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Federal Party Profiles on Post-Secondary Education Issues

On Nov. 21st Student voters will be asked to vote for the best candidate to represent their concerns in parliament in Ottawa. Prince Edward Island residents will be choosing a member of parliament for each of the four ridings of Malpeque, Egmont, Cardigan, and Hillsborough.

To address the educational concerns Canadian students share, the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) circulated a questionnaire of 16 questions to the National Offices of the three major political parties. The UPEI's Student's Union, with the coop-

eration of this paper's editors, wishes to present the responses of the three major parties (NDP, Liberal, and Progressive Conservative) in a four part series in this paper. The Student Union hopes this valuable information will be useful to you as voters on election day. The first three questions and

responses are as follows:

Post-Secondary Education Financing

Question - *In the present system of higher education financing the federal government transfers over \$5 billion per year to the provinces for education, yet provincial governments are not bound to spend these monies on education. Would you work to change this system (Established Programs Financing) after the election?*

THE
NEW
DEMOCRATS

New Democratic Party
New Democrats have opposed the financing formula of Established Programs Financing since 1977 when the Liberals and Conservatives voted together to replace 50/50 federal-provincial financing with a system of block funding.

Since that time the federal contribution for the tertiary programs of health and post-secondary education has fallen from approximately 50 per cent to approximately 40 per cent. We believe a new formula must not be derived to meet the need for health and post-secondary education and to reflect a rational consensus on these important needs.

Part of building this consensus would be a significant contribution of new federal funds supporting health and post-secondary education under the Established Programs Financing

Question - *Currently, students pay 12 - 20% of the cost of their education through tuition fees (from \$800 - \$1,800). Do you encourage Canadian post-secondary institutions to raise tuition fees paid by students? What percentage of the cost of higher education do you believe students should reasonably be expected to pay through tuition fees?*

Progressive Conservative Party - No reply was available.

Liberal Party - Students don't mind paying their fair share but the Liberal Party realizes that the vast majority of students

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Chronology of Free Trade Between Canada and USA

by Malcolm Gorrill

Free trade has been the dominant issue in Canadian Politics over the past few years and is a prominent issue in this year's federal election. Since free trade has become a partisan issue, the debate over the recently negotiated Free Trade Agreement between Canada and the United States has been heated, controversial, wrangled, and quite confusing. The average observer knows little more about this momentous agreement than he did a year ago. The purpose of this article is to put the current free trade debate in historical perspective. The following is a brief chronological study on Canadian-American relations. Hopefully this can make the current debate a little less chaotic.

1755-63...Great Britain takes over New France; has a huge undivided North American Empire stretching from Hudson's Bay to Georgia.

1776-83...The 13 Colonies rebel against Britain; permanently divide the English-speaking peoples in North America.

1783...Thousands of Loyalists flee republican America into British North America and create two new colonies—Ontario and New Brunswick; these people naturally have little love for America.

1812-1815...The War of 1812 between Great Britain and the U.S.; the Americans attempt to annex BNA; this further antagonizes ill-will between Americans and British North Americans.

1854-66...Reciprocity Treaty between America and BNA.

1867...Upper and Lower Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick form the Dominion

of Canada; one principal reason for this Confederation is the fear of American annexation.

1879...The National Policy of John A. Macdonald and the Conservatives. The three parts of this policy: 1) The erection of a tariff wall along Canadian border to promote investment in Canada while protecting infant Canadian industries from American competition; 2) the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway; 3) the settlement of the West.

1891...Wilfrid Laurier and the Federal Liberals campaign for unrestricted reciprocity with U.S.; Conservatives appeal to: 'The old man [Macdonald], the old flag, the old policy.' The Conservatives win federal election of that year.

1911...After 15 years in office, Wilfrid Laurier and Federal Liberals complete a free trade deal with the United States, but are defeated mainly on that issue in general election of that year.

1983...Federal Liberals appoint Donald Macdonald as Chairman of two year Royal Commission on the Economic Union and Development Prospects for Canada. If you ever have a few minutes to spare, study this Royal Commission. It only consists of over 280 separate studies located in 72 volumes! If you don't feel like reading the whole report, the following information can be obtained by glancing through Volume 1 of this Royal Commission, Entitled Francois Vaillancourt, Research Coordinator, Income Distribution and Economic Security in Canada. On page vii, Donald Macdonald discusses this Royal Commission and says: '[This] is the most thorough examination of the Canadian economic, political and legal sys-

tems ever undertaken by an independent agency' On the same page, Macdonald reveals that the Commission's Research Program was jointly directed by Dr. Ivan Bernier (Law and Constitutional Issues), Dr. Alan Cairns (Politics and Institutions of Government), and Dr. David C. Smith (Economics). The Commission's purpose is stated on page ix: 'At its most general level, the Royal Commission's research program has examined how the Canadian economy can better adapt to change.'

There are four main research areas in this Commission. The Economics section covers Volumes 1-27. The covers of these volumes are colored red. The Politics and Institutions of Government section (green) goes from Volumes 28-45. The Law and Constitutional Issues section (blue) covers Volumes 46-58. Federalism and the Economic Union (light green) goes from 59-71 (there is also Volume 72, which covers The North).

1983...Brian Mulroney, a Federal Progressive Leadership candidate, says: 'Free trade affects Canadian sovereignty, and we will have none of it, not during leadership campaigns or at any other time.'

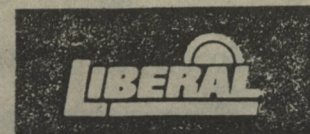
1984-88...Brian Mulroney and the Federal Conservatives push for and complete a Free Trade deal with the U.S.; the Liberals and NDP denounce this deal, saying it will weaken Canada's sovereignty.

1988...Free Trade Bill passes House of Commons; Liberal Leader John Turner calls this the 'issue of his life' and orders Liberal-dominated Senate to not pass Free Trade legislation until general election is called.

November 21, 1988...To be determined by Canadian voters



Progressive Conservative Party - one of the basic principles governing post-secondary education in Canada is that the constitutional responsibility for education lies with the provinces. However, social economic factors have made higher learning a matter of national importance and, as a result, the federal government contributes significant resources to post-secondary education. We will respect the letter and spirit of federal-provincial arrangements for post-secondary education.



Liberal Party - Yes, we would work to change the Established Programs Financing system. Funds which are earmarked for post-secondary education should be spent on post-secondary education and not on other areas like roads.

