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\$280,000 study wasted

Tories can Katimavik

by Peter Kuitenbrouwer
 of Canadian University Press
OTTAWA (CUP) — The Conservative government cancelled the Katimavik youth volunteer programme while government employees were in the middle of a \$280,000 study of its effectiveness.

And though the Ministry of Youth spent \$2.5 million on five regional forums last year to consult youth about their wishes, the government now says it needs more consultation before it can announce a replacement for Katimavik.

Peter Wiebe, an officer in the evaluation department of the Secretary of State, which funded Katimavik, said the first half of the study, measuring the effect of the Katimavik on the sites where the youth worked, was completed by Econosulte consultants last summer.

But he said the other half of the study, measuring Katimavik's effect on its participants, was not done and now will not be done. Wiebe's department had already prepared the study, including psychological and written tests, and hired three University of Ottawa professors to carry it out.

Wiebe said he did not know if the Cabinet, which made the decision to stop funding Katimavik, had read the completed half of the study before making the decision.

"No one came to ask me, and I'm the one who did the evaluation," he said.

Marie-Josée Lapointe, press secretary to Secretary of State Benoit Bouchard, said the decision was to cut Katimavik's \$19 million annual funding was made independently of all the studies.

"We're not looking at whether it was or was not a good programme," Lapointe said. "People need jobs and this was not an employment programme."

Champagne told the House of Commons Feb. 3, youth attending the five regional forums last year said they want jobs.

"We are now collecting and compiling the findings of that year's consultations, and the new programmes that will be announced will respond directly to the needs and aspirations of our young people," Champagne said.

On Feb. 11, however, Bouchard told the commons "We are now in the process of consultations. We will proceed with the studies (and

come up with a new programme for youth)."

Former Katimavik participants and current staff announced in a Feb. 12 news conference on Parliament Hill they had formed "The Friends of Katimavik" to fight for a resumption in funding of the nine-year old programme.

Paul Phaneuf, the national director of Katimavik, said the study done last year by Econosulte, a division of Montreal's Lavalin Inc., showed the programme completed projects worth \$60 million to communities throughout Canada during its nine-year life.

But Wiebe said many of the statistics Katimavik supporters use in defence of the programme are not accurate. He said there were only ever 16,000 participants, and since one quarter of those dropped out, there are only 12,000 former Katimavik participants in Canada.

Senator Jacques Hébert, who founded Katimavik, claims it has 20,000 "alumni."

At the press conference, after a speech by Hébert, the 30 Katimavik graduates started cheering and chanting, reaching a near hysteria-pitch as MPs brushed past to get to the House of Commons.

Prodigal Pete returns to pontificate

K. Graham Bowers

After a 34 year absence, former Gateway staffer Peter Lougheed has returned - as a guest lecturer in political science.

Besides his aborted attempt at a career in journalism, Lougheed served as Premier of Alberta from 1971 to 1985.

Lougheed conducted his first of four three-hour seminars in Political Science 421 - Selected Problems in Canadian Government - on February 12, while most U of A students were writing mid-terms and preparing for Reading Week. He will be conducting the other three on March 12 and 19, and April 9.

Lougheed is speaking on federal-provincial relations, the structure of a provincial government, the administration and management of a provincial government from the the premier's perspective, and party politics' impact on a government.

Former Alberta Solicitor General Roy Farran and former Alberta Energy Minister Merv Leitch are also conducting four three-hour seminars in the same course.

When asked to comment on the issue of a political figure teaching at a major university, Political Science department spokesman H.G. Hulmes stated that although some members of the department hold the opinion that only academics should be allowed to instruct courses, he believes that most of the profs accept the principle of outside lecturers.

Another former premier, Ernest Manning, also instructed at the U of A after his defeat (by Lougheed) in 1971. Manning was unable to complete his agreed number of lectures because then-Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau appointed him to the Senate.

Hulmes did not say what plans the department had made in the event that Lougheed were given a similar appointment. It has been rumoured that Lougheed may be named Ambassador to the United States.



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