

# Atlantic and Quebec delegates

OTTAWA (CUP) — Delegates from 40 Canadian universities and community colleges established a new national student union Nov. 5, but not before representatives from Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces walked out.

The National Union of Students/ Association Natoinale des Etudiants (NUS) was created after three days of protracted, and sometimes tedious, debate on a constitution proposed by a steering committee. It was set up at an earlier conference.

The Quebec-Atlantic Provinces walkout occurred after delegates reached a bitter impasse over methods of membership in the new union.

Quebec representatives (from the English-speaking universities and some English and French community colleges) demanded representation based on region.

Loyola, which introduced the proposal, wanted all NUS delegates appointed by regional student unions, giving all five regions of Canada equal voting power.

The delegation was especially adamant that its representation come from the growing Front des Etudiants du Québec (FEQ).

The proposed constitution called for representation from individual institutions based on two votes per school. The plan was favored by most delegates from the West and Ontario, but it was amended to a modified representation by population (rep by pop) formula after the Quebec-Atlantic Provinces walkout.

The Atlantic Province participants wanted representation from provincial organizations, with each province having equal voting power.

## ONTARIO CONTROL FEARED

The Atlantic Provinces feared the organization could become controlled by Ontario and Quebec if they were represented by population.

They feared the Atlantic region problems would receive insufficient attention and claimed representation by institution would produce too unwieldy a body.

After an overwhelming defeat (16-73-8), the Atlantic delegates supported the Quebec proposal, but it was defeated by a vote of 27-54-11.

Each institution at the conference had two votes apiece.

Although delegates came close to agreement on methods of delegate selection, the conference floundered over allocation of delegates to various regions and provinces.

After the Quebec proposal for regional representation was defeated, the University of Guelph introduced a motion declaring both institutional and regional appointment were valid methods of delegate selection.

Most delegates from west of the Ottawa River hoped this, along with the proxy voting proposal, would sufficiently appease Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces.

In a caucus, delegates were sharply divided about the new proposal. Then Carleton University student, Bruce Cameron, came up with a compromise proposal.

The proposal would have united the delegates as Quebec-Atlantic Province



Steve Long, Dalhousie delegate to conference

photo by martin felsky/ dai photo

caucus gladly accepted it and its failure, amid angry recriminations, wrecked NUS as an initially Canada-wide organization.

## PLAN ATTACKED

The Cameron plan gave each province the right to determine how it would send (cont'd p. 3)

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