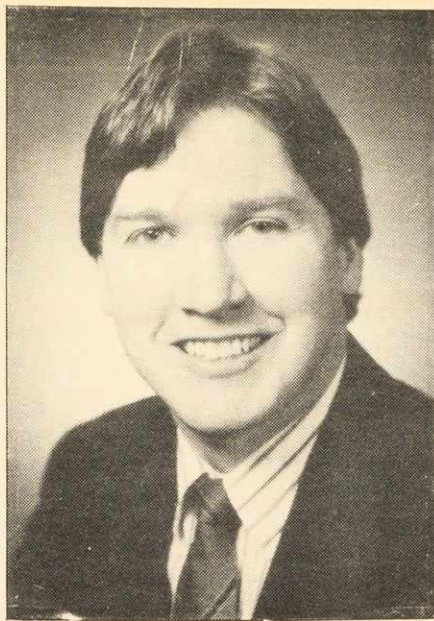
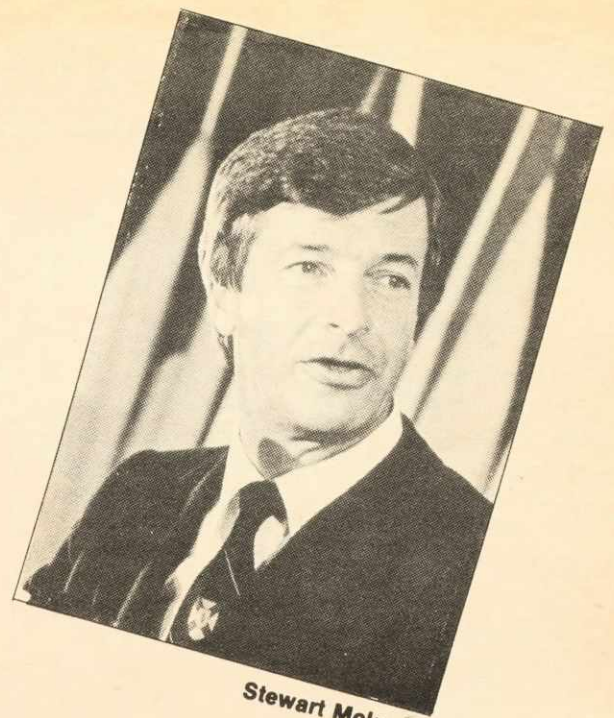




Mary Clancy



Ray Larkin



Stewart McInnis



A 1987 federal government study showed that the accumulated debt load of 37 per cent of those students who negotiated a Canada Student Loan in 1985-86 exceeded \$5,000. Furthermore, nine per cent were over \$10,000 in debt.

The part-time student loan program established by the Trudeau government in 1983 is inadequate because students are forced to bear interest payments on unattractive terms. It is used by less than one per cent of the 450,000 part-time students in Canada.

What plans, if any, does your party have to resolve the growing problem of debt among recent university graduates in Canada?

We want to look at the whole CSL program. Increasing the bursary portion is one way to reduce debt. We are the ones (in Atlantic Canada) that take it in the neck.

Has your party considered the possibility of an all-grants system as opposed to all-loans?

There are difficulties with this. While we are committed to universality, there is a place for loans. It's not totally fair to place the burden on the taxpayer. When I paid off mine (\$10,000 over nine years) it was tight, but not impossible. We're going to have to look at repayments, and we've got to ensure the fairness of the standards of the CSL program and that no one becomes overburdened. If the CSL program is streamlined, it can work well.

Given the rising proportion of part-time students in Canada, what do you plan to do to improve the part-time student loan system?

This fits into the overhaul that's necessary. The part-time student is almost a microcosm of the average Canadian. Along with straight funding, there's a tremendous need for support services, of which daycare is the most important. On a national level, we need to look at the needs of individual students, part-time ones in particular. (But) nothing should be done without student input. Various students' groups must be brought in on a consultative basis.

What plans, if any, does your party have to resolve the growing problem of debt among recent university graduates in Canada?

We would give part-time students access to aid on a pro-rated basis. They don't get the same benefits (as full-time students). We believe in equality for part-time students, and we would treat them the same. Half the courses, half the loan and bursary.

Has your party considered the possibility of an all-grants system as opposed to all-loans?

Given the rising proportion of part-time students in Canada, what do you plan to do to improve the part-time student loan system?

I talked with Ed Broadbent about this. We have been studying which mechanism would be the most effective. We feel the grant portion should predominate over the loan portion. I don't think any debt remission plan has been proposed, but my personal view is that some relief will be necessary as some students are going to have intolerable debt. I graduated in 1969. I know people who are still paying from twenty years ago. People are afraid of the possible debt and this creates a problem of accessibility. Our policy would be to increase the grant portion but not to phase out loans altogether.

What plans, if any, does your party have to resolve the growing problem of debt among recent university graduates in Canada?

Has your party considered the possibility of an all-grants system as opposed to all-loans?

Given the rising proportion of part-time students in Canada, what do you plan to do to improve the part-time student loan system?

Last spring, in Saskatchewan, our government convened the first conference of its kind, involving students, administrators and teachers. The recommendations of that meeting are now the subject of discussion between the federal and provincial governments. Included in the resolutions were some proposals to deal with the debt of university students. I can say that the Secretary of State is preparing a Cabinet submission to deal with some of these problems. I'm not able to comment whether we're more disposed to grants, rather than loans, other than to say that these are very sensitive matters of increasing difficulty, and a federal/provincial response is required.

Student Aid

The federal government sponsors a summer employment program known as Challenge. The funding for this program has decreased since 1985 from \$205 million to \$180 million. Despite the country-wide scope of this program, there is still a huge

disparity in unemployment rates. In Ontario, rates have fallen below five per cent, but in Newfoundland they hover in the vicinity of 50 per cent, and in Nova Scotia they are roughly 17 per cent.

The Challenge program is not adequately tailored to the regional needs of this country. What will you do to redress this problem?

I'm not sure if we'll use Challenge. This has always been part and parcel of Liberal Party policy: providing and ensuring good, available summer employment for students. We'll look at it in light of programs that have worked better in the past.

The Challenge program is not adequately tailored to the regional needs of this country. What will you do to redress this problem?

I'm not going to bullshit. I'll have to look, because I'm not sure (of the party's official position), so I'll have to get back to you on that one.

The Challenge program is not adequately tailored to the regional needs of this country. What will you do to redress this problem?

With respect to student employment, last summer in Nova Scotia, there were five thousand more students employed than in 1984. Youth unemployment varies across the country, but has declined quite dramatically. Even though the number of unemployed students is substantially less, the amount of funding under Challenge has remained constant. The biggest priority under Challenge is for dropout students and for students otherwise unemployable, and our emphasis has been in that direction.

Interviews continued on page 14.