



The
GAZETTE

Volume 121 Number 16

Thursday January 26, 1989

DALHUSIE

A feature by Jeff Harrington

C

anadian universities are in deep trouble. The situation is a far cry from the heyday of the sixties, when universities expanded rapidly, adding new programs, buildings and faculty to accomodate huge 'baby boom' enrollment increases. There was never any thought of a shortage of money.

Government acceded to the vision of the times: broad access to education. By the time the oil crisis of 1973 hit, the party was over. The government needed money to resuscitate the economy. Higher education was put on life-support.

In Nova Scotia, provincial operating grants to universities have been stagnant for the last decade, while enrollment has ballooned by 33 per cent. The Buchanan government has consistently failed to

match the funding recommendations of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission. Though no coherent explanation has been given, the province's precarious finances are partly to blame.

James McNiven, formerly Nova Scotia's Deputy Minister of Development, and now Dalhousie's Dean of Management Studies, says that Nova Scotia is being "eaten alive" by debt servicing.

"What you get into is: Who gets

squeezed first? All the other departments have been gutted, except for Health and Welfare, and Education."

Dalhousie's financial situation is among the worst in the country, according to university executives.

"There doesn't seem to be anywhere you can turn," says Bryan Mason, Dal's Vice-President for Finance and Administration. "In

Continued on page 6

