

YMCA to Aid Job Strategy Program

OTTAWA - On December 17, the Minister for Youth Jean Charest announced that the Canadian Jobs Strategy will provide \$10 million for a national job creation project for young people.

The project, which comes under CJS's Innovations Program, is being co-ordinated by YMCA Canada, and will set up eight Youth Enterprise Centres across Canada in Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Saint John (New Brunswick), and St. John's (Newfoundland), and a general centre in Glace Bay (Nova Scotia).

Mr. Charest said: "This unprecedented and innovative project is in keeping with the federal government's priority to improve the employment situation for young people by finding ways to make the labour market more accessible to them."

"I am pleased to note that this three-year project is the result of a concerted effort on the part of the federal government, YMCA Canada and IBM Canada Ltd. Their efforts will

ensure that Canadians in all parts of the country will be able to take advantage of this youth initiative," added the Minister.

The project's main objective is to assist unemployed young people between 16 and 30 years of age by creating centres for entrepreneurs in nine communities.

"The Youth Enterprise Centres reflect two major priorities of this government - youth and entrepreneurship", Mr. Charest explained. "We are determined to provide access for youth into the labour market and to promote entrepreneurship as a means of creating jobs."

Two projects that reflect these priorities have recently been announced by my colleagues - the allocation of \$1.3 million to youth native entrepreneurs and a \$1 million project called "Operation Youth - Enterprise for Youth Development."

"The project we are launching is an initiative aimed at the segment of the youth population that seeks to be self-

employed and provide jobs for others", said the Minister.

YMCA Canada will receive federal funding for the creation of 849 jobs and the expectation is that 2,000 jobs will be eventually created. In his speech, the Minister empha-

sized that the YMCA has a great deal of experience and expertise in youth training and employment. IBM Canada Ltd.

is an active partner in this project. They have provided expert advice and \$245,000 for the purchase of computers for the

centres.

The Youth Enterprise Centres will provide participants with training and business technical assistance, market research and help in acquiring financial assistance. At the end

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Student Press not Covering Gay Issues

(CUP) - Former Canadian University Press Features writer Samantha Brennen claims that there isn't enough coverage of gay and lesbian issue in the student press.

Brennen, along with Nigel Crawhall, were coordinators of a gay and lesbian resource room at the recent Canadian University Press national conference in North Bay. In a seminar, Brennen outlined some problems of coverage of gay and lesbian issues.

Brennen said what coverage there is is often "ghettoized" in supplements received through CUP as part of its "social change" mandate. In addition, says Brennen, this once-a-year coverage makes the student press feel it has done its job in advocating social change.

Furthermore, Brennen says that writers often write about gay and lesbian issues without consulting a gay or lesbian. Because gay and lesbian issues don't usually happen at a specific time and place, Brennan claims that the news editors refuse to give coverage to these issues.

Mary Louise Adams, contributor to magazines 'Rites' and 'Horizons' claims that the student newspapers, as alternative media, should open themselves up to other issues. Adams claims that special issue supplements do not sufficiently address the problem of lack of coverage. Rather, Adams advocated regular column space in student papers for "coming out of the closet"

stories.

Crawhall stressed the importance of staff members on student newspapers not relying on individual gay and lesbian writers to cover these

issues. Rather, Crawhall recommended that all staff become educated enough so that anyone could cover gay and lesbian issues.

Crawhall also stressed that importance of heterosexual reporters covering gay and

lesbian issues to add a different perspective. Coverage should be expanded beyond the campus to give it a broader focus, he said.



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