

# news

## Students urged to vote on constitution

by Heidi Radford

Many Dalhousie students received a wake-up call early either Saturday or Sunday morning from Elections Canada enumerators who are making every attempt to ensure all students exercise their right to vote in the national referendum on October 26th.

"Any students who did not receive a visit from the enumerators this week must be sure they are registered to vote before 9 p.m. on October 19," says Sandra Foley, Federal Returning Officer for Halifax enumeration.

How can you be sure you are on that list? As Foley explains, students living in the Halifax riding (which encompasses the Dalhousie commu-

nity) should have received either a visit or a white or yellow notice from the Elections Canada enumerators this past week. A white notice marks the first visit; a yellow notice is issued after a second attempted visit. Anyone who received a yellow notice must call Elections Canada at 492-5200 if they wish to be registered.

"People are running down the streets after us to ensure their name is registered on the list," laughs Halifax riding enumerator Ruth Bigio. "They are really friendly and anxious to vote." For those of you who opted not to run down Vernon Street in your boxers, you have until October 19 to get moving!!

"Everyone who has been enumerated should receive a registration card in the mail, no later than October

15," says Foley. "The registration card states the location and hours of your voting station. If you do not get one then somehow you've been missed. Call our office before the 19th at 492-5200."

Most Dalhousie students label somewhere else as "home" but being enumerated in Halifax provides students with the most hassle-free method for ensuring their name is on the national enumeration list.

For this reason, Foley encourages students to submit Halifax as their ordinary place of residence when registering.

To be eligible to vote in Halifax students must be Canadian citizens, 18 years of age or older and must consider Halifax to be their ordinary place of residence.

Elections Canada will hold advance polling on October 22 and 23. In an effort to provide everyone with an opportunity to vote, there is also advanced-advance polling. Beginning October 12 from noon to 6 p.m., and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., there is voting in the Elections Canada office on Quinpool Road.

"I would like to see as many students out to vote as possible," says Foley. "There are certainly lots of opportunities to vote in the next few weeks as long as you are on that list!"

Now, you have all the required info...what possible reason could you have not to vote? On the 26th of October be proud to be Canadian. Wave the flag by exercising your right to vote.

"I was so glad the enumerators arrived at my door. Without their visit I would have most likely voted by proxy home in Saint John, New Brunswick. Then again, how many of us would have actually found the time or initiative to send our vote home?" says Mari-Lee Baxter, a fourth year Psychology major. Other students echo this eagerness to vote.

"Regardless of which side you are on, the future of Canada is at stake," exclaims Stanley Lidon, a graduation Commerce student. "It would be a shame to let the future of this country be decided without exercising the student vote. Canada's universities' populations have the power to make a difference in the upcoming referendum."

## Information forum planned

by Scott McCrossin

Do you agree that the Constitution of Canada should be renewed on the basis of the agreement reached on August 28, 1992? Dalhousie students who want help answering that question will soon be able to attend a public forum dealing with the October 26 referendum.

The forum is scheduled to take place on Wednesday October 21, 7:00 p.m., in the McInnis Room of the Dalhousie Student Union Building. It is being planned by SWEAT (Students Working on External Affairs Things), the external affairs committee of the DSU. The forum was initiated by students who decided that such an event would be helpful for Dal and the surrounding community, and they quickly gained the support of the Dalhousie Student Union.

Hermie Abraham, one of the students on the committee, explained the proposed format of the forum.

"We plan to have a panel of nine people, with one person for and one person against four of the key constitutional issues, as well as one general constitutional expert to answer questions," Abraham said. The discussion will begin with each of the panel members explaining their view of the proposed constitution amendments in relation to their field of expertise.

Abraham said that the economy, native self-government, women, and language are the four key areas for which the panelists are being selected. But she stressed that with the addition of a constitutional expert, the panel should be able to address any question about the constitution, including those about the division of powers and federal institutions. Abraham also said that all those attending the forum will be encouraged to share their own views with the rest of those in attendance.

Candida Rifkind, Vice-President External of the DSU, said it is too

early to confirm who any of the panelists will be. But she did say SWEAT has received a lot of support so far and "is confident that the panelists will be of very high quality." Rifkind also said the emphasis will be on people having their questions addressed, and not a debate among the panelists. She advised students to watch for posters and advertisements which will be going up around campus as soon as all arrangements are confirmed.

However, before students can vote in the October 26 referendum, they first have to make sure they are eligible to do so. To be eligible, a person must be a citizen of Canada and at least 18 years old. Students must also be on the voters list before casting

their ballot on referendum day. Those living away from home must also choose where they wish to vote.

Students seeking more information on the constitutional referendum can call the local Elections Canada office. Information pamphlets on the enumeration process are available at the Enquiry Desk of the Dal SUB. Also, students can call the Constitutional Line at 1-800-561-1188 and request a copy of the Constitutional Information Kit which includes a copy of the August 28 Charlottetown agreement.

Those planning to attend the forum in the McInnis room are already being advised to arrive early, as Rifkind says the initial reaction indicates it will be a full house.



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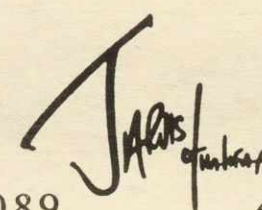


### DAL WOMEN'S CENTRE BENEFIT

Oct 14 Wed 8:30pm \$5 The Dalhousie Women's Centre will be a university and community resource centre, a meeting place, a referral service and a safe place for women. Entertainment by Banna Afrique, B-Complex, Jeremy Robinson, Tag and others.

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