



# NEWS

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## \$4 Question

Students at universities, colleges, and institutions across Canada built the Canadian Federation of Students to voice their opinions on a common fundamental goal; a universally accessible, first-class post-secondary education system in Canada. Students at UNB will decide by a referendum included in the ballots of Monday's Student Union election whether or not the UNB Student Union will join CFS.

CFS encourages campuses from across the country work on issues such as: university funding, re-search funding, student aid, and employment programmes.

CFS research and lobbying focuses on these and related issues by presenting student concerns to government representatives, opposition members, senior bureaucrats, and other decision-makers.

The *Globe & Mail* has described CFS as one of the most powerful lobby groups in Canada, and rightly so.

The CFS has had numerous lobby successes over the last several years. There include:

**Student Aid - 1987** - Federal government starts the first major review of the Canada Student Loan Plan. At the insistence of CFS the federal government created the National Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance - CFS has a permanent seat on this Advisory Group. CFS has lobbied successfully to: 1) have 18 months of interest relief on student loans. 2) extension of part-time student loans.

**1988** - Federal Government accepted the Lortie Report on Research and Development after a successful lobby by members of the CFS. This is particularly important for UNB because we are known as one of the largest research Institutes in the country and we rely on the Federal government for this funding.

**1987** - CFS calls for a forum on Post-Secondary Education. Federal Government's Throne Speech convenes a Forum on Post-Secondary Education in Saskatoon in October of 1987.

More than 70 universities, colleges and institutes across Canada are members of the Canadian Federation of Students.

In the Atlantic Region alone, the following schools are either full or prospective members:

- U of NB Saint John
- St. Thomas University
- Mt. Allison University
- Université de Moncton
- Centre U St. Louis Maillet
- Acadia
- St. Francis Xavier
- Dalhousie
- Université Ste. Anne
- King's College U
- Mount St. Vincent U
- NS College of Art and Design
- Cabot Institute
- Marine Institute of Nfld.
- Sir Wilfred Grenfell College
- Memorial University of Nfld.
- Holland College
- University of PEI

Consistent with its goal to improve the quality of student life, CFS boasts that it has developed one of the world's most comprehensive student services organizations. CFS offers such services as:

**SWAP** - The Student Work Abroad Programme offers working holidays in Britain, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Finland.

**Travel Cuts** - Canada's National Student Travel Bureau offers the best in budget travel for students.

**Studentsaver** - A discount programme offering a wide range of discounts at over 6000 businesses across Canada. This programme will be implemented in the Antigonish area following the St. FX membership decision. Studies have shown that this programme can save the average student more than \$200 a year!

**Canadian Programming Service** - This programme works with student associations and campus groups to bring in Canadian speakers such as Susan Coles and Peter Mansbridge to CFS member campuses.

**National Student Health Plan** - Offers Health Plan with special benefits available designed to fit student needs.

**CFS-NET** - The newest project of CFS! This is a computer communications network customized for student associations and other campus groups.

The cost of the Student Union joining CFS is \$4 per student. Students at UNB will decide on Monday if they think CFS is worth their \$4.



Many Student Concerns were expressed at the recent Summit '89 symposium.

## SUMMIT '89

by Dave Campbell

On Monday, March 13th, the Canadian Federation of Students and the New Brunswick Student Alliance, hosted Summit '89. The Forum brought together students, professors, administrators, government, and business people to discuss issues facing universities and university students.

More than thirty people from all across New Brunswick participated, including Dr. Russ King, the minister for Advanced Education and Training. St. Thomas participants included Irma Ferlatte, Chantal MacDonald, Eric Giddins, and Father Spray.

While Dr. King emphasized that his government was committed to higher education, he pointed out that these are times of austerity in New Brunswick. Students from all schools, however, pointed to the fact that not only does New Brunswick have among the highest tuition fees in the country, we also have one of the highest summer unemployment rates in all of Canada.

Students continually pointed out the need for quality education available to all who are qualified. As stated by Jane Arnold, chair-elect of the Canadian Federation of Students, "Students not only believe that post-secondary education must be accessible but that there is no trade-off concerning the quality we receive."

Student representatives expressed further concern about the government's stand on higher education after Tuesday's throne

speech. Post-secondary education was given no mention whatsoever in the throne speech, which has given student groups cause to question the Liberal government's commitment to education even after Dr. King had

stated that his government was committed to higher education only the previous day.

As stated by Jane Arnold, Chairperson elect of the Canadian Federation of Students, "We have heard consistently leading up to this throne speech that education is a priority with this government, yet there is nothing in this speech from the throne that would lend credence to this assertion."

Consequently, student groups are particularly concerned as to how the government will react to recommendations from the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission regarding university funding and changes to the student aid programme for New Brunswick. "Premier McKenna gave students a promise that he would meet MPHEC recommendations throughout the term of his government and we will watching carefully to see that this promise is kept", said Jane Arnold. She went on to say "It was only yesterday that Dr. Russ King reiterated his governments' commitment to education at Summit '89, the symposium on higher education. Consequently, today's speech from the throne has given us reason to challenge this government to translate rhetoric into financial commitment."

## Party for the Planet

This Saturday, March 18, the newly-founded UNB Student Environmental Society will hold a Benefit Concert: "Party for the Planet", the proceeds of which will go to the Conservation Council. Two bands are scheduled to play - the reggae group Sons of Gilbert, and the Downtown Blues Band. The concert will be held in the Social Club from 8 pm to 1 am.

Also planned is an afternoon of children's theatre: "Kids can Conserve" in the SUB Ballroom from 2 pm to 4 pm. It includes storytelling, music, and cultural dancing. Featured are some of Fredericton's own well-known performing artists. There will be lots of fun events for people to participate in, all promoting the idea that environmental awareness is simply not restricted to adults and those in charge. The children's theatre is absolutely free but any donations will be much appreciated. The UNB Environmental Society, "Kids can Conserve", and "Party for the Planet" were developed by the Society's founder, Raia van Ingen. Two principle factors influenced the idea: one was a genuine concern with environmental issues; and the other was a desire to rouse UNB students from a state of apathy. To stop being apathetic does not necessitate being "radical" - just come out and join us. We need your support.

## FREE 89 Yearbooks

1989 UNB graduates should be happy to hear that the UNB Student Union has decided to give them yearbooks.

At Wednesday night's meeting, Council decided that 1000 of the books would be distributed free of charge, one per graduating student, in an effort to help the yearbook, "up the hill" establish itself after a poor sales record last year. Extra copies could still be purchased from the Student Union.

The decision was made after council heard from Yearbook Editor, Andrew Jones. The motion was proposed by Councillor Wayne Carson and passed with only one abstention.