

## *Preface*

The most exciting provincial election in New Brunswick for many years, and perhaps the most important in New Brunswick political history, will take place in less than two weeks.

The developments of the crucial issues in the election began four years ago with the commissioning of a royal commission to report on finance and municipal taxation in the province of New Brunswick, which was to offer solutions to severe financial problems among many of its rural areas and communities. As is well known, the Byrne Report finally recommended to centralize financial control of education, public health, social services and justice of municipalities and rural areas in Fredericton. Even more well known is the subsequent reaction of widespread protest in the province since the release of the report in 1965. The issue of the first provincial election since then has been bound to centre on this major controversy.

However, the most challenging feature of the election to the Liberal government has become the return of Charles Van Horne to New Brunswick, with his successful entry into N.B. politics as leader of the Progressive Conservative party last November, and as a winning candidate in the February Restigouche by-election. Van Horne has not only rallied the Progressive Conservative party, but has carried on a relentless campaign against the "dictatorial" Liberal government with his personality winning widespread support for his "party of the people".

This first issue of **PLUS ONE** takes a brief look at the two leaders of the main political parties contesting the N.B. election. The article on Charlie Van Horne takes a somewhat detailed sketch of his background, illustrating some of his talents as a popular, vote-winning politician.

Paul Leger, who works with the now obsolete Office of Government Organization (OGO), apart from the election, looks at the Byrne Report recommendations as they have been translated into legislation.

Wilfred Alliston provides his own a-political look at the Interim Elections Act, which the Progressive Conservative voice has attacked as being partisan and favouring the Liberal vote.

John Filliter illustrates issues involved in lowering the voting age to eighteen, the question asked in a plebiscite on the October 23rd ballot.

For the interest of eligible student voters, brief biographies are given of the four candidates contesting the two Fredericton seats.

For all of you who are stirred to follow the election in some detail, **PLUS ONE** has provided you with your own personal scorepad.

And although the NDP are running only as a minor third and Independent party of three in Northumberland, NDPer Malcolm Goldman reminds you to watch them and see how they do.

— editor Frank Loomer