the student discount among vision and dental providers in other regions of the country and expanding the discounts to cover other medical services.

PAY-DIRECT CARD EXPANSION

The Network, in collaboration with Green Shield Canada, has developed the No ID Required Pay-

Services

Direct Programme, that offers Network plan members freedom from carrying proof of membership or ID cards when making drug and other medical claims. Through technological and service enhancements developed by Green Shield, the pay-direct card programme can be expanded to paramedical services and medical supplies. Network plans are currently the only student plans in the country that have this option. This new service will allow students to save money directly at the point of purchase for a variety of services, such as drug, chiropractic, massage, physiotherapy and speech therapy. By reducing out-of-pocket expenses, access to costly medical services should be greatly improved.

Network Administration

ELECTRONIC OPT-OUTS

It has now been six years since the Network introduced an online system for refunding health plans fees paid by students with pre-existing coverage. This system allows for refunds to be processed electronically and for reimbursement to be applied directly to students' accounts with their institution of study.

The system has resulted in significant cost savings in plan administration, through the elimination of banking, mailing, and handling charges related to cheque processing. In the past, many students did not receive their cheques because they had moved residences or because they neglected to pick up their cheque from their students' union office. By using the electronic refund system, the problem is virtually eliminated.

While most Network members have moved to an electronic refund system, approximately one-quarter continue to employ a manual system. Replacing the remaining manual systems with electronic refund systems continues to be a priority for the Network.

Most recently, the Network has assisted Locals 19, 97, and 98 at the University of Toronto in establishing a 'credit system' to replace the current 'refund cheque' opt-out procedures. A similar system is in development at the University of Windsor. Members

who wish to opt-out have their health plan premiums credited to their institutional tuition fee accounts. It is anticipated that substantial administrative cost savings will result from the implementation of this new system.

NETWORK MEMBERS' MEETINGS

In previous years, members of the Network have met centrally to review the work of the Network, examine technical changes and industry developments, develop new initiatives, and discuss ways of making health and dental plans more responsive to the needs of students.

During this past year, the Network has placed a stronger emphasis on ongoing member relations and support. As such, over the summer, the Network held a number of smaller, regional meetings in Halifax, St. John's, and Winnipeg. This approach was well received as it allowed for greater individual plan analysis, and avoided the confusion created by jurisdictional differences. The main topics of discussion were claim trends, international student issues, and the funding formulas that students' unions can use to insure their health and dental plans.

NETWORK WORKING GROUP OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

The National Executive created a Network working group during its July meeting charged with improving the profile and effectiveness of the Network. The working group met in September and identified 'communication' as an initial priority for the Network. To that end, an improved website, and 'fact sheet' style materials are being developed in time for distribution at the next national general meeting.

The Working group will continue to develop strategies to improve the Network's profile, with special emphasis on regions where there is minimal use of the service.

Handbook Service

The handbook service is in its eighth year as a national service of the Federation after starting as a project of the Canadian Federation of Students-BC 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 a 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 local advertising from their

handbook. In addition, recycled paper and vegetablebased inks are used for the books.

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

2008-2009

For 2008-2009, 57 handbooks will be produced, including 54 member locals and one non-member students' union in ten provinces. In Ontario, Local 39-McMaster Graduate Students'

In Ontario, Local 39-McMaster Graduate Students'
Association and Local 68-York Federation of Students have joined the service the first time.

The number of 2008-2009 handbooks projected to be printed is approximately 290,000, in comparison to the 315,000 handbooks that were printed in 2007-2008. The loss of Local 26-Kwantlen Students' Association and an overall decrease in the number of books ordered by participating locals accounts for much of this decrease.

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 was experiencing difficulty meeting the Federation's delivery deadlines. As reported at the May 2007 national general meeting, the National Executive solicited proposals from printing companies in Manitoba and Ontario and ultimately selected a well-established printing company based in Toronto to print a significant portion of the 2007-2008 handbooks. Unfortunately, the printing company failed to meet both the Federation's deadlines and

expectations in terms of quality.
As a result, the Federation is once again working solely with the Vancouver-based printer which has reassumed responsibility for printing all of the 2008-2009 handbooks.

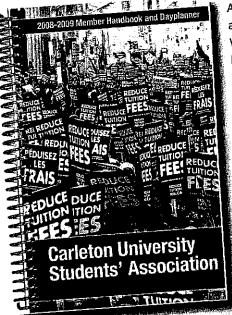
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Despite the difficulties that the Federation experienced with the division of the 2007-2008 handbook print job, internal deadlines were revised thus providing member locals more time in which to submit their local content, images, and advertisements for the 2008-2009 handbook.

Unfortunately, only a handful of member locals met the deadlines and, as a result,

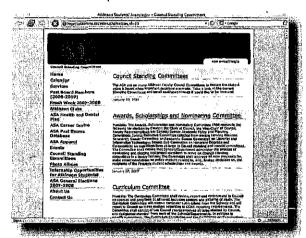
the Federation has had to reschedule printing press time with the printer, resulting in increased costs and possible delays.

For 2008–2009, all of the enhancements that were introduced in previous handbooks will again be included, such as full colour pages in the national section, full bleeds throughout the handbook, and tear-off corners on the calendar pages. All handbooks will feature an introductory page that allows the individual to record contact information in the event the handbook is misplaced. The handbooks will include the die-cut sticker page that was first introduced in 2006–2007.



Member local unions once again 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. Member locals also have the option of purchasing plastic rulers to distribute with the books.

As in previous years, the Federation worked with Campus Plus, the advertising sales division of the Canadian University Press, to sell advertising in the 2008–2009 handbooks. To-date advertisements have been sold to the Certified General Accountants' Association of Canada, Manitoba Telephone Service, and Workers' Compensation Board.



Students' Union Website Service

Background

Over the years, member locals' use of the internet as a communication tool has grown in importance. However, online communications can be costly and time-consuming if undertaken independently by a students' union. Website design and hosting, email storage, mailing lists, domain name registration, data backup, design, and content management all 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 Handbook Service, 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 their membership. With new features for the Website Service being constantly developed, member locals are able to continually take advantage of the latest technologies at no additional cost.

Development

CONTENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Feedback has been positive following the release of the new content management system at the beginning of November 2007. Several new components are now available, including the Canada Student Loan Debt Clock Component, the Polling Component, and the Visitor Counter Component. The Canada Student Loan Debt Clock Component is a smaller version of the Debt Clock that appears on the Federation's main website which displays increasing federal student loan debt. The Polling Component allows locals to add online polls to their sites. The Visitor Counter Component displays the number of times a website has been visited.

New components are being developed and are scheduled for completion in early summer 2008, including custom forms and book exchange components. The Forms Component will provide a streamlined drag and drop interface, allowing local site administrators to create forms for collecting information from their members. In order to protect confidential information, all data submitted using the Forms Component will be encrypted and stored securely. This dynamic component will have broad applications, including the creation of surveys, petitions, and application forms. In order to provide member locals with more flexibility in website construction, the component will be developed so that forms can be posted on almost any page.

The Book Exchange Component will provide an online service similar to the used bookstore services offered by several member locals. The implementation of the Book Exchange Component will vary from member local to member local. For locals that already have a used book store, it will provide an online tool for

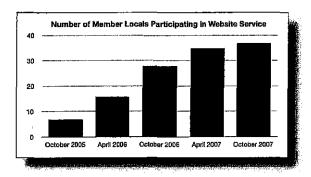
posting and advertising the books that are in stock, while all purchasing and selling will continue to be done through the book store. In cases where a member local does not have a used book store, the system will allow individual students to post their used books online so that they can be sold to, or swapped with, other students. The component will facilitate the process of posting books by downloading all relevant information about a given book from Amazon.com in a form that is editable by the user.

NEW CUSTOM TEMPLATES

Member locals continue to request the development of new colour schemes and templates. In most cases, these custom colour schemes and templates are made available to all Website Service participants as standard features, increasing the number of templates available.

SPAM FILTERING

Participating member locals identified improving the spam filtering capabilities of the Service as a priority, and as such, a new spam filtering system was deployed in November of 2007. By all accounts, the new system has dramatically reduced the amount of spam received by email accounts hosted through the Service.



Participation

To subscribe to the Service, a member local representative simply needs to visit www.cfsadmin. org, choose from one of more than thirty templates, pick the hosting package that best suits the local's

needs, select a domain name (subject to availability), and submit an online request to activate an account.

Forty member locals have signed onto the Students' Union Website Service since its inception and have websites that are either online or in development. Of these member locals, three have signed onto the Service since the November 2007 national general meeting. This past year has also seen the expansion of the Service to provide accounts for member local services and campaigns sites. Combined, the Federation currently hosts more than 60 Website Service accounts. The Federation is also hosting websites and/or email hosting for CFS-British Columbia, CFS-Manitoba, CFS-Ontario, CFS-Québec, CFS-Nova Scotia, and CFS-Newfoundland and Labrador. In total, the Federation is currently managing more than 180 domain names and hosting accounts.

Server Hardware

In late summer 2007 the Federation began leasing a new, more powerful server to meet the expanding usage of the Website Service and the increasing popularity of member local websites. The new server has been performing very well, and is being continually modified to keep member local websites and email services running as smoothly as possible.

Bulk Purchasing of Orientation & Promotional Materials Service

Background

Students' unions often purchase a variety of materials to promote their services and campaigns to new and existing members, especially during the first few weeks of class each academic year. Originally a project of the Canadian Federation of Students—Ontario, this bulk purchasing service has enabled member locals to secure significant cost savings by combining their orders with those of other member locals, resulting in lower per unit costs. In addition, the increased purchasing power allowed for the purchase of materials that were ethically

manufactured, of a high quality but still competitively priced.

At the May 2007 National General Meeting the membership resolved to implement the bulk purchasing service nationally so that the service could benefit a greater number of member locals and provide even greater cost savings.

2008 Product And Supplier Review

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For 2008–2009 the number of products offered through the service was expanded to include tote bags, pens, and lanyards in addition to the t-shirts, laundry bags, clipboards, and water bottles that were available in previous years. All materials have

designated areas for the printing of nationally, or locally produced graphics and will be produced with an embroidered patch or screen-printed graphic that states in English and French, "Strength in Numbers. Canadian Federation of Students".

MATERIALS MANUFACTURED AND SUPPLIED BY JUSTSHIRTS

JustShirts is a Calgary-based not-for-profit organisation that facilitates the distribution of textile products that are manufactured exclusively by the worker-owned Single Mothers Co-operative of El Salvador. By working with JustShirts the Federation has been able to play a significant role in improving the lives of a community of women in El Salvador, while still providing orientation and promotional materials at a significantly lower price and higher quality than the corporate sector.

By continuing to secure orders for orientation and promotional materials each year the Service is a key component to providing stability to the Cooperative and the fairly-traded marketplace, resulting in other businesses being pressured to offer more ethical products and improve labour practices in order to remain competitive. As a result of this Federation

service, the Cooperative was able to expand its labour force from four to 24 workers.

This year the Single Mothers Co-operative of El Salvador is manufacturing laundry and tote bags in addition to the t-shirts offered last year. All shirts will have cardboard tags attached profiling JustShirts, the Single Mothers Co-operative of El Salvador, the Canadian Federation of Students, and informing members of the fair and ethical conditions under which the materials were produced and traded.

T-Shirts

For the 2008–2009 year the base t-shirt model is a white, 100% cotton t-shirt. Options for customisation

that are available for an additional per unit cost, include: "Ringers" (different coloured ribbing on sleeves and collar) and six additional t-shirt colour options.

Fitted women's t-shirt sizes and blank shirts are also available.

Laundry and Tote Bags



The laundry bags offered this year are similar to those that were offered in previous years but are being made of a stronger, higher quality fabric. The laundry and tote bags are 100% cotton, a natural off-white colour.

WATER BOTTLES, PENS, CLIPBOARDS, AND LANYARDS

Water Bottles

With the concerns that have recently been raised about the health effects of polycarbonate water bottles, Federation representatives explored purchasing water bottles made of a number of different materials for the 2008-2009 year and selected a 28 oz. polyethylene water bottle with a tethered lid and contoured base. These polyethylene bottles are free of Bisphenol A (BPA)—a compound found in several plastics that has been deemed unsafe by Health Canada. All water bottles are union-

made in the United States and include a "U.N.I.T.E. H.E.R.E." union bug.

Clipboards

The clipboards offered this year are similar to those available in previous years. The base model has a fold-over cover and includes a choice of vinyl material colours. The clipboards have been manufactured in Canada.

Pens

Retractable black ballpoint pens have been introduced for the 2008–2009 year. The pens have a translucent plastic barrel, a rubber grip and are available in a variety of barrel colours. All pens are union-made in the United States and include a "U.N.I.T.E. H.E.R.E." union bug.

Lanyards

Another new product being offered for the 2008-2009 year, are lanyards manufactured from recycled polyethylene. Lanyards are available in a custom colours and include a repeating white. The lanyards are being manufactured in the United States.

Graphics

For the 2008-2009 year all materials allow for custom artwork to be printed on predefined areas. The number of predefined print areas varies, as do the dimensions of each print area and the total number of printable colours. In the past, despite a requirement for the submission of custom artwork in vector format, many member locals still submitted artwork that did not meet this requirement. In many cases this meant sending the graphic file back to the member local to be formatted, resulting in delays in the printing process. As in previous years, pre-designed template graphics are available upon request. The template graphic designs feature Federation campaign slogans.

Order Form Improvements

The member local order form was substantially redesigned for the 2008–2009 year in an effort to incorporate suggestions from member local

representatives as well as streamline and simplify the ordering process. Despite offering three additional items, the length of the 2008–2009 order form did not increase.

Timelines

The following are important deadlines for the 2008–2009 Bulk Purchasing of Orientation and Promotional Materials Service:

2008/05/12	Deadline for return of completed order forms.
2008/05/27	50% payment for materials due.
2008/05/30	All artwork must be supplied to the Federation.
2008/08/21	Materials delivered to participating locals.
2008/09/12	Final 50% payment for materials due.

Discount Programme

The Federation's discount service for individual members continues to utilise two discount cards: the International Student Identity Card (ISIC) and the Studentsaver Card.

The ISIC is available as a benefit of membership to members who are full-time students. Part-time students are ineligible to receive the ISIC under the international rules governing the issuing of the card. In response, the Federation created the Studentsaver Card, available to full- and part-time students, in order to ensure that, as much as possible, part-time students who are members of the Federation have access to the same discounts as full-time students.

International Student Identity Card

ISSUING

Currently, close to 70 students' unions and institutions serve as ISIC issuing offices, using ISIC label printers supplied by the Federation. In addition, cards are issued at Travel CUTS outlets as well as many VIA Rail stations. Since September 2007,

Services

a total of 78,820 International Student Identity Cards have been issued.

University of Victoria Andrea Johnson The ISIC label printers 25/08/1987 supplied by the Federation are in some 09/2007 = 12/2008 cases nearly nine years old. In addition to normal wear and tear, many printers have been rendered irreparable due to various types of abuse. Others have developed software-related bugs as their host computers continue to advance and evolve. The Federation purchased twenty new ISIC printers in summer 2007 that have been rotated into service as needed. The Federation is currently reviewing the state of its ISIC printer inventory in an effort to ensure that all issuing offices will have properly functioning printers for September.

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In addition, the Federation is currently testing a new system for printing that allows the cardholder data and photo to be printed directly onto cards without using labels or an overlay. It is hoped that this system will reduce the wait time, staffing resources, and waste when issuing cards at on-campus issuing tables.

For several years the Federation has printed and distributed both French and English versions of the ISIC application form. This meant that the Federation had to maintain two inventories of forms making it difficult to ensure that identical language was present on both versions of the form. In February 2008, the Federation began distributing new, updated

bilingual ISIC application forms. The new forms are double-side, with English on one side and French on the other. Member local offices should recycle any remaining inventory of old applications forms (blue or purple) and replace them with the new, burgundy-coloured forms.

MICROSOFT GLOBAL DISCOUNT

In February Microsoft announced the launch of its DreamSpark Program in 11 countries including Canada. DreamSpark allows students to download Microsoft developer and design tools at no charge.

To download the software students need to have a free Windows Live ID account and an ISIC. After signing into their Windows Live ID account at the DreamSpark website (http://channel8.msdn.com) and selecting the programs they would like to download, students are asked to verify their student status. The only verification

Once student status has been verified, a link is provided to download the software free of charge. Students are required to reverify their status on a yearly basis in order to continue using the software at no cost.

method available in Canada is the ISIC.

Microsoft is currently offering the following programs through DreamSpark: Visual Studio 2008 Professional

Edition; Visual Studio 2005 Professional
Edition; Expression Studio (includes
Web, Blend, Media and Design);
SQL Server 2005 Developer
Edition; Windows Server 2003 R2
Standard Edition.

Studentsaver Card

As has been the case in previous years, this fall Studentsaver cards and discount listings will be distributed through a combination of inserts in member local handbooks and as standalone Studentsaver guidebooks.

Currently, it is estimated that a provincial or regional Studentsaver section and card will be included in approximately 290,000 handbooks produced through the Federation's Handbook Service. In addition, Studentsaver cards and listings will likely be included in several locally-produced handbooks.

In addition to the Studentsaver handbook inserts and guidebooks, the Federation promotes the discounts on the Studentsaver website, www.studentsaver.ca. This site allows students to search for discounts by city, province, and type of business.

The Studentsaver database is the only Federation website currently not hosted on the Federation's website server. However, with the database scheduled to be transferred and integrated into the Online Resource Centre (formally the National Database Administration System) in summer 2008, the National Executive is exploring ways to streamline the entry of content.

The pending transfer also presents an opportunity to undertake a much-needed redesign of the website in order to update the appearance, make it easier for students to find discounts, and allow users to filter results using terms such as "fair trade" and "organic".

The design of the Studentsaver card and Studentsaver promotional materials has remained largely unchanged since 2000. This fall will mark the debut of a new Studentsaver card design. While the new card retains the trademarked Studentsaver logo, the style of the card has been updated, providing a fresh face for the service. All Studentsaver promotional materials are also being updated to reflect the new design.

DISCOUNT SOLICITATION

Each year, Federation member locals solicit discounts in their communities. Responsibility for the renewal of discounts generally falls to the national and regional offices.

As many discounts expire on an annual basis, there is a concerted effort every spring to renew contracts with existing discount providers to ensure they continue to provide discounts of an equal or greater

value for the subsequent year. Federation offices in a number of regions use a "fax-back renewal" system, through which a new version of the discount contract is faxed to participating merchants along with a letter inviting them to renew their discount. The contract is pre-printed with the business' address, contact information and current discount allowing participating business to simply update and sign the contract and fax it back to the Federation, saving both time and postage costs.



Studentphones

For the past five years, the Federation has partnered with Studentphones to negotiate reduced student rates for mobile phones and service. The collective purchasing potential of the combined Federation membership has attracted the interest of several mobile phone service providers, while the use of the ISIC as verification of student status has meant increased benefit for the Federation's members.

Fido Networks, Rogers Wireless, and Virgin Mobile continue to provide student discounts through Studentphones.

The Federation's partnership with the Phones for Food programme continues to be very successful, with more than 30 member locals participating by providing space for a phone recycling box on their campuses. Phones for Food is a cellular telephone recycling service operated by the Canadian Association of Food Banks. Through the service, the revenue generated from refurbishing and recycling old mobile phones is donated to food banks.

myUnlimited.ca

myUnlimited.ca is a new service of the Canadian Federation of Students-Services. The myUnlimited plan is an add-on feature for any existing cell phone plan with unlimited local incoming minutes, or with unlimited calling to predetermined numbers, both of which are generally standard features.

myUnlimited works in one of two ways. For subscribers with unlimited local incoming minutes, a call-back system is used to avoid subscribers being charged for airtime. A subscriber first calls the service's toll-free number, receives a busy signal and is disconnected so that no airtime is used. The service then returns the call within seconds, allowing the subscriber to dial an outgoing number while having the call treated as incoming. No airtime is recognised by the subscriber's cell phone company while using the service; therefore, no additional fees are incurred.

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For subscribers with unlimited calling to predetermined numbers, such as Rogers' MY5 or Telus' My Faves, subscribers add the myUnlimited toll-free number as one of their favourites. Upon calling this local number, subscribers are prompted to enter the long distance number they wish to reach, at which point they are connected at no additional charge.

ISIC-holders receive a discount of 10% to 15% when subscribing to the Service. The annual rates for myUnlimited plans are outlined below:

PLAN	NON-MEMBER COST	ISIC-HOLDER COST
Unlimited Canada	\$ 120	\$102
Unlimited No America	rth \$180	\$ 156
Unlimited World-wide	\$240	\$216

Because of high or fluctuating rates, some countries are not included in the Unlimited World-wide package, however competitive per-minute rates provide significant savings for countries not covered in the package.



UFile.ca

Since 2005, the Federation has had an arrangement with UFile.ca that allows all students to file their taxes online for free. This arrangement was once again available for the 2007 tax filing year. Students were able to file their taxes online for free using UFile.ca between February 11 and the tax-filing deadline of April 30.

Ufile will once again be free for students in the upcoming year. While the offer will be extended during a similar time period next year, the specific dates have yet to be finailised.

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. Founded in 1975 as a small single country exchange with New Zealand, SWAP now annually sends close to 3000 Canadians to 13 countries and annually receives close to 7000 foreign participants from more than 20 countries. SWAP provides Canadian students and youth with the opportunity to learn about a different culture by becoming a part of the local workforce. Since 1975, it is estimated that over 50,000 Canadians have participated in SWAP.

Outbound Programs

SWAP currently maintains outbound programs with the United States of America, Brazil, United Kingdom, Ireland, France, Germany, Austria, South Africa, China, Japan, Thailand, Australia, and New Zealand. Outbound SWAP participation numbers have increased by more than 200 registrations since June 30, 2007. Although the process for securing UK visas has become more onerous, and overall fewer Canadians are applying to go, SWAP UK registrations are holding up quite well. Many young Canadians have opted for Ireland which, through an arrangement with the Irish government, requires them to register for SWAP if they wish to participate in a work exchange. Registrations for Australia are surpassing the previous year, a result of the fact that Australia has developed a reputation as a welcoming work exchange destination.

While many Canadian students and youth realise the benefits of SWAP's services, some students continue to avoid SWAP because of the registration fee. As a result, SWAP staff have become more

active in demonstrating to potential participants that when the various services and assistance they receive from the program are taken into account, participants actually save money.

The Federation is continually looking for new destinations in which to establish a SWAP presence. This requires the foreign government to have a reasonably welcoming

bureaucracy and the presence of a local organisation that can be counted upon to provide a good service to inbound Canadian participants. There is also the question of the country's economy and it's capacity to absorb participants into its short term labour market. In the past two years SWAP has instituted new programs with both China and Thailand, while possible programs with Italy and the Czech Republic continue to be explored. Priority is currently being given to a "Teach in Spain" program which would be very popular with young Canadians looking to improve their Spanish language skills.

Inbound Programs

Although some of SWAP's "sending partners" assist their participants in pre-arranging a job in Canada, the majority of students look for such opportunities following their arrival in the country. This kind of flexibility and mobility allows the participants to have some choice in where they are working, and if problems arise, they know they can go work somewhere else. Also, placement programs are far more costly for the participant because it is labour-intensive for the exchange organisation to offer such a service. In a strong economy like Canada's, the casual job market can, and is, absorbing several thousand foreign exchanges, about 25% of which are with SWAP.

For a number of years SWAP has had a "fast-track" arrangement for securing Social Insurance Numbers for participants resulting in a processing time of only a few days. Human Resources and Social Development Canada has done a great deal to speed

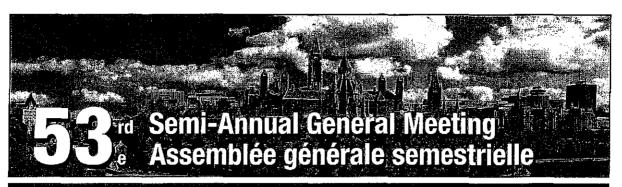
up the application process for Social Insurance Numbers and the service continues to be in high demand.

To accommodate close to 7000 inbound foreign participants, SWAP operates Inbound Hosting Centres in Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver. Through an arrangement with Hostelling International, SWAP provides basic arrival services to foreign participants arriving in

Calgary. The idea of establishing a SWAP Centre in Calgary is being considered, but rental costs in downtown Calgary continue to be prohibitively high.

The Inbound Hosting Centres are staffed by experienced travellers who understand the difficulties adjusting to a new and different culture. Arrival orientations cover all aspects of looking for work and a place to live, as well as information on health services, crisis management, and banking. The centres are equipped with internet-enabled computers, and jobs and accommodation offers are posted on a daily basis. Social activities are offered in each centre regularly and all participants are issued a 100-page handbook "Travel That Works" that serves as an on-going reference guide throughout their stay in Canada.





Canadian Federation of Students(-Services) • Fédération canadienne des étudiantes et étudiants(-services)

Internal Affairs

National Executive

Current Composition

The current members of the National Executive are:

POSITION	NAME
Abonginal Students	Michael White
Alberta Representative	Michael Kirsch
British Columbia Representative	Dustin Grof
Francophone Students' Representative	Célia Jutras
Graduate Students' Representative	Meghan Gallant
Manitoba Representative:	Garry Sran
National Chairperson National Deptity Chairpersons	Amanda Aziz Brent Farrington
National Treasurer	Ben Lewis
New Brunswick Representative	Grahamicov
Newfoundland and Labrador Representatives	Katherine Giroux- Bougard
Nova Scotia Representative	Kaley Kennedy
Ontario Representative	Dave Molenhuis
Prince Edward Island Representatives	FaizAhmed
Québec Representative	Melanee Thomas
Saskatchewan Representative	Mike Burton
Students of Colour	Fuad Abdi
Representative Women's Representative	Shelley Melanson

2008-2009 Term

Most positions on the National Executive have been elected for the upcoming year. At the fall 2007 national general meeting, Katherine Giroux-Bougard (Local 35) was elected as National Chairperson for the 2008-2009 term. Dave Molenhuis (Local 105) was elected as National Treasurer and Brent Farrington (Local 91) was re-elected as National Deputy Chairperson.

Earlier this year, Dustin Grof (Local 4) was re-elected as the British Columbia Representative. Hildah Otieno (Local 105) has been elected as the Ontario Representative, David Jacks (Local 8) has been elected as the Manitoba Representative, Daniel Smith (Local 36) has been elected as the Newfoundland and Labrador Representative, and Jerry Daniels (Local 103) has been elected as the Aboriginal Students' Representative.

At this meeting, elections will be conducted for the Alberta Representative, Saskatchewan Representative, Quebec Representative, Prince Edward Island Representative, New Brunswick Representative, Nova Scotia Representative, Graduate Students' Representative, Students of Colour Representative, Francophone Students' Representative, and Women's Representative on the National Executive for the 2008-2009 term.

Regional Organisers

Prairies Organiser (Saskatchewan and Alberta)

The Prairies Organiser position was vacated at the start of summer 2007. Through summer of 2007, the National Executive commenced a search to fill the position and, in late fall, the National Executive offered the position to a candidate it deemed qualified. However, after initially accepting the offer, the individual notified the Federation that she was no longer able to accept the position.

A new job posting has been circulated for the position, with an application closing date of May 30. The National Executive hopes to fill the position by mid-June.

Maritimes Organiser

The Maritimes Organiser position became vacant in summer 2007. Despite an exhaustive search the

Internal Affairs

National Executive was unable to fill the position prior to the start of the 2007-2008 academic year.

A new job posting has been circulated for the position, with an application closing date of May 30. The National Executive hopes to fill the position by mid-June.

Federation National Congresses

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

National Caucus General Meetings

The Federation's National Graduate Caucus consists of all member students' unions composed in whole or in part of graduate students. This year the Caucus annual general meeting was held February 9 to 10 in Toronto, Ontario. Twenty-one of the thirty eligible member graduate unions participated in the meeting.

The Federation's National Aboriginal Caucus consists of all member students' unions composed in whole or in part of aboriginal students. This year the Caucus annual meeting was held from April 24 to 26 at Camosun College in Victoria, British Columbia. Twelve member local unions participated in the meeting.

November 2008 National General Meeting

The fall 2008 national general meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 19 to 22. The National Executive will be finalising the dates at its next meeting in early July.

May 2009 National General Meeting

The spring 2009 national general meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 21 to 24. The National Executive will be finalising the dates at its next meeting in early July.

Office Organisation

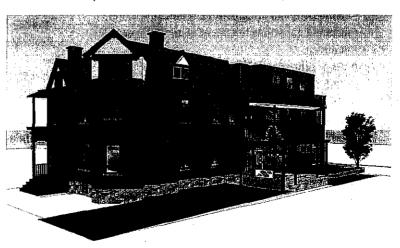
Preparations for Relocation of the National Office

In 2000, the membership established a capital fund for the future purchase of office space to house the Federation's national headquarters in Ottawa.

Originally, the National Executive had hoped to purchase space, and move by June 30, 2006; however, a preliminary search of the Ottawa commercial real estate market a year prior yielded no adequate options. The Federation ultimately secured a 26-month lease extension on its current premises.

In July, 2007, after a thorough review, the Federation submitted a successful offer of purchase and sale for property in central Ottawa. The property, which includes an 1880s heritage building with a 1940's addition, met all of the Federation's criteria. With a total of 8,900 square feet of constructed space, and site zoning of up to 10,240 square feet, the property is more than adequate in providing for the Federation's required 6,500 square feet of usable office space. The surplus of space will allow for a portion to be leased, covering a portion of the operating costs of the property.

Upon purchase completion the Federation created a plan for beginning operations within the new property. This included using the due diligence reports to determine the reconstruction/renovations



Internal Affairs

that the property required to be operable. The review determined that while the 1880s heritage building is in good condition, the 1940s addition is structurally and aesthetically flawed, requiring some work to meet future use requirements. After a thorough review, the Federation determined that it would be best to demolish the existing addition and rebuild an extension to the heritage building that corrects flaws with the current addition including respecting the original design of the building, ensuring the property is universally accessible, and ensuring that the building and its utilities are environmentally sustainable.

With the Federation's current lease set to expire on November 30, 2008, an accelerated renovation/reconstruction schedule commenced.

In early January, the floor and site plans were finalised for the property and a construction approval process with the City of Ottawa was initiated.

As the property includes a heritage zoned structure, the City of Ottawa Department of Planning, Environment, and Transportation determined that the size and scale of the Federations proposed drawings would require approval by several city committees.

- On January 24, the Federation received a recommendation for approval from the City of Ottawa's Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) for the proposed heritage overlay.
- On February 14, the City of Ottawa Planning and Environment Committee ratified the recommendations of the LACAC to the Ottawa City Council.
- On February 27, Ottawa City Council approved the Federation's proposed heritage overlay.
- On March 29, the Federation initiated a 14-day public consultation on the proposed variance plans for site development.
- On April 16, the City of Ottawa Committee of Adjustment approved the Federation's proposed variance plans for site development.
- On May 6, the Federation submitted an application for site plan approval to the City of Ottawa Planning

Committee. The Committee is expected to render a decision on the Federation's plans by July 25, 2008.

As the Federation's architects, project managers, and legal counsel had not anticipated the proposed project to require as much review from the City, the timelines for the completion of construction have been extended to December 2008. In light of the delay, the Federation is seeking to negotiate a short lease extension on its existing premises.

As part of the Federation's commitment to restore the existing 1880's heritage building, work has commenced to fully tuck/repoint the brickwork, update and seal the soffit, and reconstruct/restore the building's main entrance portico.

Technology Upgrades

As reported previously, an overhaul of the national office's outdated phone system is being explored with a plan to have the new system installed in the Federation's new national office as part of the construction process. The most attractive option for replacing the Federation's current system remains a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) solution that is anticipated to provide better quality service, additional functionality and significant savings when compared to traditional phone service.

The national office maintains an internal file-server, enabling the sharing of files amongst those who work in the national office. Originally purchased in spring 2004, the amount of information stored on the Federation's internal file-server was quickly approaching the server's maximum capacity in late 2007. In early 2007, the server was upgraded with larger hard drives. With this increased storage capacity, the file-server should continue to meet the Federation's needs for several years to come.

In addition to upgrading the file-server's internal hard drives, the file-server's offsite backup protocol was also updated. In addition to an on-site dedicated hard drive backup, the server was previously being backed up to magnetic tapes for storage at a secure offsite location. Given the reliance on magnetic tapes, maintaining a consistent off-site backup schedule

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Internal Affairs

proved time-consuming and inconvenient. In an effort to make the process more efficient, these tapes were replaced with a hard-drive based, off-site backup system reducing the time and complexity involved in backing up the internal file-server.

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3 of Semi-Annual General Meeting Assemblée générale semestrielle

Canadian Federation of Students(-Services) • Fédération canadienne des étudiantes et étudiants(-services)

Membership

Changes to Membership

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Dawson Student Union

The Dawson Student Union was accepted as a prospective member of the Federation at the May 2007 national general meeting.

From February 12 to 14, a referendum on full membership was conducted in accordance with Bylaw 1.5. The official results were: 624 in favour of membership (77 percent), 185 opposed, and 5 spoiled ballots.

In accordance with Bylaw 1.2-b-ix, the National Executive is recommending that the Dawson Student Union be ratified as a full member of the Federation.

Laurentian University Graduate Students' **Association**

The Laurentian University Graduate Students' Association was accepted as a prospective member of the Federation at the May 2007 national general meeting.

On April 24, a referendum on full membership was conducted in accordance with Bylaw 1.5. The official results were: 42 in favour of membership (95.5 percent), 2 opposed, and o spoiled ballots.

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

University of Toronto at Mississauga Students' Union

In fall 2002, University of Toronto undergraduate students, including students at the University's Mississauga campus, voted in favour of membership in the Canadian Federation of Students. Since that time, students at the Mississauga campus have been represented within the Federation through the University of Toronto Students' Union.

Over the past six years, the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union has assumed a greater

role in providing representation and services to students studying on the Mississauga campus of the University of Toronto. As a result, in summer and fall 2007 the University of Toronto Students' Union and the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union entered in discussions to formally recognize and constitute the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union as an autonomous students' union.

In November 2007 the membership of the University of Toronto Students' Union amended its bylaws at a general meeting recognising the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union as an autonomous students' union from the University of Toronto Students' Union. Shortly thereafter, the membership of the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union amended its bylaws to reflect this new status at a general meeting of its own.

As part of the new arrangement the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union and the University of Toronto Students' Union have agreed that the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union shall represent the students belonging to the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union within the Federation. Therefore, in accordance with Bylaw 1.2-b-ix, the National Executive is recommending that the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union be ratified as a voting member of the Federation.

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

As reported at the previous meeting, the National Executive received notice in September 2007 from Local 89 initiating a referendum on the question of continued membership in the Federation in September 2007.

From March 18 to 20, a referendum on continued membership was conducted in accordance with Bylaw 1.5. The official results were: 192 in favour of continuing membership, 256 opposed, and 5 spoiled ballots.

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Since then, the National Executive has been notified by representatives of Local 89 that the final installment of membership fees for the 2007-08 year would not be remitted. Despite efforts to explain to local representatives that, in accordance with Bylaw 1.7-c, membership in the Federation continues until June 30 pending the ratification of any referenda to withdraw, and that the Local is responsible for membership fees up and until that point, no commitment has been secured from the Local that it will abide by its contractual obligation.

In accordance with Bylaw 1.2-b-ix, the National Executive is recommending that the withdrawal of membership of the University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society be ratified pending full remittance of membership fees for the 2008 summer term.

Other Membership Issues

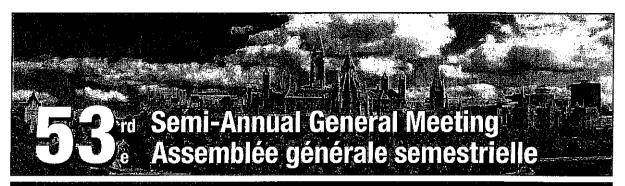
Local 95 – Cape Breton University Students' Union

Since the previous national general meeting, the National Executive has received notice from Local 95 (Cape Breton University Students' Union) initiating a referendum on the question of continued membership in our Federation. The referendum will be conducted after September 15, 2008, as per Bylaw 1.6-b-i.

Local 23 - Simon Fraser Student Society

As reported at the previous meeting, the National Executive received notice in August 2007 from Local 23 (Simon Fraser Student Society) initiating a referendum on the question of continued membership in our Federation in August 2007. Despite effort on the part of the Federation to conduct a referendum in accordance with the Federation's bylaws, the Board of the Students' Society conducted a separate non-binding vote on membership outside of the jurisdiction and procedure of the Bylaws. The National Executive has made it clear to representatives of the Students' Society, including the Local 23 representatives to the Referendum Oversight Committee, that it remains committed to the process as set out in the Federation's Bylaws with a referendum to be held on dates determined by the Committee.





Canadian Federation of Students(-Services) • Fédération canadienne des étudiantes et étudiants(-services)

Finances

Introduction

As the 2008 fiscal year draws to a close, it can be reported that, with a few notable exceptions, most of the financial targets established in the Federation's national budget will be met.

Membership Fees

Membership fees remain the primary source of funding for the Federation. This year, the Federation projected to collect membership fees of just over \$3 million, an amount that the Federation should have no difficulty achieving. With very few exceptions, membership fees on a local-by-local basis are meeting or exceeding the budget projections.

Services Income and Expenses

Referral Fees from CUTS

For fiscal 2008, the budget projected referral fee revenue, net of reinvestment, s \$40,500 (the Federation is obligated to reinvest 85 percent of the referral fee payable back into the company). At the end of the third quarter, the net referral fee receivable was \$36,018. It is expected that the final referral fee amount will slightly exceed the budgeted projection.

Student Work Abroad Programme

The Student Work Abroad Programme (SWAP) is a Federation service that is administered primarily by Travel CUTS. In fiscal 2007, the programme generated a net surplus of \$126,982, representing a new high.

For the current year, it is expected that SWAP net revenue will meet and possibly exceed the amount budgeted in the 2008 revised budget. Although SWAP expenses exceeded revenues by \$222,314 at the end of the third quarter, most SWAP revenue is generated in the final quarter of the fiscal year, while expenses are mostly consistent from month to month throughout the year.

Discount Programme

Sales of International Student Identity Cards (ISIC) at the end of the third quarter were down approximately 30 percent from the same point a year earlier. At the same time, the Federation continues to issue a consistent number of cards free as a benefit of membership.

Although ISIC sales are typically strong in the fourth quarter, it appears as though the net expense to operate the discount programme will exceed the budgeted amount.

Building Operations

Building operation costs have surpassed budget projections as a result of maintenance and professional fees. The most significant maintenance costs relate to the brick and mortar work and heritage restoration, which will likely be classified as a capital expense and, as such, amortised over a number of years. Additionally, there have been legal expenses related to securing the necessary permits and approvals required for the renovation of the building. These are one-time expenses that will not recur in the future. For a more detailed account and timeline of the approval process please see the "building operations" section of the report.

Fund Allocations

Capital Fund

In 1996, the Canadian Federation of Students' operations, based in Ottawa, and the Canadian Federation of Students-Services' operations, based in Toronto, were moved into joint office space in Ottawa. At the time, the new space was roughly equivalent in size to the combined office spaces that had housed the separate Canadian Federation of Students and Canadian Federation of Students-Services operations.

Initially, the Federation paid \$90,000 per year under its original five-year lease signed in 1996. In 2001,

the Federation exercised its renewal option on the space for an additional five years. Under the terms of the renewal, rates were adjusted to reflect market conditions at the time of renewal. As a result, annual costs jumped to almost \$150,000 per year.

As of June 30, 2008 the Federation will have spent close to \$1.5 million on rent over the course of the preceding twelve years with no equity to show for it. With this in mind, member locals voted in 2000 to create a capital fund for the future purchase of office space.

As reported at the previous meeting, the Federation has secured a suitable property with the purchase closing on July 30, 2007. The cost of the acquisition, approximately \$1.15 million, will be drawn from the Capital Fund. The balance of the fund, nearly \$385,000, will be put towards renovation and new construction costs.

While the current renovations will deplete the Capital Fund, the National Executive is recommending that the fund be retained given the long-term costs associated with maintaining a building, and bearing in mind that further renovations to the building may be needed in the future.

Federal Election Campaign Fund

Federal elections provide a unique opportunity for influencing public opinion and extracting commitments from potential Members of Parliament and political parties. However, the irregular timing of elections and the significant expense associated with running a high-profile campaign during short timeframe means that it is difficult to budget in advance for such a campaign.

In 2005, member locals voted to create a Federal Election Campaign Fund to ensure there would be sufficient financial resources available to implement an effective federal election campaign, in addition to the campaigns set out in the Campaigns and Government Relations Strategy.

With the current year's budget allocation of \$25,000, the fund now stands at \$125,000.

General Meeting Students With Disabilities Access Fund

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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, member locals established a General Meeting Students with Disabilities Access Fund in 2000. The Fund allows the Federation to allocate a consistent amount of money each year, rather than having costs that fluctuate wildly from year to year paid from that year's operating budget.

The fund currently stands at approximately \$60,000.

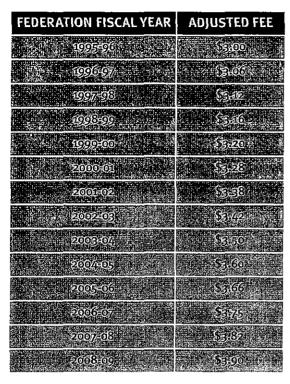
Membership Fee Issues

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, member locals voted to increase the fee from \$2.00 to \$3.00. At the same time, a bylaw was adopted stipulating that, starting in 1996, the fee would be adjusted each academic year by the rate of change in the Canadian Consumer Price Index during the previous calendar year.

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

Finances



As the table illustrates, the Federation's national membership fee for the upcoming academic year will be \$3.90 per student per semester.

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

Despite this progress, a handful of member locals continue to collect and remit only the \$3,00 base fee.

Collection of the Proper Base Membership Fee

As previously reported, one member local, Local 68-York Federation of Students, has not adjusted the base membership fee from \$2.00 to \$3.00. Nor is the Local adjusting the fee annually for inflation, other than one small change a few years ago that increased the fee to \$2.06 per semester. As a result, since 1995,

more than \$650,000 in membership fees that should have been remitted by the Local have not been. The National Executive continues to seek solutions to the problem.

Membership Fee Agreement with Local 34

In the late 1990's, the Local 34-Mount Saint Vincent University Students' Union fell behind on its remittance of Federation membership fees. From what the National Executive was able to determine at the time, the Union had diverted the fees it had collected in trust on behalf of the Federation to cover deficits in its health and dental plan.

In early 2001, the Federation entered into an agreement to forgive outstanding membership fees provided certain conditions were met by the Union. These conditions included agreement by the Union to commence timely remittance of Federation membership fees starting with the 2001–02 year and to pay a portion of the outstanding fees—\$21,000—on or before December 31, 2007. Under the terms of the agreement failure to do either would constitute a "fundamental breach" of the agreement.

The National Executive regrets to inform the voting members that the Local is in breach of both of the conditions cited. As a consequence, the Union is, under the terms of the agreement, liable for the entire amount of membership fees that it previous diverted.

2006-07 Audited Statements

The audits of the Canadian Federation of Students and the Canadian Federation of Students-Services were completed in December 2007. The audited combined statements of the Canadian Federation of Students and the Canadian Federation of Student-Services were completed in January 2008 and will be distributed at this meeting.

As the statements show, the Federation's financial position is stable, with a strong balance sheet and healthy cash flow. One area of possible concern is the loss incurred by Travel CUTS that is reflected on

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the Combined Statement of Operations (page 4). It is important to note that the loss does not constitute an operating cost for the Federation but rather a reduction in the value of the Federation's investment in Travel CUTS.

Tax Returns

The Canadian Federation of Students and the Canadian Federation of Students-Services are required to file annual tax returns despite being tax-exempt, non-profit corporations. With the completion of the audits in December 2007, the returns for both corporations have been completed and filed.

2007-08 Audit

In accordance with the Unanimous Shareholders Agreement that is in place between the shareholders of Travel CUTS, as of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, neither shareholder is permitted to engage the same auditor as CUTS. As a consequence, the Federation was required to select a new firm of chartered accountants to serve as its auditors. For fiscal 2007, the membership of the Federation appointed McLarty & Co. as the Federation's auditors.

The National Executive is recommending that McLarty & Co. be reappointed as the auditors for both the Canadian Federation of Students and the Canadian Federation of Students-Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008.



Appendix I: Meetings with Government

DATE	MEETING	SUBJECT
2007/11/20	Leader of the Opposition Hon. Stéphane Dion, P.C., M.P. (Lib., Saint-Laurent—Cartierville)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, Post-Secondary Education Act, federal Liberal election platform
2007/11/21	Liberal Post-Secondary Education Caucus: Senator Catherine Callbeck (Lib., Prince Edward Island); Senator Sharon Carstairs (Lib., Manitoba); Hon. Anita Neville, P.C., M.P. (Lib., Winnipeg South Centre); Senator Wilfred Moore (Lib., Nova Scotia); and Opposition Human Resources and Social Development Critic Mike Savage, M.P. (Lib., Dartmouth—Cole Harbour)	Need-based grants, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, Post-Secondary Education Act
2007/11/27	House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance: Paul Crête, M.P. (BQ, Montmagny—L'Islet— Kamouraska—Rivière-du-Loup) Dean Del Mastro, M.P. (Con., Peterborough) Rick Dykstra, M.P. (Con., St. Catharines) Jean-Yves Laforest, M.P. (BQ, Saint-Maurice— Champlain) Ted Menzies, M.P. (Con., Macleod) Hon. John McCallum, P.C., M.P. (Lib., Markham-Unionville) Hon. John McKay, P.C., M.P. (Lib., Scarborough-Guildwood) Rob Merrifield, M.P. (Con., Yellowhead) Thomas Mulcair, M.P. (NDP, Outremont) Massimo Pacetti, M.P. (Lib., Saint-Léonard—Saint-Michel) Hon. Garth Turner, P.C., M.P. (Lib., Halton) Mike Wallace, M.P. (Con., Burlington)	2008 Federal Budget

Appendix I: Meetings with Government

WORKERS TOBETHER

DATE	MEETING	SUBJECT
2008/02/13	Senate Committee on Banking, Trade, and Commerce: Senator David Angus (Con., Québec); Senator Yoine Goldstein (Lib., Québec); Senator Michel Biron (Lib., Québec); Senator John Eyton (Con., Ontario); Senator Francis Fox (Lib., Québec); Senator Mac Harb (Lib., Ontario); Senator Mobina Jaffer (Lib., British Columbia); Senator Paul Massicotte (Lib., Québec); Senator Michael Meighen (Con., Ontario); Senator Wilfred Moore (Lib., Nova Scotia); Senator Pierrette (Lib., New Brunswick); Senator David Tkachuk (Con., Saskatchwan)	Bankruptcy, Bill S-205 An Act to amend the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act (Student Loans)
2008/02/26	Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Hon. Monte Solberg, P.C., M.P. (Con., Medicine Hat)	2008 federal budget, Canada Student Grants Program, Millennium Scholarship Foundation
2008/03/12	Hon. Dan McTeague, P.C., M.P. (Lib., Pickering- Scarborough East)	Registered Educations Savings Programs, Bill C-253 An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act (deductibility of RESP contributions)
2008/02/19	Elections Canada Chief Electoral Officer Marc Mayrand	Student/Youth voter outreach, enumeration and polling stations on campus, Youth Outreach Coordinators
2008/02/21	Advisory Committee on International Students and Immigration (ACISI)	Institutional Accreditation, off-campus work permits for international students
2008/05/06	Opposition Human Resources and Social Development Critic Mike Savage, M.P. (Lib., Dartmouth—Cole Harbour)	Copyright Act, Parliamentary Intellectual Property Caucus

Appendix I: Meetings with Government

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Paul Crête, M.P. (BQ, Montmagny—L'Islet— Kamouraska—Rivière-du-Loup) Dean Del Mastro, M.P. (Con., Peterborough) Rick Dykstra, M.P. (Con., St. Catharines) Martha Hall Findlay, M.P. (Lib., Willowdale) Jean-Yves Laforest, M.P. (BQ, Saint-Maurice— Champlain) Hon. John McCallum, P.C., M.P. (Lib., Markham- Unionville) Hon. John McKay, P.C., M.P. (Lib., Scarborough- Guildwood) Rob Merrifield, M.P. (Con., Yellowhead) Massimo Pacetti, M.P. (Lib., Saint-Léonard—Saint- Michel) Hon. Garth Turner, P.C., M.P. (Lib., Halton) Mike Wallace, M.P. (Con., Burlington)	he 2008 budget

Appendix II: Media Releases & Advisories

The following is the list of media releases and advisories that were issued by the Federation's national office between November 21, 2007 and May 21, 2008.

DATE	TITLE
2008/01/11	"Students to Flaherty: Follow the Irish Example on Fees"
2008/02/19	"Federal Research Priorities are Misguided say Students"
2008/02/25	"Alternative Budget Challenges Feds: Stop Cutting Taxes, Start Solving Problems"
2008/02/25	"National Student Federation Chairperson to Comment on Federal Budget"
2008/02/26	"Federal Budget Delivers National System of Student Grants"
2008/02/26	"Graduate Students Welcome Increase in Graduate Scholarships"
2008/03/05	"Students Launch Cross-Canada Campus Sustainability Tour"
2008/03/13	"RESP Bill Misses Mark"
2008/04/22	"Work Permit Changes a Positive Step"
2008/04/24	"Federal Court Ruling Confirms Minimal Oversight of Corporate-Sponsored University Research"
2008/04/28	"Canadian Federation of Students Issues Statement on Copyright Reform"
2008/05/11	"Students Demand Justice for Missing Women"

DATE	MEDIA OUTLET	SUBJECT
2007/11/21	Canadian Press	Youth In Transition Survey; Student Employment
2007/11/23	McGill Daily*	Federation November National General Meeting
2007/11/26	Canadian University Press (Ottawa)*	Federation November National General Meeting
2007/11/26	The Concordian*	Federation November National General Meeting
2007/11/26	The Eyeopener*	Commercialisation of Education
2007/11/26	Kwantlen Chronicle*	Federation November National General Meeting
2007/11/27	Capital News Online	Millennium Scholarship Foundation
2007/12/11	Globe and Mail	Canadian Council on Learning Report
2008/01/03	Canadian University Press (Ottawa)	Bill C-284 Testimony
2008/01/03	Canwest	Canadian Blood Services Campaign
2008/01/03	Regina Leader-Post	Canadian Blood Services Campaign
2008/01/04	CBC Newsworld	Canadian Blood Services Campaign
2008/01/07	CBC Radio (Winnipeg)	Canadian Blood Services Campaign
2008/01/07	The Manitoban*	Copyright Reform
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DATE	MEDIA OUTLET	SUBJECT
2008/01/11	Lethbridge Herald	Faculty/Student Personal Relationships
2008/01/16	The Gazette*	Copyright Reform
2008/01/17	Calgary Herald	Faculty/Student Personal Relationships, Sexual Harassment on Campus
2008/01/30	Nanaimo Bulletin	Middle Income Access to Canada Student Loans
2008/02/01	CBC Radio (The Current)	Safety on Campus
2008/02/04	The Eyeopener*	Canada Student Loan Debt after Death
2008/02/06	CFUO Radio (Ottawa)*	General Student Issues
2008/02/26	Canadian University Press (Ottawa)*	Federal Budget 2008
2008/02/26	Canadian Press	Federal Budget 2008
2008/02/26	Canwest	Federal Budget 2008
2008/02/26	CBC Radio (National)	Federal Budget 2008
2008/02/26	CFML Radio*	Federal Budget 2008
2008/02/26	The Chronicle Herald	Federal Budget 2008
2008/02/26	CPAC	Federal Budget 2008
2008/02/26	CPAC (French)	Federal Budget 2008
2008/02/26	The Fulcrum*	Federal Budget 2008
2008/02/26	The Manitoban*	Federal Budget 2008
2008/02/26	Rabble.ca	Federal Budget 2008
2008/02/26	Radio Canada (Radio)	Federal Budget 2008

DATE	MEDIA OUTLET	SUBJECT
2008/02/26	Radio Canada (TV)	Federal Budget 2008
2008/02/26	Sun Media	Federal Budget 2008
2008/02/26	Winnipeg Free Press	Federal Budget 2008
2008/02/28	The Gauntlet*	Stanford University Tuition Fee Policy
2008/02/28	The Windsor Star	Federal Budget 2008
2008/03/02	The Varsity*	Federal Budget 2008
2008/03/03	A-Channel (Victoria)	Launch of Generations Tour
2008/03/03	CFAX 1070 Radio (Victoria)	Launch of Generations Tour
2008/03/03	CHEKTV	Launch of Generations Tour
2008/03/03	The Martlet*	Launch of Generations Tour
2008/03/03	The Metro (Vancouver)	Launch of Generations Tour
2008/03/03	The Times Colonist	Launch of Generations Tour
2008/03/12	Canadian University Press (Ottawa)*	Bill C-253, changes to RESP
2008/03/26	Humber Et Cetera*	Canada Student Grants Program
2008/03/26	Lance*	Bill S-205 (Bankruptcy)
2008/04/16	Canadian Press	Youth Labour Market
2008/04/16	CanWest	Youth Labour Market
2008/04/16	CBC Radio (National)	Youth Labour Market
2008/03/27	Globe and Mail	Credit Card Tuition Fee Payments in Alberta



DATE	MEDIA OUTLET	SUBJECT
2008/04/17	A-Channel	First Nations Day of Action
2008/04/17	APTN	First Nations Day of Action
2008/04/17	Canadian Press	First Nations Day of Action
2008/04/17	CBC Radio (Charlottetown)	Youth Labour Market
2008/04/17	CBC Radio (Moncton)	Youth Labour Market
2008/04/17	CBC Radio (Ontario AM)	Youth Labour Market
2008/04/17	CBC Radio (Ottawa)	Youth Labour Market
2008/04/17	CBC Radio (Sudbury)	Youth Labour Market
2008/04/17	CBC Radio (Thunder Bay)	Youth Labour Market
2008/04/17	CBC Radio (Victoria)	Youth Labour Market
2008/04/17	CBC Radio (Whitehorse)	Youth Labour Market
2008/04/17	CBC Radio (Windsor)	Youth Labour Market
2008/04/17	CBC Radio (Yellowknife)	Youth Labour Market
2008/04/17	CBC TV (National)	First Nations Day of Action
2008/04/17	CPAC	First Nations Day of Action
2008/04/17	The Metro	First Nations Day of Action
2008/04/17	OMNI TV	First Nations Day of Action
2008/04/17	Globe and Mail	First Nations Day of Action
2008/04/17	Radio Canada (Radio)	First Nations Day of Action

STOBERF STREAMING

DATE	MEDIA OUTLET	SUBJECT
2008/04/18	Radio Canada (RDI)	Youth Labour Market
2008/04/25	CBC Radio (National)	Post-Graduation Work Program
2008/04/25	Globe & Mail	Post-Graduation Work Program
2008/04/25	Montreal Gazette	Post-Graduation Work Program
2008/04/28	Ottawa Sun	Post-Graduation Work Program
2008/04/28	Rogers TV (Talk Ottawa)	Non-Academic Codes of Conduct

^{*}Campus Media

Appendix IV: Website Service Participating Locals

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Local	18	Douglas Students' Union		
Local	33	Emily Carr Students' Union		
Local	61	Malaspina Students' Union		
Local	13	College of New Caledonia Students' Union		
Local	72	North Island Students' Union		
Local	66	Northwest Community College Students' Union (in development)		
Local	4	Selkirk College Students' Union		
Local	15	Thompson Rivers University Students' Union		
Local	73/76	Students' Unions of Vancouver Community College		
MANITOBA				
Local	37	Brandon University Students' Union		
Local	96	University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association*		
Local	103	University of Manitoba Students' Union		
Local	8	University of Winnipeg Students' Association		
ONTARIO				
Local	82	Algoma University Students' Union		
Local	28	Atkinson Students' Association		
Local	78	Carleton University Graduate Students' Association		
Local	93	Glendon College Student Union		
Local	30	Laurentian University Students' General Association		

Prospective Member Local Laurentian University Graduate Students' Association

STRUENT SALEMNIY

Appendix IV: Website Service Participating Locals

Local	88	Association des étudiantes et étudiants francophones de l'Université Laurentienne
Local	32	Lakehead University Student Union*
Local	104	Laurentian Association of Mature and Part-Time Students (English site)
Local	104	Laurentian Association of Mature and Part-Time Students (French site)
Local	105	Continuing Education Students' Association of Ryerson
Local	24	Ryerson Students' Union
Local	85	Saint Paul University Students' Association (in development)
Local	98	University of Toronto Students' Union
Local	71	Trent Central Student Association
Local	68	York Federation of Students
Local	84	York University Graduate Students' Association
QUÉBEC		

Prospective Member Local Dawson Student Union

NEW BRUNSWICK

Local 67 University of New Brunswick Graduate Students' Association

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Local 70 University of Prince Edward Island Graduate Students' Association (in development)

NOVA SCOTIA

Local 11 University of King's College Students' Union

Local 69 Association générale des étudiants de l'Université Sainte-Anne

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Local 36 Grenfell College Student Union

Local 100 Graduate Students' Union of the Memorial University of Newfoundland

Local 35 Memorial University of Newfoundland Students' Union

Local 45 Marine Institute Student's Union

Local 46 College of the North Atlantic Students' Union

^{*}Students' Union Website Service subscribers who don't use the content management system.