

Letter to Members



Dear Members,

We are pleased to submit for your consideration, the bi-annual report of the National Executive. These past months have been a time of growth and success for the Federation.

A tenuous minority government in Ottawa and an imminent federal election have enabled the Federation to leverage action from the federal government on tuition fees, funding, student debt, granting councils, and more, all within six months. For the first time in recent memory, and possibly ever, the federal government acknowledged it had a role to play in setting tuition fees.

In August, the Federation's call for a dedicated post-secondary transfer received support from Canada's premiers, seven of whom had already taken measures to freeze or restrict the growth of tuition fees for the 2005-2006 academic year.

On the eve of a federal election, public opinion has the Federation well positioned to make post-secondary education a defining issue in the campaign, as in 2004 when Paul Martin was forced to commit to implementing a dedicated transfer.

Our ongoing success in the face of significant challenges has led a growing number of students to seek unity with Federation members in representing students collective interests. As a result, the Federation is welcoming as full members the 14,000 undergraduate members of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union and the 20,000 undergraduate members of the University of Manitoba Students' Union. In addition, three students' unions are applying for prospective membership within our Federation.

There is much work to be accomplished together in the months ahead. We look forward to working with you to build on our successes and take our movement forward.

In solidarity,

The National Executive

November 2005

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Campaigns and Government Relations

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

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Federal Funding for Post-Secondary Education

Dedicated Transfer Payment for Post-Secondary Education

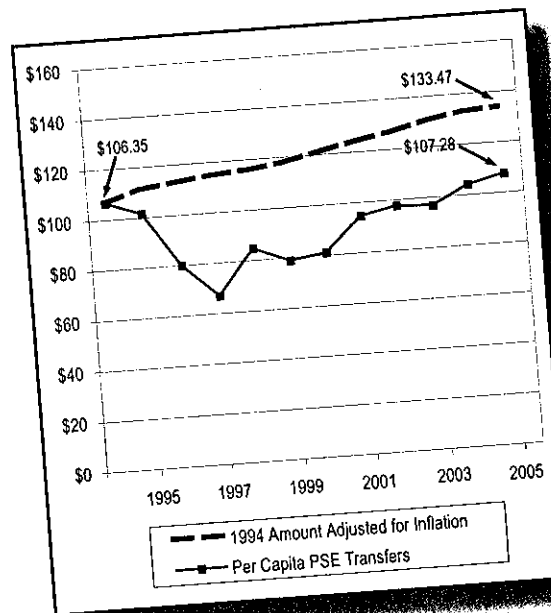
Since the 1996 creation of a block transfer payment—the Canada Health and Social Transfer—the Federation has campaigned to separate post-secondary education funding from other social services funding transferred by the federal government to the provinces.

In order to ensure that such funding is directed specifically to post-secondary education, the Federation, along with the Canadian Association of University Teachers, has lobbied for a dedicated transfer payment guided by a Post-Secondary Education Act, which would outline national goals for accessibility and quality; much the same way that the Canada Health Act governs the Canadian Health Transfer.

Two years ago when the Social Caucus of the Liberal Party of Canada convened a meeting of education stakeholders to discuss a new framework for transfer payments, the Federation presented the case for a dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education. Since that time, several other groups in the post-secondary education sector have begun to consider the improved transparency and accountability that would be made possible through a distinct transfer payment. In the 2003 federal budget, health care funding was withdrawn from the CHST, resulting in the creation of two transfers:

the Canada Health Transfer and the Canada Social Transfer (CST). The CST is composed of the remaining social programme funding of which the post-secondary education portion accounts for approximately forty percent.

Since the Prime Minister promised to create a post-secondary education transfer in June 2004, both the Liberal Party of Canada and the Conservative Party of Canada have joined the New Democratic Party in adopting party policy in favour of this new transfer.



In addition, a number of provinces, including Manitoba and Newfoundland and Labrador, have also called for a dedicated transfer payment. At the annual Council of the Federation meeting, which is reported in more detail later in this section, Canada's premiers were united in their call for increased federal transfers for post-secondary education.

Restore Four! Campaign

Since the mid 1980s close to four billion dollars in federal funding for post-secondary education has been cut from transfers to the provinces, with the deepest cuts occurring in the early 1990s. As a result, the majority of provincial governments and university and college administrations attempted to replace the lost funds by increasing tuition fees and other user fees.

In 1992, user fees accounted for an average of 18.4% of institutions' operating budgets. This figure climbed to 29.1% by 2003, reaching nearly 40% in Nova Scotia and Ontario. Over the last ten years average undergraduate tuition fees have more than doubled, a rate of increase four times

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faster than that of inflation. User fees at Canadian universities, adjusted for inflation, are at their highest relative levels since the Second World War.

Since 1994 when Paul Martin was Minister of Finance, the government has used the federal government's budgetary deficit to justify substantial cuts to federal transfer payments to the provinces for all social programmes. Despite posting substantial surpluses since 1997-1998, the federal government has refused to restore the funding that was cut from post-secondary education.

During the 2004 federal election, Martin participated in a nationally televised interview on issues of interest to youth. In the lead-up to the interview, the Federation and the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec (FÉUQ), cooperated on developing the questions that pertained to post-secondary education. In response to one of the questions, Martin said that the Canada Social Transfer should be split, so as to create a dedicated cash transfer for post-secondary education. He then promised to allocate "seven to eight billion dollars" to the new transfer, an increase of approximately four billion dollars.

The Federation and the FÉUQ immediately wrote a joint letter to the Prime Minister asking him to clarify his remarks and provide a timeline for implementation, but no response to that letter was ever received. In fact, neither Martin nor his government has given any indication that they intend to follow through on this commitment.

In August, FÉUQ and Fédération étudiante collégiale du Québec (FÉCQ), approached the Federation about launching a joint campaign specifically targeting Paul Martin's unfulfilled 2004 election promise to boost transfer payments for post-secondary education. In the context of a federal election where Martin (and other leaders) will be likely to make

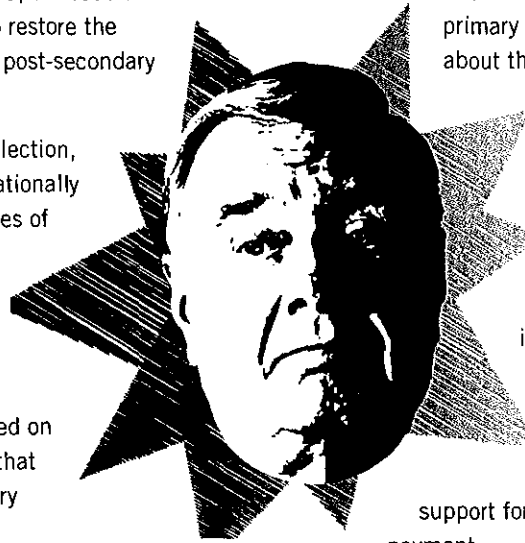
additional commitments to sway voters, and the government's electoral vulnerability in Québec, this united student front will be a significant lever with which to influence the federal government on post-secondary education policy.

The campaign, uniting 750,000 students from across the country, was launched on October 13 with a joint media conference organised by the

Federation, FÉUQ and FÉCQ. The primary focus is to raise awareness about the cuts that have been made

to federal transfers to the provinces for post-secondary education and the Prime Minister's promised, but undelivered, reinvestment. The Federation has distributed materials, including posters and soon petitions, to member locals. Members are encouraged to meet with their Members of Parliament to seek their

support for the creation of the new transfer payment.



Federal Budget Amendment Bill C-48

Background

On April 27, it was announced that the Liberals and the New Democratic Party had come to an agreement on supporting an amended federal budget. Among the amendments was a provision delaying corporate tax cuts that had been presented in the 2005 federal budget in favour of increasing spending in a number of areas, including up to \$1.5 billion in transfers to the provinces to reduce tuition fees. The Federation applauded the agreement as a welcomed return of the federal government to post-secondary education policy-making.

While negotiations were still underway, Martin stated in an interview with the Vancouver Sun that tuition fees were not explicitly among the amendments to the budget. In contrast, the NDP stated that

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there was agreement that tuition fee reductions would be included but acknowledged that a final agreement was pending. In addition to an aggressive media campaign, the Federation lobbied the New Democratic Party and the Liberal Party of Canada to ensure that the amended budget would contain funding for tuition fee reductions.

On May 4, the Liberals and NDP completed their negotiations and released the finalised agreement. Post-secondary education was addressed in the following way:

"\$1.5 billion in total for measures in two areas: to enhance access to post-secondary education, particularly aimed at assisting students through tuition [fee] reduction or other measures as appropriate; as well as money to support training programmes, with no obligation for provincial matching funds. Both measures will include Aboriginal Canadians."

Almost as soon as it was clear that funding for lower tuition fees would be part of the agreement, noted proponents of higher fees and higher debt, such as Alex Usher and Queen's University Professor Ross Finnie, denounced the amendments. Usher was particularly aggressive in his criticism: he issued a newsletter, claiming that the budget amendments were a boon to rich students and that low-income students would be worse off as a result of lower fees, an often-repeated but unsubstantiated allegation.

In particular, Usher claimed that in a province with loan remission (such as Ontario), high need students would be no farther ahead since loan debt above \$6,500 per year was forgiven but students borrowing the maximum would lose \$500 worth of tuition fee tax credits by virtue of the fee reduction. But this argument wilfully ignores the fact that many students who borrow at the maximum have unmet need—that is to say, what they receive in student

financial assistance is not enough to live on and pay tuition fees. At the time, a student borrowing the maximum in Ontario would have been left with only \$4,400 to cover living expenses for 8 months. Taking the budget amendments into consideration, that same student would have paid \$500 less in fees leaving \$500 more to cover living expenses.

Worse, Usher fails to note that students borrowing less than \$6,500 per year are not eligible for loan remission. With reduced fees, these students would borrow \$500 less, and therefore, would each save nearly \$200 in interest over a standard

10-year repayment schedule. Over a four-year programme, such students would save nearly \$2,000 in additional debt and approximately \$800 in interest.

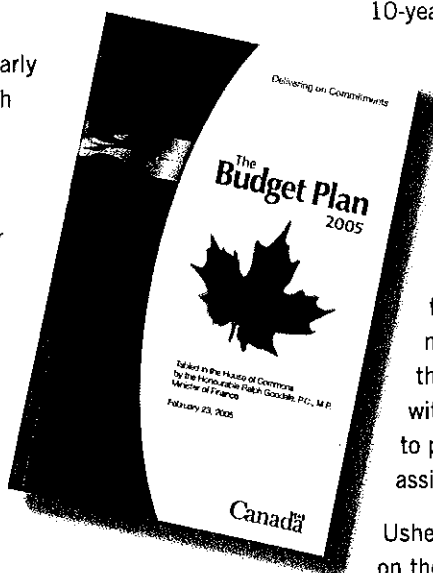
Other objections cited by Usher as reasons not to reduce tuition fees were based on a small number of insignificant problems that could readily be resolved with minor policy adjustments to provincial student financial assistance systems.

Usher's position was posted widely on the Internet and the Federation responded, refuting Usher's claims

on a variety of weblogs and other venues. The Federation also posted its analysis of the tuition fee reductions on its national website and distributed it to education reporters. Despite the efforts of Usher and other proponents of high tuition fees, post-secondary education funding and reduced tuition fees remain popular elements of the amended budget that was adopted on June 23.

Millennium Scholarship Foundation

At the Annual Public Meeting of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation on September 18, Chief Executive Officer Norman Riddell was forced to admit that he had been lobbying parliamentarians to spend the Bill C-48 allocation on the Foundation.



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In response, the Federation has communicated with both Liberal and New Democratic Party Members of Parliament to oppose the idea of additional public funding going to the Foundation, as well as to express concern over the highly political nature of Riddell's efforts.

Testimony to the Standing Committee on Finance

During its deliberations on the NDP amendments to the 2005 federal budget, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance invited the Federation to make a presentation outlining its position on Bill C-48, and the implications of its implementation.

At a committee hearing on June 13, the Federation strongly encouraged the Committee Members to support the bill, arguing that the \$1.5 billion included in C-48 to reduce tuition fees was an important step toward re-asserting the federal role in improving access to post-secondary education. The Federation explained that the best way to ensure equality of access to post-secondary education was through the elimination of the financial barriers that prevent low- and middle-income Canadians from participating in higher education. The Federation proposed that the most efficient way for the federal government to achieve that policy goal would be through the establishment of a dedicated transfer payment to the provinces, contingent on the reduction of tuition fees. The Federation argued that other mechanisms, such as grants, are less effective in the absence of a comprehensive strategy to reduce tuition fees.

Meeting with Federal Government Representatives

After the adoption of Bill C-48, Liberal caucus members, including Human Resources and Skills Development Minister Belinda Stronach, publicly speculated that the \$1.5 billion originally intended as a transfer to reduce tuition fees, would instead go to the low-income grant created by the federal government in 2004.

In response, the Federation scheduled a series of meetings with federal government representatives to detail its position that the funds should be utilised to reduce tuition fees.

Meeting with Policy Advisor to the Finance Minister Howard Millard

On June 1, the Federation met with Howard Millard, Policy Advisor to the Finance Minister. The Federation asserted that given the spirit of the agreement to amend the bill, the funds derived from Bill C-48 should be allocated to the provinces for tuition fee reductions. The Federation also suggested that this transfer could form the basis for discussions about a long-term dedicated transfer payment for which a portion would be conditional on reducing tuition fees.

Millard was open to discussing the various options for distributing the funding made available by C-48 and was also interested in the Federation's proposals for addressing financial barriers to post-secondary education. Most of the meeting was spent discussing how and why the federal government should bind the provinces to tuition fee reductions, via Bill C-48 or otherwise.

Millard was particularly interested in the Federation's campaign to wind-down the Millennium Scholarship Foundation in favour of a national system of needs-based grants administered through the Canada Student Loans Program, admitting that there was interest in the Finance Department to expand the low-income grant programme.

Meeting with Assistant Director for National Learning Systems Robert Sauder

On June 15, the Federation met with Assistant Director for National Learning Systems Robert Sauder. The Federation asserted the position that, although there were numerous improvements and augmentations that could be made to the Canada Student Loans Program and related grants, the funding created by C-48 should be used for increased federal funding to the provinces for tuition fee reductions.

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The Federation argued that the federal budget amendment provided an excellent opportunity for the federal government to engage with provincial governments about future federal funding and the principle of reducing financial barriers. In other words, Bill C-48 could be seen as another step towards a new federal funding arrangement for post-secondary education, one that moved closer to the goal of a dedicated transfer payment.

Sauder indicated that his department had not yet begun discussing the ramifications of Bill C-48, but was interested in learning more about the Federation's proposals. The Federation followed up by sending Sauder a package on recent federal funding patterns and demystifying Alex Usher's analysis of fee reductions.

Sauder was also briefed on the Federation's campaign to wind-down the Millennium Scholarship Foundation in favour of a national system of needs-based grants administered through the Canada Student Loans Program.

Meeting with Advisory Staff to Human Resources Minister

On October 19, the Federation met with Jeannie Dempster, the Senior Policy Advisor and Blaine Woodcock, Special Advisor to the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development. The Federation scheduled the meeting to brief the Minister's staff on pending legislation that affects students (Bills C-48 and C-55). Federation representatives began by providing the Minister's advisors with background on student loan bankruptcy, including the legal argument presented in the Federation's charter challenge and demographic information about the graduates denied access to bankruptcy. Dempster and Woodcock were encouraged to advise the Minister that the government's pending legislation to reduce the prohibition from ten to seven years was untenable, especially in light of the Minister's previous support for a reduction to at least five years.

The Federation also discussed the importance of the federal budget amendment (Bill C-48) and reducing tuition fees. Dempster indicated that no decisions had been made on how the funding would be allocated, but said that the Department was very concerned about access for low-income students. Federation representatives stressed that if the C-48 funding was used to augment the existing low-income grant programme, its net value will be undermined as long as the federal government continued to allow tuition fees to rise. Dempster was also cautioned about the fallacy of pitting students from low-income backgrounds against modest-income students with financial need (the so-called "income versus need" debate) when designating new funding for student financial assistance.

Federation representatives also emphasised that the allocation of any additional funding—from Bill C-48 or otherwise—to the Millennium Scholarship Foundation was a waste of scarce resources.

Meeting with Parliamentary Secretary for Human Resources and Skills Development Staff

On October 24, a Federation representative met with Tim Baker, assistant to Peter Adams, the Parliamentary Secretary for Human Resources and Skills Development. The Federation briefed Baker on its position about the implementation of the federal budget amendment, Bill C-48. Namely, Baker was provided with background about the Millennium Scholarship Foundation's inept handling of student financial aid funding in the past, as well as the biased nature of the Foundation's research project. The Federation indicated that it is firmly opposed to any future federal investment in the Millennium Scholarship Foundation.

Council of the Federation

The Council of the Federation is comprised of the premiers of Canada's ten provinces and three territories. The premiers created the Council in 2003 with the intent of discussing issues of common concern and bringing forward joint

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recommendations to the federal government. This year's annual meeting was held in Banff, Alberta from August 10 to 12.

In the lead up to the meeting, the Federation prepared letters for each of the premiers, encouraging them to make post-secondary education a key issue on their agenda.

The majority of member locals took advantage of the Federation's online faxing software and sent signed letters to their respective premiers. The Federation also held a national press conference, calling on the premiers to join the growing consensus in demanding a reinvestment in federal transfer payments for post-secondary education.

At the meeting, the Federation sought to keep post-secondary education at the forefront of the agenda through regular meetings with national media, governmental staff, and coalition partners.

Through the discussions, the premiers agreed that a complete reinvestment of the funding cut from post-secondary education since 1992 was a priority. Noting the Prime Minister's promise to create a dedicated transfer payment of \$7 to \$8 billion for post secondary education, the premiers also called upon the federal government to meet with the Council to discuss a national strategy for increased federal funding for post-secondary education.

The Council called for a series of meetings between federal and provincial governments as well as the post-secondary education community. It was anticipated that a meeting of this nature would be held in November 2005; however, in spite of rhetoric from a number of the premiers including Ontario's Dalton McGuinty and Québec's Jean Charest, no substantial discussions have occurred and no concrete solutions have been developed.

The Federation will continue to lobby premiers and the federal government to hold a meeting about post-secondary education with the aim of creating a new transfer payment for post-secondary education that would ensure increased funding as a means to reduce tuition fees and increase quality.

Senate Inquiry on Post Secondary Education

In fall 2004, Liberal Senators Catherine Callbeck and Elizabeth Hubley initiated a Senate inquiry into post-secondary education. A Senate inquiry is essentially a themed series of debates during which Senators are encouraged to speak to a given issue in the Chamber. It is not as formal as study in a sub-committee, but gives an opportunity for a wide group of Senators to speak to a particular issue.

The Federation has worked closely with Senator Hubley and her staff throughout the inquiry. Federation representatives have also has meetings with Senators Catherine Callbeck, Terry Mercer, Wilfred Moore, and Donald Oliver, providing them with research and policy proposals.

Turmoil in the House of Commons over the sponsorship inquiry and the constant threat of an election over the summer led the Senators to close their inquiry and re-initiate it during a more stable time in Parliament.

On October 19, the Federation met with Senator Hubley to discuss her continued interest in post-secondary education. The Senator was very supportive of many of the Federation's campaign positions, including reducing tuition fees, eliminating the prohibition on declaring bankruptcy on student loans, reinvesting \$4 billion in transfers to the provinces and creating a dedicated transfer for post-secondary education. In particular, Hubley expressed her endorsement of the Post-Secondary Education Act, acknowledging that the federal government must play a leadership role in guaranteeing that universities and colleges receive enough public funding to ensure higher quality and greater accessibility.

The Senator committed to continuing to work with other members of the Senate as well as the Federation to make post-secondary education a key issue for the federal government.

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2006 Federal Budgeting Process

Submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance

As in previous years, the Federation was invited to submit a brief for the public consultations of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance. The Federation's submission identifies the following priorities: increasing the low-income grant and creating a system of needs based grants, increasing federal funding, funding for Aboriginal education, and re-allocating the funding for tax credits. The Federation's recommendations are all costed out and supported by Canadian and international research.

Addressing student financial assistance, the first section concentrates on diminishing access to post-secondary education for those students from low- and middle-income households. The brief recommends the elimination of the Learning Bond, the Millennium Scholarship Foundation, the Canada Education Savings Grant, and the Registered Education Savings Plan in order to fund an increase in the value of the low-income grant to 100 percent of tuition fees and the creation of a comprehensive national system of needs-based grants.

This section also focuses on the discriminatory practices still employed by the Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP). Credit checks and the ten-year prohibition on bankruptcy for public student loan holders still plague students and graduates, and must be removed if the most economically marginalised Canadians are to benefit from higher education. The brief acknowledges the improvements made to the Debt Reduction in Repayment (DRR) programme in 2004, and calls on the government to allow previous DRR applicants who were denied based on previous excessively restrictive eligibility requirements to reapply and be assessed retroactively under the new criteria.

The section on federal funding focuses on the Federation's long-standing call for the creation of a dedicated post-secondary education transfer payment to the provinces. The Prime Minister's promise for a \$7 to 8 billion dedicated transfer is highlighted as well as the diminished federal investment in core funding for post-secondary education. The brief shows that, despite nine years of federal budgetary surpluses, cash transfers for post-secondary education are currently more than 50 percent below 1993 levels, when accounting for population growth and inflation. The brief points to the call by Canada's premiers for increased transfers as well as the inclusion of \$1.5 billion for tuition fee reductions in the budget amendment as first steps toward the federal government re-assuming its historic role in funding post-secondary education. The Federation argues that, in order to achieve the goals of financial accessibility and quality to which the federal government has expressed a commitment, an immediate investment through a dedicated transfer is required.

The third section outlines the Federation's analysis of Aboriginal post-secondary education funding. In addition to recommending increased funding for the Post-Secondary Student Support Program and the indexation of this funding to the growth of the Aboriginal youth population, the Federation called on the federal government to meet its treaty obligations to fully-fund post-secondary education for Aboriginal students.

In the final section, the brief details the failure of tax credits as a means of addressing the student debt crisis. The Federation argues that tax measures are only a policy afterthought on the part of federal government and offer no benefit to those most in financial need.

The Federation recommends the elimination of the education and tuition fee tax credit and the allocation of any savings to a comprehensive system of needs-based grants.

On October 5, the Federation testified before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance. Some MPs were interested in debating

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the merits of the federal government's spending on tax credits and the Registered Education Savings Plan. New Democratic and Bloc Quebecois MPs were also interested in discussing the future of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation, and agreed that the Foundation's life should not extend beyond its existing mandate.

Economic and Fiscal Update / "Mini-Budget"

On November 14, Minister of Finance Ralph Goodale presented an "Economic and Fiscal Update" to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance. With a federal election looming, Goodale's update has been widely described as a campaign platform, more closely resembling a full federal budget—complete with billions of dollars in new spending, than an update on the government's fiscal status. In Goodale's own words, he was "presenting a new economic plan—one that sets our course for the years ahead". Although increased spending was set aside for a number of social programmes, that funding was overshadowed by approximately \$30 billion in new tax cuts that will substantially reduce the federal government's future fiscal capacity.

A number of new investments in direct funding for post-secondary education were announced including those described below; however, absent was any mention of a dedicated post-secondary education transfer payment or any real reinvestment in transfers to the provinces for universities and colleges.

Low-Income Grant (Canada Access Grant)

In the 2004 budget, the federal government announced a grant for first-year students from low-income families for one-half of tuition fees up to

a value of \$3,000. Symbolically, this was a large step forward for the Federation's campaign for a national system of needs-based grants, establishing an institutional recognition of the role of grants in improving access for underrepresented groups, and the impact of tuition fees on access to post-secondary education.

This year, the mini-budget extended the grant to include the first four years of study. At a cost of \$110 million per year, an additional 55,000

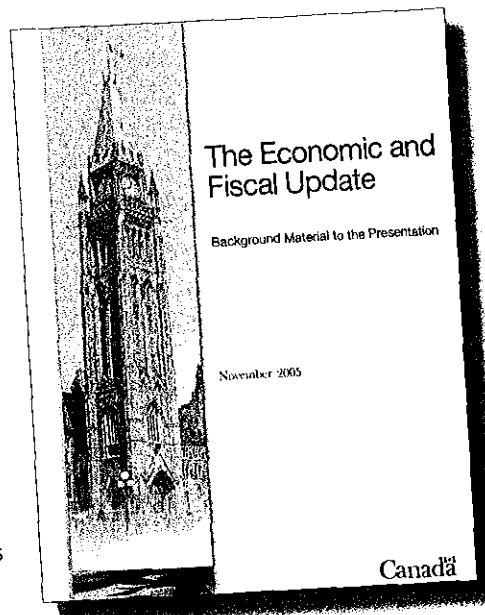
students will be eligible for the grant. The new funding is clearly a further admission on the part of the federal government that high tuition fees and student debt are significant barriers to access and persistence.

However, even with the increased funding the grant will continue to fall short. Given the \$3000 limit, it is completely ineffective at improving access to high-cost programmes and, in the absence of a national plan to freeze and reduce tuition fees, the effectiveness of the grant will

decline as fees rise.

Granting Councils

November's mini-budget increased funding to the three national granting councils by \$85 million per year. From the total increase, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) will receive \$35 million, as will the Canada Institutes for Health Research (CIHR). Only \$15 million will be allocated to the research in the social sciences via the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. The tiny portion allocated to SSHRC will mean that the under-funded council will continue to struggle to meet even existing levels of project support.



\$30

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Indirect Costs of Research

The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada invented the so-called "indirect costs" of research as part of a campaign to increase federal funding for research. Previously, the core operating budgets of institutions routinely covered the infrastructure and administrative costs associated with university research. However, deep funding cuts during the 1990s put a tremendous strain on university budgets and undermined many activities, including but not limited to research support. Because research is accepted as a jurisdiction of the federal government, the invention of "indirect costs" was designed to give the federal government political cover to bypass the provinces (via transfer payments and the associated unaccountability) in order to directly fund universities. However, billions of dollars allocated so far to indirect costs has not yielded any relief to students in the form of tuition fee reductions. To the contrary, existing tuition fee freezes are only the result of provincial government action—university presidents are still lobbying aggressively in all regions to remove freezes where they exist.

The November 14 mini-budget more than doubles the annual budget of the indirect costs of research funding by 2007-08. The total value of the programme will grow to \$510 million per year. The mini-budget places new conditions on the increased funding, including a demand to catalogue the research outcomes at universities, measuring both the "quantity and quality of research, graduation rates, and the average time to complete degrees". According to the Canadian Association of University Teachers, such "performance indicators" have been a disaster in other countries, such as the UK, for skewing research priorities even farther towards short-term commercial outcomes.

Canada Graduate Scholarships

The mini-budget increased the number of Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGSs) from 4,000 to 6,000. The new allocation will cost \$53 million per year when fully phased-in in 2008-09. As with the existing programme, new CGSs will be allocated

equally between masters and PhD students, and be awarded to mirror the make-up of graduate students doing research in the sciences, social sciences, and humanities. This increase is a substantial and welcomed commitment to accessible graduate studies.

Innovation Fund

The mini-budget also proposed the creation of a new third-party trust worth \$1 billion. The stated purpose of the fund is to improve infrastructure such as libraries and technological equipment as well as provide funding for projects that increase the physical accessibility of universities and colleges. The fund will be available for provinces and territories to draw upon as necessary, on a per capita basis.

It remains unclear what, if any, accountability mechanisms will be put in place for the administration of the fund. Equally unclear is how the provinces will apply for funding and the eligibility criteria for projects.

Although the fund is an attempt by the federal government to direct specific funds to post-secondary institutions, it is a poor and ineffective substitute to a dedicated transfer payment governed by well-defined legislation. The creation of this fund is proof that the Federation's campaign for a dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education must remain a core campaign; without directed funding and legislation that outlines spending priorities, the federal government will continue to resort to politically expedient, if ineffective, programmes that do nothing to improve either the accessibility or quality of post-secondary education.

Student Financial Assistance

Selection of the Canada Student Loans Program Service Provider

After the departure of the chartered banks from Canada Student Loan lending and disbursement

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In 2000, the Government of Canada became the lender, and it contracted out the disbursement and collection of student loans to Edulinx Canada and BDP. The current contracts are approaching conclusion, and the federal government is preparing to tender the contract. It is the intention of the federal government to consolidate service provision of loans for students at both public and private institutions into a single contract at this time.

On September 23, the Federation jointly submitted a letter with the National Union of Public and General Employees urging the department of Human Resources and Skills Development to bring more of the loan administration duties in-house, rather than continuing to expand the privatisation of the Canada Student Loans Program service provision. The Federation also signed on to a joint letter urging Human Resources and Skills Development to make explicit the rights of workers in the impending request for proposals. The letter outlined concerns with the competence and labour record of Resolve Corporation (formerly BDP).

The request for proposals for the next service provider of the Canada Student Loans Program was to be issued in September, but has yet to be released. At this point, Edulinx has indicated that they will be bidding for the new contract, as well as Resolve, the current service provider for students at private institutions.

Edulinx Service Advisory Council

Semi-annually, Edulinx hosts a consultation to meet the requirements of its contract with the federal government for the administration of the Canada Student Loan Program. As previously reported, Edulinx is now owned by the American company Nelnet. Nelnet administers student loans in the United States and offers private lines of credit at private universities.

The most recent stakeholder meeting was held on June 3 in Toronto. The meeting reviewed operations since the last update in November 2004. As the intervening period encompassed the winter semester,

fewer loans were processed and no new substantial operational problems were reported. However, there were some problems with processing the increased number of applications for Interest Relief (IR). The increase in applications for Interest Relief is not surprising given that Edulinx took over management of the program in 2000 and most of those who negotiated loans in 2000 have now graduated and are repaying their loans.

Edulinx is working with the federal government to ensure that students receive a timely response to their application for IR. It was revealed that in the initial screening for IR, students are advised of the option of a 15-year repayment cycle before being advised of the option of IR. Federation representatives vigorously questioned Edulinx about this practice. Edulinx officials claim that they ask a series of broad questions to determine eligibility. They insisted that if a student is eligible for IR they were presented with both options. The Federation countered that this practice is unacceptable, as IR was a substantial government programme that pays a borrower's interest whereas the option of 15 year repayment merely extends the life of the loan and increases the cost of borrowing. Edulinx officials claimed that it was their job to offer students both options and let them make a decision.

Edulinx senior management indicated that Edulinx would undergo a costly refit of its software "backbone" over the next 18 months, making it clear that this would make them more competitive for the upcoming CSLP tendering process. The request for proposal will be released shortly and the bidding process will be fully underway by this fall. When the contracts were awarded in 2000 the Federation was actively involved in the process and met with each of the short-listed companies. HRSD has assured the Federation that a similar protocol will be followed for the upcoming tendering process.

Meeting of the Canadian Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

The Canadian Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (CASFAA) held their annual general

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meeting in Kingston from June 19 to 22, which the Federation attended. CASFAA is comprised of student financial aid officials at Canadian universities. The original intent of CASFAA was to provide a venue for the exchange of information and best practices in administering student financial assistance. In recent years, however, CASFAA has taken on a more active role in policy development and advocacy.

For the past two years, CASFAA has partnered with the Millennium Scholarship Foundation to host policy conferences.

Unfortunately, CASFAA seems to have adopted many of the Foundation's biases in favour of higher fees and higher student debt. In this case, the Foundation was a sponsor of the meeting, Chief Executive Officer Norman Ridell

gave a keynote address, and Foundation researcher Sean Junor participated in a panel presentation. In addition to the Foundation, there were 27 other corporate sponsors at the conference. Companies who profit from student loan administration, such as Edulinx, were given marquee speaking slots at the meeting, yet no invitations were issued to students or other groups who work on the issue of student debt and student financial assistance.

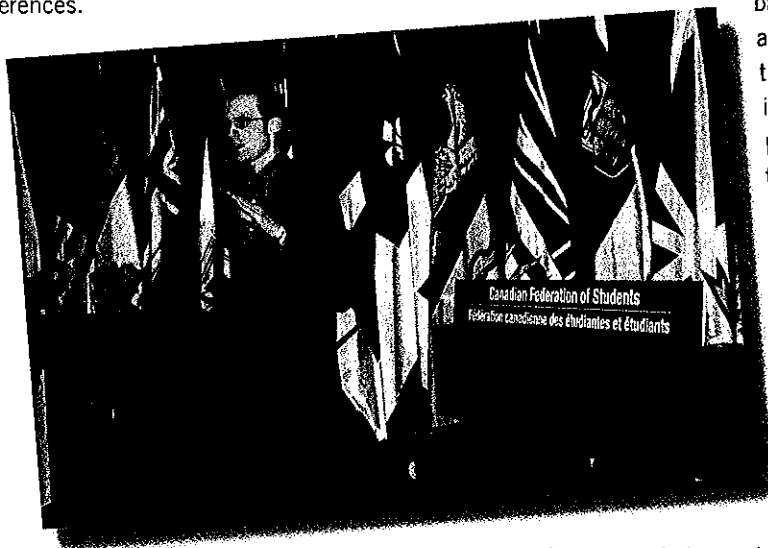
In addition to promoting the Foundation's model of student financial assistance, CASFAA also invited Alex Usher to present a paper. Usher, vice-president of a US-based think tank, the Educational Policy Institute, offered his position in support of income contingent student loan repayment schemes as well as a new model of student financial assistance that would see the elimination of interest subsidies on

student loans. Under the current system, students pay no interest on public student loans during study. Abolishing the in-study interest subsidy would mean an increase in student debt of close to 40%.

Regrettably, this conference continued the trend in CASFAA away from their earlier support for initiatives that would reduce student debt. For example, CASFAA has gone from supporting a needs-based system of grants to calling for a seven-year prohibition on

students declaring bankruptcy. It has also become clear that CASFAA is toeing the policy line of the Association of Universities and Colleges Canada (AUCC) on issues like tuition fees. Many CASFAA members actively denounce

freezes at their own institutions.



Federal Student Financial Aid Review

As already noted, the Economic Update released by Finance Minister Ralph Goodale on November 14 contained over \$2 billion in deferred spending on student financial aid. Part of this announcement was a pledge to review student financial aid:

"This Update proposes to invest \$2.2 billion over the next five years to secure and build on the success of Canada's system of student financial assistance in promoting access to post-secondary education. This will require a review in close collaboration with provinces and territories, as well as other partners, in order to identify the areas where additional investments are needed, and to ensure that students from middle-income families

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and students with dependants do not face barriers to post-secondary education." (The Economic and Fiscal Update 2005)

The Minister went on to say in his speech to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance:

"With the provinces and territories, we will examine whether the Canada Student Loans Program is properly assessing student needs and such related issues as grants and debt management tools, **including repayment terms**, forgiveness measures and applicable interest rates." [emphasis added]

The Federation will be seeking clarification on terms and timeline of such a programme review, and if the Minister was alluding to income contingent repayment loan schemes.

Millennium Scholarship Foundation

New Grant Disbursement

At the Millennium Scholarship Foundation annual general meeting in September 2004, a vague reference was made to a research project based on a set of consultations that took place in the winter of 2004, focusing on need assessment and loan limits. The highly scripted consultations were designed to secure the conclusion that the Foundation should concentrate on low-income students as opposed to high need students. According to Foundation officials the idea was a belated attempt to ensure that Foundation bursaries actually reduce debt. However, this new direction is fraught with difficulties. Though the Federation has long called for a national system of grants for low-income students, the new Foundation policy ignores the crisis in student debt and skyrocketing tuition fees. In essence, by focusing only on low-income students the Foundation ignores the pressure that rising fees have put on student financial assistance. Simply put, massive increases in fees now mean that even those from middle-income homes are forced to borrow over \$20,000 to finance their education. In an effort to

mitigate the pressure stemming from this situation the Foundation is seeking to gut the current system of student financial assistance and throw all but those at the very bottom of the income scale into a private, for-profit system of loans. This parallel system of private loans will enshrine a framework designed to allow tuition fees to continue to rise. The pilot project announced at the September 2004 meeting was the first step in this process.

Though few details were provided when it was announced, it is now clear that the Foundation has found \$200 million to start a low-income grant. As with its primary programme the Foundation is negotiating a separate agreement with each province and the funds will be disbursed on a per capita basis.

In addition to supposedly augmenting their "grants" programme, the new programme is being touted as a research project. In each of the provinces, the Foundation will hire staff to monitor the effect of the grant on access for low-income students. However, it is likely that this "research" will simply confirm the political goal set out by the Foundation—gut the public system of student financial assistance by arguing that only the very poorest students need any form of grant or subsidised loan assistance. As with prior projects, the research aspect of this programme ignores all established protocols for independent research in the service of the Foundation's goal of higher tuition fees and higher student debt.

Millennium Scholarship Foundation Research Conference

From September 15 to 17, the Foundation held its annual research conference in conjunction with the Canadian Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (CASFAA). CASFAA now co-hosts most of its events with the MSF. In exchange for this sponsorship arrangement, CASFAA has begun to promote the Foundation's "scholarship" programme as well as its research agenda.

The theme of this year's conference was the role of universities and colleges in providing student

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financial assistance. Several speakers were invited from the United States, where institutional aid comprises nearly 30% of all student financial assistance. Speakers included Kenneth Redd Director of Research for the US-based National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators who argued that the current trend toward merit-based aid was a reality that Canadian policy makers needed to accept. Despite clear evidence to the contrary, Redd refused to acknowledge that such a system draws scarce financial aid dollars away from low-income students.

In the Canadian context, Ken Taylor, Vice-President Development of McMaster University, boasted about the increase in student financial aid now offered to McMaster students. However, Taylor noted that a large portion of that funding takes the form of merit-based entrance awards as a means of increasing McMaster's competitiveness with other large universities such as Queen's and the University of Toronto. McMaster University's student financial assistance budget is drawn in part from revenue generated from higher tuition fees and the remainder is raised from private donations. It was left to the Federation to point out the flaws of this policy trend. First, such a system promotes a competitive fundraising race amongst larger, urban institutions at the expense of smaller, rural institutions with fewer corporate connections. Second, this model perpetuates the idea that charging higher tuition fees is a legitimate way to increase student financial assistance.

The discussion was in line with the Millennium Scholarship Foundation's bias towards higher tuition fees and student debt. The Foundation's support for former Ontario Premier Bob Rae's recent report on post-secondary education was a backdrop to the conference's entire discussion of institutional assistance and tuition fees. In a recent issue of Policy Options, the Foundation's Research Director and Senior Researcher wrote an article endorsing all of Rae's recommendations, including the deregulation of tuition fees and the elimination of the loan remission programme. Not coincidentally, one of Rae's key recommendations was that, under

an unregulated system of tuition fees, institutions would be responsible for providing student financial assistance as fees surpassed \$6,000. Institution-based financial aid has the dual effect of both shifting the responsibility away from government and promoting philanthropy and charity as a core element of student financial assistance.

"Don't Bankrupt a Generation": Campaign Against Student Loan Bankruptcy Prohibition

Background

In 1997 the federal government changed the BIA to prohibit those with government student loans from declaring bankruptcy for a period of two years after a student ceased full- or part-time study. Less than ten months later, this prohibition was increased to ten years with no public consultation or supporting research. These changes lumped students in with those convicted of committing fraud and a very narrow group of other individuals denied the protection of bankruptcy.

The 1998 amendments had an immediate and predictable effect on the most economically vulnerable students. In the final year in which students were able to declare bankruptcy, the average annual income of those declaring bankruptcy with student debt as the primary debt was \$12,000.

Charter Challenge

On December 6, 2000 a constitutional challenge, supported by the Canadian Federation of Students, was filed against several provisions of the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act (BIA) as it pertains to student loan borrowers.

The Federation's constitutional challenge was aided and supported by several leading experts in bankruptcy law and policy. In particular, Saul Schwartz, Professor of Public Policy at Carleton University, testified as an expert witness. In his

work, Schwartz outlines the socio-economic reality of those victimized by this law. Schwartz's statistical analysis is an important rebuttal of the stereotyping and misinformation the federal government has used to justify the law. As Schwartz demonstrates in *The Dark Side of Student Loans: Debt Load, Default, and Bankruptcy*, those most adversely affected by this law are low-income Canadians who have accrued massive debt to fund an education. Indeed as Schwartz and other experts in bankruptcy law have argued, these changes violate the very spirit of bankruptcy law that is designed to give the "honest but unfortunate debtor" a second chance.

It was in the face of this patently unjust law that the Federation launched its constitutional challenge. The Federation's legal counsel argued that these provisions of the BIA violated Section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Section 15 reads as follows:

"Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability."

Generally, Section 15 affords protection from discrimination on the grounds enumerated above. However, the court has also allowed applicants to argue that certain kinds of discrimination not specifically enumerated, should also be protected by Section 15. It was on these grounds that the Federation argued that the prejudicial treatment of student loan borrowers under the BIA violated Section 15. The Federation's legal brief made the case that many student loan borrowers are socially and economically vulnerable and that the federal government relied on stereotyping student loan borrowers to justify changes to the BIA.

The challenge was heard in Ontario Superior Court on June 16, 2004 before the Honourable Justice Gordon Sedgwick. On June 30, 2005, after more than twelve months of deliberation, Justice Sedgwick issued his ruling. Regrettably, Justice Sedgwick ruled against our challenge on the basis that student

loan borrowers do not constitute a protected social category that should qualify for protection from discrimination under Section 15.

Despite this legal setback, the Federation has continued to lobby for a legislative reversal of the law. A very small reduction of the prohibition was introduced by Industry Canada within Bill C-55.

Bill C-55: Wage Earner Protection Program Act

On June 3, Industry Minister David Emerson tabled legislation to, among other things, change the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act as it pertains to student loans. Under the proposed legislation, students would now be prohibited from declaring bankruptcy for a period of seven years as opposed to the current ten-year ban. This proposal ignores virtually all the expert testimony heard by both the Parliament and the Senate in reviewing the student loan bankruptcy prohibition.

As reported previously, the report by Industry Canada's Insolvency Task Force recommended that the law be changed to a five-year prohibition. A Senate Committee report issued in 2003 described the ten year prohibition as "too harsh" and called for the waiting period to be reduced to five years, with access to a hardship hearing after one year. A hardship hearing would be limited to individuals who meet a very narrow set of criteria, such as those with a permanent disability, chronic disease, or who had experienced other health catastrophes. Contrary to the advice of industry experts, the proposed legislation offers access to such a hearing only after five years.

Hearings into the legislation began on November 3 with a presentation by Industry Minister David Emerson. The legislation was subsequently fast-tracked and passed by Parliament on November 21. It is not expected to meet any resistance in the Senate, and should be law before the impending federal election.

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Renewal of the Copyright Act

The Copyright Act is being amended largely as a consequence of digital technology and the availability of copyrighted works on the Internet. Through the Canadian Recording Industry Association (CRIA) large movie and music labels have participated in an aggressive campaign to protect their profit interests by lobbying for increased restrictions and surveillance of Internet activities.

As part of its campaign to win new restrictive measures to curb access to the Internet, CRIA has particularly targeted students as culprits of unlawful file-sharing.

The Federation has been opposing revisions to the Act that overly favour the interests of the recording industry. Rather, the Federation argues that the Internet offers new opportunities to share public knowledge and thus any revisions to copyright legislation need to ensure reasonable public access to the Internet.

On June 20, Bill C-60, an Act to Amend the Copyright Act, was tabled in the House of Commons. Representatives of the educational community have been lobbying to ensure that new copyright law does not infringe on student and faculty privacy rights, create unnecessary administrative burden, or overly favour the recording industry or other major corporate interests. While the bill contains significant improvements from previous recommendations, it is still biased in favour of the recording and software industry—little protection was secured in the bill to guarantee access to educational materials. The only provisions made for educational access are through new digital provisions for inter-library loans and

distance learning; however, these new provisions are extremely limited and overall the bill does not go far enough to clarify reasonable access to publicly available materials on the Internet. Thus, while the recording and software industry have publicly praised the bill, the educational community and public interest groups are calling on the House of

Commons to defeat it. Since it is likely that the bill will not be voted on before an election takes place, it is important to continue lobbying for a balanced act.

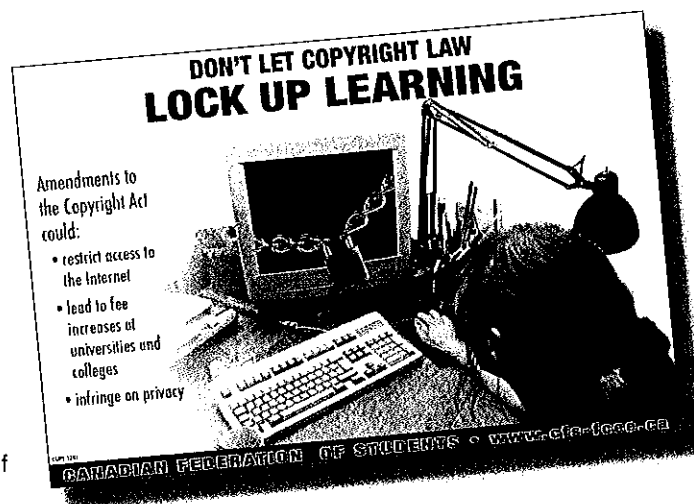
A legislative committee will be struck to receive submissions

and coordinate hearings on Bill

C-60. On July 12, Federation representatives met with the Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic (CIPPIC), the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), and the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (CFHSS) to discuss coordinating a response to the committee. All coalition partners agreed to develop a submission and participate in the hearings. The Federation is in the process of writing its submission.

Copyright Forum

The Federation is an active participant in the Copyright Forum, a network of national organisations concerned about educational issues with respect to copyright law. Members include the Canadian Association of University Teachers, Association of Universities and Colleges in Canada, Canadian Libraries Association, Canadian Teachers' Federation, and the Canadian Association of Research Libraries. The Forum has met regularly since June 20 when Bill C-60 was tabled in order



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to share updates on campaign and government relations activities and to share analysis on the details of the bill.

On June 10, a Federation representative attended the Copyright Forum meeting. Attendees discussed what was likely to be contained in the upcoming bill and strategised about how best to respond. After having reflected on the implications of amendments to copyright legislation enacted in 1996, Forum members concluded that at that time, the educational community had not acted quickly or firmly enough in demanding balance for users. It was agreed that in responding to Bill C-60, member organisations must be significantly more critical in their response to ensure that education and research are protected.

On October 17, the Forum met to discuss the process by which stakeholders would be able to contribute to the deliberations on Bill C-60. Several members of the Forum, including the Federation, announced that they would be submitting a brief to the legislative committee. There are diverging approaches among members of the forum on how the Bill should address the needs of the educational community—either through specific exceptions for educational institutions qualified in the Act or through the expansion of the rights for users already articulated in the current “fair dealing” clause. Members expressed concern that such differences could weaken the messaging of the educational community, and that the commercial interests of the recording industry were superseding the arguments calling for protection of the public interest. The Forum resolved that it would promote a common message of supporting the needs of the educational community and while still allowing for technical differences in individual briefs and hearings.

The Forum participants also discussed the likelihood of a federal election prior to the second reading of Bill C-60. Members agreed that it would be important to continue engaging government officials about fair copyright legislation since, even if C-60 died on the order paper, a new bill would likely be drafted following the election.

Campaign Materials

In June, 20,000 postcards that highlighted student concerns about copyright revision were produced. The postcards were sent to member locals for distribution during orientation activities and other local activities. Many member locals have distributed the postcards to members who have signed and sent them to the Prime Minister.

The Federation produced a fact sheet summarising its response to the amendments proposed in Bill C-60. A submission to the legislative committee is being drafted and will provide more detail about the Federation’s position on the amendments.

International Students

The Federation holds the only student seat on the Advisory Committee on International Students and Immigration (ACISI). ACISI meets twice yearly and provides Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) with recommendations on policy pertaining to international students. Participation on the Advisory Committee allows the Federation to ensure that the student perspective is considered when regulations pertaining to the internationalisation of education are being discussed. Additionally, membership on ACISI helps the Federation stay informed of developments in federal immigration policy, regulations, and programmes, and it further strengthens the voice of the Federation when lobbying the federal government on immigration issues that affect international students.

At the most recent meeting on November 9, much of the discussion focussed on updating the committee as to the current status of the international student off-campus work pilot projects and their potential expansion to national immigration policy. The off-campus work initiative is still only operating in Manitoba, Québec, and New Brunswick but will expand to other provinces as bilateral agreements are reached. The Government of Ontario has now signed on to the project, although a review of Ontario’s obligations under the provincial Access

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to Information Act is expected to delay the implementation of the programme in Ontario. Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan are expected to reach agreements within the next two months. The remaining provinces are currently reviewing the project and are in the process of negotiating with their post-secondary institutions.

Although many members of ACISI supported the Federation's position that international students should be allowed to work off-campus, the Federation also warned that such a programme should not be used as justification for further tuition fee increases. The most vocal criticisms of the off-campus work programme for international students came from representatives of private training shops, since the vast majority of these institutions are excluded from participating in the programme.

If implemented, students who qualify for the programme would still require work permits, but they would be able to apply for one without having to obtain a labour market opinion from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada. CIC is currently preparing a plan of action for achieving acceptable turnaround times for issuing work visas in the event that the 218,000 international students in Canada who would qualify for the programme submit applications in June. Since there is currently no plan by the federal government to provide additional funds (or additional personnel) to CIC for implementing the new off-campus work programme, it is expected that some visas may take up to six months to process. Consequently, the programme will not be fully implemented and operational until January 2007.

The Federation will continue to review the CIC's progress to ensure that international students receive equitable access to work permits.

Academic Freedom

The Federation's "whistleblowers" campaign celebrates those researchers who defend academic freedom by exposing corporate interference in

research and other forms of research misconduct. Various initiatives by the federal government, such as the Canadian Foundation for Innovation and the Canada Research Chairs programme, have opened the door to increased private funding of university research. Growing commercialisation in universities has produced a corresponding increase in the number of conflicts over the ownership and dissemination of research, which frequently infringe on the public interest. The Federation has produced posters that identify the negative effects of public-private partnerships on university research and developed a fact sheet detailing the importance of protecting academic freedom. In February 2004, the Federation launched a website, www.cfs-fcee.ca/whistleblowers, that contains information on public-private partnerships in research and encourages students to report infringements on academic freedom and research misconduct.

The Case of Chris Radziminski

In summer 2004, a former University of Toronto graduate student, Christopher Radziminski, contacted the Federation seeking support in publicising various allegations of research misconduct by his supervisors. Radziminski completed a Master's of Applied Science (Civil Engineering) at the University of Toronto in 2000. His research focussed on testing a chemical alternative to chlorine for disinfecting drinking water. Following the publication of his thesis, Radziminski discovered two journal articles published under his authorship (without his knowledge or consent) containing substantial passages from his thesis, with results skewed in favour of the disinfectant under study.

He initiated litigation on the grounds of research misconduct against his supervisors who have financial connections to the manufacturers of the disinfectant. In fall 2004, the University of Toronto settled out of court with Radziminski on allegations of copyright infringement.

In January 2005, the Federation retained legal counsel to support Radziminski's efforts to resolve

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his complaints against the University, the two journals, and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Council, all of which had been dismissive of his complaints. As a result of the Federation's support, in September 2005, the editors of both journals, *Water Research and Applied* and *Environmental Microbiology* have agreed to issue retractions of the articles based on Radziminski's complaints of copyright infringement, surprise authorship, and data manipulation. The exact terms of the retractions are in the process of being finalised. In addition, the Federation has been in regular contact with the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) to respond to his complaints.

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council is one of three federally funded granting councils that make up the Tri-Councils. The Tri-Councils have ethical guidelines for institutions receiving federal research funding. These guidelines stipulate that institutions have the responsibility to uphold the highest standards of research excellence. Institutions that do not uphold such guidelines are at risk of losing eligibility for Tri-Council research funds. Despite these guidelines and the well-documented violations, NSERC had refused to investigate Radziminski's complaint. In fact, in response to a request by Radziminski to be guaranteed protection from reprisal, NSERC explicitly stated that it had no mandate to protect whistleblowers. The conduct with which Radziminski's case has been handled has prompted the Federation to call on NSERC to incorporate whistleblower protection in its Tri-Council Policy Statement on Research Integrity.

The Case of Ian Mauro

In June 2005, the Federation was contacted by Ian Mauro, a PhD student at the University of Manitoba, for support in his academic freedom case. In 2001, Mauro and his academic supervisor produced a documentary about the experiences of Western Canadian farmers with genetically modified farming. Because of a shared copyright clause in the supervisor's collective agreement, the University was able to prevent the screening of the

documentary for the last four years. Although the project was publicly funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, University negotiations to relocate the Canadian headquarters of Monsanto, a multinational biotechnology company, to the University's research park appears to have played a role in suppressing the release of the documentary. The two researchers have been receiving legal support and advocacy through the Canadian Association of University Teachers, but have been broadening their coalition to seek assistance in publicising the case and the dangers of creeping privatisation on university campuses. In fall 2005, media across the country became interested in the story. On October 25, Local 96-University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association organised a panel for the researchers, the University president, and the president of the University's research park to address the concerns surrounding the suppression of the research findings. Under pressure, the University administration conceded to allow the researchers to screen the documentary.

The Federation has been supporting the two researchers in arranging for screenings of the film across Canada. On November 18, the screening of the researchers' documentary was premiered in Ottawa. The Federation endorsed the national event and provided in-kind support to publicise it.

National Council on Ethics in Human Research

Given the increasing prevalence of concerns related to research misconduct in the new climate of university research intensiveness, there is significant interest in discussions about ethical research guidelines. On June 21 and 22, a Federation representative attended a workshop hosted by the National Council on Ethics in Human Research (NCEHR) on the development of an accreditation system for Human Research Protection Programs. NCEHR is a national council that currently provides educational workshops on research ethics to university and other research institution ethics boards. This proposed accreditation system would

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require institutions that perform research involving human subjects to comply with a series of standards in order to be accredited to perform such investigations.

Attendees debated the pros and cons of moving towards an accreditation model for universities. Some attendees felt that it was unnecessary while other attendees asserted that accreditation would improve protection for human subjects involved in research. The Federation asked how accreditation would improve the position of university researchers, particularly students who are not protected by a collective agreement, who expose misconduct on research involving human subjects. The Federation further questioned whether such an accreditation process would improve the monitoring of institutions in their own ethical research guidelines. While several participants were supportive of concerns raised about the ability to protect those who expose university non-compliance with ethical guidelines, representatives of both NCEHR and the Tri-Councils were dismissive of the importance of including these issues in accreditation standards.

Privatisation, Trade Liberalisation, and International Trends

The World Trade Organization meeting will be held this year from December 10 to 18. As previously reported, the Federation applied for official non-governmental organization (NGO) status at the meeting. Official NGO status entails unlimited access to the meeting, as well as meetings with Canadian trade officials and standing at media conferences. Unfortunately, the Federation received notice late in August that its application for official status had been rejected. In subsequent enquiries with the WTO registration committee, the Federation was informed that the application was rejected because of space constraints. Organisations who had previously registered for a WTO conference were allowed to automatically

register and, therefore, very few new applications were approved.

The Canadian Association of University Teachers has registered at the previous two WTO meetings and, therefore, was able to secure official NGO status. CAUT has three slots on their delegation and offered one slot to the Federation, which has been accepted.

A preparatory meeting was held in Ottawa on October 6 for many of the Federation's coalition partners that attending the WTO meeting. Canadian participation in the "common table" conference—an international framework that offers alternatives to the trade regime of the WTO—was discussed at the meeting. The Federation will be doing a one-hour presentation on the threat posed by liberalised trade to accessible, affordable, public post-secondary education.

The Federation also participated in a conference call with senior officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade on October 24. Officials briefed non-governmental organisations on the state of negotiations thus far and reviewed protocols for the upcoming meeting. Officials also suggested that Australia has become more aggressive in its demand for liberalised trade in education. Canada has been reticent to liberalise trade in education services but may be forced to consider the option in exchange for Australia's support in other areas.

Research Presentations, and Conferences

Canadian Institutional Research Planning Association (CIPRA)

The Canadian Institutional Research Planning Association (CIPRA) is a national organisation of researchers working at Canadian colleges and universities. The Federation attended the CIPRA annual general meeting held at Grant MacEwan College from October 22 to 24. The theme of this

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year's event was a cross border 'knowledge exchange' with U.S.-based researchers.

Most of sessions focused on the use of research for marketing and decision making at the institutional level. Several papers looked at the role of image or branding in how students select an institution. There were also several papers on the demographic challenges facing Canada's colleges and universities. Despite much of the hype about enrolment, it was agreed that the current boom in enrolment is likely to slow once the children of the so-called baby boom generation graduate. The observation is based on the fact that beginning in the late 1980's through to the present day the birthrate in Canada has declined sharply.

University of Alberta Summit of Research and Teaching

From August 3 to 5, the University of Alberta hosted a conference entitled "Canadian Summit on the Integration of Teaching and Research". The objectives of the conference were to initiate dialogue with University administrators, faculty, and students on the importance of integrating teaching and research, to bring together champions from universities in Canada to share best practices, and experts to outline a vision for integrating research into teaching. The conference focused on the benefits of incorporating research into teaching activities, particularly in undergraduate programmes. Many of the participants argued that research was integral to the teaching experience, offering little analysis of the risks of the research agenda as presented in the federal government's "Innovation Strategy".

The Federation presented a paper entitled "The Politics of Corporate Partnerships: The Price of Doing Business". The presentation cautioned participants that, although there was no question that research was integral to the learning process, there were still risks to academic freedom and research integrity resulting from the intensification of the commercialisation of research in public universities. The Federation outlined evidence and analysis to

suggest that teaching quality, emphasis on basic research, and support for the social sciences and humanities would likely be compromised if such a research agenda focused on commercial gain. Some university administrators responded with hostility to the suggestion that caution was required when incorporating an encroaching research agenda into all university activities. However, several faculty and university staff privately expressed support for the Federation's position.

Research Paper Presentation to the Alberta Department of Learning

On October 21, Federation representatives met with Manager of Student Financial Assistance, Marg Leatham, and Alice Dines of the Alberta Ministry of Learning. The primary topic of discussion was the idea, suggested by Alberta Premier Ralph Klein, of making the first two years of post-secondary education free. Officials noted that public reaction to the proposal had been mixed. Federation representatives outlined the broad national support for tuition fee freezes and reductions and pointed to the most recent polling that put support for reduced fees at over 70% in Alberta.

In addition to meeting with Leatham and Dines, the Federation was invited to present a paper on income contingent loan repayment (ICLR) schemes to department officials. The talk was open to all bureaucrats in the department and was well attended by senior policy managers. The 45-minute presentation was followed by a lively discussion that lasted over two hours. Officials were impressed with the arguments set out in the paper but were interested in whether or not it was possible to devise an income contingent repayment loan scheme that did not disproportionately disadvantage low-income individuals. The Federation stressed that, by definition and in practice, ICLR schemes invariably lead to higher debt and higher fees. Although some insisted on viewing the extended repayment period as a positive element of ICLR schemes, the data show that extending the period of repayment increases the cost of borrowing, extends the life

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of the loan up to 25 years, and facilitates higher tuition fees. Despite the interest in ICLR schemes, there seems to be an acknowledgement that Alberta must create a grants programme if it is truly committed to access for low- and modest-income families.

Harry Crowe Foundation

The Harry Crowe Foundation held its inaugural conference from October 28 to 30 in Toronto, which the Federation attended. The Harry Crowe Foundation was recently founded by the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT). The mission of the Foundation is to protect academic freedom, to expand the national dialogue on issues like tenure, and to foster research into issues of academic freedom. Harry Crowe was a professor at United College (now the University of Winnipeg) who was fired for questioning the dominance of religion at the college.

The theme of the inaugural conference was the threat posed to academic freedom by legislation passed in the wake of September 11, 2001. York University math professors Chandler Davis and Lee Lorch were the keynote speakers. Both of these professors were fired from tenured positions during the 1960's era for refusing to name names during the infamous Senator McCarthy hearings in the United States of America. Lorch and Davis set the stage for a discussion of the increasingly draconian legislation being enacted under the auspices of fighting terror.

Allan Manson of Queen's University law school offered a compelling history of issues of free speech and academic freedom in Canada shortly after World War II. Manson shed light on Canada's own McCarthy-esque suppression of free speech and the particularly chilling effect it had on Canadian campuses. Manson pointed out that while each of the more odious provisions of the "national protection" legislation had a provision for judicial review, judges zealously enforced legislation that violated the principles of due process and natural justice—such as the defendant's right to challenge

or even read the evidence raised. Manson drew a parallel between this legislation and Canada's current anti-terror law that allows detention without charge and denies the incarcerated individual the right to examine the evidence used to hold her.

Kent Roach, University of Toronto law school professor and counsel to the Maher Arar inquiry, offered a detailed overview of the threat posed by Bill C-36, Canada's hastily adopted anti-terrorism bill. Roach drew specific attention to the current proposal to allow wiretaps and email monitoring without a search warrant. Roach suggested that such measures could adversely affect academic freedom. Roach also pointed to the broad definition of terrorism in the bill. Though not as broad as the definition originally proposed, there is still some concern that certain political analysis and forms of protest could be conceived as terrorism under the bill.

Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education

The annual meeting of the Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education (CSSHE) was held in London from May 28 to 31, which the Federation attended. The Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education is comprised primarily of academics who research higher education.

Throughout the 1990s, CSSHE became quite politicised and showcased the work of economists such as Ross Finnie and David Smith arguing for the deregulation of tuition fees. In particular, presidents of large universities in Ontario have played a prominent role in the CSSHE; however, in recent years the Federation and the Canadian Association of University Teachers have begun to increase their role in the Society.

Several researchers were recently elected to the board who sought a more progressive research agenda for the CSSHE. Since that election, the research topics of CSSHE have been more balanced, but advocates for higher tuition fees

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and student debt still play a prominent role in the Society.

The focus of this year's conference was teaching and learning. Unfortunately, many panels focused on the somewhat trendy issue of plagiarism. The advent of the Internet has led to a kind of moral panic among low-level university administrators, many of whom presented papers warning of the perils of plagiarism. There was very little hard evidence of rampant wrongdoing or a marked increase in dishonesty among students. Unfortunately, there was no examination of the increasing ethical breaches by university faculty engaged in commercial research. Federation representatives argued that instead of exaggerating the problem of plagiarism the CSSHE should focus on the growing peril of commercialisation on academic freedom.

There was also a plenary panel on former Ontario Premier Bob Rae's review of post-secondary education in Ontario. The panel presentation delivered by University of Western Ontario president Paul Davenport applauded the recent Ontario budget announcement of increased public funding for post-secondary education. Davenport re-iterated that he would continue his campaign for deregulated tuition fees. However, in a candid moment, he said it was unclear that the Ontario government would agree to deregulate tuition fees because of "an effective and loud pushback from students".

Social Welfare Policy Conference

During June 15–18, a Federation representative attended the Canada Council on Social Development's (CCSD) biennial Social Welfare Policy Conference in Fredericton. The Canada Council on Social Development is a leading research institution on social policy. This year's policy conference gathered together over 100 academics, non-governmental organisation researchers, and government researchers to discuss a wide array of social policy issues.

The conference focussed on policies that permanently alleviate poverty, rather than simply

reacting to the effects of poverty. Access to post-secondary education and apprenticeship opportunities were overriding themes. One of the panels offered an insightful and original analysis of the new fad of "asset building" for the poor.

The notion of asset building for the poor originated in the United Kingdom and is premised on the idea that one of the primary causes of poverty is that the poor do not have good savings habits, and if they could only emulate the savings discipline of the more prosperous in society, they too would enjoy a higher standard of living. Such a theory ignores the root causes of poverty and ultimately lays the blame for poverty upon the poor themselves, as if poverty were a matter of individual psychology and personal discipline.

The most active proponent of this kind of policy in Canada is an organisation called Social and Enterprise Development Innovations (SEDI). In its presentation, SEDI promoted the theory of asset building by encouraging the poor to save for post-secondary education. Not surprisingly, SEDI is a strong supporter of the recently introduced Canada Learning Bond, a gimmicky public relations policy designed to encourage savings among the poor. The Federation and other delegates were sharply critical of this approach. Much of the data and analysis offered at the conference discredited the idea of asset building and saving-incentive models of social policy.

Canada Council on Learning

The "Canada Learning Institute" was announced in the 2003 federal budget with a funding allocation of \$100 million. Since the 2003 budget, the funding has been scaled back to \$85 million and the agency has been renamed the Canada Council on Learning. After a preliminary set of consultations, the Council has set up five themed "knowledge centres" spread across the country: Adult Learning in Atlantic Canada, Early Childhood Learning in Quebec, Work and Learning in Ontario, Aboriginal Learning in Saskatchewan, and Health and Learning in British Columbia. The Federation participated in

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the inaugural Work and Learning conference held in Toronto on June 22 and 23.

Each of the knowledge centres will be a “national network of research excellence” in its area. Research projects will be funded through a complex governance structure in which each centre will be run by a lead organisation with the assistance of an advisory board. This elaborate structure, in turn, will be supervised by a Board of Governors and chaired by former Association of Universities and Colleges in Canada president Robert Giroux. The task of the lead organisation is to set the parameters and goals for the research but the actual projects will be adjudicated on a peer review basis. The criteria for the peer review process will be relevance to the Council’s mandate, innovative methodology, and a strategic plan for wide dissemination of the research.

Despite the creation of the knowledge centres, the mandate of the Council remains vague. President Paul Cappon said that the Council’s two tasks are to provide the federal government with research for so-called “evidence-based” decision-making, and to motivate increased levels of life-long learning. Given that the funding for the Council comes from the Department of Human Resources and Skills Development, the extent to which research will be “arms length” from the agenda of the federal government remains to be seen. The Federation will continue to monitor the work of the Council and ensure that it does not turn into the same kind of corrupt research project as the Millennium Scholarship Foundation.

After attending the founding meeting of the Canada Council on Learning in June, the Federation was invited to a follow up meeting with the Canada Labour and Business Centre to discuss the implementation of the Council’s mandate. The Canada Labour and Business Centre is a coalition of labour and business organisations that works to increase funding for training and apprentice programmes. As previously reported, the CCL was accepting applications from organisations for membership on the steering committee of each of the Council’s core research areas. The Canada

Labour and Business Centre was recently named to the steering committee of the Work and Learning Centre of the CCL located in Toronto.

The Federation met with the Canada Labour and Business Centre on September 14 and outlined the need for professional, non-biased research on issues like access to training apprentice programmes. Regrettably, shortly after this meeting, it was reported that Alex Usher, former Millennium Scholarship Foundation researcher and proponent of high tuition fees and high student debt, had been awarded a substantial research contract. The Federation will prepare a formal response to this contract to submit to the next consultation scheduled for early in 2006.

Post-Secondary Education in the Minority Environment

From November 11 to 13, the Federation participated in the “Forum sur l’éducation postsecondaire en milieu minoritaire,” hosted by Local 38. Bringing together students from francophone or bilingual institutions in regions where French is the minority language, the Forum provided an opportunity for francophone students to discuss issues of common concern.

The Forum primarily focused on a combination of francophone-specific issues and skills development, with some sessions devoted to broader post-secondary education issues. The Federation presented on effective lobbying strategies and current issues facing the student movement in Canada.

During the closing roundtable session, Forum participants agreed to write a series of joint letters regarding a number of issues, including increased federal funding for francophone programmes and materials and additional financial support for francophone students. Forum participants determined that more core funding for post-secondary education would improve the overall quality and accessibility of universities and colleges, ultimately improving the experience of all students.

Other Government Relations Work

Taxation of Meal Plans and Residence Fees

In January 2005, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) issued a paper on the application of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on university and college meal plans. According to CRA officials, there has been ongoing confusion at the campus level about what meal plans are taxable and why, and the paper was circulated to clarify the terms of taxation. The paper summarises the regulations for GST exemption as follows:

- The meals are provided to a student enrolled at the university or public college who lives either on-campus or off-campus.
- The student pays a single amount for the plan.
- The single amount is sufficient for the student to receive at least 10 meals each week for the period of the plan.
- The plan is for a period of at least one month.
- The meals are served only at an on-campus restaurant or cafeteria (i.e., on the property of the university or public college). A private operator may own or operate the restaurant or cafeteria where the meals are served, provided it is on campus.

Given the evolving nature of campus meal plans and the increased privatisation of food services, many (if not most) institutions' meal plans are now taxable. The taxation of meal plans runs contrary to the original spirit of the legislative exemptions, so in the coming months the Federation will conduct research into the scope of meal plan designs and meet with CRA officials to determine if a review of the current regulations is required.

Summer Career Placement Program

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills Development, Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities is currently studying the Summer Career Placement Program. The Program provides a wage

subsidy for employers that create "career-related summer jobs for secondary and post-secondary students from 15 to 30 years of age". The Program's goal is to facilitate the creation of summer jobs that "provide students with the opportunity to acquire skills, gain valuable work experience and help finance their return to school". The Program provides a subsidy of 50% of the minimum wage for private and public sector employers and 100% of the minimum wage for not-for-profit employers. Not-for-profit employers are also eligible to receive a subsidy for additional employment related costs such as Employment Insurance, Canada Pension Plan, and Vacation Pay contributions. In addition, employers that hire a student with a disability are eligible to receive up to 100% of the minimum wage and additional funding, up to \$3,000, to make accommodations in the workplace to facilitate the student's work.

On October 27, the Federation testified before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills Development, Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities with respect to the committee's study of the Summer Career Placement Program. The Federation highlighted some of the positive aspects of the Program such as the distinction between private and not-for-profit employers, and the assistance provided to accommodate students with disabilities.

There were three areas in particular that the Federation identified as needing improvement. The first recommendation was to increase the length of the placements. Several members of the Committee agreed that the short duration of placements meant that a great deal of time was spent training and orientating students to jobs, rather than providing them with an opportunity to engage in the work of the positions for which they were hired. The Federation noted that the short duration of placements did not provide students with an adequate amount of time to earn income during the summer. In addition, because the start times were often six to eight weeks after students had completed their spring semester studies, they would have to find temporary employment in the interim

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or forgo employment entirely while waiting for the placements to begin.

The Federation's second recommendation was to increase the wage subsidy for not-for-profit employers to an amount greater than the minimum wage. Not-for-profit employers often provide exposure to fields and careers that students do not receive through traditional job placement programmes and co-ops. Furthermore, many not-for-profit employers do not have the resources to provide summer employment opportunities to students. A wage subsidy that allows them to employ students at a reasonable wage would be a substantial improvement to the Program. The Federation noted that merely creating additional minimum wage jobs across the country did not meaningfully achieve the goal of helping students "finance their return to school".

The final recommendation made by the Federation was to increase the number of funded placements. It was agreed by all witnesses and most members of the Committee that the Program was beneficial to both employers and employees and that providing career focused work placements was an effective way for the government to achieve the goals of its youth employment strategy.

The committee began consideration of the draft report on the Summer Career Placement Program on November 22; however, details of the draft report are unavailable at this time.

Campus Awareness Campaigns

"No Means No"

The "No Means No" campaign is widely recognised and respected across the country and has been used by many anti-violence groups, peer counselling services, sexuality education programmes, teachers organisations, and, students' unions. The Federation's campaign was first developed in 1992 to combat the alarmingly high rates of date rape on campus and to force college and university

communities to increase their roles in awareness, counselling and treatment of sexual assault. Since its inception, the "No Means No" campaign has taken aim at the myth that victims of date rape are responsible for the offences committed against them.

The Federation continues to produce campaign materials that are used on campus and in communities across Canada, including posters, a fact sheet, stickers, postcards, coasters, and most buttons.

In spring 2005, the Elgin County Violence Against Women Services contacted the Federation to ask permission to use the trademarked "No Means No" slogan on a series of billboards. The Federation granted the request and subsequently five "No Means No" billboards were erected from May to September 2005 in Elgin County, Ontario.

"Where's the Justice?"

The Federation's long-standing "Where's the Justice?" campaign aims to raise awareness of the roots of violence, poverty, and discrimination faced by Aboriginal peoples. Campaign materials have included posters, stickers, and postcards.

Sisters in Spirit

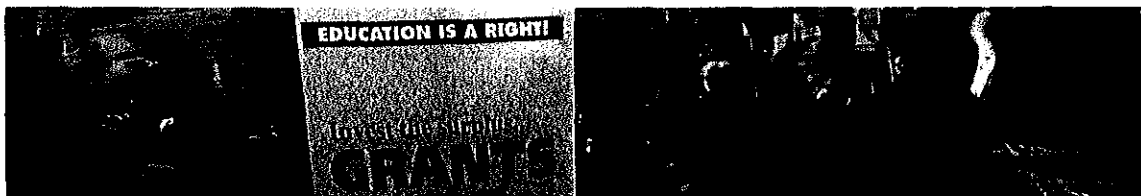
The May 2005 national general meeting resolved to participate in the "Stolen Sisters" campaign as part of the Federation's ongoing "Where's the Justice" campaign. The "Stolen Sisters" campaign, originally created by Amnesty International and now a campaign of the Native Women's Association of Canada, was created to fight violence and discrimination against Aboriginal women in Canada and to shed light on the numerous cases of violence against Aboriginal women. It is estimated that in the past 20 years, over 500 Aboriginal women have gone missing and/or been murdered but the numbers may be as high as 1,000.

The "Sisters in Spirit" campaign calls on the federal government to allocate \$10 million over two years to undertake the following:

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- establish a national registry and database of missing and murdered Aboriginal women;
- engage in public awareness and education aimed at increasing public understanding and knowledge of the incidences, causes and effects of violence against Aboriginal women;
- undertake policy analysis of the relevant national and international legal frameworks that address or do not address violence against Aboriginal women in Canada; and,
- make comprehensive recommendations for changes.

The Federation distributed "Stolen Sisters" campaign materials to a number of member locals in August.



Solidarity Work

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

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

Solidarity

It has been a long-standing practice of the Federation to work in coalition with other groups and organisations on issues of interest and concern to students. The strength in numbers that the Federation realises by bringing together students from across the country is strengthened when members of other organisations also support the Federation's goals.

National Professional Association Coalition on Tuition Fees

The Federation is a founding member of the National Professional Association Coalition on Tuition Fees (NPACT). The Coalition was formed in response to the deregulation of professional, graduate, and second-entry programmes in Ontario in 1998. The Coalition meets to discuss trends in tuition fees and develop strategies to improve access to professional programmes. Most major national organisations representing professionals are members of the Coalition, including the Canadian Medical Association (Secretariat), the Canadian Dentists Association, the Canadian Pharmacists Association, the Canadian Bar Association, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, the Canadian Nurses Association, the Canadian Physiotherapy Association, and the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, as well as the Canadian Association of University Teachers.

This year, the Coalition prepared a submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance. The submission concentrated on the need for increased federal funding, targeted to post-secondary education to ensure the reduction of tuition fees. The brief also calls for increased non-repayable financial assistance, better debt relief measures and government research into the impacts of high tuition fees not only on access to professional programmes, but also on the selection of an area of concentration and employment choices for heavily indebted graduates from professional programmes.

Canadian Consortium for Research

The Federation is an active member of the Canadian Consortium for Research (CCR). The Consortium is comprised of 18 national organisations representing researchers in specific disciplines, the three granting councils, the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, and the Canadian Association of University Teachers. The CCR meets to discuss federal research policy issues and has submitted briefs to the federal government emphasising the importance of publicly funded research in Canada.

In September 2005, the Consortium submitted a brief to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance. The brief called for a dedicated post-secondary education transfer, increased funding for the research granting agencies, and increased support for the federal government's own research infrastructure. On October 27, representatives of the Consortium presented to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance highlighting the recommendations in the Consortium's brief.

The Consortium has also organised a number of lobby meetings throughout the year with Members of Parliament and government officials whose portfolios deal with university research. On October 6, the Federation attended a meeting with Nigel Lloyd, Acting President of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Isabelle Blain, Vice-President Research Grants and Scholarships, and Research, and Janet Walden Vice-President Partnerships to discuss funding priorities for the granting agency. Consortium representatives have also recently met with the National Science Advisor, Arthur Carty; Alan Nymark, Deputy Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development; and, representatives of Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and Canadian Institutes for Health Research.

2006 Alternative Federal Budget

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

The Federation has been invited to write the post-secondary education chapter of the 2006 AFB. The chapter will focus on the need to restore core transfer payments to the provinces for post-secondary education to \$7 to \$8 billion: the levels promised in June 2004 by Prime Minister Paul Martin. The Federation will elaborate on the importance of federal-provincial collaboration on a strategy for reducing tuition fees.

The chapter will explain how future student financial assistance in Canada must avoid the pitfalls of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation's characterisation of "income" versus "need" by creating a national system of needs-based grants through the Canada Student Loans Program to compliment the existing low-income grant programme introduced in 2004. The chapter highlights the need to expand the Post-Secondary Student Support Program by extending eligibility to Métis and non-status First Nations students and by providing additional funding. A draft of the chapter was completed in mid-November and the final document is due early in 2006.

Public Opinion Polling

In March 2001, the Federation joined the National Opinion Coalition coordinated by Vector Research. The Coalition is a co-operative polling group that conducts four polls per year. Each partner is allotted several questions of specific interest per poll and

members then agree upon a broader set of public policy questions of interest to all participating organisations. There are several standing questions each poll poses about voting preference and the standing of each of the major federal parties. In addition, members are kept abreast of public policy developments and the results of other major national and international polls.

The most recent meeting was held October 26. Members reviewed recent polling results on the standing of the federal parties as well as several post-secondary education questions. The most recent poll measured the level of public support for interest-free student loans for which it found strong support. The most recent poll also measured public support for the private management of the Canada Student Loan Program. Slightly less than 50% of respondents support this management model. Support dipped slightly when they were informed that the current company managing student loans is owned by a company based in the United States of America.

The most recent poll also measured support for the three major national parties, the Liberal, New Democratic, and Conservative parties. In addition to gauging voting preference, respondents were also asked to name their priorities for the election. Education ranked third after health care and pension concerns. Of the three parties, the New Democratic Party had a slight lead over the Liberals as the party most trusted to increase access to post-secondary education.

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

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

Solidarity

education in every province. The Federation has had a seat on the Centre's national Board of Directors since June 2004.

On May 27, the CCPA celebrated its 25th anniversary with a one-day conference entitled "Living with Uncle: Canada-U.S. Relations in a Time of Empire". Panelists at the conference discussed ongoing implications of the increasing policy harmonisation between Canada and the United States of America. Panelists debated the severity of policy harmonization and reflected on the social, economic, and environmental implications of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) adopted in 1994.

The conference also discussed the current challenges in Canada/US negotiations on issues about national security and the ongoing threats to civil liberties in Canada because of both Canada's Anti-Terrorism Bill and the U.S. Patriot Act. Panelists argued that the current discourse on national security was problematic mainly because it focused on funding "anti-terrorism" activities rather than ensuring the security of Canadians by investing in social programmes such as education, health care, and child care.

Public Education Network

The Public Education Network is composed of the Federation, the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), the Canadian Labour Congress, Québec labour and teachers' groups, la Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec, and the Canadian Teachers' Federation. In addition to strengthening links between education and labour organisations, the Network provides the Federation with a forum to exchange research and receive organising updates from partners in the education sector.

The Network met on September 7 and November 9. Both meetings discussed the importance of continuing to pressure the federal government to ensure that education is excluded from all international trade negotiations. The meetings also

provided member organisations the opportunity to discuss the state of the minority government and organisations' submissions to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance. Members reaffirmed their commitment to working together in the event of a federal election and to coordinate letter-writing campaigns and all-party leaders' forums.

Network members also resolved to submit a joint submission and request an invitation to present to the next Council of Ministers of Education as well as the post-secondary education summit proposed by the Premiers at the Council of the Federation meeting held in August 2005. Finally, the Network developed a joint letter to each of the provincial ministers responsible for post-secondary education, encouraging them to increase provincial pressure on the federal government to restore \$4 billion in federal funding for post-secondary education through a dedicated transfer payment to the provinces.

World March of Women

The World March of Women originated in 1995 to promote equality between women and men. The Federation has participated in the Canadian Committee of the World March of Women since 2000. The Canadian Women's March Coalition 2005 was the Canadian organising committee for World March of Women 2005 events in Canada. The November 2004 annual general meeting endorsed the World March of Women 2005 campaign, and many member locals participated in local campaign events during the spring.

As reported at the previous general meeting, the Canadian Women's March Coalition coordinated events to highlight the Global Women's Charter for Humanity across English Canada. On March 8, International Women's Day, the Charter was launched in Brazil and it arrived in Canada on May 1. The Charter, calling for peace, solidarity, equality, freedom, and justice travelled across Canada, stopping in Vancouver, Yellowknife, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Moncton, and Québec City.

The Charter travelled across the globe until the relay concluded in Burkina Faso on October 17, the International Day for the Elimination of Poverty. Women around the world participated in 24 hours of solidarity marked by noon-hour vigils. Vigils were held across the country on October 17 by member locals and coalition partners in tandem with various anti-poverty events.

Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada

The Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada (CCAAC) is dedicated to promoting high-quality, publicly-funded, and universally accessible child care. The Federation has participated on the Council of the Association for several years.

In the 2005 federal budget, the federal Liberal government committed \$5 billion over five years for new child care funding, and has since has developed agreements on allocations of funds to almost all provinces. However, failure to reach an agreement with the Alberta government has halted the establishment of any kind of pan-Canadian agreement. The Association is currently working to ensure that the new money is spent to expand non-profit services in Canada rather than supporting commercial, for-profit services.

On September 30, the Association held its annual general meeting in Ottawa. Discussions focused on international child care comparisons, most notably the Australian child care model. In Australia, federal government has allowed public funds to subsidise for-profit child care centres. As a result, expensive, poor quality commercial child care centres dominate the Australian sector. This phenomenon has exacerbated inequity in access to child care.

The Association is concerned that the few restrictions placed on the Canadian funds could potentially pave the way for corporate for-profit child care chains to dominate the Canadian child care sector. The Association is continuing its lobby efforts to ensure that federal funds for child care restrict disbursement to non-profit centres.

Common Frontiers

Common Frontiers is a working group that proposes an alternative to the social, environmental, and economic effects of economic integration in the Americas through a combination of research, analysis and action, in co-operation with labour, human rights, environmental, ecumenical, development and economic, and social justice organisations. The Federation joined Common Frontiers in January 2001 and has actively participated on the Steering Committee since that time.

At the September 9 meeting, updates were provided on preparations for the People's Summit in Buenos Aires to be held in conjunction with the FTAA meeting. Canadian Labour Congress Representative Sheila Katz noted that the labour movement was also holding a separate forum on labour rights in the hemisphere. Although the Federation expressed support for the People's Summit, it was noted that the Federation would be unable to send a representative because of other commitments during the fall.

The upcoming World Social Forum (January 23-27, Venezuela) was also discussed. Some concern was expressed at the lack of preparation undertaken for the meeting. However, it was noted that in previous years work began late and the event ran relatively smoothly. It is expected that there will be a substantial number of heads of state attending this years meeting. The Federation was asked to present a paper on education at one of the forums of the World Social Forum.

International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group

Formed in 2002, the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group (ICLMG) serves as a venue for activist, faith-based, civil liberties, and social justice organisations to exchange information about the impact of Canadian security legislation and to collectively respond. The Group has 32 members including the Canadian Association of University

Solidarity

Teachers, the Canadian Bar Association, Amnesty International, and the Canadian Arab Federation. The Group issues statements, writes letters, and engages in media relations on issues of common concern to members. The Federation joined the ICLMG in April 2004. Recently the Federation has benefitted from the Group's research about the potential impact of the U.S. Patriot Act on Canada Student Loans and borrower privacy.

On October 21, the Federation attended the ICLMG general assembly in Ottawa. ICLMG members heard that research and advocacy into the parliamentary review of Bill C-36, the Anti-Terrorism Act, was ongoing. As previously reported, the ICLMG submitted a brief to the House of Commons Subcommittee on Public Safety and National Security. The brief argues that the Anti-Terrorism Act must be repealed, and that related legislation (Public Safety Act) and measures (the Smart Border Action Plan) must be reviewed in order to deliberate on how these hastily introduced "security" initiatives threaten civil liberties and the rule of law. Former Solicitor General Warren Allmand presented the brief on the Group's behalf both at the House of Commons Special Sub-committee on September 21, and to the Senate Special Committee on October 17.

Members also heard from Philippa Lawson from the Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic (CIPPIC) about "lawful access" legislation introduced recently in Bill C-74. Lawful access refers to the interception/search of communications by law enforcement agents (LEAs). The new legislation increases the ability of LEAs to obtain customers' personal data from telecommunications service providers without getting a court order. Bill C-74 has the effect of lowering the judicial standards under which citizens can be surveyed. According to CIPPIC, "If police are allowed to strip individuals of their online anonymity without judicial authorisation and under cover of secrecy, it is almost assured that such powers will be abused, and valuable free speech will be chilled." More information can be found at www.cippic.ca.

Campaign Against Youth Poverty

The National Anti-Poverty Organization (NAPO) is a non-profit, non-partisan organisation that represents the interests of low-income people in Canada. NAPO addresses a range of issues, including social assistance, social housing, unemployment, and human rights. NAPO has launched a campaign to end youth poverty.

The youth poverty campaign is both an awareness campaign and a call to action for provincial/territorial and federal governments. The campaign is calling for a national youth agenda to address youth poverty in Canada, including: an employment strategy for youth that addresses the needs of Aboriginal and immigrant and visible minority youth, and youth with disabilities; improving eligibility for Employment Insurance, freezing tuition fees and implementing a national system of grants for post-secondary education; and reinstating the federal minimum wage at \$10 per hour with indexation. The Federation has provided research about tuition fees, student debt, and student financial assistance to support student debt component of the campaign. To-date, a campaign kit, postcards, and buttons have been produced, which are available for distribution.

On September 28, the Federation participated in a Newsmaker's Breakfast, which marked the launch of the campaign. A number of coalition partners, Members of Parliament and community activists were in attendance. The Federation spoke about the negative impact of rising tuition fees and student debt on youth. The debt clock was presented in order to illustrate the visual effect of the crisis of rising student debt in Canada.

Campaign to “Make Poverty History”

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

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

Throughout the summer, the Federation worked with the steering committee of the Make Poverty History Campaign to coordinate events on campuses during orientation week. Numerous member locals included white bands in orientation packages and hosted events in their communities to highlight the campaign.

The campaign has dedicated a number of days called “White Band Days” throughout the 2005 year to highlight specific components of the campaign. These days coincide with major international political and economic events. In Canada, the second “White Band Day” on September 10 coincided with the UN General Assembly Special Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). One of the MDG goals—to halve the proportion of people living in poverty by 2015—was being reviewed. Several member locals participated in regional events by hosting concerts, parades, and other public events.

The national steering committee coordinated events for the “White Band Day” on October 17 which coincided with the United Nations International

Day for the Elimination of Poverty. The focus was the fourth goal of the campaign—to call on the government to act immediately to end child poverty in Canada. Events across the country were held in tandem with several anti-poverty initiatives. Events were held in more than 50 cities across the country.

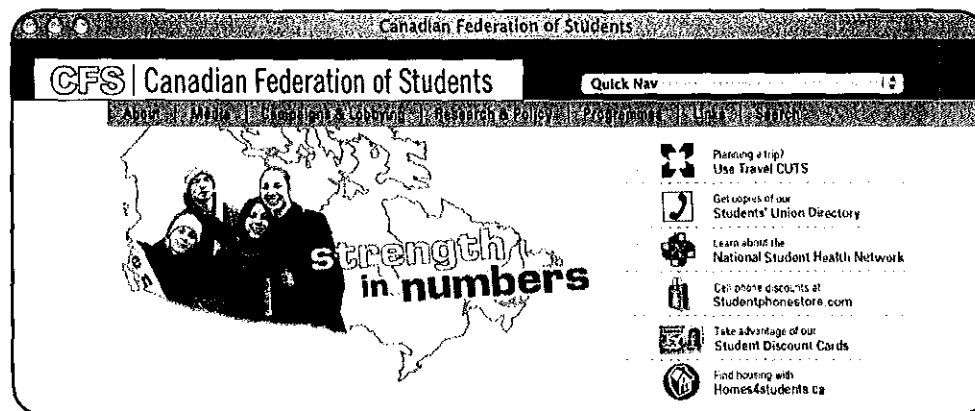
The next “White Band Day” is scheduled for December 2, 2005. The objective is to focus attention on the World Trade Organization 6th Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong and to call on developed countries to support demands for trade justice. Several member locals are planning educational events and other awareness activities on their campuses.

Sierra Youth Coalition

The Sierra Youth Coalition (SYC) is the youth branch of the Sierra Club of Canada that brings together youth who are concerned about addressing environmental issues such as over-consumption, climate change, and globalisation by promoting education about sustainability.

The Coalition has been active in promoting their Sustainable Campuses Project, which aims to support the efforts of post-secondary students to implement sustainable initiatives on their campuses.

In October, the Federation met with a representative of the Sierra Youth Coalition to discuss the Coalition’s new initiative to include Sustainability Indicators in the MacLean’s University Rankings. The Coalition was seeking advice from the Federation on how to mobilise students and lobby the editorial board of MacLean’s magazine. The Coalition was additionally seeking Federation representation on their national working group. On October 31, a Federation representative met with the Sustainability Coordinator of Sierra Youth Coalition to discuss strategies by which the Federation could support the work of the Coalition. The Federation expressed interest in exploring alternative venues for applying and publishing campus sustainability indicators.



Communications

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

Communications

Students' Union Directory

The first edition of the Students' Union Directory was published nearly 30 years ago by the Association of Student Councils (Canada), the predecessor organisation of the Canadian Federation of Students-Services. The Federation assumed responsibility for publishing the Directory in 1982 and has published it each year since.

Publication Timeline

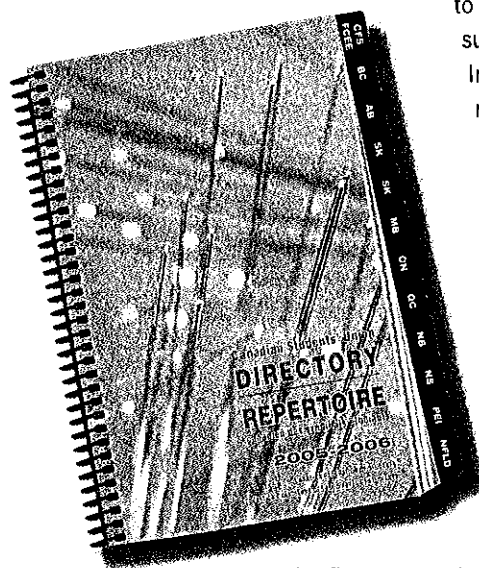
The biggest challenge in producing the Directory is collecting the information in a timely manner. Each year, the Federation sends surveys to students' unions in order to collect the necessary information and place follow-up telephone calls to students' unions that fail to return the completed surveys.

This year, student' unions received their surveys in early April and were asked to return the completed surveys by May 16.

In general, the return rate this year was improved over last year. Nevertheless, considerable energy was spent gathering the information and placing follow-up telephone calls in June and early July.

The Directory was sent to print in mid-August and arrived on campuses during

the first two weeks of September.



Production Costs & Sales

Last year's edition of the Directory contained a record number of listings for students' unions, requiring additional pages and resulting in higher printing costs and mailing costs. For the 2005-2006 Directory, some minor design changes were implemented in order to reduce the number of

pages, including the use of a slightly smaller font for the entries and lighter weight paper.

Orders of the 2005-2006 Directory from member locals are approximately ten percent higher than last year's orders, while orders by non-members have fallen slightly. At this point overall sales revenue to-date is slightly below last year's total; however, additional sales during the remainder of the year should result in a modest increase in overall sales revenue.

Enhancements

The 2005-2006 edition of the Directory includes a new section listing contact information for campus food banks. It is hoped that continued efforts to solicit additional information will result in a more complete listing for future editions.

As reported at the previous general meeting, the National Executive is working to implement an online data submission system for the 2006-2007 edition of Directory. This system would allow students' unions to submit Directory information electronically through the Federation's web site. The development of an electronic information submission system would also greatly reduce the number of errors that are inadvertently created during the data entry process. This could reduce the time and resources required during the editing stages and likely lead to an earlier delivery date.

Web Site

The Federation's use of web sites has grown considerably over the past few years. The Federation has moved from a simple site, with general organisational information, news updates, and some of the Federation's more popular research documents, to a comprehensive "web presence". The Federation now has several national sites, ranging from VoteEducation.ca site, used for disseminating information during federal and provincial elections, to isic.cfs-fcee.ca, used for issuing International Student Identity Cards and maintaining the ISIC database.

The National Executive has identified the appearance and usability of the Studentsaver database as top priorities for re-design. The current database and search interface have been in place since 2002.

The Federation's main page will again host a link to Ufile.ca during the tax-filing season in early 2006.

2005-2006 Member Local Communications Kit

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

The 2005-2006 version of the Communications Kit was distributed in mid-July. There were no significant changes or additions to this year's version of the Kit.



Programmes

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

Programmes

Discount Service

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

The service utilises two discount cards: the International Student Identity Card (ISIC) and the Studentsaver card. International rules governing the issuing of the ISIC stipulate that only full-time students are eligible to receive the ISIC. Consequently, the Federation produces and distributes the Studentsaver card in order to ensure that, where possible, part-time students who belong to the Federation have access to the same discounts.

ISIC Issuing

Over the past two years there has been a decline in ISIC sales that can be attributed mostly to the growth of the Federation's membership. Federation members receive the ISIC as a benefit of membership. As the Federation continues to grow, more students receive the ISIC at no additional cost and, as a result, sales to non-members continue to fall. A portion of the decrease can be attributed to the decline in available student flights requiring the ISIC.

On a positive note, Studentphones discounts that require the ISIC as proof of full-time student status continue to increase demand for the ISIC in some regions of the country. At some campuses where the phone discounts have a high profile, many students apply for the ISIC specifically for the deals available on cellular phones and phone plans, rather than for the travel-related discounts.

Currently, close to 70 students' unions, provincial components and institutions serve as ISIC issuing

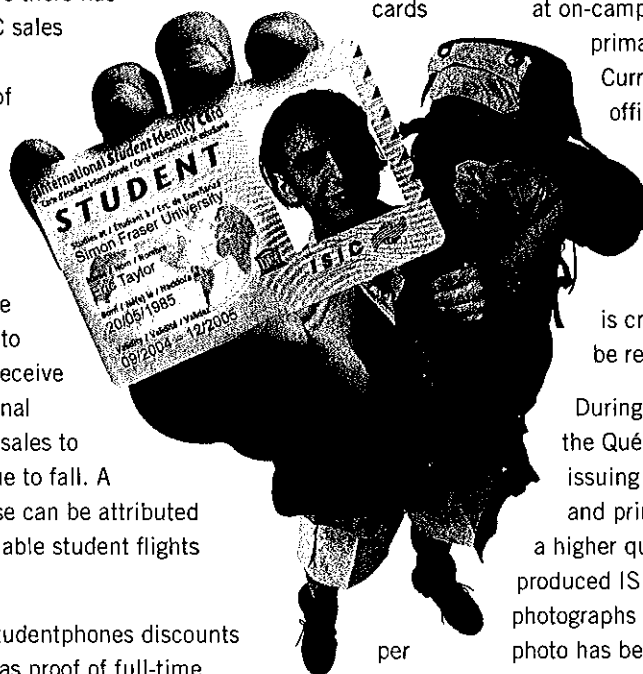
offices, using label printers supplied by the Federation. As reported in the past, maintaining the printers in proper working order, when they are located in offices across the country, continues to be an operational challenge. The challenge is further compounded because the oldest of the printers are now more than six years old and beginning to breakdown frequently. With each printer costing approximately \$700.00, the Federation cannot afford to immediately replace all of the oldest printers. Of the 90 printers that have been purchased since 1999 fewer than 75 are still working.

While the bulk of cards issued are done so throughout the year by campus issuing offices, provincial offices issue between 7,500 and 10,000 cards at on-campus promotional events, primarily in September.

Currently, most provincial offices take "Polaroid" style photographs of students when issuing cards at these events. The cost is roughly \$1.00 per shot and the image that is created is static (i.e. cannot be resized).

During the 2003-2004 year, the Québec Component began issuing using a digital camera and printer. The result has been a higher quality, more inexpensively produced ISIC. By printing six photographs per sheet, the unit cost photo has been reduced to less than ten cents per photo.

In early 2005 the National Executive resolved to create five mobile ISIC issuing kits to employ the digital camera issuing system employed by the Québec Component. The kits were assembled this past summer and tested, on a limited basis, at some events this past September. It is anticipated that the kits will be deployed to various provincial offices shortly for use starting in January 2006.



Studentsaver Distribution

For the past several years the local ISIC/Studentsaver discounts have been compiled in a national discount guidebook published annually and distributed, most often as an insert in handbooks/dayplanners or orientation kits, each September.

As reported in May, it was decided that this year the Federation would include the Studentsaver card and the discounts for the applicable region in the handbooks of those locals participating in the handbook project, instead of supplying those locals with national guidebooks.

The Studentsaver discount cards and regional listings were included in approximately 285,000 of the close to 300,000 handbooks printed by the Federation. This enabled the Federation to reduce to 215,000 the number of separate national guidebooks printed.

While the demand for the Studentsaver card and guidebook is usually strong at the start of the school year, anecdotal evidence suggests that use and awareness of the programme declines rapidly throughout the remainder of the year. It's hoped that by having the discounts listed in their dayplanners students' remain aware of the programme throughout the year.

For next year the National Executive hopes to develop an option that would allow member locals that do not participate in the handbook project to include the Studentsaver card and listings in their handbook/dayplanners. This option was employed this year by the Continuing Education Students' Association of Ryerson which joined the Federation as a prospective member after the print deadline for the guidebook.

Local Discount Solicitation

A total of 2,867 local and regional discounts were secured by member locals and provincial offices this year. Approximately 1,000 were renewals.

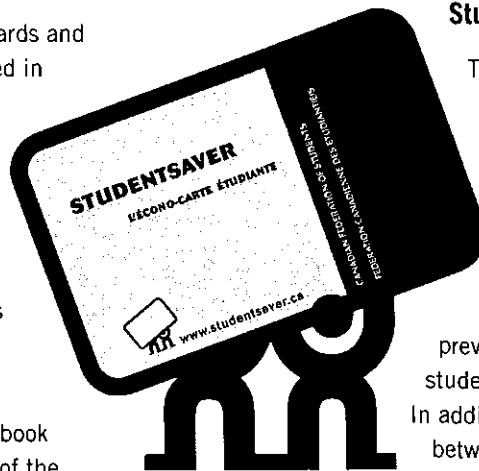
In most of the cities in which Federation member locals are located a respectable number of discounts were secured, although improvement is needed in a few locations. As the Federation's membership continues to grow an emphasis on increasing the number and quality of discounts in the respective areas will be a priority in the 2006–2007 year.

Studentphonestore.com

The Federation partnership with Studentphones is now almost five years old. During this time the saving offered and the use of the programme have grown significantly. Unfortunately, in many regions of the country the lack of serious competition prevents Studentphones from securing student discounts in those regions. In addition, exclusivity arrangements between cellular networks and some campuses pose a significant barrier to securing discounts.

In an effort to counter exclusivity arrangements, Studentphones is seeking "anti-exclusivity" arrangements with institutions and students' unions through its Network Programme. Under the Programme, no cellular service provider would have exclusive advertising rights at an institution or campus. Instead, providers are required to offer student discounts in order to have access to the campus. The arrangement is open to all providers to participate. Currently, eleven member locals and one institution are participating in the Network Programme.

The Programme also provides member locals with the ability to integrate the Studentphones website into their own sites, meaning that students have



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access to the Studentphones discounts without leaving the students' union site.

As reported at the previous general meeting, the Federation and Studentphones have been working together to develop a cellular phone-recycling programme. While it was hoped to have the service in place for September this year; it will now be launched in January 2006

The current partnership arrangement between Studentphones and the Federation is scheduled to expire in summer 2008. Discussions about extending the partnership beyond 2008 have been underway for several months.

Studentminutes

Many students, particularly international students, use pre-paid long-distance calling cards to reduce their calling costs. Unfortunately, many of the current pre-paid cards on the market have hidden fees or charges. Worse still, there have been several cases in which the companies that offer these cards go bankrupt, leaving students with pre-paid cards that are worthless.

In September, Studentphones launched a pre-paid long distance service for students called Studentminutes, a web-based service not requiring the purchase of a card. Instead, students open internet accounts in which they register the telephone numbers of the phones from which they will be calling, such as their home and cellular telephone numbers. When calling, they dial the access number from one of the registered telephones and, when prompted, enter the number being called. Charges are then deducted from their account balances.

The rates offered are competitive with those in the market, but contain no hidden fees. In addition, a ten percent discount is applied on account top-ups and 60 minutes of free long distance are provided when an account is activated.

ClearlyContacts.ca

This past summer the Federation secured for all ISIC holders a 10 percent discount on all products sold by a ClearlyContacts, an on-line retailer that offers low-price contact lenses and free shipping. The



deal is in keeping with the 2004 national general meeting directive to pursue on-line student discounts employing the ISIC as the student status verification tool.

UFile.ca

As reported in May, the Federation has negotiated with UFile.ca to provide free on-line tax return filing for students between February 15 and April 30, 2006. Discussions are underway to make the offer available throughout the year.



Homes4students.ca

Introduction

The Federation's online housing database, homes4students.ca, was created to give students the ability to search for and compare affordable and suitable accommodation, find roommates, and sublet their existing accommodation from anywhere in the country.

The first version of homes4students.ca was launched in summer 2002. In 2003, the Federation entered into a partnership with Ecom Media Group (EMG). EMG, provides technical support for the site, including web design and maintenance as well as assists the Federation in soliciting accommodation listings. EMG operates a network of searchable housing websites, including a specialised off-campus housing site aimed at post-secondary students in the United States. Most importantly, EMG maintains partnerships with major Canadian rental associations.

This has helped to increase the number of postings on the website and expand the number of communities in which students can search for housing.

Students can post and search listings free of charge. Landlords pay a nominal fee for participating in the site which covers the majority of the costs associated with its operation.

Site Traffic

Since the web site launch in spring 2003, the number of users has grown substantially. To date, the site has received over seven million hits and daily usage continues to grow.

Local Customisation

EMG's software allows for homes4students.ca to be integrated into member locals' websites. The software that supports the website and web interface can be customised for a member local and localised to the community in which it is situated. Students' union branding with its logo and other specifications can be incorporated, enabling the local to showcase homes4students.ca as a service of the local. EMG manages the development of the localised sites and the process takes approximately one week.

The following member locals have received or requested customised homes4students.ca sites since the last general meeting:

- Local 15 – Cariboo Student Society
- Local 23 – Simon Fraser Student Society
- Local 33 – Emily Carr Students' Union
- Local 73 – City Centre Students' Union
- Local 76 – King Edward Students' Union
- Local 92 – Student Association of George Brown College
- Local 103 – University of Manitoba Students' Union

This brings to 25 the total number of member students' unions that are localising the site

Promotion

Material Production

As with previous years, two sets of materials were produced and distributed this year, one targeting students and the other landlords.

In addition, homes4students.ca continues to be featured in advertisements in both the common handbook and the Studentsaver Guidebook.

Promotion to Landlords

The Federation and EMG purchased advertising space in "Canadian Apartment Magazine", a publication targeting property owners. EMG representatives also promoted homes4students.ca at the Association of College and University Housing Organizations' international conference and trade show in July. The trade show provided an opportunity to showcase the site and develop contacts with off-campus housing offices.

Service Development

Bilingualism

Currently, the front end of the site is bilingual, but search options on the site are only available in English. The process of updating the database software to allow for a fully bilingual site was supposed to be completed before September; however, the process proved to be more time consuming than EMG had originally anticipated. The French version of the site is now in the final stages.

Content Improvements

The Federation is working with EMG to update the common content available to members, including the summary of the service on the homes4students.ca splash page and the options available for listing searches.

Improved Landlord Service

Although there has been virtually no resistance on the part of landlords to pay to post their listings on the site, many landlords have expressed some

Programmes

difficulty in completing and posting the forms on the internet. The Federation has been working with EMG to develop a listing application form that can be faxed, toll-free, to the EMG office.

National Student Health Network

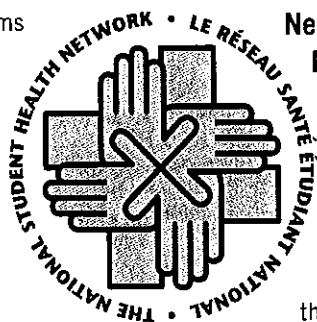
Introduction

The first health and dental plans that emerged on Canadian campuses were based on employee plans. They were overly expensive and failed to cover many of the drugs and services commonly used by students. In 1986, the members of the Federation responded to these inadequacies by creating the National Student Health Network.

The primary purpose of the Network is to use the collective expertise and combined buying power of the Federation's member locals to secure lower rates and better coverage for students. Additional savings are achieved by centralising various administrative functions, each Network member being responsible for that work.

Green Shield

Although the Network secures quotes from a variety of insurance carriers, all members are currently using Green Shield Canada as their carrier. Green Shield is Canada's only national not-for-profit benefits provider and, as such, consistently offers the lowest rates in the country for student plans. The Network has negotiated an agreement with Green Shield that establishes preferred arrangements and services for Network members. Although Green Shield provides plans to some students' unions that are not members of the Network, these students' unions do not enjoy the greatly reduced administrative costs provided to Network members by Green Shield.



Network Expansion and Promotion

New Plan Members

This year more than 200,000 students from 37 member students' unions will be receiving their health and dental benefits through the National Student Health

Network. Locals 36, 45, 68, and 103

have joined the Network since the previous national general meeting. In addition, Local 97 has added a dental plan to its existing coverage.

Earlier this month Local 69 members voted unanimously in a referendum to implement a health and dental plan. The coverage will commence in January 2006.

Network Profile

In an effort to increase the profile of the Network a new graphic identity is being established that focuses on the theme "Students Benefit". This theme will be incorporated into the visual identity of the Network, including promotional materials, web site, and Network documents.

Website

A modest website, www.StudentsBenefit.ca, was launched in late August in order to host local plan information and opt-out functions. This website will continue to be expanded and developed over the coming months. Initial expansion plans include a searchable database administered through Google maps that will allow plan subscribers to pinpoint the location of dentists participating in the Dental Discount Network.

The Network's new website has been customised for Locals 97 and 98 and available for customisation by each member of the Network. The websites will maintain a consistent visual identity; however, the information and materials available on the site will be individualised for the member local. Those Network members that choose to host plan

information and opt-out functions on their own sites will continue to receive support from the Network.

Materials

A number of new Network materials have been created that incorporate the Network's new visual identity. To date, materials include letterhead, forms and presentation covers that prominently display the Network logo and the tag line "Students Benefit". In addition, materials are being developed to educate students' union representatives about how to negotiate fair student health and dental plans and protect themselves from the questionable tactics used by some health and dental plan brokers/agents.

Network Services

Health Plan "Auditing"

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

Upon completion of the audit, the local is presented with an assessment of the existing plan, based on industry standards, and is typically provided with a "no obligation" quote for an alternative plan with equal or superior coverage to the existing plan. While the students' union is under no obligation to accept the quote, the Federation is bound by it if the local chooses to accept it.

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

Unfortunately, some agents have taken steps to minimise the likelihood that their deals will be subject to such scrutiny. Some agents are locking their students' union clients into multi-year deals, a practice that runs contrary to the industry standard, making an audit somewhat irrelevant. In some cases these extend for three or more years. Some agents either withhold plan information or require students' unions to sign confidentiality agreements that prevent them from releasing the information necessary for an audit to be conducted. Recently, however, one member local was able to obtain information directly from its insurer, bypassing the agent completely.

International Student Health Plans

In summer 2004 the Network accepted responsibility for arranging a health plan for international students at George Brown College. The plan provides international students with primary medical and hospital coverage equivalent to the coverage provided to Ontario residents through the Ontario Health Insurance Plan. Trent Health Services is underwriting this programme and has offered a much lower premium than that charged by the traditional provider of health insurance for international students, the University Health Insurance Plan.

The Network is operating the international student programme in the same manner it operates the extended health and dental benefits programme, by establishing a system for opt-outs, producing the benefits booklet, providing support to local staff and representatives and overseeing brokerage services. The Federation is investigating the feasibility of offering similar plans for international students at other institutions.

Dental Discount Programme

As previously reported, the Federation and Green Shield Canada are jointly developing a discount programme for dental services. In order to participate in the programme, dentists are required to provide discounts of 20 to 30 percent off their services in exchange for promotion by the Network. The

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dentists also agree that they will not perform any unnecessary procedures and their procedures are subject to possible audits. This audit process provides a value-for-service guarantee and is unique to the Federation's arrangement with Green Shield.

In winter 2005, the Federation launched a test of the programme in the Toronto area. More than 230 dentists agreed to provide exclusive savings to students. Over two thousand claims were filed through the programme in the first three months. Over the course of this year, work has been undertaken on expanding the programme to other regions of the country and on including other medical services.

Pay-Direct Card Expansion

Through technological and service enhancements developed by Green Shield, the pay-direct card programme can be expanded to paramedical services and medical supplies. Network plans are currently the only ones in the country that have this option. This new service will allow students to save money directly at the point of purchase for a variety of services, such as chiropractic, massage, physiotherapy and speech therapy. By reducing the out-of-pocket expenses, access to costly medical services should be greatly improved.

Network Administration

Electronic Opt-Outs

It has now been four years since the Network introduced an on-line system for refunding health plans fees paid by students with pre-existing coverage. This system allows for refunds to be processed electronically and for reimbursement to be applied directly to a student's account with the university or college.

The system has resulted in significant cost savings in plan administration, through the elimination of banking, mailing, and handling charges related to cheque processing. It has also meant that a higher percentage of students actually receive their refunds. In the past, many students did not receive

their cheques because they had moved residences. By using the electronic refund system, the problem is eliminated.

While most Network members have moved from a manual to an electronic refund system, approximately one-quarter are still employing a manual system. Although it was hoped that at least some additional conversions to electronic refunds would occur this year, it can now be reported that all members who manually handled opt-outs last year are doing so again this year. Nevertheless, replacing the remaining manual systems with electronic refund systems continues to be a priority.

On-Line Administration of Plans

In April this year the Federation and Green Shield launched a pilot project with Local 48 providing students with access to their Green Shield account on-line. The on-line system gives students the option of having reimbursements of medical expenses deposited directly into their bank or credit union account. It also allows students to review their past claims, the status of claims that have been submitted, and their claims payment history. By having access to their individualised plan information, students are able to determine when they are next eligible to submit claims for services such as eyeglasses and dental exams. The system also includes a detailed explanation of plan coverage, significantly relieving pressure on local plan administrators.

If the pilot project continues to proceed smoothly, the Federation hopes to adopt the system Network-wide in January 2006.

2005-2006 Annual Network Meeting

Every year, members of the Network meet to review the work of the Network, examine technical changes and industry developments, develop new initiatives, and discuss ways of making health and dental plans more responsive to the needs of students.

This year the meeting was held from August 4 to 6 in Toronto. The meeting included discussions of the new services offered to members by the Network and Green Shield, technical discussions about health plan mechanics and funding models, and a workshop on understanding and avoiding risk.

Network members discussed the responsibilities of local students' union staff and executive members and the need to exercise due diligence in assessing the value-for-dollar of their health and dental plans and in risk-proofing their students' unions from exploitation.

Administrative and Network Member Support

The rapid expansion in Network membership and the introduction of a variety of new services and plan enhancements has resulted in increase pressure being placed on Network staff. The resulting strain on resources was visible in a number of areas.

In order to respond to the expansion of its membership base, the Network staffing arrangements are currently being reviewed and plans are being implemented in order to expand administrative and Network member support.

Handbook Project

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

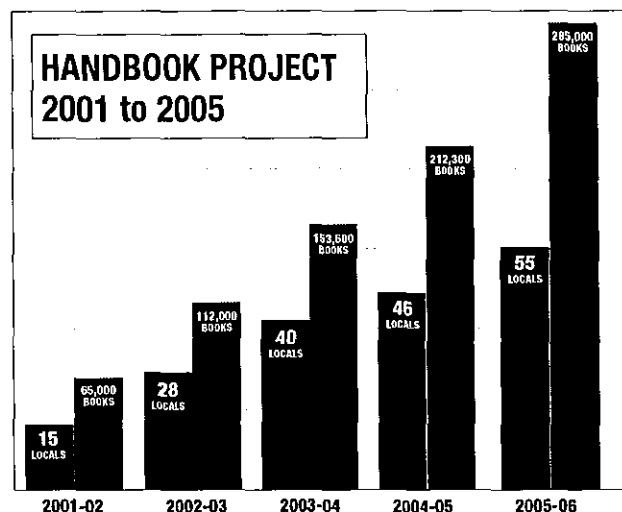
The handbook project was initiated primarily to reduce the cost of producing handbooks, particularly for small member locals. It was also viewed as means of improving the overall content and design of the publications.

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

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

The handbook project has experienced significant growth over the course of the previous five years. For the 2005-2006 academic year 53 students' unions, 51 member locals and two non-member unions in ten provinces participated in the project. In addition, a generic handbook for graduate students was produced. 298,500 individual handbooks were printed, up from 212,000 in 2004-2005, when 46 students' unions participated in the project. In 2003-2004, 154,000 handbooks were produced for 40 students' unions. This represents an 85 percent growth in the last three years.

Prior to 2004-2005, handbook pricing was based on a 48 page local section. In recognition that students' unions selecting 16 and 32 page local sections were reducing the cost to produce their books, it was decided that those savings would be passed directly on to those students' unions. This practice will continue for this coming year. In addition, those locals printing 10,000 or more books received a volume discount, and the per unit cost of Ontario



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handbooks was slightly reduced.

Despite the fact that the printing company has used the same delivery company for the previous six years, a small number of locals received their handbooks after the August 27 deadline. After repeated inquiries about the status of the deliveries, it was learned that in some cases the shipping company was reporting the books

as delivered when they arrived in the destination province, rather than at the students' union. In addition, the delivery company subcontracted delivery to Atlantic member locals without notifying the printing company. In these cases, the books were being reported as delivered when they reached Toronto, not their eventual destination. The National Executive is working to secure a discount from the printing company which is in turn seeking a discount from the delivery company as a penalty for the late delivery. In addition, the Federation has notified the printing company that it will not allow the delivery company to handle the handbooks next year. The printing company shares the Federation's concerns, and has begun to research additional options for delivery.

The May 2005 national general meeting resolved that the Studentsaver card and a listing of regional discounts be integrated into the common handbook. Regional listings of discounts were added to the back of each handbook. A divider with the Studentsaver card affixed was placed at the front of the section.

Despite renewed efforts to increase advertising sales in the common section of the 2005-2006 handbook, including earlier deadlines for handbook contracts, sales were much lower than anticipated. As reported at the May general meeting, Campus Plus agreed to work to sell the front inside cover, back inside and outside cover and three dividers. Ads sold included Aliant in some Atlantic

handbooks and Online Tel in some Atlantic, Ontario and BC handbooks. Advertisements for Travel CUTS, SWAP, the International Student Identity Card and VIA, Studentphonestore, Homes4students and UFile are included in all handbooks.

The National Executive reviewed the advertising sales strategy at its summer meeting and resolved to solicit proposals from other advertising agencies in an effort to improve sales. A request for proposals was distributed to a number of well-known agencies in the early fall; however the responses have been limited. The National Executive will discuss what additional efforts must be undertaken at its upcoming meeting.

The most significant option available for enhancement for 2006-2007 will be the addition of a die-cut sticker page to be inserted as the first page in the handbook. In addition, member local unions will have the opportunity to produce the local section in full colour at an additional cost.

Contracts for the 2006-2007 handbook are in the process of being revised and will be distributed in early January 2006.

Students' Union Website Service

Background

For some time, the Federation has produced a Communications Kit for member locals. Initially the Kit was assembled to assist member local students' unions with the production of handbooks/ dayplanners, newsletters, and ongoing promotions or campaigns to communicate with their members throughout the year. The Kit contains information about Federation campaigns and services and the state of post-secondary education as well as campaign photos, logos and locally customised ISIC images.

Over the years, as the central focus of communications during the year has become member locals' web sites, the Kit has been adapted

to be distributed via CD-ROM so that images and text-based information may be easily used in a variety of formats, including online.

There a number of different components to online communications, all of which can be costly if undertaken independently by a member local. These include website hosting, email hosting, email lists, domain name registration, data backup and, typically the most costly, the design and creation of a website and content management system.

In October 2004, the National Executive identified the design and hosting of local websites as a service widely used by the members that could be provided at a higher quality and lower cost by the Federation. The goal of the Students' Union Website Service, similar to that of the common handbook, is to produce a better quality services that meets the needs of students at an affordable price so that all member locals, regardless of their size, can improve communications with their members.

Development

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

Offshoot Inc. designed a custom content management system for local websites and have setup a dedicated web/email server for the Federation. Since the summer, a variety of website templates for member locals to choose from have been developed. Along with having the first and only student-run, non-profit hosting service, the Federation is also now a bulk domain name reseller, allowing students' unions to register and renew their .ca, .com, .net, and .org domain names. When fully operational, the Students' Union Website Service will permit a member local to simply visit the Service's website, choose a template and hosting package that

best suits the students' union's needs, sign up and activate a new website.

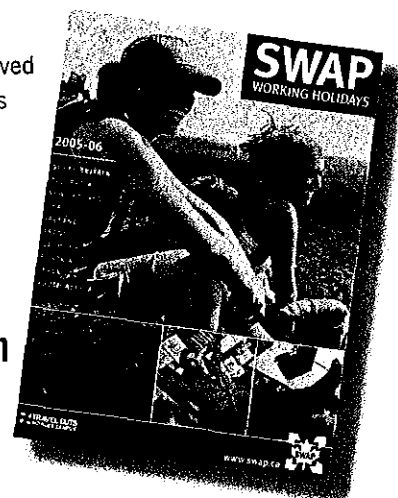
Another benefit of hosting websites with the Students' Union Website Service will be access to all of the latest developments. Currently, an online tool for managing the collection and maintenance of members' email addresses is in the design phase. This tool will allow members to sign up on a students' union's web site, indicate an interest in a particular part of the students' unions' work (i.e. events, campaign, services, first-year programming) and be added to the relevant list to receive email "blasts". More importantly, this tool will manage the requests of those who choose to join or leave the lists and provide feedback to the member local students' union about how the information it shares with its membership is being received.

In late August and early September Locals 4, 24, 68, 92, 96, and 98 expressed an urgent need for new websites or hosting services. The Students' Union Website Service was able to quickly accommodate the needs of theses locals. The British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Ontario Components have also moved all or part of their websites and email hosting to the Federation's dedicated servers.

Student Work Abroad Program (SWAP)

Overview

The Federation's Student Work Abroad Program, now marketed as SWAP Working Holidays, remains Canada's largest international work exchange program. Of the nearly 20,000 Canadian students on working holidays abroad, approximately twenty-five percent participate through SWAP.



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

Outbound Programs

Africa

As reported at the previous general meeting, the Federation continues to expand its SWAP programs in Ghana and rural South Africa. Although there are not a significant number of work opportunities in either location, there is a tremendous demand for volunteers to engage in teaching and development work.

Britain

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

New Zealand

The Federation has successfully negotiated with the New Zealand government to reduce some of the restrictions that are placed on Canadian students

and youth on working holiday visas in New Zealand. Normally, the working holiday visa for New Zealand limited participation to those under the age of 30. SWAP participants are now exclusively eligible to participate up to and including the age of 35.

Until recently, the New Zealand government allowed SWAP participants to work for the same employer for the duration of their visa, up to twelve months. Students on other work exchange programs were required to change employers every three months. However, the New Zealand government has now extended the right to work for the same employer for twelve months to all foreign participants. While this decision removes a certain element of exclusivity from SWAP New Zealand; it is a more equitable way of treating all work exchange participants.

United States of America

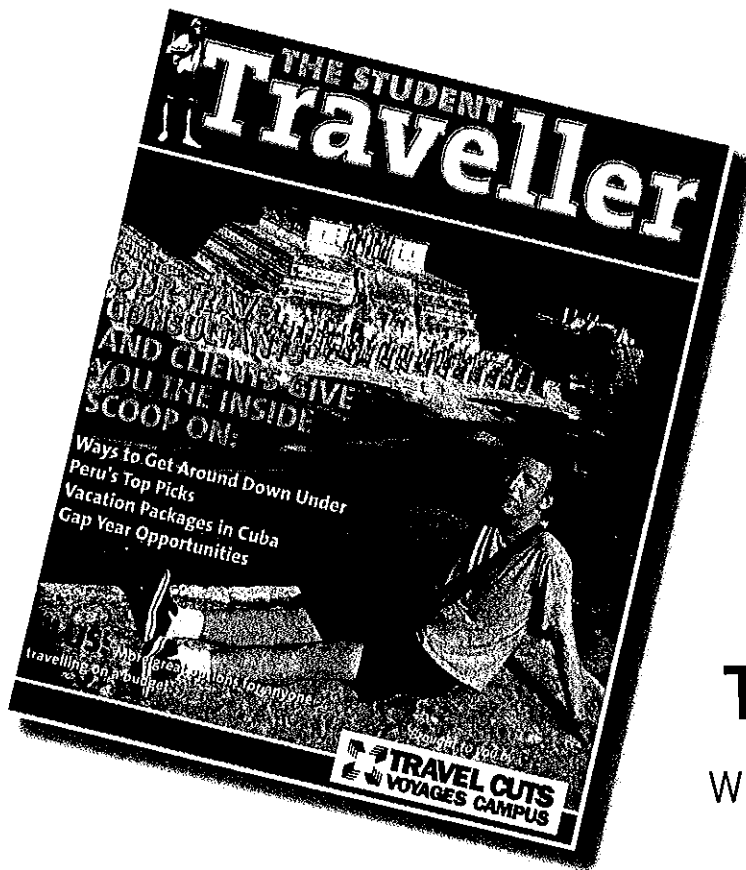
In addition to the usual SWAP USA activity, through which 500 Canadian students will work in the United States of America this coming summer, the Federation is currently operating two "work experience" programs in the United States of America. Internship USA is aimed at students and recent graduates and Practical Training USA is aimed at Canadians who have a few years of work experience. The notion of "work experience" differs from "work abroad" in that the primary aim is the career development of the participant rather than as a culturally oriented visit to another country. It is hoped that this "internship" concept can be expanded beyond the USA to both Europe and Australia by next year.

Inbound Programs

Hosting Centres

As reported at the previous general meeting, during the 2005 calendar year, the program expects to host approximately 6000 students from abroad participating in working holidays in Canada.

Services are provided at SWAP hosting centres in Vancouver, Toronto and Montréal. While the



Travel CUTS

With the major airlines' web booking systems threatening its traditional market, Travel CUTS has had to transform itself from a company that simply books travel to one that aggressively markets its products, both in its shops and on the web.

1999-2000 12/25/2000

The current membership of the Travel CUTS Board is as follows:

Position	Member
At-Large Member	Phil Robinson
At-Large Member	Jess Turk-Browne
National Executive Representative (Board Chair)	Dave Hare
National Executive Representative	Angela Regnier
National Executive Representative	George Soule
Staff Representative	Robert Keddy
Staff Representative	Paul Durand
Travel CUTS President (non-voting)	J. Rodney Hurd

Update on Canadian Offices

Update on USA Operation

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS(-SERVICES) • 24TH ANNUAL NATIONAL GENERAL MEETING

2004-2005 Fiscal Year Results

2005-2006 Fiscal Year

The first quarter results also show that efforts to expand the company's product offerings have been relatively successful. Although purchase of air travel has been reduced significantly over the last five years, an increased focus in selling travel insurance and accommodation has helped the company to remain viable.

Global Traffic Distribution Systems (GTDS) are private companies that list all of the fares and destinations offered by airlines, rail and bus companies around the world. Although each company posts its fares to each GTDS, most of the world's airlines have preferred arrangements with individual GTDS in which that GTDS receives revised information from the airline first. The current web sales engine employed by the company is only capable of searching a single GTDS. Consequently, the Travel CUTS web site will not always list the lowest fare available on a particular flight.

Travel CUTS is currently working with a Canadian company called Open Fares to develop a web sales engine that will be able to search for fares on multiple GTDS sites simultaneously. This will improve the likelihood that the price shown on the CUTS' web site are the lowest prices available.



Internal Affairs

The success of the Federation's partnership of more than 75 students' unions with a combined membership of over 500,000, lies in the strength and inclusiveness of our democratic structures.

With two comprehensive annual national general meetings, no other national organisation of comparative size provides a similar level of member involvement in decision-making.

Internal Affairs

National Executive

Current Composition

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

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

Federation Staffing

Maritimes Organiser

The permanent Maritimes Organiser remains vacant. Despite an exhaustive search in summer 2005, the National Executive was unable to identify, by the start of the 2005-2006 academic year, anyone that it wanted to hire on a permanent basis. The search for a permanent employee to fill the position will recommence in December, with the hope of having the position filled for January.

Prairies Organiser (Saskatchewan and Alberta)

Prairies Organiser Martha Robbins left the employ of the Federation earlier this month. Work on filling the position will commence immediately following this general meeting.

Federation National Congresses

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

May 2006 National General Meeting

The spring 2006 national general meeting has been tentatively scheduled for May 24-28. The National Executive will be finalising the dates at its next meeting in early January.

November 2006 National General Meeting

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

National Caucus General Meetings

The Federation's National Graduate Caucus consists of all member students' unions composed in whole or in part of graduate students. Each year during the winter semester a national general meeting of the Caucus is held. This year's meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 4-6, 2006.

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

Office Organisation

Preparations for Relocation of the National Office

Just over seven months remain on the lease for the Federation's head office in Ottawa. Under the terms of the lease, the Federation does not have the option to extend the current lease when it expires on June 30, 2006. All indications are that the building's current owner and primary tenant, the Canadian Red Cross, desires to use the space for itself.

During the 2000 fiscal year, the Federation established a capital fund for the possible purchase of office space upon the expiry of the lease. The balance in the fund at June 30, 2005 was \$1,000,000, an amount that should cover the majority of the purchase price on the space required by the Federation.

A full-scale investigation into options commenced this summer, with the goal of having new space secured by early 2006.

Legal Affairs

Travel CUTS Ownership Issue

In 1980, in an effort to unify the country's student movement, the two national student organisations in Canada (outside of Québec), the National

Union of Students (NUS) and the Association of Student Councils-Canada (ASCC), voted to replace themselves with a single, new organisation. It was agreed that the new organisation, the Canadian Federation of Students/Canadian Federation of Students-Services, would initially operate in tandem with the pre-existing organizations but that, over time, all activities, responsibilities, assets and liabilities would be transferred to the Federation, where upon NUS and ASCC would be wound down. Among the assets and liabilities of the Association of Student Councils was its six-year old student travel agency, Canadian Universities Travel Service (Travel CUTS).

In fall 1997, sixteen years after the founding of the Federation, the University of Western Ontario University Students' Council, which had been a member of the ASCC, filed suit against the Canadian Federation of Students-Services, Travel CUTS and ASCC claiming that the transfer of Travel CUTS from the ASCC to the Canadian Federation of Students-Services had been done improperly.

In December 1998 and January of 1999, initial examinations for discovery were conducted by both sides. Following the examinations the University Students' Council approached several students' unions about joining the lawsuit. Although most declined, one students' union, the University of Alberta Students' Union, joined the suit. In addition, two alma mater societies, the Queen's University Alma Mater Society and the University of British Columbia, also joined the suit. Due to scheduling difficulties, examinations for discovery of the additional plaintiffs were not conducted until fall 2001 and summer 2002.

As previously reported, the original trial had been scheduled to commence in September 2003; however, shortly before its scheduled commencement, the trial was postponed when the plaintiffs' lawyer ceased to be available. The trial was re-scheduled for commencement in early November 2004 but, in September 2004, was postponed a second time, again due to the unavailability of the

Internal Affairs

plaintiffs' lawyer. The trial is now set to get underway in late February 2006.

Based on the analysis of legal counsel, the National Executive remains extremely confident about a favourable outcome.

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



Membership Development

Since 1998, the members of 23 students' unions have joined the Federation. As a result, the Federation's membership is larger than it has ever been. As a Federation that anchors its organising and successes on "Strength in Numbers," our growing membership puts us closer to our goals.

Membership Development

Membership Stability and Growth

The Federation continues to experience a period of strong membership stability and growth. As noted in the previous National Executive report, only two member locals have withdrawn from the Federation since 1997 and one of those, the Grenfell College Student Union, rejoined the Federation eighteen months later. During the same period over 22 students' unions have joined the Federation for the first time, rejoined or reactivated their memberships.

New Members

University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (Local 17)

A year ago the University Saskatchewan Students' Union was accepted as a prospective member of the Federation. On October 4-6, 2005, a referendum on full membership was conducted in accordance with Bylaw 1.5. Over 20 percent of the Union's membership—a total of 3562 students—voted in the referendum, with 55.4% percent voting in favour of Federation membership. The official results were: 1968 in favour of membership; 1584 opposed; and 10 spoiled ballots.

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

University of Manitoba Students' Union (Local 103)

A year ago the University of Manitoba Students' Union was accepted as a prospective member of the Federation. On November 8-10 this year, a referendum on full membership was conducted in accordance with Bylaw 1.5. A total of 5162 students voted in the referendum, with 86.2% percent voting in favour of Federation membership.

The official results were: 4433 in favour of membership; 713 opposed; and 16 spoiled ballots.

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

New Prospective Members

Cariboo Student Society (Local 15)

Cariboo Student Society is composed of the students attending Thompson Rivers University (formerly University-College of the Cariboo) in Kamloops, BC. The Society had been a founding member of the Federation in 1981, but withdrew from the Federation during the 1994-1995 academic year.

In June this year, the Federation received an application for prospective membership from the Cariboo Student Society. The application was accepted at the Canadian Federation of Students-British Columbia provincial general meeting in August, allowing the Society to participate fully at that meeting and in the Federation in the months since then; however, a motion to ratify the Society's membership is also required at this general meeting.

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

Continuing Education Students' Association of Ryerson

In July, the Federation received an application for prospective membership from the Continuing Education Students' Association of Ryerson. The application was accepted at the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario provincial general meeting in August, allowing the Association to participate fully at that meeting and in the Federation in the months since then. Nevertheless,

Membership Development

a motion to ratify the Association's membership nationally is required at this general meeting.

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

Association étudiante de La Cité collégiale

Association étudiante de La Cité collégiale, is the students' union at the La Cité collégiale located in Ottawa. Earlier this month the Association submitted an application for prospective membership in the Federation. In accordance with Bylaw 1.4-b, the National Executive, having reviewed the application, recommends that the application for prospective membership be accepted.

Current Prospective Members

There are currently six prospective member students' unions:

- Association générale des étudiante(e)s de l'Université de Moncton Campus d'Edmundston;
- University of New Brunswick Graduate Students' Association;
- Association of Laurentian Part-time Students;
- Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students;
- Northern Lights College Student Association; and
- Trent Graduate Students' Association.

Association générale des étudiante(e)s de l'Université de Moncton Campus d'Edmundston (Local 51)

The Association générale des étudiante(e)s de l'Université de Moncton Campus d'Edmundston originally joined the Federation in 1985, but withdrew from the Federation during the 1995-1996 year. A year ago the Association attended the national general meeting as an observer and subsequently voted to apply for prospective membership in the Federation. Association's prospective membership application was accepted by the previous general meeting in May.

Under the new provisions adopted at the previous general meeting, a prospective member students' union now has a full year in which to conduct a referendum on full membership. Although dates have yet to be established, it is anticipated that the Association's full membership vote will be held in early March.

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

The University of New Brunswick Graduate Students' Association originally joined the Federation in 1989, but withdrew from the Federation during the 1992-1993 year. After more than a decade away from the Federation, the Association re-joined the Federation as a prospective member in May this year.

This past summer, the Association proposed, and the Federation agreed to, a referendum date in late October. Unfortunately, vacancies in the Association's executive necessitated the postponement of the referendum. The referendum on full membership is now tentatively scheduled for February 20-22, 2006.

Association of Laurentian Part Time Students

The Association of Laurentian Part-time Students was accepted as a prospective member of the Federation in May 2005. At this point a referendum on full membership has not yet been scheduled.

Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students

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



Finances

At each general meeting, member locals adopt or revise the Federation's annual budget. The National Executive must ensure that the mandated services and campaigns are carried out within the financial constraints set by that budget.

With net annual revenue of under three million dollars, six major national programmes to run and a wide variety of campaigns and government relations priorities, the National Executive works to ensure our Federation is an effective and efficient operation each and every year.

Finances

Overview

Membership fees remain the primary source of funding for the Federation. This year, total national membership fees are expected to reach \$2.5 million and will constitute roughly three-quarters of the Federation's total net national revenue.

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

Since the 2001 year, Travel CUTS has experienced a decline in sales as more and more students have switched to booking their travel, especially their domestic air travel, directly from the airline web sites. Although annual referral fee revenue has only declined by less than 20 percent, it is now necessary to invest an amount nearly equivalent to the referral fee into the company each year.

Fortunately, this period of lower retained referral fee revenue has coincided with a period of significant growth in membership and a corresponding growth in membership fee revenue. While it has not entirely offset the reductions in revenues from other sources, it has significantly lessened the impact.

2004-2005 Performance

Membership Fees

For the 2005 fiscal year (July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005) membership fees were \$2,215,111—exceeding the projection in the budget by roughly

\$40,000 (2%). A small amount of fees remains outstanding.

Discount Programme Revenue

International Student Identity Card (ISIC) sales revenue during the fiscal 2005 fiscal year was roughly the same as the previous year's; however, reduced costs and additional revenue in Studentphones commissions pushed net revenue to \$110,443.

Revenue from Travel CUTS

Under the referral fee agreement between the Federation and its subsidiary, Travel CUTS, the Federation may charge a referral fee of up to one percent of gross Canadian sales to students, in recognition of the promotional and referral activity undertaken by the Federation. The fee allows the Federation to re-invest in the company without paying corporate tax on monies that are being used for the investment. The nature of the agreement is such that the referral fee is considered an "expense" of Travel CUTS, whereas the re-investment is not revenue, but rather a capital investment.

While this re-investment mechanism is effective in years when Travel CUTS makes a profit, payment of the referral fee results in a deficit in those years in which the company would otherwise break-even. At the conclusion of the 2005 fiscal year, the CUTS senior management expressed concerns that, if the full referral fee were paid to the Federation, the company would record its third consecutive year of losses. This posed a significant problem given that many banks were already uneasy about providing credit to companies in the travel industry, and it was therefore increasingly necessary for CUTS to show a profit for the year.

The total referral fee for the year ending June 30, 2005 at one percent would have amounted to \$949,010, approximately \$1,000 below the amount budgeted by the Federation. The Travel CUTS Board and the National Executive considered

various options, such as reducing or even forgoing it entirely, in order to prevent a loss. While removing the expense would have had a positive impact on the CUTS bottom line, it would have had minimal impact on the Federation's bottom line as any decrease in referral fee revenue would be offset by a corresponding decrease in the shareholder re-investment. Consequently, it was decided to make a one-time reduction, to one-half percent, in the amount of referral fee charged.

The change resulted in referral fee revenue of \$474,505 for the year ending June 30, 2005. As the reduction in referral fee was for one year only, the National Executive feels that the budget projection of \$925,000 for 2005-2006 remains accurate.

National Student Health Network

Although the National Student Health Network is intended to operate on a break-even basis, the growth in Network membership resulted in modest surpluses in fiscal 2003 and 2004. For the 2005 fiscal year, another modest surplus is anticipated; however, the Federation has not yet been supplied a final reconciliation of Network administrative fees by the brokerage.

SWAP Revenue

In the three years prior to the 2002-2003 year, the Student Work Abroad Programme (SWAP) generated a combined net surplus of just over \$260,0000, an average of close to \$90,000 per year. In 2002-2003, though, SWAP revenue dropped to \$16,912, due to a downturn in demand, and in 2003-2004 rebounded only slightly to \$24,983.

The 2004-2005 year saw a significant turn-around from the previous two years, as the Programme generated a net surplus of \$89,038.

Disbursements

Although total spending in fiscal 2005 was lower than budgeted, spending did exceed budget projections in two areas. Spending on legal fees was

higher than anticipated, primarily due to the cost of producing expert reports for use in the lawsuit concerning Travel CUTS' ownership. It had been assumed that those costs would not be incurred until the current fiscal year. Audit costs were roughly \$30,000 higher than budgeted as a result of work restating previous audited statements.

2005-2006 Budget Adjustments

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

On the revenue side, several membership fee projections will be revised based on information not available during the initial budgeting process in May. More significantly, the budget proposes to up the commission paid to Travel CUTS to issue the ISIC to Federation members, thereby reducing the projected net profit by approximately \$100,000.

One change is in the area of communications; an increase of \$10,000 is proposed. Over the summer and fall the Federation initiated development of the member local website service. A web design firm was contracted to produce five site templates and construct a user-friendly backend interface. This increase is in recognition of the cost incurred developing this service.

Designated Funds

Legal Fund

In the 1970's there existed two national student organisations in Canada, outside of Québec: the National Union of Students (NUS) and the Association of Student Councils Canada (ASCC). The main role of the National Union of Students was to represent student issues and concerns to the federal government. The main role of the ASCC was to provide services, the primary one being low-cost student travel. The majority of the member

Finances

associations belonging to each organisation belonged to both.

In the late 1970s the NUS and the ASCC began the process of merging to form a new organisation that would replace the existing structures, and would provide both representation and services. This resulted in the establishment of the Canadian Federation of Students/Canadian Federation of Students-Services in 1981. The development plan called for NUS and ASCC to initially operate in tandem with the new organisation for the first few years, but eventually all activity of the old organisations would be transferred to the new structure. The activity of NUS was to be transferred to Canadian Federation of Students and the activity of ASCC was to be transferred to Canadian Federation of Students-Services.

By 1985 all of the activity of NUS had been transferred to Canadian Federation of Students and, thus, NUS was wound down. During the same period, most of the ASCC activity was transferred to Canadian Federation of Students-Services; however, Travel CUTS remained, technically, the property of the ASCC. In fall 1987, an ASCC meeting was convened for the purpose of formally approving the transfer the ownership of Travel CUTS to the Canadian Federation of Students-Services and the wind down of the ASCC.

The ASCC motion directed the ASCC Board to enact the transfer by June 30, 1988. The ASCC members did so because they were anxious to have the amalgamation process, first started in the late 1970s, completed as soon as possible. However, due to various unforeseen circumstances, the transfer was not actually completed until 1991.

The University of Western Ontario University Student Council (UWOUSC) and the University of Alberta Students' Union had both been members of the ASCC and, at various points in the 1980s, had been members of the Canadian Federation of Students/Canadian Federation of Students-Services. Both had ceased to be members of Canadian Federation of Students-Services by the end of 1991. In 1997, the business managers of the two students' associations

concocted the theory that Canadian Federation of Students-Services had improperly assumed ownership of Travel CUTS from ASCC. That fall the University of Western Ontario University Student Council filed suit against Canadian Federation of Students-Services, Travel CUTS and ASCC seeking damages of \$100 million dollars or, in lieu of that, reversal of the transfer of ownership. In 2000, the University of Alberta Students' Union and two alma mater societies joined UWOUSC in the suit.

Given the nature of the plaintiffs' claim and the amount of the damages sought, the National Executive, and indeed the membership, decided that the Federation had no choice but to mount a vigorous and thorough defense. In order to do so the Federation created a fund in 1999 to ensure that there would be sufficient resources for what is expected to be a long and expensive trial.

The bulk of the fund will be used during the upcoming year for the trial, scheduled to get underway in late February 2006. Any unused portion of the fund would be available in the unlikely event that an appeal is required. The balance in the fund stands at \$656,599.57. The National Executive is recommending that an additional \$125,000 be transferred to the account this year.

Capital Fund

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

Initially, the Federation paid \$90,000 per year under its original five-year lease signed in 1996. In 2001, the Federation exercised its renewal option on the space for an additional five years. Under the terms of the renewal, rates were adjusted to reflect

market conditions at the time of renewal. Annual costs jumped to almost \$150,000 per year.

On June 30, 2006 the current lease expires. At that point the Federation will have spent close to \$1.2 million on rent over the course of the preceding decade with no equity to show for it. With this in mind the member locals voted in 1999 to create a capital fund for the possible purchase of office space when the current lease ends. In light of the recommendation that an additional \$125,000 be allocated to the Legal Fund, the National Executive is recommending that the proposed transfer to the Capital Fund be reduced from \$150,000 to \$100,000.

General Meeting Disabled Access Fund

At some national general meetings there may be several delegates with special needs. At other meetings there may be none. The cost of providing sign language interpretation for a hearing impaired delegate can exceed \$10,000 for a single general meeting. In the past, the dilemma for the Federation was whether or not to always budget for such an expense even though the need may exist at only one in ten meetings.

To allow for consistency in budgeting from year to year, the member locals established a General Meeting Disabled Access Fund in 2000. The Fund allows the Federation to allocate a consistent amount each year, rather than having costs, fluctuating wildly from year to year, paid from the operating budget. With this year's budgeted allocation of \$10,000, the fund will stand at \$60,000.

Membership Fee Issues

Fee Adjustments for Consumer Price Index Change

When the Federation was founded in 1981, the national membership fee was set at \$2.00 per student per semester. In 1992, the Federation's member locals voted to increase the fee from \$2.00

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

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

Federation Fiscal Year	Adjusted Fee
1995-96	\$3.00
1996-97	\$3.06
1997-98	\$3.12
1998-99	\$3.16
1999-2000	\$3.20
2000-2001	\$3.28
2001-2002	\$3.38
2002-2003	\$3.42
2003-2004	\$3.50
2004-2005	\$3.60
2005-2006	\$3.66

As the table illustrates, the Federation's national membership fee was adjusted this year from \$3.60 to \$3.66 per student per semester.

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

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

Finances

Collection of the Proper Base Membership Fee

As noted in previous reports, one member local, the York Federation of Students, has not adjusted the base membership fee from \$2.00 to \$3.00, nor is the local adjusting the annual fee for inflation. As a result, more than \$450,000 in membership fees that should have been remitted by the Local since 1995 has not been. The National Executive continues to look for solutions to the problem.

2004–2005 Audited Statements

The audit for fiscal 2005 of the Canadian Federation of Students/Canadian Federation of Student-Services commenced earlier this month and is expected to be completed sometime in December. The final statements for Travel CUTS, the Federation's wholly-owned subsidiary have been completed and are available.

As the Travel CUTS statements illustrate, Travel CUTS generated a small profit in 2004–2005. While this is positive news given the years of substantial losses posted during the 2003 and 2004 fiscal years, there are number of challenges the company faces as the travel industry remains volatile.

As noted above a reduction to the referral fee was critical to preventing a loss in the CUTS operations. In addition, the Federation's legal defense fund assumed approximately \$134,000 in legal fees paid by CUTS between 1998 and 2004 as a defendant in the lawsuit initiated by UWOUSC in 1997.

Appendix I - Meetings with and Submissions to Government

DATE	MEETING	SUBJECT
June 1, 2005	Howard Miller, Policy Advisor to the Finance Minister	Federal budget amendment to reduce tuition fees, Millennium Scholarship Foundation
June 13, 2005	House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance: Massimo Pacetti, MP (Saint-Léonard—Saint Michel); Rona Ambrose, MP (Edmonton—Spruce Grove); Judy Wasylycia-Leis, MP (Winnipeg North); Don Bell, MP (North Vancouver); Guy Côté, MP (Portneuf—Jacques-Cartier); Charles Hubbard, MP (Miramichi); John McKay, MP (Scarborough—Guildwood); Brian Pallister, MP (Portage—Lisgar); Monte Solberg, MP (Medicine Hat); Maria Minna, MP (Beaches—East York)	Oral presentation to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance (Bill C-48)
June 15, 2005	Robert Sauder, Acting Director, National Learning Systems, Human Resources and Skills Development	Federal budget amendment to reduce tuition fees, Millennium Scholarship Foundation
June 19, 2005	Lyndon Simmons, Program Officer (Long Term Policy), Human Resources and Skills Development	Federal low-income grant
July 25, 2005	David Cogliati, Director General of the Canada Student Loans Program	Federal low-income grant
August 23, 2005	MP Michael Savage (Dartmouth—Cole Harbour), Chair of the Liberal Caucus on Post-secondary Education and Research	Federal transfers for post-secondary education, needs-based grants

Appendix I - Meetings with and Submissions to Government

DATE	MEETING	SUBJECT
September 16, 2005	Peter MacKay, MP (Central Nova), Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party	Post-Secondary Education Act, dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education, income contingent loan repayment schemes
September 21, 2005	House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance: Massimo Pacetti, MP (Saint-Léonard—Saint Michel); Marlene Jennings, MP (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine); Peter Adams, MP (Peterborough); Maria Minna, MP (Beaches—East York); Alexa McDonough, MP (Halifax); Monty Solberg, MP (Medicine Hat); Rona Ambrose, MP (Edmonton—Spruce Grove); Peter Van Loan, MP (York—Simcoe); Bernard Bigras, MP (Rosemont—La Petite-Patrie); Robert Bouchard, MP (Chicoutimi—Le Fjord)	Oral presentation to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance (Pre-budget consultation)
October 6, 2005	Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council Acting President Dr. Joanne C. Keselman	Research funding and commercialisation
October 14, 2005	Anthony Salloum, Executive Assistant to MP Alexa McDonough; Pierre Ducasse, Policy Advisor to the Leader	Federal transfers for post-secondary education, Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act
October 19, 2005	Jeannie Dempster, Policy Advisor to the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development	Federal budget amendment to reduce tuition fees, Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act
October 19, 2005	Senator Elizabeth Hubley	Income contingent loan repayment schemes, federal transfers for post-secondary education, Post-Secondary Education Act
October 24, 2005	Tim Baker, Assistant to the Parliamentary Secretary for the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development	Millennium Scholarship Foundation, federal budget amendment to reduce tuition fees

Appendix I - Meetings with and Submissions to Government

DATE	MEETING	SUBJECT
October 27, 2005	House of Commons Standing Committee on Human Resources and Skills Development: Ms. Raymonde Folco (Laval—Les Îles, Lib.); Peter Adams (Peterborough, Lib.); Barry Devolin (Haliburton—Kawartha Lakes—Brock, CPC); France Bonsant (Compton—Stanstead, BQ); Libby Davies (Vancouver East, NDP); Paul Forseth (New Westminster—Coquitlam, CPC); Ed Komarnicki (Souris—Moose Mountain, CPC); Yves Lessard (Chambly—Borduas, BQ)	Summer Career Placement Program
November 15, 2005	Howard Millard, Policy Advisor to the Minister of Finance	2005 Economic Update
November 21, 2005	Gisèle Yasmeen, Senior Director, National and International Research and Policy Development, Elections Canada	Voter registration

Appendix II - Media Activity

Date	Outlet	Subject
2005/07/05	CFRB Radio	Student Debt
2005/07/05	CHQRAM Radio	Student Debt
2005/07/05	CBC Radio	Bankruptcy Challenge Ruling
2005/07/06	CTV News	Bankruptcy Challenge Ruling
2005/07/06	The Globe and Mail	Perceptions of Low-Income Families toward the Cost of Post-Secondary Education
2005/07/05	CFRA Radio	Bankruptcy Challenge Ruling
2005/07/06	Radio Canada	Bankruptcy Challenge Ruling
2005/07/07	CKLW Radio*	Perceptions of Low-Income Families toward the Cost of Post-Secondary Education
2005/07/07	Radio Canada	Perceptions of Low-Income Families toward the Cost of Post-Secondary Education
2005/07/07	The Globe and Mail	Perceptions of Low-Income Families toward the Cost of Post-Secondary Education
2005/07/07	Canadian Press	Perceptions of Low-Income Families toward the Cost of Post-Secondary Education
2005/07/13	The Charlatan*	Bankruptcy Challenge Ruling
2005/08/05	The Globe and Mail	Student Employment While in Study
2005/08/08	Canadian Press	Council of the Federation Meeting
2005/08/08	Sun Media	Council of the Federation Meeting
2005/08/08	CBC	Private Career Colleges
2005/08/09	CJOB Radio	Council of the Federation Meeting
2005/08/09	Radio Canada	Council of the Federation Meeting
2005/08/09	CBC TV	Council of the Federation Meeting
2005/08/09	OMNI TV	Council of the Federation Meeting

Appendix 2

Date	Outlet	Subject
2005/08/09	CBC Radio	Council of the Federation Meeting
2005/08/09	Canadian Press	Council of the Federation Meeting
2005/08/09	The Globe and Mail	Council of the Federation Meeting
2005/08/09	The National Post	Council of the Federation Meeting
2005/08/09	Radio Canada	Council of the Federation Meeting
2005/08/09	CFRA Radio	Council of the Federation Meeting
2005/08/09	Dose Magazine	Council of the Federation Meeting
2005/08/09	Radio Canada	Council of the Federation Meeting
2005/08/10	CFRB Radio	Council of the Federation Meeting
2005/08/10	CTV	Council of the Federation Meeting
2005/08/10	Canadian Press	Council of the Federation Meeting
2005/08/10	The Toronto Star	Council of the Federation Meeting
2005/08/10	Global TV	Council of the Federation Meeting
2005/08/10	The Calgary Herald	Council of the Federation Meeting
2005/08/10	The Edmonton Journal	Council of the Federation Meeting
2005/08/10	The Edmonton Gazette	Council of the Federation Meeting
2005/08/10	Radio Canada	Council of the Federation Meeting
2005/08/10	CBC Radio	Council of the Federation Meeting
2005/08/10	Canwest Media	Council of the Federation Meeting
2005/08/10	The Globe and Mail	Council of the Federation Meeting
2005/08/10	The Uniter	Student Bankruptcy
2005/08/10	The Prairie Dog	Student Debt and Bankruptcy
2005/08/11	The Charlatan*	Current Campaigns and Services of the Federation
2005/08/13	CTV	Council of the Federation Meeting Communiqué
2005/08/13	Canadian Press	Council of the Federation Meeting Communiqué
2005/08/13	The Toronto Star	Council of the Federation Meeting Communiqué
2005/08/13	Global TV	Council of the Federation Meeting Communiqué
2005/08/13	The Calgary Herald	Council of the Federation Meeting Communiqué

Appendix 2

Date	Outlet	Subject
2005/08/13	The Edmonton Journal	Council of the Federation Meeting Communiqué
2005/08/13	The Edmonton Gazette	Council of the Federation Meeting Communiqué
2005/08/13	Radio Canada	Council of the Federation Meeting Communiqué
2005/08/13	CBC Radio	Council of the Federation Meeting Communiqué
2005/08/13	Canwest Media	Council of the Federation Meeting Communiqué
2005/08/13	The Globe and Mail	Council of the Federation Meeting Communiqué
2005/08/13	Sun Media	Council of the Federation Meeting Communiqué
2005/08/18	The Hamilton Spectator	Dedicated Transfer Payment
2005/09/06	Sun Times	Statistics Canada Tuition Fee Report
2005/09/06	The Epoch Times	Statistics Canada Tuition Fee Report
2005/09/06	CTV	Statistics Canada Tuition Fee Report
2005/09/06	Radio Canada	Statistics Canada Tuition Fee Report
2005/09/06	CBC Radio	Statistics Canada Tuition Fee Report
2005/09/06	Dose Magazine	Statistics Canada Tuition Fee Report
2005/09/06	Canadian Press	Statistics Canada Tuition Fee Report
2005/09/06	Canwest Media	Statistics Canada Tuition Fee Report
2005/09/06	CFRA Radio	Statistics Canada Tuition Fee Report
2005/09/20	Canadian University Press*	Membership in the Federation
2005/09/07	Toronto Star	Disbursement of Bill C-48 Money
2005/09/27	The Sheaf*	Membership in the Federation
2005/09/27	The McGill Daily*	Campus Sponsorship
2005/09/28	The McGill Daily*	The Prohibition on Student Loan Bankruptcy
2005/09/29	The Charlattan*	Post-Secondary Education Funding
2005/09/30	The Canadian Press	Inappropriate Orientation Events
2005/10/03	Canadian University Press*	Membership in the Federation
2005/10/03	Canadian University Press*	Bankruptcy Bill C-55
2005/10/13	CBC Radio	Restore \$4 Billion Campaign Launch

Date	Outlet	Subject
2005/10/13	Radio Canada	Restore \$4 Billion Campaign Launch
2005/10/13	Dose Magazine	Restore \$4 Billion Campaign Launch
2005/10/13	TVA	Restore \$4 Billion Campaign Launch
2005/10/13	Radio Canada TV	Restore \$4 Billion Campaign Launch
2005/10/13	Canadian Press	Restore \$4 Billion Campaign Launch
2005/10/16	The Manitoban*	Millennium Scholarship Foundation Research Activities
2005/10/18	The Manitoban*	Membership in the Federation
2005/10/20	The Charlantan*	Student Stress
2005/10/20	The Brunswickian*	Membership in the Federation
2005/10/22	The Ottawa Sun	Drinking on Campus
2005/10/25	Canwest Media	CD Howe Institute
2005/10/25	The Charlantan*	Bankruptcy Bill C-55
2005/10/27	Maclean's Magazines	Maclean's rankings
2005/10/27	Radio Canada	Maclean's rankings
2005/10/27	La Rotonde*	Tuition Fees
2005/11/08	The Manitoban Radio Show*	Membership in the Federation
2005/11/12	The Manitoban*	Membership in the Federation
2005/11/13	Canadian University Press*	Economic and Fiscal Update
2005/11/13	Radio Canada	Economic and Fiscal Update
2005/11/13	CBC Radio	Economic and Fiscal Update
2005/11/13	CTV	Economic and Fiscal Update
2005/11/14	Ottawa Citizen	Economic and Fiscal Update
2005/11/14	The Globe and Mail	Economic and Fiscal Update
2005/11/15	The Charlantan*	International Students Working Off Campus
2005/11/15	University Affairs	National Student Engagement Survey
2005/11/17	The Charlantan*	Liberal MP Tour of University Campuses
2005/11/18	The Charlantan*	Tuition Fees in Alberta
2005/11/21	The Globe and Mail	Alberta Centennial National Grants
2005/11/22	Canadian University Press*	Alberta Centennial National Grants

* campus media

