

# \$115-million fund earmarked for summer job creation

By TED ATKINSON

"Challenge '85 Ontario/Canada will be in the \$5.00 an hour range," said Phil Gilles, Ontario Minister for Youth. This \$5.00 an hour wage will "depend on whether you're employed under the Summer Employment and Experience program (SEED) or the Ontario Youth Employment program (OYEP)."

The federal and provincial governments have collaborated and at a press conference on March 1, they outlined 12 programs for student summer employment. "92,000 positions are all student jobs," Gilles said, "plus an additional 8,000 jobs for those who aren't students."

"There will be some 241,000 students looking for work and they need some measure of help from our government," stressed Gilles. The federal commitment is \$42 million and the provincial commitment is \$73.7 million. This creates a total of \$115 million available this summer for student employment.

"What's encouraging about this year's approach is more money is available and these programs will provide more jobs for more students," said Flora MacDonald, federal Minister of Employment and Immigration.

According to Gilles, there are two obvious bonuses to Challenge '85. Firstly it is an accessible program. "Programs can be accessed by Manpower Centers, a student hotline and through university, college and high school counselling services," said Gilles.

The second plus is that the two levels of government are working together on the project. "The new spirit of cooperation and harmony between the two levels of government has allowed us to move toward complementary programming that eliminates program overlap," said Gilles.

So much effort has gone into these programs the two levels of government are already talking about Challenge '86, said Gilles. The goal will be "to streamline the overall number of programs," he said, adding that for Challenge '86 there will be "fewer and more easily understood programs."



Federal Minister of Employment and Immigration Flora MacDonald.

# Withdrawal difficult

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body that will represent all students," which he described as a slow process.

Riha emphasized that "YSF is not a substitute for CYSF," but exists "to encourage students' (political) awareness and participation, and to act as a student voice outside established political bodies."

Chapman wished to keep his reasons for not running private, but did say he had chosen to participate in a non-political project, the nature of which he would not disclose. If he had run for the president's office, Chapman said, there would likely have been a conflict of interest between his political role at CYSF, and his participation in the project.

"The decision to withdraw was a difficult one," Chapman said, "but in the end he decided his project was more than a term as CYSF president. Chapman did hint, however, that he may run for the position next year after completing his degree."

Chapman's and Riha's withdrawals leave five candidates still vying for the CYSF throne: Reya Ali, Ted Christensen; John Christie; Valance Ellies; and Bob Walman. Also, there are 14 candidates competing for seven available seats on the CYSF executive, two candidates for



Former CYSF Director of Finance Darren Chapman.

Board of Governors representative, and 17 candidates for the positions on the Senate."

Of the presidential candidates, Chapman predicted Ali, this year's Director of Social and Cultural Affairs, would be the man to beat. He added Christense, Christie and Walman were also running strong campaigns, but discounted this year's Director of Finance Valance Ellies as a serious contender. Ellies "is not a strong candidate," Chapman said, adding that Christie would likely undermine Ellies' support in Stong College where he got a great deal of support last year.

# Challenge '85 just PR snowjob OFS says

By JOHN HARRAS

Challenge '85: Ontario/Canada, the federal-provincial \$115 million summer job program, should be called "public relations '85," says Mike Conway, Information Officer of the Ontario Federation of Students.

"They should call it public relations '85 because what they've done is move a lot of programs around, call them by different names, brought back some programs that were supposed to be cancelled because they were not able to come up with anything to replace them," says Conway.

The joint federal-provincial program is designed to create 92,000 summer jobs in the province. While Ontario will add \$5 million to its summer job fund, the federal contribution to Ontario will be cut by \$4.7 million to \$42 million.

Ontario reinstated its \$30 million Youth Employment Program (OYEP) which provides wage subsidies of \$1.25 an hour to employers who hire students. The 11-year-old Summer Experience program will receive \$13 million of funding, while \$700,000 is set aside to provide loans of \$2,000 to students who start their own businesses.

New Democratic Party leader Bob Rae condemned the new program, saying much more must be done to alleviate long term unemployment problems of young people.

"We need to have a short term approach to summer employment in terms of those students who are going back to school," said Rae. "But we also have to have a long term program that deals with the broader problem of youth

unemployment. This is not going to help solve that problem."

Conway is skeptical that OYEP and the private sector will be able to provide enough jobs this summer. Last year there were an estimated 70,000 unemployed students returning to schools in Ontario.

"We've got, really, a crisis here," says Conway. "The best student aid is a summer job, and if students are not able to get jobs it's a question of accessibility to post-secondary education."

More information on Challenge '85 programs can be obtained by calling the Ontario Government hotline number (1-800-263-7777), or from the Canada Employment Center, N108 Ross.

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In an article printed in last week's *Excalibur* we mistakenly reported that CYSF presidential candidate Bob Walman was formerly president of McLaughlin College Council. While Mr. Walman has been Director of Internal Affairs and McLaughlin's representative on CYSF he has never been president. *Excalibur* apologizes for any embarrassment or inconvenience we may have caused Mr. Walman or the real McLaughlin president, Sean Squires.

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