

# Summer job prospects dismal

OTTAWA (CUP) - The Federal government will spend \$113.5 million this summer for job creation for youth, Employment Minister Bud Cullen announced Feb. 15.

But the National Union of Students (NUS) has said this will not solve the serious student summer unemployment program in Canada.

This year's budget for the federal Canada Summer Youth Employment Program is up from last year's \$4.8 million, Cullen said, and will employ 64,000

young people through direct job creation and will place another 202,000 in private sector jobs.

Young Canada Works, the largest federal program, is expected to provide work for 35,000 youth at a cost of \$62 million.

However, the program does not go far enough in combating student unemployment, which was 17 per cent last summer and expected to be as high this year, according to National Union of Students (NUS) researcher Norma Ballantyne.

She noted that, last

year, YCW could only fund about a third of the 14,300 project applications with its budget of \$48.8 million. To pay for all of the projects would require \$18 million, she said.

"Another problem with Young Canada Works is that it only provides short-term jobs," she said. "When that is added to the tightened UIC regulations, you are going to have many students unable to qualify for unemployment insurance when they can't find work at the end of this summer

or at the beginning of next summer."

Many other government job creation programs, such as the Youth Jobs Corps., suffer from the same problem, Ballantyne said.

She also said the government's Canada Employment Centre for Students, which are to place 202,000 students in private sector jobs while only directly 1,300 jobs, is a poor solution to unemployment.

"The centres help find jobs, which with current levels of unemployment are scarce, but they can't create new ones," Ballantyne said.

According to Statistics Canada there are only approximately 40,000 job openings for the nearly one million out-of-work Canadians.

The government has also gone back on its promise to use the \$580 million cut from the UIC program last fall for job creation, Ballantyne said.

"This year's youth employment program is only a fifth of what was cut," she said.

Ballantyne said the only way the government can seriously fight youth unemployment is through a program of large-scale direct job creation, she said.

## Academics

Professor G.W. Pineau, chairman of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at the University of Prince Edward Island, has announced the 1979 PEI Mathematics Competition will be written in High Schools throughout the province on Saturday, March 10 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Professor Pineau is the 1979 Olympiad Coordinator for Prince Edward Island. The competition is sponsored by UPEI. The students entering the competition will be in Grade Twelve in Island High Schools and from the Freshman year at UPEI. The top five students will then be eligible to enter the National Olympiad to be written in schools throughout Canada, with prizes in excess of \$2900.

The results of the Provincial Competition will be announced in April.

Information has been distributed to Island High Schools, and students wishing to compete should contact their Mathematics teachers.



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