

Job centres face cuts

By JONATHAN PLYMOUTH

On April 1, 1986, the federal government will cut by 30 per cent the budgets of all on-campus Canada Employment Centres. Funding will drop from \$2.16

million to \$1.42 million.

The Ministry of Employment and Immigration says the cuts mean the job centres, which found jobs for 46,581 undergraduates in 1983-84, will lay off one

third of their personnel. This may mean closing two or more of the six on-campus job centres in Nova Scotia.

Deputy prime minister Erik Neilson's Ministerial Task Force

on Programs Review ordered the cuts in May, according to Fergus Thomson, national director of employment centres on campus.

In *The New Management Initiatives*, its May '85 report, the task force wrote, "Canada Employment Centres on campus are seen as duplicating and to some extent competing with services offered by regular employment centres."

The federal government has not told the regional officers what form the cuts will take.

"I haven't heard any confirmed information. We know that there will be 'streamlining' with fewer people and perhaps even closing of some offices," says Dan Lawrence, manager of the Dalhousie job centre.

"It might mean the closing up of all on-campus offices during the summer because some duplication takes place," he says.

Lawrence sees another possibility as being the establishment of a centralized office for the campuses, but concedes that "it would be awkward to find a location satisfactory for all the universities in the Halifax area."

The Dalhousie office made

over 800 placements in the 1984-85 academic year. Lawrence notes that there has been even more demand this year, with over 1000 students registering in September.

Despite the increased demand, Lawrence is philosophical about the proposed cuts. "They may have decided that universities should run their own placement centres and have decided to provide service where it is most needed—not for university-educated people."

Canada Employment Centre (CEC) officials seem to expect the universities will hire staff to provide the services which will be lost due to the proposed cuts.

Lawrence says the "CEC can be more effective because they cooperate rather than compete with each other."

He says he would be concerned if he "thought that there was a possibility that we would have to make cuts that would seriously disrupt our services to either employers or to students, but in this coming academic year the effects will only be minimal."

With files from Canadian University Press.



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