

## Federation chair tours Alberta speaking on education issues

**by John Roggeveen**  
Brenda Cote, Chair of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), is touring Alberta this week.

Her tour is the highlight of National Week of Students events in Alberta.

The National Week of Students, which runs March 21-26, focuses on increasing people's awareness of problems facing students, especially at the post-secondary level.

During her tour, Cote will address the impact cutbacks in federal government financial transfers to the provinces will have on post-secondary education.

Cote will be speaking Wednesday, March 23 in the

Rutherford Library Concourse at 12:30 P.M. about the trade-offs between quality of education and accessibility to education. Forum speakers will also include U of A President Myer Horowitz, Association of Academic Staff: University of Alberta President Gordon Fearn, U of A Grad Students' Association President Don Millar, and U of A Students' Union VP External Teresa Gonzalez.

Dick Johnston, Alberta Minister of Advanced Education, declined an invitation to speak at the forum, and will not be sending any representative from his department either.

CFS is calling for a conference

on the future of post-secondary education in Canada, involving students, academics, administrators and government.

CFS's call has been backed by the Federation of Alberta Students.

"The original projections of increases in federal transfers (to the provinces) were 765 million. They (the federal government) have cut 500 million from their projected increase," says Don Millar.

"What they've done is impose six and five (per cent increases) on these transfers," he says.

Miller maintains cutbacks in federal transfers will lead to decreases in both quality of and accessibility to post-secondary education.

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## English classes for Chinese refugees

**by Gilbert Bouchard**

The Basilian (Order of Saint Basil) Fathers at St. Joseph's College are sponsoring an ongoing program of English classes for Chinese refugees, and plan to introduce Chinese language classes for children of all nationalities.

Teachers for the program are strictly volunteer, "a lot are University students, so the program is

arranged to take into account exams and summer breaks." Classes are taught Saturday mornings from 9 to 11:30 AM, with the next session running from May 21st to August 6th.

Father Firth, a Basilian priest responsible for the Student-Volunteer Campus Community for Refugees' language program, is satisfied with the project and has overseen its growth over its four

years to eight classes of pupils.

Firth says the program for the bilingual Cantonese/English classes is prepared by the Community and teaches English conversation, grammar, and literature.

The program also includes outside lecturers, counselling, and referral services, and soon plans to add a second program of Chinese language programs for children (of all nationalities) between the ages of five and ten. Firth commented that "very often the children of refugees don't know Chinese," hence the children will be able to study Chinese while their parents study English.

For further information on any of these programs, contact either Father Firth at 433-1569, or Rita Chow at 432-1521.

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