

NDP elects provincial officers

By GERRY LASKEY

The New Democratic Party of New Brunswick held its annual convention in Saint John over the weekend of October 15-17. The conference was for the purpose of selecting a new leader to replace the former party chief, J. Albert Richardson, as well as the normal business of formulating policy resolutions and election of officers.

The convention of over 100 people, sixty of whom were voting delegates, was welcomed by local party and labour leaders.

Keynote speakers were Lofty MacMillan, national secretary of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC); retiring leader Albert Richardson; and Saskatchewan MP Lorne Nystrom.

MacMillan stressed the need for labour to rally behind the NDP as the only party that is dedicated to creating a more just society for ordinary Canadians.

Nystrom related an experience of travelling hundreds of miles to a northern Manitoba meeting to be greeted by a crowd of four. He said this was just eight years before the NDP achieved the greatest electoral majority in Manitoba history. He urged optimistic hard work for the party in New Brunswick.

The elections were held on Sunday, October 17, and since nominations from the floor were all declined the leader was acclaimed. He is a Rexton teacher, John LaBassiere.

LaBassiere stressed the need for strong grass roots efforts to shape the party's future. He dedicated himself to listening to the membership in order to represent them. He said that the New Democrats must redefine their aims as socialists and the type of socialist policies they want to pursue. LaBassiere is taking a year's sabbatical from teaching to dedicate his efforts full-time to organising the NDP.

Fredericton resident Jim Aucoin who was re-elected provincial NDP president, also has taken a year's sabbatical from his teaching job to dedicate more time to party work.

Also elected were 17 members of the governing Provincial Council. Two students from the campus, Chris Wills and Lawrence Murphy, were elected to this body.

The Convention dealt with over ten pages of varied policy resolutions, Saturday and Sunday.

The NDP committed itself to implementation of a "freedom of information" act in New Brunswick and to work for a similar one for federal government.

The party passed a motion for the immediate cessation of wage and price controls and condemning cutbacks in areas such as health care and education.

The convention called for halting of the spruce budworm spray programme, due to its lack of success and possible harmful effects to children and animals, and completion of studies of the problems.

The party resolved to radically change political party financing and fight patronage cases in the courts when elected. Patronage, they estimate, costs N.B. residents \$35 million per year.

A conflict of interest resolution was adopted that would require full disclosure of corporation financial records.

The party resolved to change the N.B. elections act to give citizens the right to have important matters on a ballot referendum. At present only the government has this right.

The NDP committed itself to revamping student aid, especially increasing the ratio of bursaries or grants to loans.

The party resolved to work for expanded medical care including pharmaceutical, optical, and dental needs.

The convention reasserted the NDP desire for a moratorium on

nuclear reactor construction and sale to other countries. The party also urged cooperation with Prince Edward Island in utilizing alternate energy sources.

The NDP recommitted itself to a public operated no-fault compulsory auto insurance plan. It also passed a resolution calling for automobile parts to cost no more in total than the car.

The party called for a major reforestation programme and pollution remedial project, the cost of both to be borne by the offending companies.

The NDP called for a freeze to the massive industrial incentive grants being given to outside corporations.

The party convention referred proposals for land-banking and high taxation of unused agricultural land to the Provincial Council for further study.

The NDP committed itself to provincial government financial operation of public transit.

The NDP convention passed resolutions to control New Brunswick resources by the people of N.B. It called for a royalty tax on resource development, processed out of the province, establishment of secondary processing industries and in some cases to effect public take-overs of resource operations. The Provincial Council of the

N.B. New Democratic Party will meet next at Fredericton, in the Menseigneur Boyd Family Centre at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 6.

Graduate Studies moved

The School of Graduate Studies offices and the Research Grants Office have been relocated to the second floor of the Old Arts Building from Carleton Hall. However, telephone numbers have not changed.

Crossword Answers

ARAB ARAB STENO
 NINE ANE TROD
 AME QED DATE
 PARTAGE SULES
 FIVE STOP
 STONE THOUSAND
 THREE PAINT FAN
 ANS BINE FIVE
 SET BINE WARE
 GARBINE GAVENS
 FIVE GOON
 SECOND COVERUP
 ANGE HOSE TUPPO
 RANGE AMOR TIED
 SNEER BERN ENDS

CANADIAN CYSTIC FIBROSIS FOUNDATION

PRESENTS

FINNIGAN

November 12, 13 (Fri., Sat.)

SHOW TIMES 9-1
Doors open 7:30

COME EARLY,
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AT KEDDY'S MOTOR INN
FOREST HILL ROAD

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