Government neglecting youth and women

by Karen Herland reprinted from the Link **Canadian University Press**

Unemployment figures are breaking records across the country, and now hard-hit youths are breaking records for enrolment. But the same economy that can't provide them jobs, can't provide them funds for education.

Universities are closing their doors to thousands of qualified students because they can't afford to educate them.

Our governments are setting

the stage for social unrest by shutting off all options to our unemployed youth," says Pauline Jewett, a New Democrat MP from

Jewett, NDP post secondary education critic, wants the federal and provincial governments to create a joint emergency fund, to help out Canadian universities.

Ottawa's current education funding formula dates back from 1977. It finances roughly 60 per cent of the post secondary system with the provinces funding the rest. Before 1977, the federal and provincial governments shared funding on a 50-50 basis.

But recently, with the infamous 6 and 5 program, Ottawa cut its share by \$102 million for 1982-83. This is in addition to its plan to reduce funding \$5.7 billion over five years. And because federal funds for education don't have strings attached, the provinces continue to divert monies to other areas.

Jewett says the cutbacks trend particularly affects women, who account for 95 per cent of the full time enrolment increase from 1970 to 1979.

'On its present course, the federal government is assisting in the creation of a permanent underclass of youth and women,"

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Dictation

In B.C., education funding is hit the worst. The province cut its student aid funds 40 per cent. Jewett, a former Simon Fraser University president, says B.C. universities are already cutting courses and staff.

"We've got too many students for our present resources," agrees current Simon Fraser president, William Saywell. "The only thing we can do is say no to qualified people."

Other provinces are struggling with lack of funds. In Ontario, York University turned away 1,400 qualified students this year, a situation repeated across the province.

And in Quebec, cutbacks mean quota systems and the possibility for tuition fees for the first time in CEGEPs, the preuniversity colleges.

Jewett decries these trends, "Our governments must not be allowed to abandon the goal of universal accessibility to post secondary education," she says.

Loans may be hit next, according to Secretary of State Serge Joyal. Despite the additional \$60 million federal contribution this year for loans, Joyal warned many provinces are freezing or reducing. their aid contributions.

Another area that may be hit is minority language education. Joyal said he has already heard complaints from French students in Saskatchewan. He does not believe Quebec's anglophone universities will suffer.

Jewett says the strains on Canada's higher education system are hurting youth, and the federal government is to blame.

"The federal government created a system of funding that resulted in this tragic situation. It's up to us to join with the provinces in creating an emergency fund and a new fund formula."

Finance minister Marc Lalonde says such a deal is out of the question unless the provinces agree to return to the 50-50 costsharing system of pre-1977. The federal government is demanding more control over how its funds are spent, but in the meantime it is continuing on its plan to restrict the flow of education dollars.

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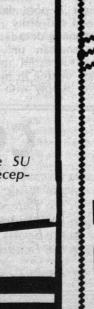
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Religion

The University of Alberta Baha'i Club will commemmorate World Religion Day on Sunday, January 15.

This commemmoration will take the form of a public discussion of the teachings and perspectives of various religious revelations.

Representatives of several faiths, including the Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Zoroastrian, Hin-du, Buddhist, Native American Indian, and Baha'i faiths have been invited to attend and give a presentation on their religion.

One of the basic beliefs of the Baha'is is the unity of all religions and that all religions are divine in origin. The U of A Baha's are sponsoring World Religion Day in order to promote respect and appreciation for the various religions in the world.

Anyone interested in this discussion is invited to attend and to share their views. This event will take place at 2:00, Sunday, January 15 in the SUB Meditation Room.



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