

Universities to qualify for GST rebate

Press Release

Ottawa, July 26, 1990 - Universities will qualify for a 67 percent rebate on the Goods and Services Tax following an agreement reached between the Government of Canada and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada and the Canadian Association of University Business Officers. The rebate rate also applies to community colleges.

"The rebate will be paid on university purchases for

exempt activities and is equivalent to an effective tax rate of 2.3 percent rather than the seven per cent," said AUCC President Claude Lajeunesse today in announcing the agreement.

Universities also obtained federal government agreement that:

- meal plans that provide a minimum of 10 meals a week for a period of four weeks will be exempt;
- instruction at universities and colleges, including most non-

credit courses, will be exempt. Excluded will be recreational and hobby courses;

- the requirement that universities be publicly funded in order to be eligible for rebate will be removed;
- the definition of exempt fees for courses of instruction will include all compulsory fees that the student must pay in order to take the course.

"These arrangements will benefit both students and universities", says Lajeunesse.

The discussions that led to

the agreement were supported by research done by a n AUCC/CAUBO task force. "We realized the need for an airtight argument to make the case for universities in our consultations with the Department of Finance", says task force chairperson Tom Vine of the University of Western Ontario.

Statistical information was collected from a representative group of 13 universities across Canada, including both large and small institutions. The services of an accounting firm specializing in federal sales tax were retained and consultations held with other organizations considered as Public Service Bodies under the GST.

Finance minister Micheal Wilson said he was pleased that "this very productive process of consultations" led to the agreement reached between the federal government and AUCC and CAUBO.

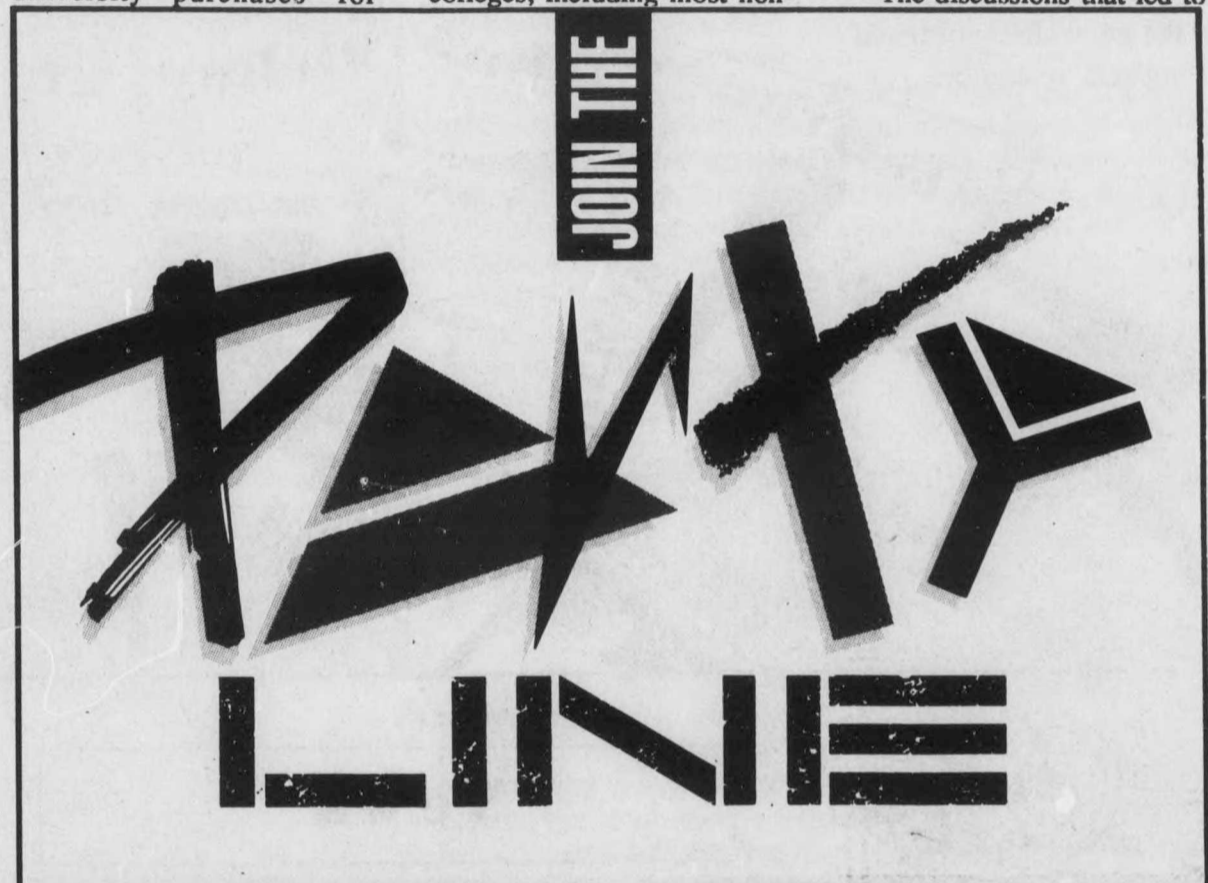
"Our key objective throughout our discussions with the university associations was to ensure that Canadian universities will encounter no greater tax burden

as a result of federal sales tax reform," Mr. Wilson added. "That is a commitment I made two years ago, and which we have honored in this agreement."

Over and above the exemptions provided for under educational services, universities benefit from exempt activities related to health care services, child and personal care services, legal aid services and services provided by public sector bodies.

"There are further consultations ahead with the Department of Revenue. We want to ensure that the agreement reached with the Department of Finance is respected in Revenue Canada's interpretation of some grey areas for universities", Lajeunesse adds.

CAUBO will examine some of these grey areas at a seminar for university administrators and accountants to be held September 23-24 in Toronto. This will be followed by the production of a "question and answer" book on the GST for use by universities.



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News Notes

Symposium to be held

Fredericton, UNB - A symposium will be held called "Education in the University" on September 28. The symposium will be from 9:30pm-4:30pm at 650 Montgomery Street (Room 204), Fredericton, NB.

Discussions will be initiated by: Robin Barrow (Simon Fraser), Philosopher; Ted Fenton (Carnegie Mellon), historian; Henry Milner (Vanier College), political scientist; and Patricia Thompson, (Lehman College, CUNY), feminist home economist. Everyone interested in education in the university is invited. There is a fee of \$20.00

For further information contact the UNB Faculty of Education before September 21.

Donnelly named Assisant Dean

Saint John, UNB (UNB-CR)- Dr. Fred Donnelly has been named Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies and Research for the Saint John campus of the University of New Brunswick. His appointment is for a three year term.

Donnelly, a history professor in the Division of Humanities and Languages at UNBSJ, is a native of Montréal, Québec. Donnelly's area of academic expertise is British History. He has been teaching at UNBSJ since 1979.

The Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies and Research is UNB's contact for graduate students and researchers on the Saint John campus.

New award to be established

Fredericton, UNB (UNB-PRI) - The faculty of arts at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton is establishing a new award for excellence in teaching.

The annual award will be presented to a full-time instructor in the faculty of arts to recognize and encourage teaching excellence, says Reavley Gair, a professor of English at UNB and a member of the Arts Faculty Council.

The award will apply specifically to the arts faculty on the Fredericton campus and will facilitate recognition of teaching achievement.

Instructors can be nominated by either staff or students and will be assessed on their performance in the classroom and in their field by students and by members of the Arts Faculty Council.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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