

# THE CADRE

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## UPEI continues to be at odds with Canadian Federation of Students

Stacey Murray  
Advertising Manager

The University of Prince Edward Island is still a member of the Canadian Federation of Students, despite years of trying to sever ties with the group, says a CFS representative.

At the Feb. 11 student union meeting a member questioned why UPEI didn't take part in the Day of Action, an event planned by the federation to give students a voice about tuition increases.

Student union president Ryan Gallant said UPEI isn't affiliated with the Canadian Federation of Students, who organized the event, but said they were planning other events concerning rising tuition.

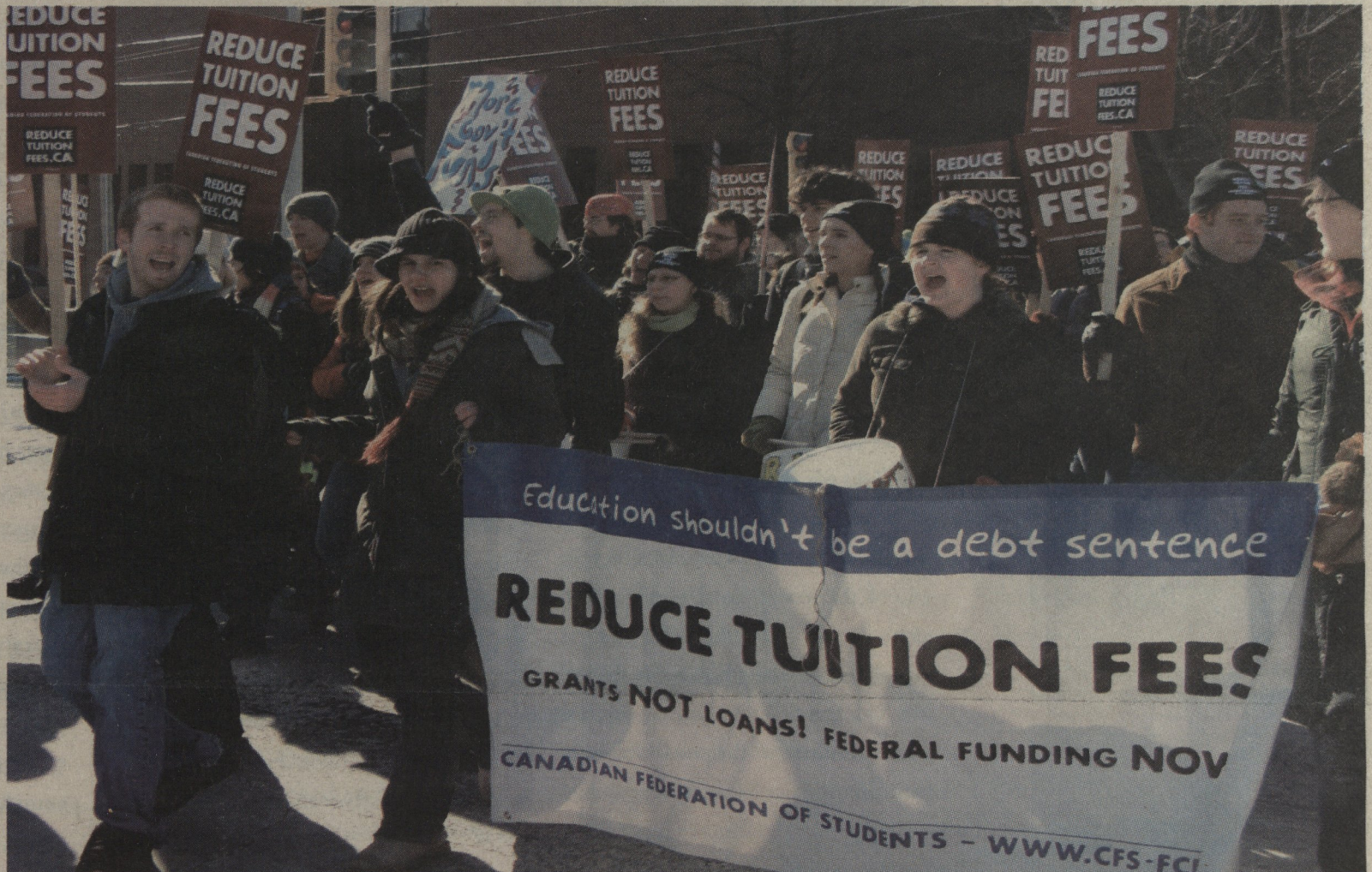
"There's always stuff we're working on."

Ian Boyko, the campaign coordinator from CFS, said this wasn't the case as UPEI is a member, even though they're not recognizing their membership at this time.

"They made a decision at the council level they weren't going to respect their membership."

This however doesn't mean they are no longer members, he said.

According to Boyko, a referendum must be held where all



Students march in protest of rising tuition costs in Halifax, Nova Scotia during the CFS Day of Action.

- Cup Photo

students vote whether to remain members of CFS. If they vote no, only then can the SU retract their membership.

Comparing UPEI's place in the CFS is like comparing Quebec's situation in Canada, he said. When Quebec became part of Canada, they agreed to the terms of Confederation as outlined in the Canadian constitution. If they were to leave Canada, they would have

to hold a referendum before it could be done.

They could not, however, decide within the government to leave Canada. The population has to agree.

This is essentially what UPEI has done, but only as a last resort to a long struggle, which included a referendum.

Eleven years ago, the ongoing battle for the university to remove itself from the federa-

tion began, when the student union held a referendum asking whether students wanted to remain members of the CFS. At that time 74 per cent voted in favour of dropping out of the federation.

The CFS appealed the referendum results, citing flaws in the process, and after threat of legal actions, the student union overturned the result.

Other schools, such as York University and Acadia University, have also tried to drop out of the federation with similar results and lengthy court processes.

In 2004, the student union filed a report concluding they weren't members of the federation because of problems with the original contractual agreement. The report stated

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### Put Your Story in the Cadre Creative Issue!

Our deadline has been extended - but not for long!

Send your short stories, poetry photos and art in before March 17  
(send to [upecadre@gmail.com](mailto:upecadre@gmail.com) with the subject 'creative issue')