

## IN BRIEF

## Educated immigrants still at a disadvantage

A Statistics Canada report released last week found that immigrants earn less than Canadian-born workers, regardless of education level and work experience.

"The low earnings of immigrants are often attributed to the specificity of human capital to the country from which [he or she] originates, the argument being that skills generated through education or work experience in the source country cannot be directly transferred to the host country, resulting in apparently well-qualified immigrants holding low-paying jobs," reads the March 4 report.

## N.S. reaffirms commitment to tuition freeze

Tuition in Nova Scotia won't be going up, at least for the next two years, as the premier has vowed to honour the tuition-freeze agreement with the province's universities.

Rumours of a \$10-million cut to post-secondary education funding began circulating on March 7 when the province announced that it is short on funds and will be looking for places to cut their budget.

*With files from the Canadian University Press*

# Oil-slicked loonies seek to ban tankers from B.C. coast

By Sam VanSchie -  
CUP Western Bureau Chief

VICTORIA (CUP) – Oil-stained loonies are turning up in change collections across the country, thanks to a campaign by The Dogwood Initiative, a Victoria-based non-profit environmental organization.

Last month, the organization started distributing decals that, when placed over \$1 coins, turn the loon black and advertised their campaign website, [notankers.ca](http://notankers.ca).

The website urges citizens to pressure Parliament to legislate a ban on oil tankers on B.C.'s north coast. A legislated ban would strengthen the 1971 suspension of tanker traffic in B.C.'s inner coastal waterways.

"Every decal you see is there because somebody volunteered their time to put it there," said Charles Campbell, a Dogwood Initiative spokesperson.

The campaign was sparked by the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway project, which would ship almost half the current oilsands crude oil production to Asia via pipelines and a tanker port in Kitimat, B.C. when



completed.

Dogwood insists that the volume of oil going through the coast would undoubtedly result in a spill.

"The decals are a good activist tool because they keep the issue in front of people's eyes," Campbell said.

The decals are for sale on the Dogwood website, and for \$10, supporters are sent 42 decals.

Campbell says there have been over 400 orders from places as far east as Nova Scotia. They also sent decals out, free of charge, to many of their supporters.

The group has a deal with a community grocery store in Calgary to have decals put on all the loonies they give

out.

"It's a pretty exciting partnership for us," said Campbell. "I don't think people expect to see that kind of thing in Calgary – oil country."

But according to the Royal Canadian Mint, decals are trademark violation that contravene Section 11 of the Currency Act by using Canadian coins for purposes other than as currency.

They sent Dogwood a cease and desist order just days after the campaign was launched. But Campbell says the Mint seems to have backed off.

"We sent back a letter of response that said we would continue our campaign," said

Campbell. "They said they would get back to us within a week and [a month later] they never did."

Over 200,000 decals have been distributed across the country and Dogwood has ordered another 250,000 to give out around March 24, which they and other environmental groups have deemed No Tanker Day. It's also 20th anniversary of the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

"We're asking our supporters to make all their purchases that day using No Tanker loonies," said Campbell, noting that special party packs of the decals will be available on their website leading up to the event to help make that possible.

## Canada tending towards single parent families

By Dan Huyghebaert

WINNIPEG (CUP) – Kirstie Lindsay has been a single parent by choice to her daughter for 15 years.

"I grew up in an absentee father household," Lindsay said. With her father gone, Lindsay found it difficult to acknowledge her self-worth.

She wanted to spare her daughter this experience.

"I felt it was better to raise a child in a household where she was wanted, loved, and needed with one parent, rather than have one parent there all the time and the other being absentee," she said.

Susan Prentice, a University of Manitoba sociology professor, says Lindsay is part of a growing Canadian trend towards single-parent families, thanks in part to divorce rates.