

## WHAT THE GOVERNMENT SAYS...

ARCHIVES  
U.P.E.I.

### Improvements in Post-Secondary Funding Needed

From the Secretary of State of Canada, Gerald A. Regan

Many students, along with university and college administrators and faculty members, are concerned about the future of government funding for our universities and community colleges. As Secretary of State, I share this concern, and I am committed to work to improve the methods by which government funding for post-secondary education is provided.

When I met with student leaders from the Ottawa area on October 29, 1981, I assured them that claims that the Federal government would make massive cutbacks in its support for post-secondary education were untrue. The budget presented by the Minister of Finance to the House of Commons on November 12 confirms the strength of the Federal Government's support for our colleges and universities.

### The Federal Government's Contribution to Education

The government of Canada shouldered the major cost of post-secondary education. Under the 1977 agreement, the national government is contributing over \$3 billion to the operating costs of post-secondary education in 1981-82. That amounts approximately to 56 per cent of the total operating costs of post-secondary institutions.

The Government of Canada also contributes over \$2 billion for student loans, research grants, occupational training and other items involved in post-secondary and other education.

These are the facts. Unfortunately, Canada's 1.5 million full and part time students attending universities and community colleges have been often fed rumours and distortions

by parties employing scare tactics for political ends.

### The Liberal Commitment to Education

The Liberal Party has a tradition of strong support for higher education, and this support has been demonstrated by our actions as well as by our words.

The Liberal government initiated direct support for post-secondary institutions in 1951. It was the Liberal government which agreed in 1967 to provide funding directly to provinces to operate post-secondary institutions according to the local and regional needs of the provinces.

The action of the Liberal governments made it possible for new educational facilities to emerge in all provinces. In Ontario alone, Lakehead University, Laurentian University, Trent University, and Brock University have evolved as major educational institutions.

As Premier of Nova Scotia, I demonstrated my support for higher education because I believed that money spent on a high quality of education was an investment in the future of my province. I continue to believe in the priority of post-secondary education and my goal as Secretary of State is to work to strengthen government for higher education in this country, and to improve the ability of our universities and colleges to meet national objectives.

### Federal Government Concerns

At the same time, the Federal government is concerned about present arrangements for the funding of post-secondary education. We are concerned about the increasing share of the support for post-secondary education which the Federal government is paying through transfers

to the provinces, and the decreasing share of the operating cost of post secondary institutions being paid by some provinces. If an increasing amount of available Federal funds continues to be used in this manner, there will be correspondingly less money available for direct Federal programs designed to achieve national goals and objectives.

Likewise, the Government of Canada wants greater assurances from provincial governments that money from the national treasury is actually being spent on post-secondary education. Under the present arrangement, there is no accountability or visibility for the Governments of Canada's contribution to the provinces for post

### secondary education. The Future of Post Secondary Education

In the immediate future, I am undertaking a comprehensive review of federal support for post-secondary education. I will be consulting with university and college administrators, students and faculty members, as well as with the provinces, in order to determine the best ways to improve government support for post-secondary education.

With the support of the university and college communities, I am confident that it will be possible for me to work together with the provinces to reach an agreement for improving the funding and the very structure of post secondary education.

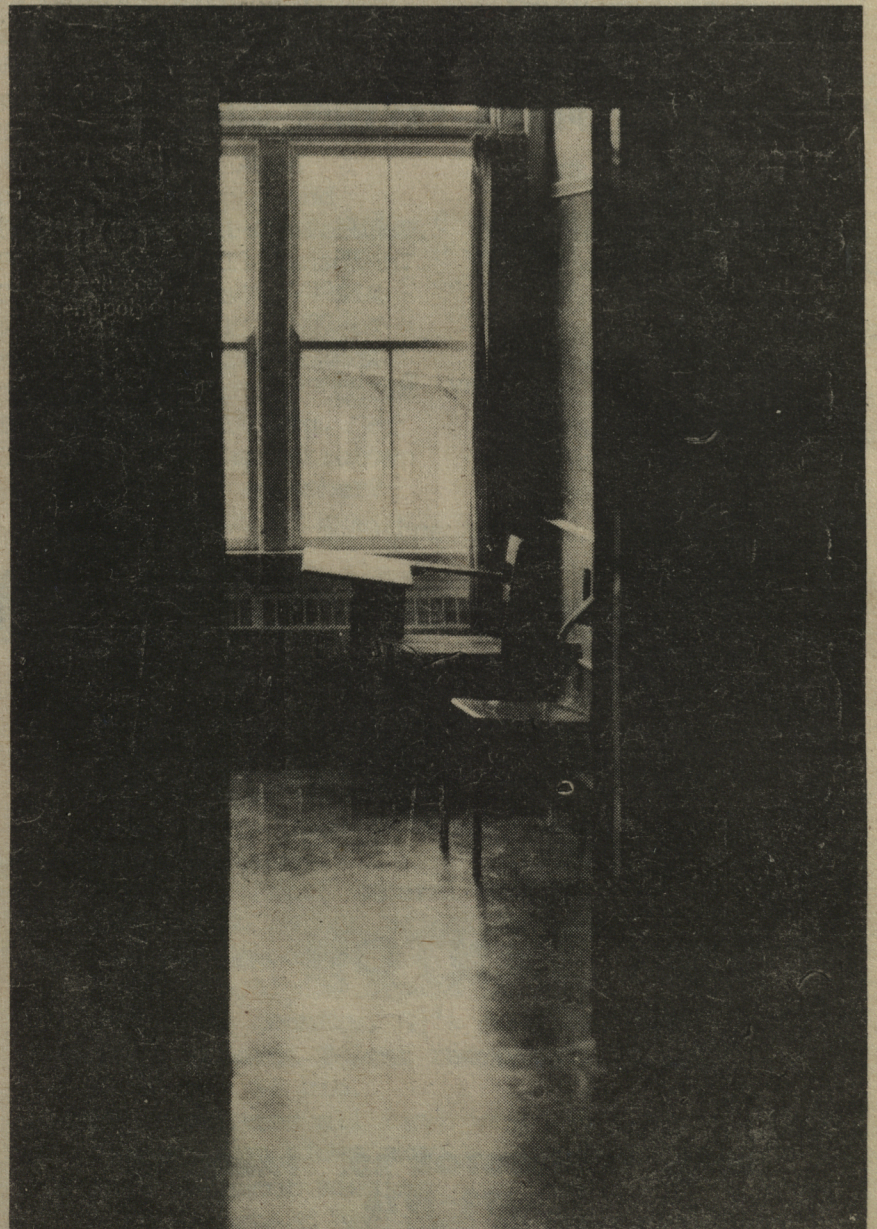


Photo by Augustine Hi Lou Ping