

# **NATIONAL EDUCATION & STUDENT RIGHTS REPORT**

November 1996 National General Meeting  
Canadian Federation of Students

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## **Committee Composition**

### **Caucus Representatives**

Aboriginal Caucus  
Caucus of College and Institute Associations  
Caucus of Small University Associations  
National Graduate Caucus

Gail King, Angela Mercer & Joanne Heck  
Julian Albanese & Craig Borden  
Mary Lekea  
Kevin Dwyer & Debbie Bergy

### **Component Representatives**

Manitoba Component  
Newfoundland & Labrador Component

Ainslie Noreen Schroeder  
Bill Penny, Ron McArthy, Janet Cull, Chris  
Crowther  
Amy Cole  
Kelli Campbell  
Chris Gray  
Mike Toye  
Marlene Brooks

Nova Scotia Component  
Ontario Component  
Prince Edward Island Component  
Québec Component  
Saskatchewan Component

### **Constituency Group Representatives**

Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Students' Constituency Group  
Part-time and Mature Students' Constituency Group  
Student Artists' Constituency Group  
Students of Colour Constituency Group  
Women's Constituency Group

Jessica Squires & Marijke Edmondson  
Ernest Simms  
Sheila Ia  
Jasmine Leung  
Dawn Patten & Cathy Duck

### **Committee Co-ordinators**

National Chairperson  
National Graduate Council Representative  
Nova Scotia Representative

Brad Lavigne  
Tracy Henry  
Jessica Squires

### **Committee Staff**

Researcher  
Fieldstaff

Denise Doherty-Delorme  
Joe Byrne

### **Observers**

George Brown Students' Association  
York Federation of Students

John Young  
Alexander Wu

## **1. MOTIONS WITH DUE NOTICE REFERRED BY THE OPENING PLENARY**

### **a. Aboriginal Experiences Reflected in Curricula**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following:

#### **96/05:160 MOTION TO AMEND POLICY**

Local 61/Local 44

Be it resolved that item 7 in the Policy Manual under Curricula be amended to read as follows:

7. The development of curricula which addresses the experiences and contributions of aboriginal peoples.

### **b. Post-Secondary Education—Aboriginal Institutions**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following:

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### **96/05:162 MOTION TO AMEND POLICY**

Local 61/Local 44

Be it resolved that the policy listed in the Policy Manual under Post-Secondary Education be amended to include:

The Federation supports the creation of Aboriginal post-secondary institutions.

### **c. Post-Secondary Education—Educational Equity**

The Committee recommends adoption with the subsequent amendment:

### **96/05:199 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

West Viking College Students' Association/Local 09

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

The Federation supports educational equity in post-secondary education institutions including but not limited to issues regarding cost, curriculum, pedagogy, and climate.

### **NE/SR-1 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Local 08/Local 07

Be it resolved that the wording of the policy statement proposed in Motion GM-96/05:199 be amended to read:

The Federation supports equity in post-secondary education, where equity is defined as equal consideration of all students and their needs, with respect to: the manner in which pedagogical practices are carried out, subject matter of curricula, and general social climate of the institution.

### **d. Post-Secondary Education—Programme Review Mechanisms**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion with the subsequent amendment:

### **96/05:210 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Local 79/Local 24

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

The Federation supports the establishment of institution-generated, transparent, and relevant program review mechanisms, and opposes the use of standardised "Quality Indicators" across post-secondary institutions for the purpose of reducing funding or accessibility.

### **NE/SR-2 MOTION TO AMEND**

Local 7/Local 31

Be it resolved that the wording of the policy statement proposed in Motion GM-96/05:210 be amended to read:

The Federation opposes the use of standardised "Quality Indicators" across post-secondary institutions for the purpose of reducing funding or accessibility.

### **e. Standardisation of Harassment Procedures within Institutions**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion with the subsequent amendment:

### **96/05:135 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Local 72/Local 68

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted under the Harassment Prevention and Grievance Policies Section:

The Federation supports and encourages the standardisation of harassment complainant procedures between institutions that include, but are not limited to:

confidentiality of the complainant; a response period that is respectful of students' schedules and work load; and the recognition of power imbalances that occur due to race, gender, age, ability, sexual orientation and position of influence.

Be it further resolved that the Federation supports the creation of Human Rights or Equity offices on campuses that are fully funded by administration to serve the needs of all students, especially the needs of Students of Colour, Students with Disabilities, Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Students and Aboriginal Students.

**NE/SR-3**

**MOTION TO AMEND**

Local 07/Local 11

Be it resolved that the wording of the policy proposal in Motion GM-96/05:135 be amended to read:

The Federation supports and encourages the development of common elements of harassment complainant procedures between institutions that include, but are not limited to: confidentiality of the complainant; a response period that is respectful of students' schedules and work load; and the recognition of power imbalances that occur due to race, gender, age, ability, sexual orientation and position of influence.

The Federation supports the creation of Human Rights or Equity offices on campuses that are autonomous and fully funded by administration to serve the needs of all students, especially the needs of Students of Colour, Students with Disabilities, Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Students and Aboriginal Students.

**f. Council of Ministers of Education-Canada**

The committee recommends defeat of the following:

**96/05:205 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Local 79/Local 24

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

The Federation supports the consolidation of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, and calls for increased funding of the Council by provincial and territorial governments.

**g. Pan-Canadian Advisory Council on Post-Secondary Education**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following:

**96/05:206 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Local 79/Local 24

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

The Federation supports the establishment, by the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, of a standing Pan-Canadian Advisory Council on Post-Secondary Education which would include representation from the Federation.

**h. Content of Pan-Canadian Agreement**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following:

**96/05:207 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Local 79/Local 24

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

The Federation strongly encourages the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada to sign a Post-secondary Education Agreement that encompasses the

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principles outlined in the Federation Preamble and in the Federation's Declaration of Students' Rights.

### **i. Guidelines for Federation Lobbying**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following:

#### **96/11:N01 MOTION**

Local 79/Local 24

Be it resolved that, in collaboration with members of the Coalition for Post-Secondary Education, the Council of Ministers of Education-Canada be lobbied to:

- establish common principles for higher education;
- reduce or eliminate student indebtedness;
- eradication of the Canada Health and Social Transfer;
- implement block federal funding for education; and
- establish an open, democratic, and transparent system of governance in order to ensure accountability at all levels and participation by all educational partners.

### **j. Federal Budget—Aboriginal Treaty Rights**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following:

#### **96/05:161 MOTION TO AMEND POLICY**

Local 61/Local 44

Be it resolved that policy listed in the Policy Manual under Federal Budgetary Issues include:

- a fiduciary commitment to fulfilling all aboriginal and treaty rights.

### **k. Canada Health and Social Transfer & Aboriginal rights**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following:

#### **96/05:159 MOTION TO AMEND POLICY**

Local 61/Local 44

Be it resolved that the policy listed in the Policy Manual under Canada Health and Social Transfer be amended to include:

- c. the infringement on aboriginal rights to exercise jurisdiction over education healthcare and social services.

### **l. Employment—National Strategy**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following:

#### **96/05:202 MOTION TO AMEND POLICY**

West Viking College Students' Association/Local 09

Whereas the federal government has in the past abrogated its responsibility for job creation and left it to the private market sector who state that they are not responsible for producing profits; therefore

Be it resolved that the policy listed in the Policy Manual under Employment be amended to include:

- The Federation supports the creation, by the federal government, of a national employment strategy whose aim is to create full employment in the public, private, and not-for-profit sectors.

### **m. Employment—Working Conditions**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following:

**96/05:198 MOTION TO AMEND POLICY**

West Viking College Students' Association/Local 09

Whereas it is increasingly obvious that the demands of modern employment are placing unprecedented levels of stress on individuals, families and communities; therefore

Be it resolved that the policy listed in the Policy Manual under Employment be amended to include:

The Federation supports working conditions which provide adequate time for people to pursue activities apart from working in the labour market.

**n. Taxation—International Financial Transaction Tax**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion with the subsequent amendment.

**96/05:201 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

West Viking College Students' Association/Local 09

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

The Federation supports an international financial transaction tax, as devised by Nobel Laureate of Economics, James Tobin.

**NE/SR-4 MOTION TO AMEND**

Local 05/Local 31

Be it resolved that the wording of the policy proposal in Motion GM-96/05:201 be amended to read as follows:

The Federation supports an international financial transaction tax, targeting speculative currency transactions, such as the trade of stocks, bonds, and currencies, as devised by Nobel Laureate of Economics, James Tobin.

**o. Taxation—Profits of Multi-National Corporations**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion with the subsequent amendment:

**96/05:200 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

West Viking College Students' Association/Local 09

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

The Federation supports changes to the taxation system in which the federal government is obligated to vigorously pursue the taxation of profits made by multi-national corporations operating in Canada which have moved offshore.

**NE/SR-5 MOTION TO AMEND**

Local 79/Local 31

Be it resolved that the wording of the policy proposal in Motion GM-96/05:200 be amended to read:

The Federation supports changes to the taxation system, as outlined in the Alternative Federation Budget, in which the federal government is obligated to vigorously pursue the taxation of profits made by multi-national corporations operating in Canada which have moved offshore.

**p. Taxation—Support for Minimum Corporate Tax**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion with the subsequent amendment:

**96/11:N02 MOTION TO AMEND POLICY**

West Viking College Students' Association/Local 09

Be it resolved that the policy on Taxation in the Policy manual be amended to include:

The Federation supports a minimum corporate federal income tax of 3%.

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### **NE/SR-6      MOTION TO AMEND**

Local 05/Local 87

Be it resolved that the wording of the policy proposal in GM-96/11:N02 be amended to read:

The Federation supports a minimum corporate federal income tax set at half of the corporate income tax rate, as described in the Alternative Federal Budget.

### **q. Human Rights—Opposition to Brutality of Canadian Military and Police**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following:

#### **96/05:216      MOTION TO AMEND POLICY**

Local 54/Local 76

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

The Federation is opposed to brutality in both Canadian policing and military actions.

### **r. Human Rights—Opposition to Business Relations of Countries with Poor Human Rights Records**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion with the subsequent amendment:

#### **96/05:229      MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Local 07/West Viking College Students' Association

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

The Federation opposes the creation of business links with countries with poor Human Rights and Social Justice records, while at the same time supporting movements for freedom and equality.

### **NE/SR-7      MOTION TO AMEND**

Local 05/Labrador College Student Union

Be it resolved that the wording of the policy proposal in Motion GM-96/05:229 be amended to read as follows:

The Federation opposes the creation of business links with governments and multinational corporations operating within countries with poor human rights and social justice practices, while at the same time supporting movements for freedom and equality.

### **s. Right to Self-determination for Québec and First Nations**

The Committee recommends adoption with the subsequent amendment:

#### **96/05:166      MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Local 83/Local 86

Whereas the right to self-determination is a principle of international law; and

Whereas the Federation has policy supporting the right to self-determination for Canada's First Nations; and

Whereas the Federal government of Canada has refused to recognise the right of self-determination and self-government of Canada's First Nations; and

Whereas the Federal government has announced that it supports lawyer Guy Bertrand's appeal to the courts to prevent the people of Québec from holding a democratic referendum on self-determination; and

Whereas the implications of Bertrand's appeal is that it will set a legal precedent which allow the Canadian government to deny the legitimacy of any democratically held vote by

either the people of Québec or the First Nations People of Canada to self-determination;  
and

Whereas some Canadians who oppose the democratic right to self-determination are suggesting the use of military force as a means of preventing Québec from pursuing its democratic right to self-determination; and

Whereas military force has already been used by the Canadian government against First Nations peoples of Canada over self-government; therefore

Be it resolved that the threatened use of force against Québec and First Nations people of Canada on the issue of self-determination be condemned;

Be it further resolved that the Federal government's support of Bertrand's appeal to the Québec Superior Court be condemned; and

Be it further resolved that the following be adopted:

The Federation supports the right of the people of Québec and the First Nations people of Canada to self-determination and recognises the right and legitimacy of the First Nations people of Québec to hold referenda on self-determination.

**NE/SR-8**

**MOTION TO AMEND**

Local 85/Local 05

Be it resolved that the wording of the policy proposal in Motion GM-96/05:166 be amended to read:

The Federation supports the right and legitimacy of the First Nations people of Canada and citizens of Québec to self-determination and recognises the right and legitimacy of the First Nations people of Québec to hold referenda on self-determination, and of the First Nations people of Quebec to exercise the results of the referenda.

**t. Human Rights—State Sanctioned Murder**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion:

**96/05:218 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Local 07/Local 48

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

The Federation opposes all forms of state-sanctioned murder, defined as when the state uses death as a form of political, economic, social and cultural oppression.

**u. Human Rights—Support for Charter of Rights**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion:

**96/11:N03 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Local 7/West Viking College Students' Association

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

The Federation supports the principles of non-discrimination as stated in the Canadian Constitution.

**v. Opposition to Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion with the subsequent amendment:

**96/05:214 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Local 79/Local 61

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

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The Federation opposes the Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship and its members because of its reactionary and oppressive views.

**NE/SR-9**

### **MOTION TO AMEND**

Local 05/Local 11

Be it resolved that the wording of the policy proposal in Motion GM-96/05:214 be amended to read as follows:

The Federation opposes the Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship because of its reactionary and oppressive views.

### **w. Oppression—State Opposition to Hate Provoking Materials**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following:

**96/05:213**

### **MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Local 32/Local 08

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

The Federation supports state opposition to materials that provoke hate, violence, exploitation, and discrimination of individuals and or groups.

### **x. Oppression—Opposition to Use of the term “Art” as a Cover for Hate Provoking Materials**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following:

**96/11:N04**

### **MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Local 07/

Whereas hate literature, material that provokes violence, and other materials have nevertheless been produced in the name of art, and

Whereas this practise is contrary to the spirit of social justice, and

Whereas the production of such materials has become an argument for the censorship of all art which promotes healthy debate; therefore

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

The Federation opposes any use of the word “art” as an excuse to promote or provoke hate, violence, discrimination or oppression against individuals or groups.

### **y. Racism—Opposition to Immigration Tax**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following:

**96/05:223**

### **MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Local 08/West Viking College Students' Association

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

The Federation opposes government entrance taxes on immigrants and refugees to Canada because of the racist and classist barrier that such taxes create.

### **z. Racism—Opposition to Fear-Mongering Propaganda of Reform Party**

The Committee recommends defeat of the following:

**96/05:225**

### **MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Local 07/West Viking College Students' Association

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:



The Federation opposes the fear mongering propaganda of the Reform Party and the racist myths that they perpetuate through the Canadian Media.

◆ **Support for Accessible Transportation Service**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion with the subsequent amendment:

**96/05:248 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Local 76/Local 24

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

The Federation supports a public accessible transportation service for people with disabilities that parallels existing public transportation.

**NE/SR-10 MOTION TO AMEND**

Local 56/Local 8

Be it resolved that the wording of the policy proposal in Motion GM-96/05:248 be amended as follows:

The Federation supports accessible, public transportation systems, providing equivalent service to existing public transportation systems, for people with disabilities.

◆ **People with Disabilities—Support for Home Care**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion with the subsequent amendment:

**96/05:149 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Local 76/Local 24

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

Federation supports publicly funded home care for people with disabilities that provides a stable working relationship between the attendant and the person with disability.

**NE/SR-11: MOTION TO AMEND**

Local 11/Local 23

Be it resolved that the wording of the policy proposal in Motion 96/05:249 be amended to read as follows:

The Federation supports publicly funded home care for people with disabilities, which provides a stable working relationship between the caregiver and the person with disability.

**2. Business Arising from the Work of the Committee**

**a. Accessibility**

**NOTICE MOTION TO AMEND POLICY**

Local 31/Local 23

Be it resolved that the policy on Accessibility be repealed and replaced with the following:

**ACCESSIBILITY**

An accessible education is one which is open to all applicants who wish to attend a post-secondary institution. The federation recognizes that the class-stratified nature of Canadian society has worked to discriminate against the majority of Canadians in their attempts to obtain a quality post-secondary education. An accessible education should allow the individual student to choose the education of their choice.

The Federation supports:

1. the elimination of all financial barriers to a post-secondary education;
2. the elimination of tuition and other incidental user fees;
3. the elimination of differential fees;
4. the right of students to receive a post-secondary education in the official language of their choice: French, English, and Aboriginal languages;
5. the right of students to attend the post-secondary institution of their choice, without additional financial burden;
6. the elimination of all other social and cultural barriers including, but not limited to, race, colour, sex, language, religion, sexual orientation, gender, political affiliation, or family status;
7. the removal of all conditions which might prevent disabled students from attending post-secondary institutions;
8. the universal provision of free, quality child care;
9. the elimination of unnecessary impediments to program portability;
10. the elimination of barriers to accessibility resulting from geography;
11. the elimination of enrolment quotas; and
12. the implementation of a guaranteed minimum income for all students.

**b. Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)**

**NOTICE      MOTION TO AMEND POLICY**

Local 31/Local 23

Be it resolved that the AIDS policy be repealed and replaced with:

**ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)**

The Federation recognizes HIV and AIDS as a disease which is not exclusive to any specific community nor is it dependent on sexual orientation or preference.

The Federation:

1. Condemns discrimination on the basis of HIV or AIDS infection; the Federation condemns the infringement of the rights of students because they have AIDS or test positive for HIV; and
2. Supports the right of HIV and AIDS infected students to access disabled student services, departments and believes that such a department should exist on every campus; and
3. Opposes extra charges, exclusions or any other form of discrimination in student health plans, and will ensure that the Federation's health plan does not discriminate against HIV and AIDS infected students; and
4. Supports the active involvement of affected students and Persons With AIDS organisations, in any decision-making which may affect them; and
5. Opposes mandatory testing under any circumstances; and
6. Supports anonymous HIV testing; and
7. Supports guaranteed confidentiality including confidentiality of test results and administrative files on HIV and AIDS-infected students; and
8. Supports access to professional and confidential counselling; and
9. Opposes quarantine of HIV and AIDS-infected students under any circumstances; and
10. Supports access to information on HIV and AIDS including effective and comprehensive information on prevention including the distribution of information by provincial ministries and local administrations and the establishment of AIDS education programs; and
11. Supports individuals and organizations which disseminate information and/or implement educational programs at post-secondary institutions about AIDS and/or all sexually transmitted diseases; and

12. Supports the free and easy access to preventative measures including dental dams, condoms and syringes; and
13. Supports the funding from federal and provincial governments to student groups and others to assist in efforts to fight ignorance about the spread of HIV and AIDS infection; and
14. Opposes any question on a blood donor questionnaire dealing with sexual orientation rather than sexual practise. Such a question perpetuates the myth that HIV and aids transmission is directly linked to sexual orientation or practise.

**c. Post-Secondary Education**

**NOTICE**

**MOTION TO AMEND POLICY**

Local 31/Local 23

Be it resolved that the contents in the policy section on Post-Secondary Education be repealed and replaced with:

**POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION**

The Federation supports the recognition of work experience towards academic credit at francophone and bilingual post-secondary educational institutions outside of Quebec.

The Federation agrees with the following recommendations regarding education, made by the 1986 Federal New Democratic Party task Force on Youth:

- flexible education programs to meet the changing needs of many young Canadians such as: "work-study" programs which allow students to combine studies with learning experiences in the workplace; and
- recognise the urgent need to provide all students in the secondary school system with personal and career counselling.

The Federation supports the continued existence of the 3 year undergraduate degree in Canadian universities.

The Federation supports flexibility with respect to the time allowed to complete undergraduate pre-professional, professional, professional or graduate programs.

The Federation opposes the establishment of an International Space University in Canada because it is based on a private model, using public funds.

**d. Funding**

**NOTICE**

**MOTION TO AMEND POLICY**

Local 31/Local 23

Be it resolved that the Funding section of the policy manual be amended to include:

The Federation agrees with the recommendations, regarding education, by the 1986 Federal New Democratic Party Task Force on Youth, calling for:

- stable funding for post-secondary education through negotiated federal - provincial financing agreements;
- funding increases which cover the real cost of maintaining accessible, quality education in Canada.

**e. Housing**

**NOTICE**

**MOTION TO AMEND POLICY**

Local 31/Local 23

Be it resolved that the policy on Housing be amended to include:

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The Federation agrees with the recommendation, by the 1986 New Democratic Party Task Force on Youth, calling for construction of university and community college housing in communities with a shortage of affordable housing.

**NOTICE      MOTION TO AMEND POLICY**

Local 31/Local 23

Be it resolved that policy on Housing be repealed and replaced with:

**HOUSING**

The Federation supports the abolition of barriers to accessibility to non-profit, tenant-controlled housing, including exclusionary housing bylaws.

The Federation is committed to working with housing right's groups and affordable housing advocates and supports the formation of federal, provincial, and municipal review boards.

**f. Co-operative Students**

**NOTICE      MOTION TO AMEND POLICY**

Local 31/Local 23

Be it resolved that the policy on Co-operative Students be amended to include:

The Federation agrees with the recommendation by the 1986 Federal New Democratic Party Task Force on Youth, calling for more "co-op" programs for both secondary and post-secondary students in arts, culture and social studies.

**g. Child Care**

**NOTICE      MOTION TO AMEND POLICY**

Local 31/Local 23

Be it resolved that Child Care be amended to include:

The Federation agrees with the recommendation, made by the 1986 New Democratic Party Task Force on Youth, calling for access to quality child care and parenting skills counselling for young parents who are still attending school.

**h. Governance**

**NOTICE      MOTION TO AMEND POLICY**

Local 31/Local 23

Be it resolved that the policy on Governance of Post-Secondary Institutions be amended to include:

The Federation opposes any changes in governance in post-secondary institutions which will increase user fees, limit accessibility, or limit transferability of credits.

**i. Media**

**NOTICE      MOTION TO AMEND POLICY**

Local 31/Local 23

Be it resolved that the contents of the policy section on Media be repealed and replaced with:

The Federation refrains from aiding in the distribution and the purchase of advertising in commercial, campus-targeted publications other than non-Federation publications which displace money from the student community and threaten the livelihood of non-profit, student run publications.

The Federation strongly opposes the budgetary cuts to Radio Canada and CBC and demands the Federal government to ensure a broad range of local and national programs in both official languages.

The Federation opposes any systems or study which rates post-secondary institutions.

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### **NE/SR-11 MOTION**

Local 23/Local 87

Whereas all claims to social assistance benefits by single parents who are post-secondary students have recently been eliminated in Ontario and British Columbia, and will soon be eliminated in other provinces; therefore

Be it resolved that member locals and provincial components be encouraged to advocate on behalf of single parents for:

- a reduction of single parents debt load by increasing their eligibility for a greater amount of loan remission
- an increase in the flexibility applied to the "timely completion of studies" and "personal responsibility requirements."

### **NE/SR-12 MOTION TO AMEND POLICY**

Local 56/Local 44

Whereas provincial governments use economic viability studies as a criterion for deciding funding amounts for post-secondary programs; therefore

Be it resolved that the policy on The Arts be amended to include:

The Federation is opposed to the provincial governments use of employment potential studies to determine funding levels for post-secondary fine, applied and performing arts programs.

### **NE/SR-13 MOTION TO AMEND POLICY**

Local 44/Local 07

Whereas the National Film Board exists to foster links between all regions and nations within Canada and has for decades served to promote the talents of Canadian Artists; and

Whereas the National Film Board faces drastic cuts from the Federal Government which threatens its ability to carry out this mandate; therefore

Be it resolved that the policy on The Arts be amended to include:

The Federation opposes cutbacks to the National Film Board and supports a vital and adequately funded National Film Board.

# **WOMEN'S CONSTITUENCY GROUP REPORT**

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The Women's Constituency Group held a roundtable discussion on women's issues on campuses: inner-city violence, backlash against December 6, Take Back the Night and BGLAD week events, harassment and harassment policies, safe walk/walk home programs, safety audits, sexist material in campus media, pornography, lack of women's representation in student governance, gender sensitivity, abortion, the role and memberships of women's centres, lack of women doctors in university health services, hostile environments for women faculty members, cuts to equity/harassment/human rights offices.

Two of the major issues discussed by a number of member locals were the appearance of the drug Rohypnol, also known as "roofies" or "the date rape drug", and childcare.

## **a. Campaign Against Rohypnol**

**WC-1**

### **MOTION**

Local 24/Local 54

Whereas Rohypnol, also known as "roofies" or "the date rape drug", has appeared on member local and non-member local campuses; therefore

Be it resolved that an information and campaign kit be prepared on Rohypnol, its uses, effects and potential abuses and that it include strategies for addressing problems relating to the drug on campuses; and

Be it further resolved that a comprehensive lobbying strategy on Rohypnol, seeking legislation and public education policy, be developed and executed by the Women's Representative on the National Executive.

## **b. Women's Constituency Group Campaign Initiative**

**WC-2**

### **MOTION**

Local 30/Local 35

Be it resolved that the following campaign strategy, developed by the Women's Constituency Group, be adopted:

(Appendix A)

## **c. Amendments to the Women's Constituency Group Standing Resolution**

**WC-3**

### **MOTION TO AMEND THE STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

Local 30/Local 35

Be it resolved that Section 5 of Standing Resolution 14 be deleted:

~~The duties of the Women's Commissioner shall be set out in Appendix A to this Constitution, which may be amended at any annual meeting of the Federation by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Constituency Group.~~

~~The Women's Commissioner shall send to Women's student organizations and member associations brief semi annual reports which could include information about campaigns, activities, and goals pertaining to the constituency and seek information which could facilitate the work of the Constituency Group within the Federation.~~

Be it further resolved that the following sections be added to Standing Resolution 14

### **5. Constituency Group Election Procedure**

The Women's Commissioner and Women's Representative on the National Executive will be elected from the members of the Constituency Group at a meeting of the Constituency Group during the Semi-Annual General Meeting of the Federation. The Women's Commissioner and Women's Representative to the National Executive shall be ratified by the Federation plenary upon election. The elected Commissioner and Representative shall

hold the position until the closing plenary of the following Semi-Annual General Meeting.

**6. Duties and Responsibilities of the Women's Commissioner**

The duties and responsibilities of the Women's Commissioner shall be to:

- a. facilitate Constituency Group meetings during the national general meetings
- b. take direction from the Constituency Group during national general meetings
- c. oversee and coordinate campaigns initiated by the Constituency Group
- d. send to Women's student organizations and member associations brief semi-annual reports which could include information about campaigns, activities, and goals pertaining to the constituency and seek information which could facilitate the work of the Constituency Group within the Federation.
- e. work in conjunction with the Women's Representative on the National Executive to fulfill her duties and responsibilities

**7. Duties and Responsibilities of the Women's Representative on the National Executive**

The duties and responsibilities of the Women's Representative to the National Executive shall be to:

- a. act as a liason between the Constituency Group and the National Executive
- b. represent the interests of the Constituency Group on the National Executive
- c. take direction from the Constituency Group during national general meetings
- d. oversee and coordinate campaigns initiated by the Constituency Group
- e. send to Women's student organizations and member associations brief semi-annual reports which could include information about campaigns, activities, and goals pertaining to the constituency and seek information which could facilitate the work of the Constituency Group within the Federation.
- f. work in conjunction with the Women's Commissioner to fulfill her duties and responsibilities
- g. carry out the duties as do other National Executive members as outlined in Bylaw V in the Federation Constitution and Bylaws.

**d. Notice of Motion to Correct the Bylaws**

**NOTICE**

**MOTION TO AMEND THE BYLAWS**

Local 30/Local 35

Be it resolved that reference to "Women's Commissioner" in the Federation's Bylaws be replaced with "Women's Representative."



***Draft STRATEGY***

***Women's Constituency Group November 1996***

## **APPENDIX A - Women's Constituency Group**

November 1996 National General Meeting

Canadian Federation of Students

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The Federation is committed to a long-term goal of universal access to high-quality post-secondary education (PSE) and to the elimination of all barriers to access. The Campaign Strategy 1996-1997 adopted by plenary in May 1996 focuses its attention primarily on financial barriers, specifically tuition fees, other user fees and the student aid programs that could be designed to more effectively alleviate that stress.

At the same time the Federation has consistently stated that there are other barriers to access beyond fees that need to be addressed if the system is ever to be fully accessible. We also know that financial barriers affect different types of students in different ways. Student parents are one such group.

The cost of education for students with children is perhaps the most apparent hurdle, particularly for those who must go in to debt to finance both the cost of their education and the costs of raising their children. To make matters worse, many of our campuses lack affordable, flexible child-care services, effectively denying many student parents the ability to study and care for their children at the same time. Without adequate child-care studying and parenting become mutually exclusive options: for this reason many student parents have a hard time finishing their programs, and likely many more choose not to pursue post-secondary studies at all.

Since many of these students are women, particularly women who are the sole or primary provider for their children, this campaign strategy is being submitted to the Women's constituency group for your consideration.

### **CONTEXT**

One of the federal Liberals' promises in the "Red Book" – their campaign platform for the 1991 election – is the implementation of a national child care strategy. This is one of the first promises the Liberals broke when they entered office.

This is the same government that has cut 8 billion dollars of the provincial transfers for post-secondary education. Along with the cuts for social assistance and health care, parents with dependent children have found themselves in an increasingly difficult place: those who cannot afford private child care are limited in their both their educational prospects and their ability to find or maintain meaningful employment, education and/or skills training. For a government that got elected on a job creation platform, they have instead made matters much worse.

As we approach another federal election, several of our coalition partners are in the midst of a campaign to remind the liberals and the Canadian electorate of their broken promise on child care, and to call for a renewed commitment to the program.

As a result of both the Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST) and the failed child care promise, the difficulties student parents face seem to be worsening every day. As the effects of the cuts to federal transfers trickle down to our local campuses, we are seeing drastic cuts to or the elimination of the services these student need most.

At the same time the Federation is developing a strong commitment to organizing on our member local campus and excellent relationships with many of our coalition partners. We have the opportunity right now to make a substantial difference to an already strong campaign, and to expand and modify that campaign for the service of our own membership.

### **General Goals**

- to raise awareness among our members and the public of the specific issues facing student parents

## **PAGE 2 - APPENDIX**

November 1996 National General Meeting  
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- to raise awareness among our members and the public on the specific barriers preventing interested parents from pursuing post-secondary education
- to join with our coalition partners in lobbying the federal government for a national child care program

### **Specific Goals**

- work towards ensuring that the federal and provincial governments and our campus administrations create more child care spaces for students
- work towards ensuring that federal and provincial governments and our campus administrations create adequate subsidies for student parents
- to build stronger links between the Federation and coalition partners who traditionally work more closely on child care issues: Canadian Child care Advocacy Association Canada; National Action Committee on the Status of Women; Canadian Labour Congress; any others we can identify.
- to produce a report detailing the issues affecting student parents and the status of child care service for students

### **Implementation**

#### **Component Congruency**

For this campaign to be comprehensive we need to take full advantage of our national/component structure. In order to make this campaign a success, components need to work this strategy into their agendas for their upcoming meetings; member locals at the component level can then further prioritize the goals to suit their specific needs.

#### **Member local support**

No federation campaign can ever be a success if our members do not know about it or are not able to participate in its implementation. If your local has a campaigns committee present this strategy to them; if not it's a great reason to set one up. Member locals should work to ensure that student parents on their campus are informed of the campaign strategy and empowered to become full participants in the implementation of the campaign, while at the same time offered the support and understanding they need to be involved in this type of work: child care, flexible schedules, appropriate meeting times and adequate transportation to/from meetings and events, etc.

#### **Research**

We have begun to collect data from campuses to determine the state of child care for student parents on our campuses. If more members fill out and return these surveys, we will have enough data to produce a small research document which can be used in member education, campus organizing, lobby sessions and media work.

In addition, we need to research more comprehensively the range of issues facing student parents across the country. At Memorial University a research team of students, faculty and community activists calling themselves the Hoops and Hurdles Research project produced a document entitled *"Standing Strong: Single Mothers Overcoming Barriers to Post-Secondary Education."* We can contact this group for further information and perhaps follow their model to determine and document the issues.

The "Hoops and Hurdles Research Collective" at Memorial also produced a videotape that could be used by member-local campuses if we can attain their permission to do so.

### **Contact With Government**

We have the opportunity from now until the federal election to join with our coalition partners' campaign on the Liberal's broken child-care promise. We can also use that time to assess our issues more thoroughly, organize our own lobby sessions on the member local level, lobby government at the provincial level, and take our concerns to campus administrators.

### **Membership Mobilization**

The Federation has found over the last two years that the most effective way to have our voice heard by the government is to take our bodies out of the classroom and on to the streets. So at the same time that we are educating ourselves, lobbying government through traditional means and making overtures to the media, we are most importantly finding and executing public, grassroots demonstrations of our opinion. The following is a list of ideas for mobilizations.

#### *Mobilization tactics*

It is important to take these tactics as suggestions for action on a member local level but also to tailor the campaign to your campus(es) so it will be effective. This is only a preliminary list of suggestions. Run with it.

- take your kids to class day
- play-in at the offices of university administrators
- clothing exchange
- guerrilla theatre
- dioramas
- relay race

### **Coalition Work**

It is also important to work with our coalition partners in lobbying for child care on a national level. Although this campaign is aimed specifically at awareness of student parent issues, the call for a national child care program is an integral part of our campaign. The work has already begun. A postcard campaign demanding that the Liberals keep their campaign promise on child care was initiated this fall by a coalition of organizations, including the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) and the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada (CCAAC). On November 20, 1996, campaign postcards from parents and children across Canada jammed Minister of Health David Dingwall's mailbox. We should also work with coalition partners on a member local level to ensure that this campaign has a powerful impact on our campuses and communities.

**Draft Agenda**  
Campaigns and Government Relations Committee

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1. Ratification of committee chairs
2. Approval of agenda
3. Review of *Campaigns Strategy 96/7*
4. Review of progress to date
5. Adjustment of Strategy:
  - symposium
  - federal election planning
  - constituency group campaigns
6. Timeline: calendar
7. Other business
8. Adjournment

7.i) Dec 5 Action Canada Network campaign

HP@445

## **Ordre du jour *préliminaire***

Comité des campagnes et des relations avec le gouvernement

15<sup>e</sup> Assemblée générale annuelle – Fédération canadienne des étudiantes et étudiants

Du 23 au 27 novembre 1996 – Ottawa

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1. Ratification des président-e-s du comité
2. Approbation de l'ordre du jour
3. Revue de la Stratégie de campagnes 1996-1997
4. Bilan des activités jusqu'à ce jour
5. Réglage de la stratégie :
  - symposium
  - planification des élections fédérales
  - campagnes des associations modulaires
6. Échéances : calendrier
7. Autres questions
8. Levée de la réunion

**A Strategy for  
Accessible, Quality  
Post-Secondary Education  
1996/97**

Adopted at the 29<sup>th</sup> Semi-Annual General Meeting of the  
**Canadian Federation of Students**  
May 16, 1996





As the Canadian Federation of Students approaches its 15<sup>th</sup> year of fighting for accessible, publicly funded post-secondary education we have an opportunity to reflect on our past successes and to look forward to future challenges.

For 15 years the Federation has been at the forefront in exposing the myths of deficit hysteria and presenting macro-economic alternatives to the cutting public investment.

On April 1, 1996, the Canada Health & Social Transfer (CHST) replaced the Established Programs Financing and the Canada Assistance Plan. As the effects of the cuts contained in the CHST take hold, a trend has emerged whereby provincial governments pass the cuts on to students by increasing tuition fees and other user fees. In addition, the tax system has greatly benefited wealthy individuals and profitable corporations at the expense of the poor, working poor and the middle class. Thousands of wealthy Canadian pay little or no taxes and tens of thousands of corporations pay little or no taxes because of their right to defer taxes. A dangerous new trend is emerging in Canada: the polarization between rich and poor. We are faced with one of the biggest challenges to accessibility since the Second World War. If our universities and colleges are to be accessible to everyone, now more than ever we have the responsibility to speak out.

It is in this wider macro-economic context that the following campaign strategy was written. The issues the Federation will be targeting in its federal legislative strategy throughout 1996-97 be comprised of the components as follows.

### **1. Accessibility to Education Campaign** **"Fifteen Years of Fighting for Access"**

- a. Raise awareness among federal and provincial/territorial policy makers and the public on the links between inaccessibility and high tuition fees;
- b. Raise awareness among federal and provincial/territorial policy makers and the public on the links between inaccessibility and the cuts to social programs;
- c. Educating the Canadian public on alternative funding mechanisms for post-secondary education other than user fees and private funding;
- d. The freezing of tuition fees in all provinces and territories;
- e. An end to federal cuts to post secondary education and increasing funding to post-secondary education;
- f. Expanding the "Special Opportunities Grants" by promoting a "Canada Student Grants Program";
- g. Ensure that the Income Contingent Loan Scheme is eliminated as a policy option;
- h. Securing changes to the Canada Student Loans Program to include: flexible repayment options, needs-assessment, better rules for an appeal process and an indexation formula such as a "Student Cost of Living Index";
- i. Implementation of a Post-Secondary Education Act/Agreement;
- j. Opposing degree-granting status to private corporations which sell post-secondary education;
- k. Raise awareness about and combat systemic discrimination within the post-secondary education system; and
- l. Securing student representation on the national, provincial and campus granting councils (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Medical Research Council).

### **2. The Creation of A Post-Secondary Education Act/Agreement**

### **3. Tax Relief for Students**

## TACTICS TO ACHIEVE GOALS

### 1. Federal-Provincial/Territorial Congruency

The provincial/territorial components of the Federation are strongly encouraged to implement the campaigns at their levels;

### 2. Research

Revisions and updates would be undertaken on existing research documentation and new research initiatives would be undertaken to provide philosophical and empirical support for the Federation campaigns.

### 3. Contact with Government

Member locals of the Federation are encouraged to arrange face-to-face meetings with their Members of Parliament and with members of their respective legislatures, legislative assemblies.

### 4. Membership Mobilisation

The Federation will organise a Pan-Canadian Day of Action against tuition/user fees as well as the attack on social programs across Canada in recognition of the barriers to accessibility that these impose, between October 21-25, 1996.

### 5. National Awareness & Media Strategy

The Federation's campaign strategy will include four aspects of membership and general public education:

- a. Membership-education through posters, flyers, and media work and a media/lobby kit for member-locals and general public education through post-cards and/or letter-writing strategies and national media work;
- b. Awareness involves exposing members and the general public to alternatives such as those outlined in the *Alternative Federal Budget*;
- c. A Pan-Canadian Symposium on post-secondary education; and
- d. Compilation of a list of all student and alternative media by member locals.

### 6. Coalition Work

The Federation will seek assistance from labour, social justice groups (such as those in the health and social assistance sectors) and constituency partners on campuses who share our principles and our commitment to accessibility to education.

A list of national/provincial and local area coalition partners, including high school student action groups will be compiled and sent to member locals.

## **FIRST COMPONENT**

### ***Accessibility to Education Campaign*** ***"Fifteen Years of Fighting for Access"***

#### **CONTEXT**

The Federation is committed to a long-term goal of universal access to high-quality post-secondary education and the elimination of all barriers including cost at entry. We are at the forefront of the pan-Canadian debate against tuition/user fees. This accessibility principle is the defining aspect of the Canadian Federation of Students and is enshrined in the Preamble to the Federation Constitution, in research documents such as *Strategy for Change* in our opposition to the Income Contingent Loan Repayment Plan and in the following policies: 'The Declaration of Student Rights', 'Accessibility', 'Funding Education', 'Social Class', 'Student Aid' and 'User/Tuition Fees'.

The Federation's long-term strategy of eliminating financial barriers must be met by a short-term strategy which addresses the growing trend in Canada towards increases in tuition fees and privatisation. Universities and colleges have introduced in recent years a plethora of new fees and have adopted new strategies to dramatically increase user fees: deregulation, the executive MBA programs at McGill, Western and Queen's, a compulsory computer purchase program at Acadia University, the elimination of "post-residency" or "Additional Session" fees for graduate students, the increasing of "ancillary" fees and other non-tuition user fees such as library fines, graduation fees and application fees. An even more sinister development is the recent decision by the Alberta government to allow degree-granting status to the private post-secondary education corporation called "DeVry Institute." The government of Ontario has indicated that it will also consider allowing private universities and colleges.

The Federation will initiate a campaign, defined as follows.

#### **CAMPAIGN GOALS**

##### **General Goals:**

1. Raise awareness among federal and provincial/territorial policy makers on the links between inaccessibility and high tuition fees;
2. Educating the Canadian public on alternative funding mechanisms (such as those defended in the *Alternative Federal Budget*) for post-secondary education other than user fees and private funding and continuing the awareness campaign for employment, progressive taxation and democratic monetary policy.
3. Work towards altering public perception of students as often depicted by mass media and conservative groups by developing public awareness that students are tax-payers, parents, workers voters etc.

##### **Specific Goals:**

4. The freezing of tuition fees in all provinces and territories;
5. An end to federal cuts to post secondary education and increasing funding to post-secondary education;
6. Expanding the "Special Opportunities Grants" currently offered by the federal government by promoting a "Canada Student Grants Program";
7. Ensure that the Income Contingent Loan Scheme is eliminated as a policy option;

8. Securing changes to the Canada Student Loans Program to include: flexible repayment options, needs-assessment, better rules for an appeal process and an indexation formula such as a "Student Cost of Living Index";
9. Implementation of a Post-Secondary Education Act/Agreement;
10. Opposing degree-granting status to private corporations which sell post-secondary education;
11. Securing student representation on the national granting councils - Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Medical Research Council;
12. Opposing increased corporate control of post-secondary education, specifically the effects of corporate funding on curricula, research direction and ownership; and
13. Opposing the establishment of satellite America universities in Canada.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

### **1. Federal-Provincial/Territorial Congruency**

At this General Meeting we have the opportunity to launch a cross-Canada campaign for accessibility like never before in our history. The Federation has a structure which allows us to implement a truly pan-Canadian campaign against tuition/user fees and privatization. But the success of this campaign can only be achieved if it is also implemented at the provincial level.

Following this meeting the provincial components will be organizing their own provincial meetings. We need to secure a commitment that delegates to this national meeting will return to their provincial/territorial components and table motions to implement this pan-Canadian campaign for accessibility.

### **2. Research**

The Research aspect of the campaign will entail the following investigations:

1. Updating *Strategy for Change* with a section on tuition/user fees;
2. Undertaking research which establishes a correlation between inaccessibility and higher tuition/user fees, which includes a literature review establishing this fact and a comparison of tuition/user fees charged in other countries;
3. Commissioning and/or participating in public opinion poll and/or survey research on the question of high tuition/user fees and accessibility.
4. An investigation outlining the steps that could be taken to convert the Canada Student Loans Program into a "Canada Student Grants Program".

One of the Federation's areas of expertise is in its analysis and compilation of information on tuition fees and its effect on access. The Federation's researchers will be required to maintain an up-to-date statistical package on all university user-fees and a bibliography of publications and learned articles supporting the cost-at-entry argument. This research will assist Federation members in our fight to oppose tuition/user fees.

### **3. Contact with Government**

The third aspect of the campaign will involve contacting Members of Parliament, as well as coordinating provincial campaigns around this national campaign by contacting Members of provincial legislative assemblies and the National Assembly in Québec.

### **4. Membership Mobilization**

The fourth aspect of the campaign entails mobilizing all members of the Federation. The Federation has had some notable successes in the past mobilizing members, such as the Pan-Canadian Days of Action on January 25, 1995 and February 7, 1996. The Federation will organize a Pan-Canadian Day of Action against tuition/user fees, as well as the attack on social programs in Canada, in recognition of the barriers to accessibility that these impose, between October 21-25, 1996.

## **5. National Awareness & Media Strategy**

The fifth aspect of the campaign involves educating our members our partners and the general public on the links between accessibility and low tuition fees. The Federation has always been committed to a variety of mechanisms to educate the Canadian public on issues of the day, with a specific emphasis on tools such as posters. Since January 25, 1995 the Federation has chosen another mechanism: membership mobilization. While membership mobilization has had many successes it must be complemented by other strategies. For example, our opponents such as the Fraser Institute and the Business Council on National Issues have been much more effective in utilizing the television medium and the "academic" setting to promote their views. As a way of reaching out to ordinary Canadians, the Federation needs to take advantage of such mechanisms as the Canadian Parliamentary Television Channel (CPAC) and the national media's obsession with commissions and inquiries.

Therefore the pan-Canadian campaign for accessibility will include:

### **a. National Media Campaign**

The national media campaign will entail purchasing radio, television and alternative/student press advertisements promoting the Federation campaign in the following areas: Victoria, Vancouver, Regina, Winnipeg/Northern Ontario, Southern Ontario (Windsor, London) Metropolitan Toronto (including Guelph, Hamilton and Kitchener-Waterloo), Ottawa, Montreal, Halifax and St. John's. The Ottawa office will coordinate the media campaign with provincial offices to determine specific details.

### **b. Pan-Canadian Symposium on Post-Secondary Education.**

The symposium will take place between January 12-18, 1997. The symposium will bring together supporters of accessible post-secondary education to participate in panel discussions on issues such as fair taxation, progressive mechanisms for Federal debt-reduction, mechanisms to replace tuition/user fees and the creation of a Canada Student Grants Program. By inviting parliamentary secretaries and senior bureaucrats, as well as interested participants, the symposium shall add to the discussion on public policy. Member locals are encouraged to organize complementary events at the local, regional or provincial levels.

## **6. Coalition Work**

The sixth aspect of the campaign involves working with our education partners, (such as labour and social justice groups in the health and social assistance sectors) and constituency partners on campuses who share our principles and our commitment to accessibility to education.

## SECOND COMPONENT

### *The Post Secondary Education Act/Agreement*

#### CONTEXT

The Federation is committed to a system of post-secondary education free from all user fees. But what would such a system look like? The answer is to look to the way health care is funded in Canada. By modeling federal funding of university and colleges on the way the federal government funds and regulates hospitals and clinics, the Canadian Federation of Students can present a credible and realizable public policy option.

The Second Campaign will therefore promote an Act/Agreement that embodies the principles of the Canada Health Act, also recognizing the unique historical experience of Québec *& First Nations*

#### CAMPAIGN GOALS

1. Implementation of the Act/Agreement as outlined by Federation policy.
2. Convincing the Federal government/Council of Ministers of Education-Canada that it still has a role to play in ensuring a more accessible system of post-secondary education.

#### IMPLEMENTATION

##### 1. Federal-Provincial/Territorial Congruency

The provincial/territorial components will be encouraged to implement the campaign at their levels especially for jurisdictional reasons;

##### 2. Research

- a. A Revised version of *Strategy for Change* will be released by October 1996;
- b. A draft of the Act will be created and presented to Members of Parliament members of provincial legislative assemblies, and Québec's National Assembly, *and Assembly for First Nations.*

##### 3. Contact with Government

Face-to-face contact with federal Member's of Parliament and provincial and territorial representatives will be organized;

##### 4. National Awareness & Media Strategy

- a. The Membership will be educated through posters, flyers, national media work and a media/lobby kit for member-locals;
- b. The general public will be educated through post-cards and/or letter-writing strategies and national media work.

##### 5. Coalition work

Our coalition partners will be educated on the issue and will be encouraged to defend the principles of the act;

*deadline for Draft Act  
→ next N6M*

## **THIRD COMPONENT**

### ***Tax Relief for Students***

#### **CONTEXT**

The Federation is committed to a tax system that is progressive and fair to the poor, the unemployed and the working-poor. The Federation's traditional strategy has been to campaign for a tax system that favours Canada's disadvantaged and not one that favours the wealthy and the powerful. This long-term strategy must be complemented with a short-term tax strategy that is easily achievable. The Federation will capitalize on the Federal government's recent embarrassments over the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and its unpopular fiscal agenda. With concerted lobbying, we can win a number of amendments to the Income Tax Act which will benefit students.

#### **CAMPAIGN GOALS**

##### **SUMMARY**

1. Amend allowable deductions from "Total income" to allow a greater deductible for grants and scholarships;
2. Amend allowable deductions from "taxable income" to move trade-union dues to the "tax credit" category, as in Québec;
3. Increase items in "tax credits" category:
  - a. include auxiliary fees and other compulsory fees with tuition fees in this category, including student union dues in this category;
  - b. increase "education amount" and include all part-time students; and
  - c. disallow deductions for tuition fees for courses/programs taken in the United States, where equivalent courses/programs are offered in Canada.
4. Eliminate sales tax on books.

##### **DETAILED**

1. Tax Deductions or Tax Credits - What's the Progressive Option?

**Tax deductions** reduce the income on which a person pays taxes. They are regressive and give a disproportionate benefit to the rich. Since wealthier tax-payers pay tax at the highest rate, deductions from their income also reduces their tax burden at the highest rate. For instance, a \$100 tax deduction reduces the tax burden by \$55 for a person in the 55 % tax bracket; for a person in the 28% tax bracket, the same \$100 deduction is worth only \$28.

**Tax credits** directly reduce the taxes which a person owes. They are progressive and more beneficial to low-income earners than deductions, since low income-earners pay a smaller portion of their income as tax. For instance, a 20 % tax credit on \$500 in tuition fees would reduce taxes by \$100; for a low-income earner who would otherwise owe \$1,000 in taxes, this would represent 10 % of the tax burden; for a wealthy person owing, for instance, \$5,000 in taxes, a \$100 credit would represent only a 2% decrease in the tax burden.

For these reasons, the Federation should be promoting changes which expand tax credits and decrease tax deductions.

## 2. Allowable Deductions from "Total Income"

### Allowable tax deduction for grants and scholarships

When students fill out their income-tax forms, they can claim a single \$500 deductible against any scholarship, fellowship, bursary or artist project grant that they have received. If a student has received an artists' project grant, you have a choice: you may subtract \$500.00 or your expenses, "whichever benefits you more". However the expenses you claim cannot be more than the grant.

However a graduated student, such as a post-doctoral fellow or a research associate or a professor who receives the same or similar scholarship can deduct any expenses against the scholarship, fellowship, or bursary because the income tax act allows deductions for self-employment. As a result, many researchers pay little or no income-tax on scholarships and grants they have received because they claim phone charges rent, food, books and supplies, computer purchases against these research grants. This is an unfair way of treating scholarship and grant income. So the Federation should adopt a strategy to amend the income tax act to either:

- i. allow students to deduct any expenses such as rent, books, journal, food, transportation, computer equipment (as is the current practice with researchers and the artists' project grant) or
- ii. increase the deductible that can be claimed against scholarship income. This deductible of \$500 has not been increased since 1972. According to the Consumer Price Index in 1993 dollars the \$500 deductible would be \$1,960.

## 3. Allowable Deductions From "Taxable Income"

### Students' Union Dues

Under the income tax act annual "union, professional or like dues" are allowable deductions from total income (thus reducing "taxable" or "net" income), in the same way that RRSP and childcare expenses are deductible. In Quebec you may deduct the annual dues paid to a "professional association or recognized artistic association" however, these deductions apply only to compulsory dues paid to a body whose purpose is to maintain the recognized professional status of its members, such as an employees association, and includes amounts paid for mandatory professional liability insurance.

The justification for these allowable deductions is that since you cannot earn the employment income without paying union dues, therefore you should be allowed to deduct the dues.

As stated earlier, deductions from taxable income are more regressive tax measures than non-refundable tax-credits. It is for this reason that the Québec government last week changed its tax policy to move trade- union dues to the non-refundable tax-credit category. The Federation should support this move at the Federal level and press for amendments which would include student union dues (local, provincial and national) as a tax-credit. This is explained in the next section.

## 4. Tax Credits

### a. Tuition Fees

Currently students may deduct all their tuition fees as a "non-refundable tax credit". However this does not include other compulsory fees that universities are increasingly demanding such as course materials fees and other ancillary/auxiliary fees such as those for health and athletics. Recognising the skyrocketing increases in these auxiliary/ancillary fees, the Federation should seek an amendment to allow all compulsory fees to be included as tax-credits. Also the Federation will press for changes in the Income Tax Act which include student-union dues in this category of tax-credits.



Currently the law allows students to claim the tuition fees paid for courses paid to a university college or other educational institution in the U.S. that gives courses at a post-secondary school level, if one lived "near the border in Canada throughout the year and commuted to the school". Since the vast majority of the Canadian population lives on the border, this policy either discriminates against those living in Canada's north or it encourages Canadians to study in the United States. Either outcome is a detriment to post-secondary education in Canada. In accordance with the Federation's proposed Post-Secondary Education Act, the Federal Government should amend the income tax act to prevent students who go outside Canada from deducting their tuition fees. Or the government should allow every Canadian student, without exception to claim tuition fees from any post-secondary institution in the world.

b. "Education Amount"

~~Currently full-time students can claim an "education amount" of \$80 for each whole or part month that they were enrolled in a qualifying educational program. In most-cases one has to be enrolled as a full-time student. Only part-time students who exhibit "mental or physical impairment" can claim the education amount. In the last Federal budget Paul Martin increased the "education amount" that students can claim from \$80 to \$120. The rationale for preventing part-time students from participating in this tax-credit is to prevent those with full salaries from grabbing a tax write-off by, for example, taking an evening course. Recognising the legitimacy of this concern about abuse, the Federation should nevertheless resolve to amend the law to increase the education amount and to allow part-time students to participate with certain limitations.~~

5. Eliminate Sales Taxes on Books

The Federation will revive the national campaign to restore the traditional zero-tax rate to reading. In many provinces provincial sales taxes already zero-rate books, so extending the zero rate to the GST has precedence. This campaign would also allow the Federation to make links with other progressive national organisation who despise the application of sales tax on books.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

### **1. Federal-Provincial/Territorial Congruency**

Since the tax changes refer to Federal Laws, provincial/territorial congruency with the campaign is not essential; however delegates who will be attending provincial/territorial meetings are encouraged to seek similar changes in provincial tax-laws;

### **2. Research**

- a. Research will be undertaken to investigate what the \$500 scholarship deductible, (established in 1972), would be in 1996 dollars;
- b. Research will be undertaken to investigate why student-union dues are not allowable deductions from taxable income in the same way as trade-union dues;
- c. Research will be undertaken to investigate the loss of revenue as a result of tax deductions for students studying in the United States
- d. Research will be undertaken comparing, among other things, enrollment and income-levels between full-time and part-time students in order to establish a justification for allowing all part-time students the right to the "education amount" non-refundable tax credit;

### **3. Contact with Government**

Face-to-face contact by members of the National Executive with Members of Parliament will be undertaken.

**4. Membership Mobilisation**

This campaign will be included in the Pan-Canadian Day of Action, but shall not be the primary focus.

**5. National Awareness & Media Strategy**

- a. The membership will be educated through posters, flyers, national media work and a media/lobby kit for member-locals;
- b. The general public will be educated through post-cards and letter-writing strategies and national media work.

**6. Coalition Work**

The campaign will entail maintaining the Federation's strong links with labour and social justice groups and constituency partners on campuses which share our principles and our commitment to accessibility to education.

## **REPORT**

Students of Colour Constituency Group

November 1997 National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students

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### **Constituency Participants**

Ling Chiu	Local 33
Lorraine Franco	Local 53
Emmanuel Ho	Local 33
Michael Hughes	UBC Graduate Student Society
Yasmin Irani	Local 23
Joe Itakura	Local 73
Mary Lekea	Local 31
Jasmine Leung	Local 73
Rob Mealey	Local 72
Lancefield Morgan	National Executive Representative
Kemlin Nembhard	Manitoba Fieldworker
Zaki Saleemi	Local 35
Alyxander Wu	Local 68

### **New Business**

#### **SC 01**

##### **DIRECTIVE**

Local 72 / Local 68

Be it resolved that an anti-racism poster campaign be developed; and

Be it further resolved that the slogan for the campaign be "The more things change, the more they stay the same...Make a change, fight racism";

Be it further resolved that the campaign focus on immigration, the experiences of people of colour in Canadian universities and methods of challenging racism; and

Be it further resolved that the three items for focus be illustrated on the poster through the presentation of a common myth and then a fact illustrating the truth.

#### **SC 02**

##### **DIRECTIVE**

Local 72 / Local 68

Be it resolved that three pamphlets be developed for use in conjunction with the poster campaign; and

Be it further resolved that the focus of the pamphlets be;

- immigration,
- the experiences of people of colour in Canadian universities,
- methods of challenging racism

#### **SC 03**

##### **DIRECTIVE**

Local 72 / Local 68

Be it resolved that once the anti-racism campaign is completed it be available on the Federation's website.



# Miss World's getting ugly

**D**ue to time constraints both social and logistic, this column was written prior to last night's Miss World pageant in the Indian metropolis of Bangalore.

For that reason, as well as the unwillingness of my publisher to advance me the cash to fly to Bombay for a first-person report, I have no idea if traditionalist women's groups interrupted last night's beauty contest by either swallowing cyanide tablets or by setting their silk saris alight in front of an expected television audience of two billion world-wide.

While such action would be attention-grabbing, it would also seem a bit over the top as a method of protest against something as ridiculous and harmless as a beauty pageant.

Still, this was the threat of the Mahila Jagran Samiti, (Jagran to Awaken Women), so check today's news section for details.

Sorry I could not be there.

Some eight years ago, however, back when news budgets (and publishers) were not quite as tight, I was assigned the difficult task of going to Room 877 (my how the mind gets cluttered with trivia) of the Kensington Tara Hotel to interview Canada's entry in the 1988 Miss World contest at London's Albert Hall.

As I wrote at the time, it was a rough way to begin a new work week but there I was nonetheless, sharing a brief interlude in a hotel room with a statuesque blonde with legs as long as the River Thames.

"Shall we turn off the radio?" she asked. "Whatever," I replied, just as the chaperon entered the room.

Hello, hello.

The contestant's name was Morgan Fox of Richmond, B.C. fame and, for an 18-year-old high school grad known as Morgan Hills (she



**MARK BONOKOSKI**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

adopted the sexier Fox as a stage name), it was surprising how a classically-designed dress and professional makeup can transform even the prettiest of young women into something out of Hollywood.

In fact, it's unbelievable.

Today we live in more politically correct times. Eight years ago, for example, when Morgan Fox was a 33-to-1 long shot to win the Miss World pageant, no one thought twice about speaking about their, humm... vital statistics, and Morgan Fox, every inch a woman, was no exception.

"38-24-34," she said, without hesitation.

Ask that same question today and no doubt there'd be righteous hell to pay and, for what? For asking what every normal man worth his hormonal salt wants to know? "This young woman, after all, was a contestant in a beauty pageant, there of her own volition and wearing a dress so tight that you could count the grains of sand in the hour glass."

She was not applying for a job as a CEO.

In India, however, the 1986 Miss World contest has turned into a farce.

First there was the self-immolation threat.

"I just hope everything turns out all right," said Anna Cepinska of Venezuela, the bookmaker's favorite. "This threat of burning themselves makes me mad and sad."

Then there was the race card with contestants complaining that the media was paying attention only to the white contestants.

"I didn't expect this kind of discrimination in India," said Shose Akara of Tanzania. "The Indian press has totally ignored us (black Africans) from the day we landed."

And then there was the Marxist demonstration. Yes, as the 88 beauty queens attended a function on the outskirts of Bangalore, police stopped a march of 800 communists heading for the Miss World encampment at the posh Windsor Manor Hotel.

"This is the land of Gandhi, the land of peace," cried aspiring journalist (and Miss Costa Rica) Natalia Carvajal Lorenzo. "Every one has the right to protest but not in this form. I am very concerned."

So it would seem the police.

For the week leading up to yesterday's pageant, police deployed 12,000 officers and, just to make sure cyanide tablets and burning saris do not upstage the show, 2,000 paramilitary personnel were given security clearance for last night's main event.

In fact, with all those cops and soldiers on

hand, one wonders why organizers still thought it was necessary to ban Newfound knockout Danielle House from the contest over something as Canadian as a punch-1-a-university bar.

While she might not be a candidate for Congeniality, surely no one would be in doubt of being on the receiving end of another fl. That said, what's with all the whining coming from her replacement, 19-year-old Michelle Weswaldi?

O woe, o woe.

"Potential sponsors were asking me if the one who punched another woman in the eye was embarrassing," boo-hoed Weswald part-time hostess at a Toronto dinner the who, despite the tears, eventually managed to scrape up the \$10,000 entrance fee needed for the prestigious international pageant which ABC-TV opted to carry live.

Nonetheless, one still wishes her luck.

sense rooting against the home team.

Did she win? Well, once again, you'll have to check the news pages for that information.

For I am here, not there.

Budget constraints... that sort of thing wonder, though, if Morgan Fox was watching last night's show.

And what she looks like eight years later.

Bonokoski is editor of the Sun.

## Miss Greece takes troubled title

**BANGALORE, India (AP)**—Clashes between rock-throwing protesters and police firing teargas and rubber bullets failed to stop the Miss World pageant from going forward yesterday, when Miss Greece Irene Skliva won the crown.

Before the pageant finals began, about 1,000 demonstrators denouncing beauty contests as demeaning to women tried to block roads leading to the site of the pageant. Many chanted "Go home Miss World."

Police swung bamboo canes and fired rubber bullets and teargas into the rock-throwing crowds, and at least 50 people were injured. Protesters lat-

er demanded a judicial probe into police tactics. Several police officers were admitted to hospital with burning eyes after some protesters hurled fiery red chili powder at them, an officer at the police control room said.

Nearly 10,000 police officers, many armed with rifles, batons and shields, were deployed to prevent violence, making the 1986 show, according to organizers, the most well-guarded Miss World since the pageant began.

Police arrested 1,650 people Friday and yesterday, holding many of them under laws allowing people suspected of planning unrest to be detained. The effort to stop the pageant fol-

lowed weeks of protests, including a student in a nearby town who set himself on fire and committed suicide, shouting slogans against the pageant. Skliva, an 18-year-old model clad in a white and silver gown, raised her hands to her face in surprise upon hearing herself proclaimed the winner at the end of the final ceremony.

After receiving a silver crown from 1985 winner Jacqueline Aguilera Marcano of Venezuela, she waved and blew kisses to the crowd. Miss Colombia Carolina Arango was first runner-up, while Miss Brazil Anuska Prado placed third.

➤ Mark Bonokoski: Page C4

Offawa Sun  
Nov. 24/96  
(large cover photo)



## AGENDA

Women's Constituency Group

15th Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students

Saturday, November 22nd to Wednesday, November 27th

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Sunday 2 - 4 PM

1. approve agenda
2. Introductions/Round Table
3. review report from commissioners
  - Jennifer Story, Women's Rep to the National Executive
  - Holly Morrison, Women's Commissioner
4. committee appointments
5. review notice of motions package
6. emergency resolutions (issues arising from round table discussion)
7. Campaign Strategy proposal - Child-care and student parents
  - hand out campaign strategy for review by members

Tuesday 9-11 AM

1. NAC motions
2. Campaign Strategy
  - discuss/edit/improve
3. Bylaw and Standing Resolution Changes
4. other business
  - National Organization of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women Canada
  - December 6





# **Report to Budget Committee on the Finder's Fee and Recapitalisation in Travel CUTS**

Canadian Federation of Students and the Canadian Federation of Students-Services  
15<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, November 22 - November 27, 1996 Ottawa, ON

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## **The Federation and Travel CUTS**

The Federation wholly owns and operates Canadian Universities Travel Services - Travel CUTS, Canada's largest Canadian owned travel company. As the sole owners, the Canadian Federation of Students is one of only a very few student federations left in the world that retain ownership of a travel company.

In 1981 the National Union of Students and the Association of Student Councils joined to form the Canadian Federation of Students and the Canadian Federation of Students-Services. The two organisations were separately incorporated, yet had the same membership, the same by-laws and constitution and same leadership. Travel CUTS was reorganised as a subsidiary of the Canadian Federation of Students-Services.

Under the Canadian Union of Students and their successor the National Union of Students, a charter travel service was operated. In 1974, the government legislated that all travel agencies must be for-profit organisations, not run by non-profit organisations. Travel CUTS was formed and was "owned" by the Association of Student Councils, basically a shell of an organisation, simply maintained to provide the student ownership.

Twenty-six years ago, Travel CUTS had one office located in Toronto, today the company has expanded to over 45 offices across Canada and two in the United Kingdom. The Head Office of Travel CUTS is located on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> floors of 243 College St., Toronto. The Student Work Abroad Program, the Student Traveller, Canadian Wilderness Trips and International Student Identity Card Distribution, as well as being done out of the National Ottawa Office and the British Columbia Component Office, are operated out this office.

Travel CUTS saves Canadian students thousands of dollars every year on both domestic and international travel. Domestically, Travel CUTS has negotiated student tickets or "brown tickets" available only to individuals who have an ISIC. Members of the Canadian Federation of Students receive their International Student Identity Cards at no cost.

The Board of Directors of the travel company consists of the following. The National Chairperson, the National Deputy-Chairperson, the National Treasurer, two plenary elected representatives, two staff representatives of Travel CUTS and the President of the company. For the 1996-97 year the Board of Directors is as follows: Cassandra Koenen, Brad Lavigne, Réal Déquier, Karen Eryou and Patrick Crowley from the Federation, Joanne Taylor and Robert Keddy from Travel CUTS and J. Rodney Hurd, President of Travel CUTS sits as an ex-officio member.

The Board deals with the philosophical direction of the company, reviews the financial statements on a quarterly basis, discusses the expansion of the operations and all aspects of the relationship between the Federation and Travel CUTS.

## **Financial Relationship between Travel CUTS and the Federation**

### **The Tax Agreement and the Finder's Fee**

In 1981 the Canadian Federation of Students-Services and Travel CUTS entered into an agreement, with the approval of Taxation Canada, which stipulates that the travel company pay its owner, the Federation, one percent of gross sales to students as a "finder's fee" on the basis that the parent student organisation "refers" business to the company. The agreement also stipulates that the owner may charge the travel company for advertising at fifty per cent of rates charged arms length organisations. In the agreement the

owner is obliged to pay a percentage of management salaries, office supplies, rent and communications expenses.

For example, in 1991, Travel CUTS has gross sales of \$61,379,305.00. Gross sales to students were \$37,883,900.00 approximately 60% of total sales. Sales to the general public at off-campus offices and at the Travel CUTS - UK office in London, England, accounted for the other 40%. At year end Travel CUTS paid the Federation a referral of \$378,839.00 - 1%.

On the surface this arrangement would appear to primarily benefit the Federation. However, the arrangement serves, in large part, as a means of sheltering Travel CUTS' profits from taxes.

After the referral fee is transferred to the Federation, the Travel CUTS Board creates shares in Travel CUTS and offers them for sale to the Federation. The Federation then purchases the shares using most or all of the referral fee revenue, depending on the capital requirements of Travel CUTS. The referral fee is returned to Travel CUTS as tax-free income.

For example, in 1991 Travel CUTS paid the Federation fee of \$378,839, leaving Travel CUTS with a net taxable income of \$116,216.00 for the year. Had Travel CUTS' net income included the referral fee revenue, Travel CUTS would have paid income tax of \$55,477.00 on the \$116,216.00, while collecting approximately \$340,000.00 tax-free income through the share purchase scheme.

In 1989, the Federation resolved to use up to 90% of the referral fee each year for four years to purchase Travel CUTS' share in order to straighten the capital position of Travel CUTS. This four year plan ended June 30, 1993. The 1993-94 budget set out that 82% of the referral fee would be reinvested in Travel CUTS and 18% would be retained as income by the Federation. The 1994-95 budget set out that 71% of the referral fee would be reinvested in Travel CUTS and that 29% would be retained as income by the Federation. The 1995-96 budget set out that 50% of the referral fee would be reinvested in the Travel company and the rest would remain with the Federation. Currently the 1996-97 budget plans to reinvest 50% again this year.

In recent years there has been criticism from the membership regarding this agreement. As past general meetings, some delegates have questioned the fact that the Federation is allowing Travel CUTS to shelter itself from paying taxes, similar to what we accuse other major corporation of doing.

The relationship between the Federation and Travel CUTS and the Royal Bank, for example, and its major shareholders is different for two reasons. One, Revenue Taxation Canada recognised that when it forced the National Union of Students to incorporate their not-for-profit charter travel service into a for-profit company that it would place undue strain on the finances of the non-profit charter travel service into a for-profit company that it would place undue strain on the finances of the non-profit parent. The tax agreement between the Federation and Travel CUTS was a means of addressing this problem. Secondly, the money that is transferred to the Federation by Travel CUTS is used by us to bring about social change and to challenge the status quo in order to improve the life of students across the country. The profits generated by the Royal Bank on the other hand goes to increasing the wealth of privileged few, only reinforcing the disparities in our society.

### **Why Does the Federation Reinvest in the Travel Company?**

Simply put, the Federation reinvests a portion of the Finder's Fee back into Travel CUTS to insure the travel company will be a healthy, viable company able to compete in the industry. It is the Federation's best interests Travel CUTS does well, as a portion of our own budget relies on the Finder's Fee to do the work we do.

Since 1982, the Federation has received about \$7,600,000 from Travel CUTS by way of the Finder's Fee. Of that amount the Federation has in turn reinvested, or purchased shares in the amount of \$3,780,000. It is a standard in the industry to have approximately 1/3 of the operating expense as a retained capital base. Until the past two years, all but \$30,000 of that retained capital has been the shares that the Federation has reinvested. In 1995 and 1996, the travel company had "retained earnings" of \$1,158,831.

If we look at the 1995 audited statements for Travel CUTS the annual operating expense was \$13,826,564. To meet the capital base target Travel CUTS needed \$4,562,000. The travel company actually had in 1995 \$3,909,805, a gap of \$652,000. Of that \$652,000, \$578,592 is shares that the Federation said it would purchase, but did not have the ability to pay it. This is what is commonly referred to as the "gap".

## **The Gap, What is It and How Do Address It**

Put in the simplest terms possible, the "net worth gap" is the difference between the net worth of Travel CUTS and the net worth of its owner, the Federation. In the 1995 audited financial statements of Travel CUTS, the net worth of Travel CUTS is established as:

Retained Earnings	
Total	4,437,127

The Canadian Federation of Students-Services audit shows the net worth of the Federation as:

Fund Balance	3,858,535
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By subtracting the net worth of the Federation, from the net worth of the travel company there is a difference of \$578,592. Simply put, the net worth of all of the assets of the Federation, minus the Travel Company, is actually negative \$578,592.

The reasons for the gap cannot be explained by any one thing. The actual size has fluctuated over the past fifteen years from a positive net worth, dropping down to the current situation. The gap has increased when the Federation, after the reinvestment in CUTS, sustains a deficit. An example of this occurred in 1995. In the audited statements of the Canadian Federation of Students-Services, the Federation shows a profit of \$225,975.00. However, the Federation committed to a share purchase of \$266,000. Therefore in 1995 the gap increased by \$40,025.

In assessing the financial picture of the Federation during the audit for 1995-96, the National Executive realised that this year, a similar event would occur. The National Executive choose to not reinvest the full amount of recapitalisation that had been set by plenary, but instead lowered the amount to \$100,000. The net result is that, on paper the gap between the net worth of Travel CUTS and the net worth of the Canadian Federation of Students-Services decreased by \$13,713.

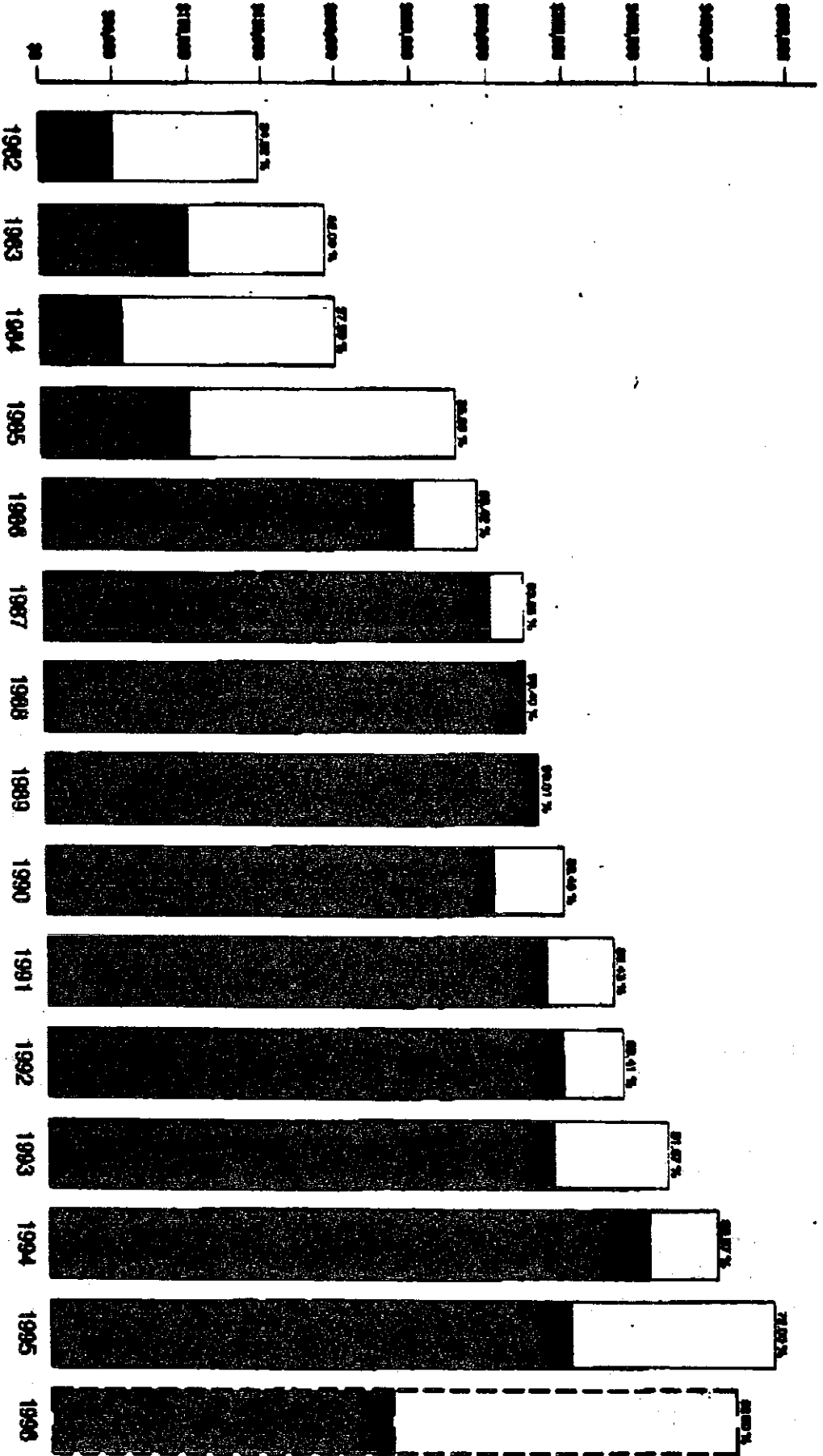
The "capital requirement gap" that was referred to in the previous section, is the difference between the shares the Federation said it would purchase and the actual amount of revenue available to pay for the shares. As indicated above, this gap has left the travel company short of meeting it's retained capital base.

The Federation, then has two challenges on it's hands, one to improve the net worth of the Federation, and to ensure that the Federation is able to meet the budget targets so a full purchase of shares can be made.

The Travel CUTS Board is also in the process of discussing the "gap(s)" and possible solutions, and will provide a full report to the may General Meeting. In May, the Federation will be setting the recapitalisation amount for the 1997-98 fiscal year and will have to take the problems facing the company into account when deciding on the amount of share purchase. Until then, the November plenary can begin to deal with this problem by committing to an increase in the contingency line, that will go directly to increases the fund balance of the Federation, and improving it's overall net worth. The problem of the gap was not created in one or two years, but has accumulated over the past fifteen years. The solutions are not simple or quick, but it is important for the members to be aware of the issues and begin to discuss them before the May General Meeting.

Finders' Preferred Fee (1% of gross Canadian student sales)

Portion of Fee "reinvested" by the Federation in Travel Costs



# Finders Fee Payments and Share Purchases, Percentage Recapitalisation, 1982-Present

**c. Proposal to Institute Regulation for Votes on Federating**

**NOTICE**

**MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS**

Local 44/Local 33

Be it resolved that Bylaw I, be amended to include the following

**5. Vote to Federate**

The individual members of a students' association may vote to become full members of the Federation, subject to the following rules and procedures:

**a. Notice**

Notice of a vote to become full members must be delivered by registered mail to the head office of the Federation not less than one (1) month prior to the start of the voting.

**b. Campaigning**

- i. There shall be no less than two (2) weeks of campaigning immediately preceding the voting during which classes are in session.
- ii. Only individual members and representatives of the students' association, representatives of the Federation and representatives of Federation member local associations shall be permitted to participate in the campaign.

**c. Voting**

- i. Voting shall be conducted at voting stations or, subject to the agreement of the Federation, at a general meeting of the students' association or by a mailout ballot.
- ii. There shall be no less than sixteen (16) hours of polling over no less than two (2) days, except in the case of voting being conducted at a general meeting.
- iii. In the event that polling is conducted at a general meeting, representatives of the Federation and Federation member local associations shall be extended full speaking rights in the meeting.

**d. Administering the Campaign**

The vote shall be overseen by a committee comprised of two (2) members appointed by the Federation and two (2) members appointed by the students' association. The committee shall be responsible for:

- i. deciding the manner of voting, be that by referendum, general meeting or mail-out ballot;
- ii. deciding the number and location of polling stations;
- iii. approving all materials to be distributed;
- iv. deciding the ballot question;
- v. overseeing the voting;
- vi. counting ballots;
- vii. adjudicating all appeals; and
- viii. establishing all other rules and regulations for the vote.

Be it further resolved that all subsequent subsections be re-numbered accordingly.

The Committee recommends the following referral motion:

**OD-7**

**MOTION TO REFER**

Local 33/Local 23

Be it resolved that the principal motion be referred to the National Executive for further development.

**d. Proposal to Amend the General Meeting Harassment Policy**

The Committee recommends adoption of the following motion:

**96/11:N18**

**MOTION TO AMEND POLICY**

Local 44/Local 33

Whereas the current Federation Harassment Policy has been in place for a number of years; and

Whereas the number of liaisons have proven to be cumbersome and not an effective means of dealing with harassment at Federation General Meetings; and

Whereas the means of reporting back to the National Executive about incidents of harassment at the General Meetings has been insufficient; and

Whereas the need for three on-site harassment advisors at the General Meeting has proven to be unnecessary; therefore

Be it resolved that Federation's Operational Policy on Harassment be amended as follows:

**Preamble:**

The Federation does not tolerate harassment of any form. Harassment is defined as the abusive or demeaning treatment of a person which has the effect of creating a hostile or intimidating environment for that person. Harassment may occur in the following situations:

- through the abuse of power that one person holds over another, or through the misuse of authority;
- through offending or demeaning a person on the basis of their race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, nationality, religion or religious beliefs, family or marital status, physical or mental ability, age, gender, sexual orientation or gender orientation, whether these be actual or perceived; and/or
- through abusive treatment which leaves a person feeling threatened or intimidated.

Sexual harassment is defined as a display, by word or deed, of sexual attentions towards another person of a nature which may be reasonably considered to be vexatious, abusive, or threatening. Without limiting the generality of that definition, sexual attention shall be deemed to be "vexatious, abusive, or threatening" if the harasser, directly or indirectly, offers the harassee an advantage or opportunity, real or perceived, in return for sexual favours, or directly or indirectly threatens or imposes on the harassee any denial of advantages or opportunity.

The Federation shall employ the following procedure for dealing with incidents of harassment which may occur at any Federation event. Throughout this process the principles of confidentiality and due process shall be strictly adhered to.

**1. Advisors**

The Federation shall retain, at all times for the duration of all general meetings, the services of three harassment advisors who will be on-call. One will be available 24 hours, one will work a standard eight hour day, and one will be on-call. These advisors shall be experienced professionals in dealing with incidents of harassment and sexual harassment, and shall possess counselling skills. At least two of the advisors shall be women and all three must be bilingual.

It is important that advisors have an understanding of issues involving race, sexual orientation, as well as gender issues.

The Advisors shall be available year-round to counsel persons who feel they have been subjected to harassment and to serve on committees which review incidents of alleged harassment to serve on Harassment and Grievance or Appeals committees, as per the remainder of this policy.

Every effort shall be made by the National Executive to find advisors on a volunteer basis, however, the plenary may, on the recommendation of budget committee, establish a per case honorarium for advisors

**2. Liaisons**

Before Opening Plenary at each May General Meeting of the Federation, time shall be allotted for the appointment of Liaisons to the harassment advisors. Two liaisons may be appointed by each constituency group and two from each of the four regions (British Columbia, the Prairie Provinces, Ontario, and the Atlantic Provinces).

Liaisons shall be available year round in order to facilitate the process and provide support for persons who feel they have been subjected to harassment. The Federation shall keep a contact list of liaisons on file, and shall mail copies of this list to member local associations no less than three weeks after the conclusion of the May General Meeting.

The National Executive shall ensure that a training and awareness workshop is made available to all newly chosen liaisons before the third day of the May General Meeting, conducted by one of the harassment advisors. Time shall be allotted during Opening Plenary for the introduction of the liaisons.

**2. Complaints**

Any participant at a Federation event who believes that she or he has been subjected to harassment is encouraged to utilise the Federation's process for dealing with incidents of harassment. If the person feels that they would like to make a direct request of the harasser in an attempt to prevent further incidents of objectionable behavior, then they are encouraged to do so.

Should the complainant wish to have the incident dealt with through the available process, than they may approach one of the liaisons to help them seek out the confidential advice or counsel of one of the harassment advisors, who shall hear complaint and counsel the complainant.

The Harassment Advisor may, with the consent of the complainant, attempt to find an amicable resolution to the incident by speaking with the alleged harasser, and by acting as a go-between between the two parties.

The complainant may, at any time they wish, launch a formal complaint. The harassment advisor may assist in the formulation of the complaint, and shall remain available to advise the complainant throughout the process.

### 3. The Harassment and Grievance Committee

For each incident formal complaint brought forward, a committee shall be struck comprised of one of the harassment advisors, one liaison chosen by the respondent and one liaison chosen by the complainant, one of the national executive representatives, and one delegate from the meeting at which the alleged harassment took place. Both the delegate and the national executive representative chosen must be satisfactory to both the complainant and the respondent. Committee members cannot have been involved in the case previously in any way.

The harassment advisor on the committee shall advise both the complaint and the respondent of the nature of the allegation, the process to be followed, and their rights within that process.

The committee shall be empowered to undertake a confidential and independent investigation of the complainant. The committee may call witnesses who may prove useful in determining the nature of the incident. At all times the committee shall be cognisant of and respect the right of each party to know and respond to all allegations, as well as the principles of natural justice.

The complainant shall reserve the right to discontinue proceedings at any time.

All proceedings and records of the committee shall remain strictly confidential.

### 4. Remedies

Should the Grievance Committee determine that the incident(s) did constitute harassment, it may provide for a remedy. Any remedy should take into account such factors as the severity and frequency of the harassment, whether the harassment was deliberate or inadvertent, and any circumstances which either aggravated or mitigated the situation.

Remedies may include but shall not be limited to the following: an apology from the harasser to the harassee, recommendations for outside counselling for the harasser, and prevention of contact between the parties, which may be brought about by banning the harasser from all or selected Federation activities.

A simple majority shall determine the Grievance Committee decision. Reprisals constitute further harassment.

### 5. Appeals

An appeal may be launched within 30 days of the grievance committee's decision if either party wishes to question the findings, remedies or process of the committee. An appeal must be made in writing, stating the alleged breach(es), to one of the harassment advisors, either by the appellant or one of the liaisons or one of the at-large officers.

The Appeals Committee shall consist of one harassment advisor, one liaison chosen by the appellant, one liaison appointed by the grievance committee, one representative chosen by the appellant, and one representative appointed by the Grievance Committee, both of whom must have been a participant in the meeting at which the alleged harassment took place, as a delegate, a national or component elected representative, or as a national or component staff member. No member of the appeals committee shall have any previous involvement with the case. The appeals committee shall hear submissions from both the respondent and the appellant regarding the legitimacy of the process followed, the suitability of the remedy, or the finding(s) in question, and shall render their decision on a majority vote.

### 6. Records

Records of all cases shall be confidentially maintained by the Chairperson of the Federation, and only active committee members shall have access to these files, on a need-to-know basis, based on the relevancy of the file to the case they are currently working on.

The harassment advisors will submit, within 6 weeks after the conclusion of each general meeting, a non-identifying report which will include the number of complaints, nature of complaints, number of cases resolved, number of cases not resolved.

#### Provincial Components

Any provincial component of the Federation may make this process available to participants at all of their events, upon the request of the component. The component shall, in making such a request, agree to be bound by any and all committee decisions regarding incidents at their events.

### 3. MOTIONS GENERATED BY THE COMMITTEE

#### a. Proposal to Amend General Meeting Committee Terms of Reference

OD-8

#### MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTIONS

Local 44/Local 86

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution #1, Section 3, be amended to read as follows:

#### Terms of Reference for General Meeting Standing Committees

The terms of reference for national general meeting standing committees shall be as follows:

- a. **Campaigns & Government Relations Committee**  
Campaigns & Government Relations Committee shall:
  - i. assess the recent and ongoing national campaigns of the Federation;
  - ii. recommend to closing plenary at the semi-annual general meeting a campaigns strategy which includes but is not limited to goals of the strategy;
  - iii. implementation of the strategy which shall include:
    - research and information compilation to be undertaken
    - contact with government
    - membership mobilization
    - media strategy
    - coalition work; and
  - iv. review and recommend adjustments to the campaign strategy for the remainder of the academic year to the closing plenary of the annual general meeting.
- b. **National Education & Student Rights Committee**  
National Education & Student Rights Committee shall Review and make recommendations to closing plenary on proposed amendments to the issues policy of the Federation.
- c. **Budget Committee**  
Budget Committee shall:
  - i. develop a draft budget for the upcoming fiscal year for submission to the closing plenary of the semi-annual general meeting;
  - ii. review and recommend budget adjustments for the remainder of the fiscal year to the closing plenary of the annual general meeting;
  - iii. assess the availability of funds for proposed projects and /or purchases, including donations; and
  - iv. undertake long-term financial planning for the Federation.
- d. **Organisational Development Committee**  
Organisational Development Committee shall:
  - i. review and make recommendations to closing plenary on the national structure of the Federation, including:
    - the national executive;
    - the national staffing;
    - the national office; and
    - all other national structures of the Federation;
  - ii. review and make recommendations to closing plenary on the national programs of the Federation;
  - iii. review the development of the "profile" of the Federation within member local associations;
  - iv. review and make recommendations to closing plenary on the national communication tools of the Federation; and
  - v. review and make recommendations to the closing plenary on proposed amendments to the Constitution & Bylaws, Standing Resolutions and Operations Policy.



**b. Proposal to Modify Procedure for Travel CUTS Board Elections**

**OD-10**

**MOTION TO AMEND THE STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

Local 57/Local 72

Be it resolved that Section 1 of Standing Resolution 20, Travel CUTS Board Members, be amended to read as follows:

The National Chairperson, the National Deputy Chairperson, the National Treasurer and two at-large members elected by the plenary, shall be the Federation representatives on the Travel CUTS Board of Directors.

Be it further resolved that Sections 2-a and 2-b of Standing Resolution 20 be amended to read:

- a. A nominee for the Travel CUTS Board must have been an individual member of the Federation within the previous six (6) months, or a National Executive member, national caucus executive member or provincial component executive member of the Federation or a Travel CUTS Board member and must simultaneously come from a member local association.
- b. In addition to Section a), a nominee for the Travel CUTS Board must be present at the general meeting, at which the election is held, as:
  - i) a delegate of a member local association;
  - ii) a provincial component representative;
  - iii) a national caucus representative;
  - iv) a National Executive member; or
  - v) an At-large Member of the Travel CUTS

**c. Proposal to Review the General Meeting Length and Size of Delegations**

**OD-11**

**DIRECTIVE**

Local 35/Local 30

Be it resolved that a review of the length of national general meetings and the size of delegations be undertaken at the Organisational Development Committee at the May 1997 national general meeting.

**d. Proposal to Eliminate the Caucus of Large Institute Associations**

**NOTICE**

**MOTION TO AMEND THE BYLAWS AND STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

Local 35/Local 24

Be it resolved that references to the Caucus of Large Institute Associations in Bylaw 9, Section 3, be deleted; and

Be it further resolved that Standing Resolution 18, Caucus of Large Institute Associations, be deleted.

**e. Proposal to Review the Role of Caucuses**

**OD-9**

**MOTION**

Local 35/Local 24

Whereas the Caucus of Large Institute Associations decided that the focus of the Caucus of Large Institutes Associations has been lost within the structure of the Federation; and

Whereas most issues which were addressed at the Caucus of Large Institute Associations are issues not only for the Caucus of Large Institute Associations, but also for Caucus of Small University Associations and the Caucus of Colleges and Institutes Associations;

Be it resolved that a review be undertaken on the role of the Caucus of Large Institute Associations, the Caucus of Small University Associations and the Caucus of Colleges and Institute Associations;

Be it further resolved that the possibility of holding issues-based meetings, either as well as or in lieu of the aforementioned caucuses, be considered by the National Executive; and

Be it further resolved that consultation with member locals be sought.

# NATIONAL GRADUATE COUNCIL REPORT

November 1996 National General Meeting  
Canadian Federation of Students

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## Caucus Participants

University of British Columbia Graduate Student Society (Associate member)  
Concordia University Graduate Students' Union (Local 83 )  
Guelph Graduate Students' Association (Local 62)  
Post-Graduate Students' Society of McGill U./Association des étudiant-e-s des 2<sup>e</sup> et 3<sup>e</sup> cycles de McGill (Local 79)  
University of Regina Students' Union (Local 09 )  
Simon Fraser Students' Society (Local 23 )  
University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union (Local 19 )  
University of Western Ontario Society of Graduate Students (Local 47)  
Wilfrid Laurier University Graduate Students' Association (Local 56 )  
University of Windsor Graduate Students' Society (Local 48 )  
York University Graduate Students' Association (Local 84 )

## Caucus Executive

Steven Wilson, Chair  
Stephannie Roy, Secretary-Treasurer  
Tracey Henry, National Executive Representative

## Staff of the Federation

Derrick Deans, Federation Staff

## Observers

Vicky Smallman, Ontario Chair  
Laurentian University Graduate Students' Association

## 1. NEW BUSINESS DEALT WITH IN THE CAUCUS

### NGC-01

#### MOTION

Local 56/Local 48

Whereas working papers are crucial to abridge member locals and the public on the reasons behind the National Graduate Council and Federation positions on graduate student issues; and

Whereas working papers empower the National Graduate Council to produce relevant information to use in lobbying for concerns related to graduate students; therefore

Be it resolved that at least two working papers per year related to graduate student issues be produced; a series of which will be entitled "Grad Issues Papers"; and

Be it further resolved that these working papers be of no more than 10 pages in length, notation included.

### NGC-02

#### MOTION

Local 48/Local 84

Be it resolved that monthly fact sheets on work and information related to graduate student issues be produced and distributed to locals where graduate students are present.

### NGC 03

#### DIRECTIVE

Local 47/Local 19

Be it resolved that: research on graduate tuition fee structure issues, to enable the National Graduate Council to design a campaign, be undertaken; and

Be it further resolved that this research be completed before the February 1997 general meeting of the Council.

## **2. MOTIONS BEING SERVED NOTICE BY THE COUNCIL**

### **NOTICE-1 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Local 19/Local 47

Whereas ability to publish, research topics and time constraints on research are adversely affected by direct private sector funding of research projects; therefore

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

The Federation supports the establishment of strict protocols to deal with ownership of research materials, control of project design, enforcement of contracts and intellectual works.

### **NOTICE-2 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Local 47/Local 19

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

The Federation opposes the use of technology as a cost-cutting measure to replace current pedagogical methods including classroom and student-teacher interaction.

### **NOTICE-3 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Local 47/Local 19

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

In support of its call for the progressive elimination of all financial barriers to post-secondary education, the Federation opposes the elimination of a graduate tuition-fee structure which includes reduced post-program or subsequent fees.

## REPORT

Students of Colour Constituency Group

November 1997 National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students

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### Constituency Participants

Ling Chiu	Local 33
Lorraine Franco	Local 53
Emmanuel Ho	Local 33
Michael Hughes	UBC Graduate Student Society
Yasmin Irani	Local 23
Joe Itakura	Local 73
Mary Lekea	Local 31
Jasmine Leung	Local 73
Rob Mealey	Local 72
Lancefield Morgan	National Executive Representative
Kemlin Nembhard	Manitoba Fieldworker
Zaki Saleemi	Local 35
Alyxander Wu	Local 68

### New Business

#### SC 01 DIRECTIVE

Local 72 / Local 68

Be it resolved that an anti-racism poster campaign be developed; and

Be it further resolved that the slogan for the campaign be "The more things change, the more they stay the same...Make a change, fight racism";

Be it further resolved that the campaign focus on immigration, the experiences of people of colour in Canadian universities and methods of challenging racism; and *post-secondary institutions*

Be it further resolved that the three items for focus be illustrated on the poster through the presentation of a common myth and then a fact illustrating the truth.

#### SC 02 DIRECTIVE

Local 72 / Local 68

Be it resolved that three pamphlets be developed for use in conjunction with the poster campaign; and

Be it further resolved that the focus of the pamphlets be;

- immigration,
- the experiences of people of colour in Canadian universities,
- methods of challenging racism

#### SC 03 DIRECTIVE

Local 72 / Local 68

Be it resolved that once the anti-racism campaign is completed it be available on the Federation's website.

Handwritten text, possibly a signature or date, located in the lower-left quadrant of the page.

# **LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL CONSTITUENCY GROUP REPORT**

November 1996 National General Meeting

Canadian Federation of Students

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The group formerly known as Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Students' Constituency Group made some important and timely changes during this general meeting. There seemed to be a movement that was extremely reflective of the debates presently occurring within the queer community on both an academic and political level. The changes the Group has decided to make, we feel, will better facilitate the needs of the queer community at meetings as well as on a more local level.

## **1. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE GROUP**

### **a. Name Change**

#### **NOTICE**

#### **MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS AND STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

Local 68/Local 7

Be it resolved that all references to the "Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Students' Constituency Group" in the Bylaws and Standing Resolutions be replaced with " ♦ Constituency Group";

Be it further resolved that all references to "Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual" in Standing Resolution 12 be amended to read "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered".

After a great deal of discussion and debate, the Group decided to change its 'name' to ♦. The Group wanted to make sure its name was inclusive so that individuals who feel outside the traditional lesbian, gay, and bisexual category would still feel welcomed. (This might include transsexuals, transvestites, cross-dressers, drag queens, or members of the S/M community.) While we could have simply added a 'T' which would have represented the transgendered community in the LGB context, many people in the group felt that this form of tokenism would eventually lead to more and more letters in front of LGB instead of a solid commitment to the issues themselves.

There was an argument put forward that we call ourselves the 'Queer Constituency', however, there were some members of the group who expressed concern around the word. While it has been reclaimed by the lesbian community as a tool of political resistance, there are many within the same community that do not feel comfortable nor represented by it.

As a group we recognized the power of language, and how the decision we made about what to call ourselves would ultimately effect the way we were perceived. It was decided to reject notions of labeling, and move toward a more symbolic form of representation. The use of a symbol signifies a rejection of commonly accepted gender roles.

### **b. Co-Commissioners**

#### **LGB-1**

#### **MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

Local 71/Local 7

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution #12, section 4 c) be amended to read:

c. elect members as Co-Commissioners;

Be it further resolved that Standing Resolution #12, section 7 be amended to read as appropriate for the plural case.

The Group decided that having co-commissioners was helpful in facilitating the work that needed to be done by the group formerly known as the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Students' Constituency Group, and since it was already common practice to elect Co-Commissioners, we decided to correct the Standing Resolution to reflect it.

#### **LGB-2**

#### **MOTION TO DE-RATIFY**

Local 68/Local 71

Be it resolved that Kevin Armbruster be de-ratified as a Co-Commissioner for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Students' Constituency Group.

## **PAGE 2 - LESBIAN, GAY AND BISEXUAL CONSTITUENCY GROUP REPORT**

November 1996 National General Meeting

Canadian Federation of Students

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### **LGB-3 MOTION**

Local 71/Local 7

Be it resolved that the Co-commissioner of the Group, formerly known as the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Students' Constituency Group, be allocated an honorarium of five hundred dollars for the 1996-97 year.

#### **c. Campaigns**

At the May 1996 national general meeting, the plenary resolved that part of the campaigns strategy for this upcoming semester would be a nationally-run anti-heterosexism campaign, to coincide with the 'Day Without Hate' on March 14. The group discussed and decided on design ideas for stickers and posters, to be developed by the national office. The theme of the campaign is "Queer-positive Space." Another component of the campaign will be a pamphlet encouraging politicization and self-education.

#### **d. LGBT Resource Manual**

The information to compile this resource manual has been collected by the Co-commissioner, and will hopefully be ready for member locals before the next national general meeting. The purpose of the resource guide is to help schools that do not have TLGB groups establish them on their campuses, and assist those who do have groups in ensuring their stability. The second part of the manual will provide a 'model workshop' to help member locals facilitate anti-heterosexism training.

#### **e. Constituency Group Meeting Times**

There was a general concern among group members that scheduling constituency groups in the same time block was extremely problematic. Because many delegates fall into more than one constituency, they are forced to choose in which group they want to participate. In effect, they chose one oppression over the other. The Group discussed the possibilities of scheduling constituency group times throughout the meeting (i.e. student's of colour may meet at the same time as provincial components.) While this may still present a problem in terms of having to make a 'choice', it at least ensures that delegates have some agency in the decision of whether or not they go to all of the constituencies which apply to them. It seems that there is not justifiable or valid reasoning behind the scheduling that has been common practice at national general meetings, and thus there should be no obstacle to restructuring the meetings in a way that is accessible to delegates of more than one constituency group.

### **NOTICE MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Local 7/Local 68

Be it resolved that the following operational policy be adopted:

Constituency group meetings at national general meetings shall not be scheduled concurrently.

*Out of order*

#### **f. Anti-Heterosexism Workshop at the Semi-Annual General Meetings**

The purpose of this workshop will be to increase awareness around issues pertaining to sexual minorities, as well as provide an outline for workshops that may be offered at the member local level.

### **NOTICE MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Local 68/Local 71

Be it resolved that the following operational policy be adopted:

An anti-heterosexism workshop to last at least two hours shall be included at semi annual general meetings to be led by the group formerly known as Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Constituency Group, or a facilitator of their choice.

**f. National Executive Representation**

The motion to have a Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Students' Constituency Group Representative on the National Executive came up as a motion at this meeting. It was discussed in Organizational Development, and the representatives of the group formerly known as Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Students' Constituency Group decided to recommend its defeat. This was not because we feel that representation is unimportant, but rather that we question the effectiveness of such representation at this time.

We are of the opinion that constituency issues are often not taken seriously by the National Executive. This is not necessarily because the National Executive or the organization does not care about the issues, but rather that there is a tendency to leave responsibility for the issues in the hands of the group itself. We fear that having representation on the board will, perhaps, depoliticize the issues of the group formerly known as Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Students' Constituency Group. The 'responsibility' of assuring that our issues are addressed should not be up to any one person or group. When one person is asked to 'represent' the issues, when things don't get done, they are forced to take responsibility. This, in our view, is problematic. If the Federation as a whole is not prepared to take constituency issues seriously, (and we would argue they are not) then having a representative on the National Executive would provide little more than token representation.

While we understand that some representation is better than no representation, we politically felt as though we could not support the motion that came up in the Organisational Development Committee (96/11:N08). We feel that the whole National Executive structure needs to be re-evaluated in a way that provides a more useful and progressive forum for constituency issues. Until then, the group formerly known as LGB will continue to operate on a grassroots level.



