

Katimavik has nowhere to go

TORONTO (CUP) — Katimavik supporters would have resented the federal government's move to close the youth programme no matter when it was announced, but they say the Jan. 28 cancellation came at a particularly bad time.

According to Paul Phaneuf, Katimavik executive director, half the recruitment for next year's programme had already been completed. And \$330,000 had been spent on advertising and training 30 to 35 Katimavik alumni to promote the programme in high schools.

Though Sen. Jacques Hebert's hunger strike has made most people aware that Katimavik is gone, Toronto subway riders are still greeted with appeals to sign up for Katimavik, advertising bought before the cancellation. "It's a lot of waste of public money," said Phaneuf, still bitter about the federal government's cancellation of the nine-year-old project. Katimavik allowed about 600 young people a year to work in community projects in three different provinces, and promised a better comprehension of the other national language. Participants received \$1 a day and \$1000 if they completed their nine-month tenure.

Marie-Josée Lapointe, press attaché for Secretary of State Benoit Bouchard, called the \$20 million Katimavik "a Cadillac programme" and said the government would funnel the money into an employment or youth programme that would better serve

young people. "If we knew last fall, say, we wouldn't have hired people and

had to pay their salaries and lay them off. And we wouldn't have had to buy that space," said organizer Barry Bloom of Katimavik's Toronto office.

Katimavik officials used to plan the programme's activities six months in advance and by the time the January announcement, much of the recruitment budget had already been spent.

However, Phaneuf said even if the government had advised him sooner, that wouldn't have softened the blow.

terminated?" he asked.

There are still 1,000 partici-

pants working at projects across Canada. Some will finish this month and all will have finished by June 4. Katimavik's 350 staff are being phased out and all operations will cease as of June 30.

Expo is a big joke

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Students would rather starve than take jobs at Expo '86 for "starvation wages."

University of British Columbia students looking for summer jobs have turned down Expo interviews at the campus employment centre because they say it is impossible to live on the Expo wage, \$4 per hour.

UBC graduate student Catherine McGovern said she did not show up for three interviews because she could not afford to live on "dismal" Expo interviews.

"My initial reaction was that the wage was too low for any kind of job and certainly too low for a

job that requires skill," said McGovern, who was offered the position of traffic controller on the Expo site.

"Expo jobs are okay for kids who live at home and who could use some spending money. But for those students who live away from home and depend on the money to pay tuition and living expenses, they are of no use at all," she said.

Marjorie Nichols, a columnist for the Vancouver Sun, told delegates to a recent conference for journalists that only teenagers could afford to take the low paying jobs.

And Nichols said, their "moms

will have to pack their lunches and their dads will have to drive them to work."

But John Evans, Expo manager of recruitment and employment, said low wage have little to do with low interview turn out.

"There are a whole host of reasons why people turned down the jobs," he said, but admitted that wages "may have been a factor." He noted his office has had no problem filling 7,000 EXPO jobs to date.

Evans said his office has not given any thought to the amounts students can save from Expo jobs.

Stephen Scott, executive officer of the Canadian Federation of Students-Pacific, was not sur-

prised that students would refuse Expo jobs.

"Poor paying jobs means that students must take on an increasing debt load to pay for tuition and living expenses," said Scott, noting that low wages would discourage students from returning to university.

According to Scott, B.C. has an enrolment rate of 13.5 per cent — the lowest participation rate in Canada.

B.C.'s minimum wage \$3.65 an hour has not increased for the last six years, while tuition fees at the University of Victoria have increased 104 per cent over the same period.

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out and students participated."

Neil McGill, a philosophy professor and for 25 years at UNB resident fellow at the university's Bridges House, said "the administration does have a slight tendency to take things over," mentioning the takeover of the school's faculty club three years ago.

But McGill also criticised Bossnitch's style. "He tend to politicise everything ... and get directly involved with everything himself," he said.

McGill called Bossnitch's push for student power "not unreasonable." One professor who asked his name not to be used said the faculty has the exact same fights with the administration as the students. "They say we don't represent anybody," the professor said.

English said the university's recent wholesale revisions of academic policy have made staying in school much more difficult, thus diminishing student interest in politics.

Bossnitch thinks if he can galvanize student support and "short-circuit the power of the board (of governors)", students will be on their way to new power over the facilities their money supports.

But students may lose everything. "Students have a place in terms of governance and can be a very creative voice in the lives of student," Downey said. "University years are a glorious time for students to get involved in Politics.

"But," Downey said, "the primary purpose of students in the university is to pursue an education. Occasionally some students

think Senate and the council are some kind of model parliament.

"I've said to Mr. Bossnitch that one of the things the university would have to consider is whether we wish to continue to be a collection agency for student fees," Downey said.

"If there's going to be a refusal of the student council to behave properly as judged by the board of governors, they may have no other choice than but to take that action (stop collecting fees)."

Bossnitch is worried that eroding student power may be a national trend, and will travel to the Canadian Federation of Students conference at the University of Western Ontario in May to encourage national student strategy to maintain political power on campus. UNB students vote this week on joining CFS.

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