



# Women Pay More For Education

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Can's most recent figures also show that on average, men make more than women in 513 of 524 occupations.

Beatty says that the only way to address the problem, is to improve the lot of women in general. A difficult task, she says, given government cut-backs to social programs.

She says the federal government and universities should create part-time employment for women on campus, initiate an effective grant system for needy students, provide financial resources for child support on campus, and to promote employment equity in the work-force.

Jennifer Story, a national executive member of the Canadian Federation of Students, says the current enrolment rate for women at universities will decrease if tuition costs continue to sky-rocket. Over the past ten years, tuition

fees in Canada have more than doubled.

"At some point we're going to see the stats changing. Barriers such as tuition costs and debt are going to effect the decisions women make in determining what type of education they will obtain, and if they choose to go at all."

Story says that the problem may get worse as the federal government privatizes the Canada Student Loans Program. Last year the federal government signed a five-year contract with private banks, giving them responsibility over the administration of the loans program.

Although the federal government still determines eligibility for the loans, the banks can renegotiate their contract, and may start playing a role in determining who gets loans.

As such, women in general may be more likely to be deemed as bad- credit risks

since they have a less likelihood of getting high- paying jobs, says Story.

Carleton University professor Ross Finnie, who authored the study over the summer, says that a hybrid system is needed between the government and banks because "the government doesn't exist to be in the loans business."

Finnie says that as long as the banks are constrained, and the government maintains control over key areas of the loans, the system will be more efficient.

Nevertheless, the effects of changes to the loans program and increased tuition costs, will be "far reaching, affecting the cost of post secondary education, who will attend, who will borrow, how much will be borrowed, and the manner in which loans will be paid back," he states in the study.

## Students Hit Hard by GST Harmonization

By David Cochrane  
ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. (CUP)  
-- Students could be hit the hardest by a deal between the Atlantic provinces and Ottawa to merge the GST and provincial sales taxes.

The proposed value-added tax will replace the GST and Retail Sales Taxes with a single 15 per cent tax.

The new tax, which will be implemented next April, will apply to all goods and services currently subject to the seven per cent GST.

For students that means paying more for text books as well as electricity and gas. For student parents it also means paying more for children's clothing.

"That will be a large chunk out of the student parent's income that they could put

towards other things like rent or groceries," said Janet O'Connell, president of Memorial University's student parents group.

O'Conner said the increased children's clothing tax will hurt her financially when she's shopping for her four-year-old son, Patrick.

"I had to go out and buy Patrick all new clothes because he has outgrown everything he used to wear just four months ago," she said. "At his age he grows like a weed."

Also, because some student parents get social assistance, they are only eligible for a partial student loan.

O'Connell said this leaves the average parent in Newfoundland with about \$6,000 a semester to pay for all university and living expenses,

plus raise a small child.

"We don't get enough money to raise children and go to school. Basically we just have enough to get by," she said.

Sales tax levels in Atlantic Canada currently average 18 per cent, so the new 15 per cent rate means there will be some tax relief on things like adult clothing, telephone bills and junk food.

But students relying on loans will be hit hard when they go to buy text books said Jennifer Smiley, president of the Students' Union of Nova Scotia.

"In Nova Scotia the maximum allowed amount under student aid for books and materials is \$700 a year," she said. "A 15 per cent tax will reduce the spending power of students on aid."

## Panther Prints

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## CASA Says It's ok to take our money

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made within the next month.

Although Hough said he is now working on other issues that are more pertinent to students, some member schools don't want to see this issue die.

Carrie Ricker of the St. Thomas University student council is following the New Brunswick situation for CASA. She said she thinks she is "being given the run around [by the Fredericton police]." "I've tried several times to contact the police [but] I'll keep pushing until I'm satisfied," she said.

Originally, CASA alleged that FitzPatrick, who directed the organization in the fall of 1995, used his position as coordinator of a conference on higher education to gain access to and misuse the funds. The money in question was collected by CASA from individual student unions at its 10 member universities.

FitzPatrick, who is now working a student paper at the University of New Brunswick, refused to comment on the situation.