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Fresh paint — but for how long? Dalhousie's new president wants a "clearer approach" for institutes engaged in international develop-

ment at Dalhousie. Photo by Scot Campbell/Dal Photo.

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## Institutes to be linked?

By KATHY KENNEDY

Dalhousie's new president is likely to find changes in the way Institutes carry out third world research on his inaugural agenda.

In an interview, Dr. Howard Clark said there is "a need for a much . . . clearer approach" to international development at Dalhousie "Maybe to be instituted through a single organization" to reduce "the large number of overlapping units."

These institutes, which usually receive most of their funding from outside the university, are involved in a variety of projects in the third world.

The School for Resource and Environmental Studies (SRES) has environmental management and conservation projects in Indonesia and coastal management projects in the Caribbean.

The Centre for Development Projects is administering a training course for public servants in Zimbabwe as well as a regional project on a Nova Scotian Micmac reserve.

Dalhousie's Ocean Studies Programme conducts training and research in both the Mediterranean and the Caribbean.

The recently established Pearson Institute is involved in development education in Canada and will likely be involved with projects in Africa under CIDA's new Africa 2000 program.

The role that these institutes play is presently under review by a taskforce reporting to the university's international development council.

Dr Art Hanson, director of the SRES and a member of the taskforce, says the system at Dalhousie needs restructuring. "We are halfway towards a reasonable structure, but there is no unanim-

ity about what the model should be."

Hanson says "in the past, the university hasn't taken the hard steps examining how international development relates to the academic progress of the university." He hopes this will be a priority of the new president.

Under special consideration by the taskforce is the role of the Pearson Institute. Its mandate according to executive director Tim Shaw, is to "attempt to bring together and reinforce areas of research, publication and development education within the university as well as to link with external or community agencies."

The institutes' administrative funding, provided by a Secretary of State grant, will expire at the end of this year. Shaw says he would also welcome a change in the institutional arrangement at Dalhousie partly because he says the institute needs more support.

Shaw says during times of fiscal restraint, institutes must spend so much energy on securing administrative resources that it becomes difficult to focus on research. He says the Pearson Institute is unique among Canadian universities, and for that reason it may take time for it to fit in to Dalhousie's academic setting. "We see the problem, while those on the outside see the opportunities."

Shaw says the institute also has an academic role to play at Dalhousie.

"If Dalhousie is interested in development studies, it must begin to establish structures to encourage rather than discourage interdisciplinary programs. The university can do much better with what it's got if it breaks down barriers to interdisciplinary studies. Pearson is a means for this to happen."

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