

Student group plans action week to protest chronic underfunding

By GARRY MARR

A national students' organization is organizing a national action week from January 18-24 in order to protest the problems which post-secondary institutions are experiencing across the country.

This year, the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) annual action week will focus on the province's diversion of federal transfer payments from post-secondary education (PSE) to other funding envelopes like health.

Before 1977, the federal government would allocate transfer payments to specific provincial departments, thus ensuring that the money was spent in that particular area. But the provinces protested this system, and in 1977 the federal government adopted a bloc-funding approach, giving provinces the power to spend the money as they see fit.

Tony Macerollo, chairperson for CFS, said, "We are after more accountability than we have right now, (because) billions of dollars are being passed around between governments and the public is not informed."

Because the provinces are diverting these funds to other departments, said Macerollo, chronic

underfunding of universities persists, increasing tuition fees and exacerbating the already overcrowded institutions.

The CFS is trying to pressure the federal government into introducing legislation which would force the provinces to spend a specified amount of money on post-secondary education. Also, the CFS wants Ottawa to set up an advisory council to conduct research into PSE funding, because such research has not been conducted since 1985, said Macerollo. Activities for the week include two-hour boycotts of classes at Guelph University and Memorial University in Newfoundland, and numerous meetings with MPs and influential people across the country. Brock University will be conducting "horror tours" to demonstrate the inadequacies of campus facilities, and the CFS is also planning a nation-wide postcard campaign.

At the provincial level, the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) will also be active during National Action Week. OFS chairperson Sheena Weir said she was "hoping the media will be able to bring to light the crisis in post-secondary education." Weir said that she hoped "the Peterson 'open' govern-

ment will . . . be more accountable."

The Council of York Students Federation (CYSF) has planned nothing in particular for action week, partly because the university is not a member of CFS, but CYSF President Drew McCreadie said that he hoped that CFS events would be successful. Last year's National Action Week helped pressure Ottawa into setting up a national forum on PSE in Saskatoon last October where both federal and provincial officials discussed the problems besetting universities today.

McCreadie said York and other CFS non-members were trying to set up an alternative organization, adding that it was only recently that CFS began concentrating on purely Canadian issues. "The cost of joining the CFS was quite high, and since it was on a 'per-student basis' York would pay through the nose," said McCreadie.

The Canadian University Executive Conference (CUSEC) is one organization being set up to fill the gap for those who don't belong to CFS. McCreadie said, "We are the primary force behind setting this organization up." He hopes that at the next post-secondary conference, CUSEC will be well represented.

Are Canadians hiring only their own?

By JERRY JORRITSMA

A task force has been set up to find out whether there is unintentional discrimination which unfairly disqualifies professionals and tradespeople from working in Canada.

The task force, called "Access of Immigrants to the Professions and Trades in Ontario," will be headed by Osgoode Hall Professor Peter Cummings. Twenty-five professions and more than 100 trades will be studied to determine if there is built-in discrimination in Canadian immigration procedures which inhibits the entry of professionals into trades in Canada.

The elements to be considered include the testing of immigrants and degree accreditations. For example, some immigrants are required to take a standardized Test of English as Foreign Language (TOEFL). The task force wants to find

out first if the test is necessary, and second if its presence as a mandatory requirement discriminates against those who would otherwise qualify.

Another major concern of the task force involves the medical profession and degree accreditation. Polish doctors have recently launched court action for equality under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, because the Canadian government refused accreditation for their degrees. The problem facing the task force is to find out the difference between discriminatory practices and legitimate entry requirements.

Also at issue is an apparent discrimination against non-British subjects. Immigrants from Britain do not have to have degree accreditation; their degrees are automatically valid in Canada.

The task force is being launched in response to a report by the Social Research Consultants ABT of Canada, prepared for the Cabinet Committee on Race Relations.

The study was established to "identify entry requirements for the trades and professions which appear as barriers for those trained outside of Canada and which appear as barriers for those trained outside of Canada and which have a disproportionately negative impact on members of minority or ethnic groups." The study outlines solutions suggested by immigrant groups which include education, realistic counselling, improved assessment of foreign credentials, flexibility of retraining and support programmes. It will be the job of Professor Cummings' task force to determine the feasibility of such proposals.

Moving to a smoke-free school

By STACEY BEAUCHAMP

By September 6, 1988, York will be an almost entirely smoke-free environment. The York University Smoking Policy, which includes the Glendon campus, will be implemented in two phases to ensure an adequate adjustment period.

The first phase, effective as of February 22, 1988, will prohibit smoking in areas such as service lines and meeting rooms, as well as sections previously outlined by the University Smoking Regulation. Also, cigarette machines will be removed from the campuses. This policy does not, however, affect college residences or pubs. Phase two, which will be operational as of September 6, will include all offices, university vehicles, and parking booths.

The location of smoking areas and "separately-vented" smoking rooms is presently being discussed by the Implementation Committee for the York University Smoking Policy. Jessie-May Rowntree, the chair of this committee, says that they are "making every effort" to have this creation of smoking rooms underway by February 22.

"Subsidized smoking cessation programmes" will be offered as well to help people kick the habit. The University has purchased the programme, and will reimburse employees for the materials needed, providing they finish the course. They need not, however, quit smok-

ing. Students are not eligible for the reimbursement, but they may take the course. Those interested should contact Joan Chaplain of the Department of Occupational and Health Services at 736-5191.

For failing to comply with the smoking regulations, the University could have a person fined up to \$1000 under the city of North York by-law no. 29889, which was amended by by-law no. 29936. To the committees involved, however, it is more desirable to take a more "persuasive rather than punitive approach," leaving the implementation of the policy up to those in charge of each area. (For instance professors will be in charge of enforcing the policy in lecture halls.) If this less formal approach should fail, a procedure exists to file complaints through the Presidential Committee on the Administration of the York University Smoking Policy (PCAYUSP), the Peer Support Group, and the Complaint Centre.

If the complainant is a student, the matter should initially be brought to the attention of the individual in charge of the area where the violation is taking place. If the result is not satisfactory, the student should seek the advice of the Complaint Centre who will either speak to the offender, refer him to a PCAYUSP or Peer Support Group Member, or report the incident to the PCAYUSP at the appropriate time.

Instead of immediately speaking to their supervisor, employees can request the intervention of a third party from the Peer Support Group or PCAYUSP.

The actual policy itself will be administered, revised, and evaluated regularly by the Presidential Committee. Copies can be obtained from the Department of Occupational Health and Safety in D32 East Office Building. Additional information will be available in a brochure scheduled to come out around February 22.

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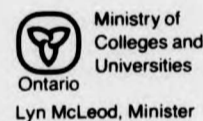
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Only one candidate may be nominated by York University.

For additional information and application forms, please contact the Office of the Provost (S920 Ross, 736-5275).

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Lyn McLeod, Minister

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