



# Protest week planned

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Premier Richard Hatfield and a leading member of the Liberal party are invited to a forum here at UNB next Thursday, highlighting the week of action against education cutbacks.

Other events the SRC approved Wednesday at a special council meeting are an important news conference in Moncton involving student council presidents, the circulation of petitions to be sent to government leaders, and a form letter to appear in the *Brunswickan* next week.

Thursday's events will coincide with marches, teach-ins, class boycotts and demonstrations at various campuses across Canada. Students are being asked to boycott classes probably between noon and 2 p.m. Thursday to attend the forum planned for Tilley Room 102. Council hopes to assemble the premier, a member of the Liberal party (The New Liberal leader Doug Young will apparently be in Florida), UNB SRC President Gerard Finnan, STU SRC president André Faust, UNB President Downey, and STU President Father Martin to give their views about higher education funding. As of press time these participants had not been confirmed, but posters will be placed next week giving final details. Also faculty will receive notices to read to their classes.

Wednesday's meeting was held in an informal atmosphere around a small table and went very smoothly. It was called specifically to plan next week's activities and was in addition to the regular Monday meeting.

In attendance was Elaine Armstrong of the Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations. Armstrong said the Hatfield government has habitually followed the recommendations of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission in deciding how much to raise higher education funding. This year they are recommending a 12.5 per cent increase. Armstrong said the university needs a 21 per cent raise as the costs of non-salary items such as scientific equipment, maintenance and heating have increased much faster than the cost of living. The costs of books, for instance, she said, are doubling or tripling. Armstrong added the large increase is also needed to compensate for past difficulties and to get the university out of its present financial problems.

Armstrong urged students to lobby Liberal MPs such as Herb Breau and Romeo LeBlanc. Council plans to help students to do this by including form letters in next week's *Brun* so that students can clip them out to mail to their representatives. (Postage is not required for such mail).

Armstrong also pointed out the Canadian Association of University Teachers will be holding a week of concern at the end of March. She said this, and a march to the legislature when it opens on March 23, will keep the issue in the public eye.

