

Landslide victory will force Liberals to fulfill promises

By MARK HUNTER
and JEFF SHINDER

In the wake of a landslide majority government, the Liberal party remains ambiguous in its commitment towards post secondary education school funding.

However, the Liberal party's past record on the funding issue is promising, as they raised grants to post secondary institutions by 11.5 per cent this past year. With a new landslide majority government it remains unclear if the Liberals will be as responsive to the university system's needs.

Tim Stutt, commercial director for the Ontario Federation of Students feels the large majority will compel Peterson to act decisively on the issue. Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Association (OCUFA) spokesman Bob Kanduth believes the majority will bring a "great responsibility to perform" and that "the numbers must make Peterson listen."

However, Kanduth added that the "Liberals have been pushing funding announcements but steering clear of long term commitments."

Underfunding of Ontario universities remains a glaring problem that is particularly acute here at York. According to York President Harry Arthurs, York has been receiving only "80¢ on the funding dollar." Arthurs however acknowledged that

over the past two years of Liberal rule the situation has improved.

The Liberal party has conceded the priority of extending greater funds to the universities. Attorney General Ian Scott stated that it is a "priority that the public learning institutions get more money." In addition Scott declared that he was "committed to reversing underfunding."

Premier Peterson, did make a few extensions of his existing positions. Peterson pledged to spend sixty five million over twenty five years towards the development of more student housing. He has vowed to commit an additional five million to OSAP and two million towards creating on campus part time jobs for students.

Especially needed is the additional assistance towards student housing. Last year in Ontario there were 185,610 full-time students attending university. Of that figure half were from outside of the community in which they were studying. During the 86-87 academic year Ontario University residences and apartments housed 37,544 students leaving roughly 56,000 full time students to fend for themselves.

York President Harry Arthurs, while not producing exact figures, has confirmed that a number of students decided against attending York due to the housing situation in Toronto.



LISA SNODDEN

YORK'S LAW ENFORCERS TAKE TO THE TRAILS: A bike patrol has been created in response to a proposal put forth by a student security officer. Security says the bike patrol's effectiveness is in its mobility and high visibility.

Excalibur will be offering a journalism seminar today in room S172 Ross. The Seminar will show students how to write an article, and will also explain the different sections of the paper and offer a style guide to all those wanting to write for *Excal*. All students are welcome, and *Excal* editorial staff will be happy to accept any food contributions during the seminar. And don't forget—meetings for all new and used *Excal* staff are 11:00 a.m. on Thursdays in room 111 Central Square.

CONTEST! The first 20 people to walk through *Excal's* door (111 Central Sq.) and tell Jamie what former partner of Dean Martin's starred in *The King of Comedy* will receive a free ticket to see the very bizarre Marty Putz at the Copa tonight.

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