

Federal student job funds remain static

OTTAWA (CUP)—Despite protests from student and community groups, federal funding for summer employment will probably decrease next summer.

Youth Minister Jean Charest said as long as the unemployment rate for youth keeps declining, the level of federal funding will do the same.

Since 1984, the unemployment rate for returning students has fallen two percent. In the same period, summer job funding has decreased 12 percent, from \$201 million in 1984 to \$180 million in 1986.

The budgetted figure of \$180 million for 1987 is the same as 1986.

"Youth unemployment has gone down," Charest said, "so it would be logical that the level of funding not remain the same."

Charest said the government's overall policy is to strengthen the economy and thereby improve employment conditions. "You can create all the programmes in the world—the basic rule is the economy has to go well."

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), on the other hand, has proposed that the government establish a base budget for the summer Challenge programmes of \$205 million, the 1985 level, and index the budget to the rate of inflation.

While the national rate of youth unemployment has gone down, the Atlantic provinces and B.C. remain stubborn pockets of joblessness. In July 6,000 or 25.7 per cent of young people in Newfoundland, for example, couldn't find a summer job.

Tying the level of funding to the national rate of unemployment and therefore reducing the amount of money available would force the government to "trade off" poor regions against one another, said CFS Executive Officer Todd Smith.

Including private companies in the summer programmes is another government policy that disturbs CFS and community groups like the Save Our Summer coalition.

Before 1985, only non-profit organizations could take advantage of the summer programmes, but in 1987 the private sector received about 30 per cent of the wage subsidies. The government says that students make more money working in the private sector doing a wider variety of jobs.

According to CFS, the gross wage of a student participating in Challenge '87 through a private sector job was \$2,800, compared to \$1,700 in the non-private sector.

Richard Hotte, Ottawa representative of SOS, admits private sector jobs pay more but says non-profit organizations provide more valuable services, like daycare.

Hotte points out that non-profit organizations, unlike private companies, could not provide jobs without government funding.

According to a government evaluation of Challenge '86, 4,961 private sector jobs would not have been created without government funding; 26,084 non-profit jobs, on

the other hand, relied entirely on Challenge '86 money.

According to a March 1987 brief by SOS, "the new result of the government's policy with regards to the private sector is mostly to reduce the wage costs of companies and corporations."

Charest said however, that "jobs cost the government less to create in the private sector even though the private sector offers a better return to the student."

Charest said he therefore expects the same ratio, 30 per cent private to 70 per cent non-profit, of funding next summer.

CFS said even private sector wages through the programme are too low to get a student through a year of university.

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'Group of Seven' theft at U of T

TORONTO (CUP)—An art theft almost too easy to believe left members of the University of Toronto community reeling this month.

The theft occurred when two men in business suits walked into the university Faculty Club between 9:30 and 9:45 a.m. on September 4. After saying hello to the cleaners, they entered a club lounge and left minutes later with six Group of Seven paintings.

The thieves took five paintings by A.Y. Jackson and one by Arthur Lismer which together were appraised at \$78,000. They may, however, be worth more.

The most well-known item is Jackson's "Algoma Hills," the original panel for his "First Snow, Algoma." Group of Seven authority Robert McMichael, who founded the McMichael Gallery in Kleinberg, estimated that this picture alone may be worth between \$50,000 and \$100,000.

"It's upsetting," said David Pelletier, chair of the Faculty Club's art committee. "The university community and all Canadians have lost something of their heritage in this theft."

"There is a great deal of art heritage on this campus—that's part of the educational function of the University. Unfortunately other people regard this as a commodity with a dollar value, not a cultural one."

Toronto Metro Police Sergeant Eugene Reilly, who is conducting the investigation into the thefts, said the thieves did not take the most valuable Group of Sevens in the lounge.

"Perhaps they had a special need for these ones," he said.

Reilly believes a private collector may have hired professional art thieves to execute the heist because the paintings are too well known to sell on the street.

Michener upgrades

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Perka also said that plans are being considered for mending the problem.

Housing and Food Services is currently waiting for the Physical Plant to approve construction plans. Costs are estimated at \$30,000.

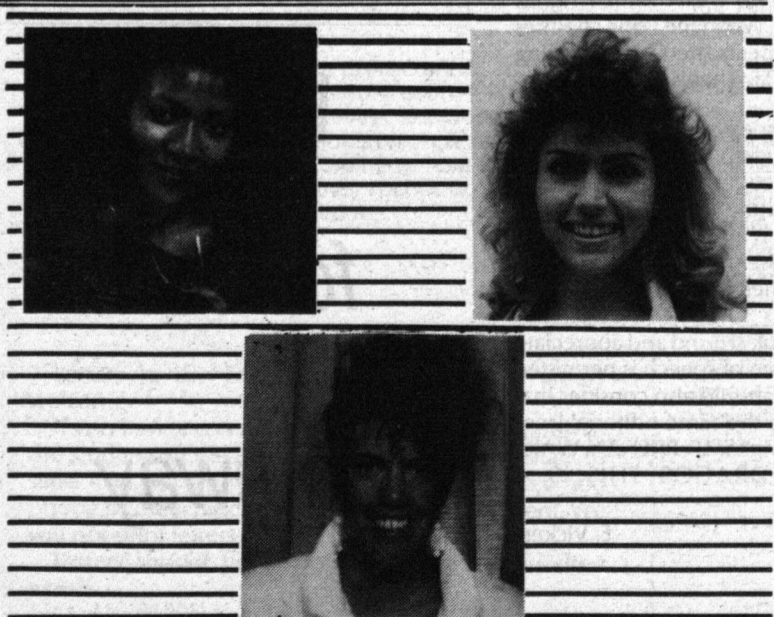
"After completion of design, tendering money and construction we were hoping to be done for October originally, but we still haven't received word from Physical Plant, so we're looking into

November," said Perka.

Housing and Food Services is hoping to get a proper sewer line in before the winter freezing makes construction impossible, saying that it is a priority situation.

"We have to consider tenants," said Perka. "They need to have as few interruptions as possible."

He also noted that it is not uncommon for universities to take two to three months to complete a task such as the one at Michener Park.



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