

# Immigration issues clarified for students

by Ato Eguakun

In recent times some international students have expressed misgivings about the rather hardliner stance taken by the Canada Immigration Centre in Fredericton when their requests are being considered.

In order to clarify the issue, the *Brunswickan* contacted Pat Green, the manager of the Fredericton Canada Immigration Centre for comments.

Green was asked about the relationship between his office and the Canadian Embassies and consulates abroad. The *Brunswickan* also wanted to know whose responsibility it is to make enquiries from a client's home office concerning the authenticity of documents presented to the immigration office.

He explained that the processing of foreign students' documents takes place in two stages. First, the student's home office reviews the student's documents to ensure that he/she satisfies laid down requirements for entry unto Canada as a student.

Once the student arrives in Canada, the responsibility of reviewing his status lies with the Canada Immigration. He went on to say that each applicant is served in accordance with a variety of factors.

Essentially, a client is dealt with according to what he/she is asking for, the information he/she provides to support the request, what the Immigration Act requires under those circumstances and the resulting decision made by the immigration officer.

As to whose responsibility it is to make enquiries abroad, he said that since a client needs to provide some information to support his request, he/she has to take on a certain responsibility.

He explained further that since the office makes decisions based on what the client provides the onus lies on the client to ensure that all the necessary requirements are met.

However, "we will assist the client to obtain as much information as possible".

Green stressed that the operations of the immigration office is not to make life difficult for foreign students but rather to facilitate their stay in Canada. He cited as an example, the recent flexibility in the policy of issuing student authorizations for the duration of the student's stay in school.

By this policy students will be relieved of having to pay to renew their authorizations each year.

When asked about the rationale behind the increases in fees for services renders to the public, he stated that it is immigration policy that "the user shall pay for the services provided. The fee for producing the documents, however, will not exceed the actual cost of producing the documents."

He indicated that not only does Canada implement the cost recovery system but many other countries do likewise. The current fee structure is such that whatever a client pays is well within the actual cost of producing the documents.

Concerning working in Canada, he stated that normally anyone who is not a landed

immigrant or a Canadian citizen must apply for and obtain his/her employment authorization outside of Canada if he/she intends to work in Canada.

However, the Immigration Policy recognizes the benefits for international students to take up jobs on campus and therefore permits applying for employment authorization when they arrive in Canada. This benefit is extended to their spouses as well.

Spouses of international students are permitted to apply for and take up jobs while in Canada. However the immigration policy requires their employment authorizations to be job specific.

Green stressed that the fact that spouses of international students are permitted to work responds to a couple of things. Basically, he explained, the prime motive is not for the

spouse to work to financially support the student but rather for him/her to experience the Canadian society and to give the couple some 'pocket money'.

International students are therefore required by law to show proof of their ability to support themselves as well as their families while studying in Canada.

The *Brunswickan* asked him whether he thought immigration was being fair by insisting that a new authorization be paid for if the terms and conditions of an old one changes even though the old one is yet to expire.

In an answer to this question, he pointed out that the immigration policy requires a new authorization for a new job with a new employer so long as the terms and conditions change.

This is regardless of whether the old document has expired or not. He agreed that this is unfortunate for the student but "that is the policy".

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He noted that this policy holds for all other documents issued by Canada Immigration and therefore advised holders of immigration documents to read carefully and understand their terms and conditions.

Green recognizes the need for his office to continue to do more in terms of promoting their services to international students. He hopes that in future information sessions for new students will be conducted so as to provide as much information as possible for their benefit as well as that of Immigration Canada.

He believes that international students are high achievers and it is important that they go back home with a good impression of Canada.

## University Career Library

### Press Release

The Career library is part of Counselling Services and is located downstairs in the Alumni Memorial Building next door to Memorial Hall. It is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 - 12:00 and from 1:15 - 5:00. The Career Library Assistant, Barb Buchanan, is eager to help students with their career search.

The library is organized into eight major divisions which are identified by large blue signs to aid the student in his/her search: Job Search, Women's Issues, Study and Work Abroad, Native Issues, Job Descriptions, University Calendars, Career Options and Community College Calendars. The following description is a brief sketch of what each section of the library contains.

#### 1. Job Search

Starting in the Job Search area you will find books dealing with resumes, self employment, and career planning. There are guides to salary ranges, directories of companies and manufacturers as well as over 400 annual reports of major Canadian companies.

#### 2. Women's Issues

This section contains career information related specifically to women as well as materials that could be useful to either gender. General publications on issues of interest to women and clippings from newspapers and periodicals are also stored in this area.

#### 3. Study and Work Abroad

More and more students are interested in travelling outside of Canada to either work or study. This category contains a variety of information which would be invaluable to those seeking more information about a particular country or exchange program. The Petersons Guides to Graduate and Undergraduate programs provide information on studying in the United States. For research on other countries, publications such as the Commonwealth Universities Yearbook and the collection of foreign universities listed on microfiche are very useful.

#### 4. Native Issues

Career opportunities for Native

students are highlighted in this section through publications on special programs, newspaper and periodical clippings and other resources. As with the Women's Issues there may be materials here which are also pertinent to non-natives.

#### 5. Job Descriptions

Many people have vague ideas about what a particular career entails or what training is necessary so they use the career files to become more informed. Job descriptions ranging from sports psychologist to newspaper writer are profiled in this area. The index of job titles is useful in locating files as they are classified according to the CCDO (Canadian Classified and Dictionary of Occupations) numerical system.

#### 6. University Calendars

Canadian university calendars are shelved by province in alphabetical order in this section. As well as the admissions calendar there are also specialized booklets pertaining to specific programs. In conjunction with the calendar information there are materials on co-op programs, distance education, summer sessions, graduate studies and awards, information on entrance tests to professional faculties such as Law, programs to study French, and information for disabled students.

#### 7. Career Options

What can I do with a Major in history? What are my options in the helping professions? These types of questions can be answered by doing some research in the Career Options area. The New Brunswick Job Futures Publications as well as the Federal Job Futures Occupational Outlooks and Experiences of Recent Graduates are useful in trying to predict where there might be job shortages, finding out more about a particular occupation, salary range, etc.

#### 8. Community College Calendars

These calendars are also stored by province and contain a wealth of information on programs offered across Canada. Some students choose to attend a community college instead of

university whereas others combine their educational background and find an interesting career.

In this section there are maps and atlases to help students locate what might become their temporary home away from home. Canadian almanacs and directories are also stored in this area and are very useful investigative tools for tracking down employment or volunteer work possibilities. There is also a filing cabinet containing undergraduate application forms for university and community colleges.

The above sections are found around the perimeter of the career library and in the middle are work areas with tables and chairs. Each table has a variety of reference books and directories pertaining to University and College programs. A different career is highlighted monthly on the bulletin board in the library. This month careers in Communication Disorders are featured. The Career Library is not a lending library but you are welcome to come in and use the materials at anytime during our regular hours.

### Candlelight Vigil for Amnesty

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F.B.I. agents during the 1971 A.I.M. movement at Wounded Knee. These and many more cases are being dealt with every year by Amnesty. The A.I.M. mandate dictates fair trials, letter writing, working to abolish tortures and executions and finally candlelight vigils. The candle symbolizes the lives they could not save and the lives they can.

The vigil ended with a song offered in prayer. Alma Brooks, explained that it was to "talk to the great spirit", and to transfer "thoughts out to all things". Amnesty is working to end racial and ethnic persecution and hopes their support will help indigenous cultures.

## Acadian literature conference upcoming

(UNB PRI) The Atlantic Association of Professors of Acadian and Québécois Literatures will hold its second annual conference on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 30 and 31, at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton.

Organized by Robert Viau, Anne Brown and Robert Whalen, professors in the UNB French department, the two-day event will feature eight sessions on various aspects of the conference theme, The Quest for Identity in the Literature of French Canada. All sessions except the poetry readings will be held in Room 204 of the Wu Conference Centre. The conference is free of charge, and interested members of the public are invited to attend.

At the opening session at 9 a.m. on Oct. 30, Tom Traves, UNB's vice-president (academic) will welcome participants. Other invited speakers for the first morning are closely associated with Acadian culture in New Brunswick. Aldéa Landry, a commissioner with the New Brunswick Commission on Excellence in Education and a former politician, will discuss the socio-political evolution of New Brunswick Acadians. Marguerite

Maillet, a prominent Acadian literacy critic, will deal with the national ideology of Acadians as reflected in official speeches from 1880-1890; and Herménégilde Chiasson, an accomplished Acadian poet, writer and film-maker, will talk about contemporary Acadian Literature.

Subsequent sessions will focus nearly equal attention on the Acadian literary identity and the literature of Québec. Scheduled speakers are drawn from university faculties and literary circles in the Atlantic region, Québec, Manitoba and France.

On its second day, the conference will consist of general sessions dealing first with Acadian and then with Québécois literary subjects. The conference will finish on Oct. 31 with a 4 p.m. showing of Herménégilde Chiasson's latest film, *L'Acadie à venir*, about Acadia and Jean Chrétien's federal election campaign in the New Brunswick riding of Beausejour.

For further information about the conference, contact Robert Viau in the UNB French department at 453-4651.