

# Daring to say the 'F-word'

These are excerpts from a round table involving six active members of the York Women's Centre.

- Michelle Chai is of Chinese heritage and was raised in Trinidad.
- Cheryl Fernandes comes from Dubai (in the United Arab Emirates) and is a recent graduate
- Elissa Horscroft is a white Canadian and is the York Federation of Students' vice president of equality and social affairs.
- Fiona MacCool is Irish-Canadian
- Jackie Portugese is Jewish-Canadian.
- Elise Chenier facilitated the talk. She is a white Canadian and is co-ordinator of the Women's Centre.

Somewhere along the line the commercial media decided the women's movement was over, that we live in a "post-feminist" era. But how can this be true when feminism is still an 'F-word,' when issues like pay equity are still being debated and women of colour are only now beginning to be heard?

Despite attempts to erase the feminist movement, it continues to thrive internationally. Each decade it becomes stronger, more diverse and consequently more complicated.

FM: I don't have a day that I discovered the word 'feminism.' In grade school I was described as a women's libber. I wanted to listen to women's music and read women authors. It wasn't a rejection of men... I always had a sense that women's voices were silenced.

MC: I didn't have any idea what feminist meant before I attached the word to myself. I just knew the anger I felt.

I was taught that women had to suppress their feelings and that children were to be seen and not heard, especially female children. No one ever talked about the fact that certain people don't like other people because of the colour of their skin, or because they have a different culture. I just knew I didn't like it.

Many of us have been taught to accept that women are paid less, are terrorized by male abusers, and did not make history. We are taught to think we are alone in our anger and frustration. But once we have connected, once we have the words to describe what we are feeling, there is no turning back.

The strangest but most telling phenomenon is

the tendency for women to say "I'm not a feminist, but..." Why are we so afraid of a word?

CF: I came to York from an all-women Catholic school. I used to always take the back row because I'm not comfortable talking out; I'd rather listen. One tutorial leader would always pick me out and say "excuse me, green eyes." He did not once call me by my name, and I did not realize until now that it was harassment... I am still grappling with it.

## Round table on feminism



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Deloitte & Touche

## YORK FEDERATION OF STUDENTS (formerly Council of the York Student Federation Inc.)

Year Ended April 30, 1991

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Auditor's Report

We have audited the balance sheet of York Federation of Students (formerly Council of the York Student Federation Inc.) as at April 30, 1991 and the statements of revenue and expenditure, deficit and reserves and changes in financial position for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Federation's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Federation as at April 30, 1991 and the results of its operations and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended. As required by the Corporations Act (Ontario), we report that, in our opinion, these principles have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Deloitte & Touche

### Balance Sheet

	1991	1990
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current		
Cash	\$129,418	\$16,960
Accounts receivable	12,260	8,413
Prepaid expenses	957	366
Inventory	-	753
	142,635	26,492
Fixed assets (Note 3)	30,658	38,667
	\$173,293	\$65,159
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 50,932	\$16,776
Due to York University	9,245	10,480
Capital lease obligation	7,116	6,242
Deferred revenue - Health Care	142,154	-
	209,447	33,498
Capital lease obligation	-	7,116
	209,447	40,614
<b>DEFICIT AND RESERVES</b>		
Deficit	(45,699)	(13,455)
Reserve for Students' Centre Projects (Note 4)	9,545	28,000
Reserve for Legal Costs (Note 4)	-	10,000
	(36,154)	24,545
	\$173,293	\$65,159

### Statement of Deficit

	1991	1990
Surplus (deficit) at beginning of year	\$(13,455)	\$ 4,315
Excess of expenditure over revenue for the year	(60,699)	(17,770)
Transferred from reserves (Note 4)		
Reserve for Legal Costs	10,000	-
Reserve for Student Centre Projects	18,455	-
Deficit at end of year	\$(45,699)	\$(13,455)

### Statement of Revenue & Expenditure

	1991	1990
<b>Revenue</b>		
University funding	\$294,646	\$292,313
Interest and sundry	13,135	20,390
	307,781	312,903
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Salaries and benefits	157,729	110,820
Funding	72,550	54,706
Projects and events	26,542	35,267
Bad debts expense	23,034	300
Office, stationary and computer expense	14,672	17,733
Audit and legal	14,598	15,355
Mail	10,525	-
Depreciation	10,088	5,338
OFS membership fee	10,000	-
Elections	8,973	14,645
Advertising and publications	8,652	12,379
Telephone	8,401	6,929
Conferences and meetings	7,015	13,376
Photocopier	6,148	6,356
Programs	4,773	21,246
Interest and bank charges	3,225	2,281
OFS referendum	2,966	-
Sundry	2,824	4,167
Insurance	1,033	1,096
Postage	868	866
Repairs and maintenance	136	323
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	4,400
Communication coordinator	-	3,912
	394,752	331,445
Excess of expenditure over revenue before outside activities	(86,971)	(18,542)
Excess of revenue over expenditure (expenditure over revenue) from outside activities		
Health care	21,119	-
Public photocopier	894	-
UP York/Toronto Via publication	(3,642)	(3,396)
Real and Screen	(1,923)	4,799
Liquor Management Association	(179)	(1,577)
Bethune photocopier	-	946
	26,272	772
Excess of expenditure over revenue for the year	\$(60,699)	\$(17,770)

### Statement of Changes in Financial Position

	1991	1990
Cash provided from (used in)		
Operating activities		
Excess of expenditure over revenue	\$(60,699)	\$(17,770)
Adjustments for non-cash items		
Depreciation	10,088	5,338
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	4,400
Increase (decrease) in non-cash working capital items	172,216	(10,605)
	121,605	(18,637)
Investing activities		
Purchase of fixed assets	(2,079)	(31,815)
Financing activity		
Capital lease obligation	(7,116)	13,358
Increase (decrease) in cash	112,410	(37,094)
Cash at beginning of year	16,960	54,054
Cash at end of year	\$129,370	\$16,960

### Notes to Financial Statements

- Incorporation  
The Council of the York Student Federation Inc. was incorporated under Letters Patent on September 15, 1978 under the Corporations Act (Ontario) without share capital. On April 19, 1991 the name of the Federation was changed to York Federation of Students.
- Significant accounting policies  
(a) Fixed assets  
Fixed assets are recorded at cost and depreciated over their estimated useful lives using the straight line method of depreciation.  
Estimated useful life:  
Office equipment under capital lease - 5 years  
Computer equipment - 5 years  
Office equipment - 5 years  
(b) Inventories  
Inventories are valued at the lower of cost and net realizable value.
- Fixed assets  

	1991	1990
Equipment under capital lease	\$21,670	\$ 4,334
Computer equipment	26,207	14,624
Office equipment	2,564	825
	\$50,441	\$19,783
Accumulated depreciation	(33,865)	(11,117)
Net book value	\$16,576	\$ 8,666
- Reserves  
a) Reserves for Students' Centre Projects  
The reserve was established for the purpose of contributing towards the Students' Centre Project. Approximately \$18,455 was transferred to operations during the year.  
b) Reserve for legal costs  
As a result of the settlement with the Ontario Federation of Students, this reserve is no longer required and has been transferred to operations.
- Commitment  
As a result of the settlement reached by York Student Federation and the Ontario Federation of Students, Council has agreed to pay \$30,000 for membership fees in equal instalments for three years. As at year-end, \$20,000 will be paid in the next two years.