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THE OUTSIDE WORLD

Profs get radical

SASKATOON (CUP) — Members of the University of Saskatchewan faculty association voted overwhelmingly to reject a contract offer from the university, a faculty spokesperson announced January 15.

Peter Millard, chair of the job action task force, says members voted to return to the bargaining table and to go to arbitration if necessary.

The 942 professors, assistant professors and lecturers who comprise the faculty association have been without a contract since June.

The association has already approved two kinds of protest. One calls for all members to exercise their right to inspect their personal files held by the deans of each faculty.

"The idea (is) for everybody to ask for these at once in order to clog up the dean's offices," says Millard.

The second possible action is a two-day study session, "probably on February 4 and 5."

If the university lags in negotiations Millard said the membership may also consider a five-day strike.

"We are not so much asking for a salary increase, but a decrease in our losses," he says. Faculty at the university have had salary increases below inflation for each of the past 16 years with the exception of 1980.

"We gave the negotiating team a mandate to settle for a 3.7 per cent increase and now we're down to 3.1. The difference is not much in actual figures, but it means a hell of a lot in principle."

"Specimens not causitive"

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) — Food poisoning cannot be proven as the cause of a sudden outbreak of illness that affected 220 Memorial University students who ate at two residence cafeterias in September, an investigation has finally concluded after months of study.

Provincial government health officers interviewed 156 of those affected, and found that 125 suffered from symptoms of vomiting or diarrhea. Investigators also interviewed 180 persons who ate at either cafeteria, but did not become ill.

Collected food samples "did not show any organism known to cause food poisoning," according to health officer David Rogers.

However, food poisoning can not be entirely ruled out, as some food items served in both cafeterias were thrown out before samples were taken.

A recently-released report found that "while the symptoms experienced by those students who became ill were consistent with a food-borne illness, the extensive studies of specimens did not identify a causitive agent."

Students services director Brian Johnson says the administration and the campus catering agency have developed a precautionary measure of holding leftover food for 48 hours.

Nuts to Nielsen

BURNABY (CUP) — International students studying in B.C. universities are breathing a collective sigh of relief after the provincial court of appeal ruled that holders of visas and work permits qualify for government medical insurance.

"I'm really happy and relieved about the whole thing," visa student Krisztina Hernadi said of the early December ruling.

"I was in the hospital in December for surgery that would have cost me \$300 to \$400. I couldn't possibly have paid. Now I can apply for retroactive coverage," Hernadi said.

In August 1985, the provincial health minister announced visa and work permit holders would be excluded from the provincial health plan because they were not "permanent residents". But since visa students must have medical insurance, the policy forced them to buy private insurance sometimes costing three times that of the provincial plan.

Hernadi, along with three other visa students, and the Teaching Support Staff union at Simon Fraser University challenged the matter in court, arguing the policy change was "unlawful" because the Medical Services Act grants coverage to all residents of British Columbia. The only requirement state in the act is six months residency.

Former health minister Jim Nielsen countered that 'permanent resident' and 'resident' mean the same in the Act.

The court disagreed. In a written judgement, the appeal judges said that since the Medical Services Act uses both terms the government cannot claim the two are interchangeable.

The ruling overturned an earlier decision of the Medical Services Commission which said only Canadian citizens and landed immigrants qualified for coverage.

Although the decision will help visa students in the future, they cannot claim compensation for the money already paid to private insurers. However, those who incurred medical costs after the December 10 ruling but had no private insurance can apply for retroactive coverage for December and then claim their costs.

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