

Ontario Federation supports national protest

LONDON (CUP) — Ontario's student leaders have committed their organization to supporting

and participating in the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) national day of protest, October 14.

A majority of the delegates from 20 student unions at the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) conference here September 24 to 26 agreed OFS should be "involved" in the protest day and endorsed their executive's commitment to working with the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL).

The OFS executive will seat a representative on the OFL co-ordinating committee and will provide its member councils with "extensive information material" on labour's actions against the federal government's wage and price controls program.

Individual student unions are also expected to work with local labor councils in planning activi-

ties for the day, according to OFS chairperson Murray Miskin.

In his statement, Miskin noted the federation had, at a previous conference, unanimously opposed wage and price controls and endorsed labour's fight against the program because "wage controls and cuts in vital social services hurt students as much as they hurt all Canadians".

Prior to the decision to support the national protest, delegates heard OFL representative Terry Meagher denounce the wage and price controls program as criminal.

Meagher said it was hypocritical of the Trudeau government to call the national strike when the anti-inflation program violated

that government's mandate.

Delegates also discussed provincial and local strategy for National Student Day on November 9, which Miskin called a "day of concern" about increasing tuition and cutbacks in post-secondary education.

Like the CLC day of protest, NSD is to be largely initiated at the local level, but other than Carleton and Queen's universities, few campuses indicated what they had planned for that day.

But the OFS executive presented a two-month plan of poster and pamphlet distribution and announced their intention to talk with provincial cabinet ministers on November 9.

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Ontario fights fee increases

LONDON (CUP) — Representatives to the fall conference of the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) pledged their councils to take action against the Ontario government's plan to increase tuition fees for international students.

Campus committees to oppose the increase will be formed, accompanied with a province-wide petition campaign.

Tuition will triple for all new foreign students in January 1977. Provincial minister of colleges and universities Harry Parrott, who announced the increases early this summer, described the move as a way to save money. The savings to his ministry will amount to about .6 per cent of its budget.

Over the summer, the OFS executive, describing the move as appealing to a "narrow racist sentiment" in society, joined other groups such as international student organization and the Canadian Bureau for International

Education (CBIE) in lobbying against the increases.

Shirley French, president of the University of Toronto's Students' Administrative Council, was appointed OFS rep to the CBIE.

At the conference, French stressed the need for immediate action. Delay, she asserted, allows the government to entrench its position.

Delegates decided to form campus committees composed of

students' council members, international students organizations, and community groups to develop local resistance to the fee hikes.

The province-wide petition campaign, co-ordinated by the OFS executive, will be timed to support their lobbying efforts in the legislature.

Many student councils now plan to incorporate the struggle against the differential fees into the National Students Day program.

Nova Scotia college against differential fees

HALIFAX (CUP) — Both students and the president of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD) have changed their minds about differential fees for international students.

Last March students were calling for a reduced fee for Canadian students while the college president Gary Kennedy said he wouldn't consider it.

Early this month Kennedy announced he wanted to double fees for international students to \$1,560 in January. Now student leaders say they will fight any differential fee proposal.

Fine arts representative Don Soucy said September 27 that "unless you equate creativity with wealth" the fee increase will "set very strict limitations on the type of people who will be able to contribute to the Halifax art community."

He pointed out "it is necessary for a flourishing art community to have different geographical and cultural influences."

Kennedy believes the fee hike is justified because the large number of Americans who attend the college have come to get a cheap education.

He said there is no problem for Third World and other international students whose fees would also double.

Student president Brian Perkins said Kennedy's assertions are "based on half-truths, total misinformation and illogic. The administration has made absolutely no attempt to solicit student opinion on the matter."

Kennedy claims "student fee income has not been increasing at the same rate as has the cost of operating the college, or at the same rate of increase as other revenues ... the added income from increased fees to out-of-country students is substantial."

But Soucy counters that, saying even if fees were tripled the increase in money would be less than half a per cent.

Students are pointing to a recent decision by the University of Manitoba Senate to reject differential fees, adding that decisions to hike fees for internationals in Ontario this year and Alberta next year have come from government initiative not administration.

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