

Access Network Confirmed

TORONTO (CUP) — Students in northern Ontario would see massive improvements in access to and quality of their "distance" education programs because of a new

\$20 million Access Network recently confirmed by the provincial government.

The government will allocate \$5 million a year over the next four years to provide

learning materials in both English and French to secondary and post-secondary students in isolated areas, and link them with their teachers at other Ontario institutions.

The network will be multi-media, employing written correspondence, radio and television, audio and video tapes, computers, teleconferencing and satellite receivers.

Bill Summers, university affairs officer for the ministry of Colleges and Universities, said there are 12,000 students currently involved in high school level distance education through the Individual Learning Centre in Toronto who will likely benefit from the new network.

Summers returned recently from a preliminary meeting with the presidents of Laurentian University and Cambrian College in Sudbury, two of the four northern institutions which will serve as regional coordinating centres for the network.

Of the \$5 million, \$3 million will be allocated towards establishing and operating the network, purchasing equipment, and paying staff salaries for the community centres. The remaining \$2 million will be used to assist institutions in

developing new distance education programmes.

Both opposition party critics had good things to say about the project.

"It sounds very good," said New Democrat Education and College critic David Warner, "need a more adventurous approach to learning facilities in the North. The idea of using high-tech abilities to reach small isolated communities is an idea which has caught on big in Britain, where millions have signed up for what they call universities on the air."

Richard Allen, NDP critic for universities, is concerned about the cost of an effective distance education network.

"If you want to do this well, you need not only a network but also some degree of personal interchange — weekend seminars, regular phone-ins ... I'm not sure these kinds of things have been taken into account in the \$5 million. It may well end up costing more," said Allen.

Confederation College and Lakehead University will serve as regional coordinating centres in Thunder Bay.

POET Plan Being Considered

MONTREAL (CUP) — A proposal that would abolish tuition fees in favour of a special 'education tax' has been presented to the Quebec government by the Concordia University student council.

Under the Post Obligatory Education Tax (POET), brain-

child of Concordia student Pete Wheeland, students would defer payment of fees until they graduated. "I see it an alternative to the current system which requires students to go into debt in order to study," said Wheeland. "It is also a solution to

the problem of increasing educational funds without raising tuition."

Wheeland said graduates would pay up to two per cent of their salaries one year after finding their first job. The tax would be collected for three years for ever year a student spent in CEGEP or university.

A graduate earning below the POET 'floor' of \$20,000 would not be taxed.

Although POET was last year adopted as official policy of Concordia's student council, the idea has long been around in one form or another says former council vice-president Francois Desrosier, who presented the brief to government.

"The tax would (be) much more accessible, and would recognize the responsibility of students to society in assuming part of the financial burden," he said. "It would also shift the emphasis from the student's ability to pay to the student's ability to learn."

Government would be responsible for implementation of the tax, and verification of payment.

The youth wing of the Parti Quebecois recently adopted a similar proposal, which calls for abolition of tuition fees with a 1.5 per cent tax to be paid 10 years after graduation.

University College Grapples With Anglo-Sax Fund

TORONTO (CUP) — A benefactor has left \$2 million to a University of Toronto college's scholarship fund, stipulating that the money be given only to students of Anglo Saxon extraction.

Ella Ferguson, widow of former Ontario premier Howard Ferguson, died in the late 1950s, leaving her estate to University of College at U of T. Mrs. Ferguson specified that the money would provide an annual income to her three nieces until their deaths and the College would then inherit the fund. The last of the three nieces passed away this summer.

The will also specifies that the scholarship be awarded to students who live outside a 15-mile radius of the college.

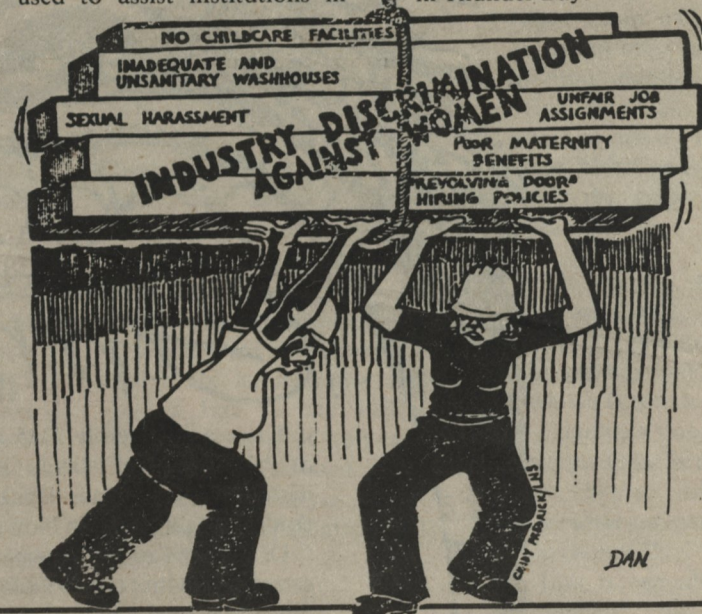
College principal Peter Richardson said the money

would not be accepted unless the condition of the will are changed. The money would double the college's donations fund.

"It would be contrary to university policy" to accept the conditions, said Richardson. "University policy was written to conform with the Charter of Rights."

Both Richardson and Glenn Loney, chair of the college's scholarships and bursaries committee, are confident the will can be changed in under the Ontario Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Loney said he didn't want to see Ferguson portrayed in the press as a racist for her generosity. "People have to take into some sort of consideration the times in which she made the gift," he said.



Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic Thank-you for Thursday, September 25, 1986

Many thanks to the following people who volunteered their time to help make the Blood Donor Clinic a success:

Karen Bishop	Heather Kelly
Rosemary Berardinelli	Maureen Fleming
Ron Cameron	Lisa McCarvill
Jo-Ann Birt	Tammy Manley
Holly Good	Angela Seaman
Jacinta Gallant	Murry Stevenson
Julia Hammond	Miles Turnbull

The clinic goal was 150 units of blood, turnout was 137 people with 108 units of blood given. Special mention goes to the Vet students (30 in number) who turned out. Thanks!

Heather Love
SU General Manager

You should know the facts on Lung Cancer:

- 80 to 90% of lung cancers are caused by smoking
- Although many cancers can be successfully treated, Lung Cancer can only rarely be cured, because it is usually well advanced before detection
- Each year more Islanders die from Lung Cancer than on our highways
- Second-hand and sidestream smoke increase your risk of lung cancer
- Your chances of favorable long-term health are greatly improved by choosing to be a non-smoker

For more information, contact:
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