

Canadian Federation of Student Services

Hi, my name is Margaret Duffy and I am your Canadian Federation of Students representative for P.E.I.

I only became active in the organization in November and since then I have been slowly learning how the organization works and the many benefits it can offer a small university like ours in the form of revised student aid plans, a strong student organization and good fighters for adequate funding for UPEI.

As of now UPEI holds a perspective membership in the CFS and will continue to do so until a referendum is run on campus. It seems unlikely that this will happen this year but I have spoken to your new S.C. President and he assures me that CFS is worthwhile and possibly next year we will go for full membership. This will mean that we will become a more active part of the organization and also receive the benefits of the International Student Identity Card, CUTS Travel, Student Working Abroad Programs, and other advantages.

There has been a lot of talk about CUTS and rising tuition fees of 300% and closing the doors to education but somehow we always think that it won't happen to us. Well its true and more than myself here knows the true meaning of BEG, STEAL, or BORROW when it comes to late March and your student loan, (if you were lucky enough to get it) starts running out. I guess some of us can vouch for the fact that we wouldn't be here if our roommates mom didn't keep sending in a loaf of bread or a pound of hamburger weekly. Those of us who aren't lucky enough to live at home and have to live in the lovely city or its scenic outskirts aren't tightening our belts anymore, we are borrowing our little sister's smaller size pants.

Since 1975, under the guise of fiscall restraint policies, the federal and provincial governments have been cutting back alleged fat from the post secondary education system.

The quality of our education is suffering.

Libraries have been cut back, equipment is out of date, faculty staff is being laid off, and class sizes are unmanageable. Now, this is not shop talk. I'm sure many of you have heard your professor say this semester "Photocopy it yourself, the departments broke," or you have to put your own money into gas for the biology van and don't forget to check the oil.

Seriously many departments are already in big trouble and the problem is getting worse. There is no fat left to whittle away and the fed. and prov. gov'ts are coming at us with an axe and not a scalpel.

Regardless, the federal government has decided to perform major surgery. In a move which goes far beyond past cut-backs the federal government will likely move ahead with plans to chop \$2. billion from PSE. Furthermore, they plan to dissect the system without consulting the patient. It's like going to the hospital to have your appendix out and waking up with no legs.

Funds allocated under the Established Programs Financing Act (EPF) are currently used to fund the federal governments share of PSE, hospital insurance and medicare. However, Monique Begin, federal minister of Health and Welfare said during an interview with CBC Radio in November 1980, "that hospital insurance and medicare would not be significantly affected. She has also assured provincial health ministers that there will be no major cuts to health care. As for education well 3-2=1 and she states "it is really education.. this is a candidate for savings which will be rechanneled. This leaves the overwhelming \$2. billion of the proposed cuts aimed at PSE. And it is not likely, probable or maybe there is not If's about it, "several campuses will be forced to close their doors."

Provincial governments in a scramble to find alternate sources of funding would inevitably increase tuition. On Ho! Not a whole bunch at first but just enough so that you

didn't really notice it or chalk it up to that damned inflation. But increased tuition would effect us and it would lock the doors - even tighter on lower income bracket families.

Student Aid you wonder, well we'll just get a little extra. Well that's not how it works. As even if student loan ceilings were increased to meet the increased costs, the enrollment from students from lower income families would

drop significantly, as they would face even more prohibitive debt loads at high interest rates. Yet the federal government still shuns the proposal for an all grant plan.

They have their own plans on how to redirect some of the "cut" funds into a new form of student aid, the voucher! Well do you know what "the voucher" really means? It means that on registration day when

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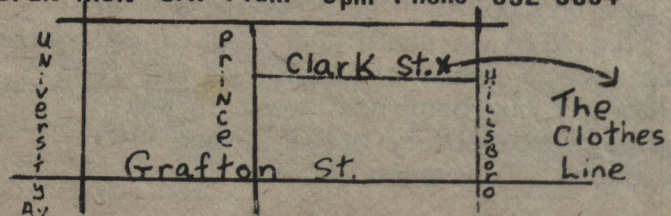
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