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Food prices come down

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"We are extremely frustrated with the situation," said Pembina's Anderson, who met with Housng and Food officials last Monday. "With the prices locked in... the students' associations feel that more in depth changes will have to take place."

Many residents are on a Housing and Food meal card plan which forces them to purchase much of their food in University owned cafeterias.

During meetings Housing and Food cleared up "misconceptions" the SU held regarding the price increase issue. Differing approaches to price reports led the SU to accuse the service of fudging price increases far beyond what the administration had allowed.

"For whatever reason, our perception of the increase varied," said SU VP External David Tupper.

Last year the Housing and Food Services Administrative Council approved a four percent increase in cash sales, said Tupper. The SU was under the impression that a four percent average increase had been approved.



Paws for Shinerama

Mandy Wong of the Medical Students' Association, and this year's Shinerama co-ordinator, takes time out to shine Guba's paws for cystic fibrosis research.

Alberta behind our U

by Jeff Cowley

Most Albertans believe the provincial government should provide more money to universities, even it this means paying more taxes, reveals a University of Alberta report.

A province wide study, conducted by the University of Alberta Population Research Laboratory last spring, surveyed opinions of 1,269 Albertans on University issues such as enrolment, tuition increases, and government funding.

"It was a bit of a gamble, but as a university we should be searching for a truth — what ever it is," said University President Myer Horowitz.

Respondents were told that university enrolment has been rising over the past number of years without extra funding from the provincial government, (as outlined in the report).

In the report, titled "Public

Support For Universities In Alberta," two out of three Albertans who responded to the survey said that the government should provide extra money to make up for the increased enrolments. Approximately one-quarter said that universities should "make do" on their present funding.

Three-quarters of those who recommended more education spending said they were willing to pay more taxes for this purpose.

Of the total number of people surveyed, almost 73 percent said that governments should look elsewhere before cutting University budgets.

"We are very satisfied with the report," said Horowitz. "It means that many Albertans are in favour of a higher percentage of funding, even if it means they have to pay more taxes."

Copies of the study have been sent to provincial legislators, who are preparing to draw up next year's budget.

The report "confirms assumptions and backs up a lot of arguments" the Students' Union has been using in its own lobbying efforts, said president Paul La-Grange. SU executives plan on delivering to the Legislature a list of the names of students who are concerned about university cutbacks.

While University officials are pleased with the results, they are cautious about predicting the overall impact the report will have on the Legislative Assembly.

"The administration is not naive enough to believe that the report itself will change the funding situation," said Horowitz.
"But it does provide us with data when we approach the government leaders."

"I think it is clear that Albertans are against education cutbacks," said NDP education critic Gerry Gilbeault, who intends to raise the findings in the report before the Legislature.

Advanced Education Minister Dave Russell was not available for comment on the report.

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