

FEBRUARY 14, 1975

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The students of New Brunswick don't want handouts.

What we want is a chance to be an investment opportunity for New Brunswickers.

Presently under provincial legislation, students must apply for a \$1,100 loan before being entitled to a \$700 bursary. The Atlantic Federation of Students has asked the New Brunswick government to drop this ceiling to \$900. The government has responded such that the AFS believes the loan portion could be upped--exactly what we don't need in times of inflation.

This results in selectivity in our universities. Students may be required to borrow as much as \$1,400 to qualify for the bursary. It's difficult for a student to borrow this--the equivalent of 45% of the 1973 New Brunswick per capita income. Others will graduate with a debt as high as \$6,000.

High loan levels also mean universities are forced to lower entrance requirements--meaning a drop in academic standards--or appeal to out-of-province students, most who will leave here after graduation. If any graduates stay here, it's going to be those who grew up here and whose roots are here.

We're not asking for handouts--we just want the same show of confidence as a potential resource which the government has indicated towards developments such as the Bricklin automobile, for instance.

Regardless whether you are a student, it is in your interest to write to the government of New Brunswick using this form:

I feel it is important that high standards at New Brunswick universities and colleges be maintained, that students not be burdened with large debts after graduation and that all New Brunswickers be given a fair chance to obtain post-secondary education.

Thus I respectfully urge the government of New Brunswick to lower the loan ceiling in the existing student aid formula to \$900 as proposed by the Atlantic Federation of Students. I also ask that students' representatives be asked to take part in the Council of Education Ministers' task force sessions to be held this year in Ottawa.

These letters should be sent to:

The Hon. Richard Hatfield
Office of the Premier
Centennial Bldg.
P.O. Box 6,000
FREDERICTON, N.B.

Mrs. Evelyn Briggs
Director of Student Aid
Department of Youth
Centennial Bldg.
P.O. Box 6,000
FREDERICTON, N.B.

Mr. Gerald Merrithew
Education Minister
Province of New Brunswick
P.O. Box 6,000
FREDERICTON, N.B.

The AFS and The Brunswickan urge students to remain informed about the student aid issue. Copies of this letter are available in SUB room 124.

Inserted as a service to students by The Brunswickan and the Atlantic Federation of Students.