

Atlantic Cut Off In A Major Way

HALIFAX (CUP) – Students in the Atlantic provinces may face increased tuition fees and decreased quality, thanks to the late Michael Wilson budget.

The Feb. 20 federal budget cut \$70 million from Atlantic Canada's post-secondary education system – equivalent to four times the operating grant given to Saint Mary's University last year.

Lara Morris, chair of Nova Scotia's student federation, said the budget will directly affect students in her province, because the provincial government may raise tuition to help offset the lost funding.

"(Nova Scotia) students are already paying the highest tuition fees in the country," she said. "There will be students eliminated from the system if they go up again."

The budget freezes the growth of federal transfer payments – used by the provinces to subsidize health services and post-secondary education – to the population growth rate.

Newfoundland's finance minister, Hubert Kitchen, said the payments have been steadily declining for the past 20 years – but Wilson's recent budget will produce the worst cuts ever.

"Since 1981, the federal gov-

ernment has capped the amount of money it gives to the provinces through transfer payments and (the amount) has declined steadily since then," he said.

Although he wouldn't rule out a tuition hike, Kitchen said his government isn't considering it yet.

"Raising of tuition is conceivable, but (it) has not been proposed," he said. "We don't want to raise (them)."

Paul Connolly, PEI's education minister, said his province's options are limited.

"The bottom line is that Islanders – through taxes, tuition fees or user-pay fees – will have

to shoulder the costs for compensating this reduction," he said.

The budget was not well received by the Canadian Federation of Students either.

Irene Tremblay, a CFS representative, said the effects will be severe, called on provincial governments not to raise tuition to make up for the cuts.

The cuts in federal payments "will result in fewer courses being offered, increased student/teacher ratios and higher debt loads for students."

But, she said, an increase in fees would make universities "accessible only for the rich."

Correction

The GEM would like to apologize to submitters of last week's Bernadine Hall News. We have made the proper correction and have reprinted the story on page 10 of this paper. The paragraph that had read "Myth: The UPEI Semi-Formal is for everybody at University. And everybody is welcome!!" should have read as the following:

Myth: The Semi-Formal aka Co-ed is only for people in Marion and Bernadine.

Fact: The UPEI Semi-Formal is for everybody at the University. And Everybody is welcome!!

We sincerely hope that all will take note of this correction and will attend this event.

The GEM



The editor had been receiving numerous comments on the article "Lucky to be a student at UPEI Many people believe this column is an editorial, however it is being submitted by stu-

dents with the initials CC, and EC. The editor regrets that it was not made clear enough that this is an opinion column only. Equal space is available for opposing views.

Strike To Protest Cuts!

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) – Canadian students should walk out of their classes and strike to protest recent federal government education cutbacks, says the president of Memorial University's student council.

"If the federal government is planning to get re-elected next time, they better smarten up," said Robin Russell.

Russell is calling for a coast-to-coast student rally.

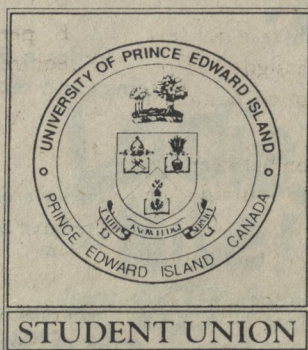
"Students always seem to be the last on the list. The federal government must think (we) can't do anything because we're so diverse."

"If students realize other students across Canada were marching at the same time, it would create an atmosphere of 'yes, we can do something'."

The call for action is in response to two recent federal cutbacks.

The budget for Challenge '90, the program that helps fund jobs for college and university students, will be slashed by 35 per cent.

Federal transfer payments – which go towards funding health care and post-secondary education – were cut by \$2.5 billion over two years in the Feb. 20 federal budget.



1990/91 Student Union Part-time Jobs

Now is the time to make plans for a part-time job in the 1990/91 school year. Student Union jobs provide valuable experience, are conveniently located on campus and provide an opportunity to become more involved at UPEI. All jobs start in September 1990.

Applications and job descriptions are available at the Student Union Office and the Employment Office in Student Services, Robertson Library. Applications are being accepted by the Employment Office only. Application deadline Friday, March 9 at 4:00pm.

Yearbook Production Editor	\$30.00/week
Yearbook Photographer	\$30.00/week
Yearbook Assistant Photographer	\$20.00/week
Gem Production Editor	\$48.00/week
Gem Typesetter	\$30.00/week
Gem Ad Manager	Commission
Gem Circulation	\$12.00/week
CIMN Ad Manager	Commission
SU Council Speaker	\$30.00/week
Chief Returning Officer	\$100.00/election

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Submission Policy

We reserve the right to edit submissions due to taste and/or space limitations and not to print submissions that are submitted after the deadline of Monday at 3:00pm. Submissions to the GEM become the property of the GEM unless other arrangements have been made. All submissions can be submitted to the GEM through the GemSlot on the office door in Main Building Room B06 or through the VAX to account GEM. (We cherish typed submissions.) Those which are libelous, racist, homophobic, or attempt to incite violence or hatred toward a particular person or group will not be printed.

Any member of the university community can make a contribution to The GEM, but the editor also reserves the right to print submissions from outside the university community.

The staff of the GEM can be seen in their natural habitat in their basement office in Main Building, room B06. We can also be contacted by voice by calling 566-0629, or leaving a message with our secretary at 566-0530.

The GEM

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