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Canada's oldest official student publication

THE BRUNSWICKAN

VOL. 109 ISSUE 17

24 PAGES

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 1975

FREE

NB Student Council Presidents fear

Student loans and bursaries could be increased



N.B. university student reps were very unhappy with a meeting with Premier Richard Hatfield and Minister of Youth Jean-Pierre Ouellet concerning student aid in the province. They felt the Premier was basically unsympathetic to their proposals.

UNB Student Representative Council president Peter Galoska says he has been given reason to believe the provincial government is planning to increase both student loans and bursaries.

At a press conference Tuesday, Galoska said he was "very disappointed" with a meeting held that morning with Premier Hatfield and Youth Minister Jean-Pierre Ouellet to discuss student aid.

Galoska and representatives from four other New Brunswick universities issued a statement reading:

"We have been given reason to believe that the government is planning an increase in both student loans and bursaries."

"We feel that increasing the amount of money which a student must borrow before qualifying for a bursary will unduly burden those students who are most in need, will deter persons from lower income backgrounds from considering a university education and in the long run work to the detriment of the province of New Brunswick."

The student leaders requested the loan ceiling be decreased from \$1,100 to \$900, with an increase in bursaries.

Galoska said Premier Hatfield discussed alternative approaches to student aid but stressed the "realistic possibility" that both loans and bursaries would be increased.

The premier "didn't seem sympathetic to the fact that students leave university in debt," said Galoska. Hatfield was "totally nebulous as far as figures go."

Galoska described the meeting as "more or less an information meeting, but it didn't give us any information."

He said a proposal was made that students have input on legislation affecting them through the youth minister.

The student representatives attended the meeting to follow up on a request that the government increase bursaries and reduce loans. The request stemmed from an Atlantic area conference of student unions held at UNB in September, at which student aid was one of the major topics. A series of meetings was held with leaders of provincial political parties before the provincial election.

Galoska and student senator Warren McKenzie represented UNB's Fredericton campus at the meeting. Other representatives included Brian Chisholm, president of the St. Thomas University SRC; Ken Johnston, Mount Allison SRC president; Bill Teed, president of the UNBSJ SRC; Gary Lawson, UNBSJ councillor, and Elvy Robichaud, secretary-general of Universite de Moncton's student union.

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"expanded"

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Another candidate official

in Presidential race

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