

B.C. enrolment drops as unemployment, tuition soar

VANCOUVER(CUP)—First year enrolment at B.C.'s three universities has dropped dramatically, spurred by rising student unem-

ployment rates, hefty tuition hikes and an all-loan student aid program.

Hardest hit is the University of

Victoria, where first year members are down by a whopping 18 per cent.

The University of B.C. is a close second with a 17 per cent drop. UBC administrators recently pegged enrolment at 3,250 first-year students, and about 700 fewer students are expected to turn up.

UVic's Howard Petch blamed the decrease on the B.C. government's elimination of student grants. He said the enrolment decrease will cause "horrendous" budget problems for the university next year.

Margaret Copping, UBC student union president, said the rising costs of education are responsible for the drop in enrolment. But she added an increase in tuition is not the only factor.

"If there was a suitable student aid program then tuition fees wouldn't matter. But in the absence of a better student aid program, tuition fees are an increasing problem."

Tuition fees rose substantially in B.C. last year, with increases of 33

per cent at UBC, 34 per cent at SFU and 26 per cent at UVic. B.C. fees are now among the highest in the country.

A large decrease in enrolment is also expected at SFU but exact numbers will not be released until October. Administrators predict a decrease of more than 800 students.

Many grade 12 students, especially from the province's interior,

are choosing not to come to university this year, according to SFU registrar Ron Heath.

"I think it's the financial times in general, the financial aid that's available and the overall picture in the province," said Heath.

B.C.'s youth unemployment rate is second highest in Canada. Roughly one in four students here did not find work this summer. □

Students poo poo food at UVic

VICTORIA (CUP)—More than 100 students living in University of Victoria residences lined up outside the campus health services building last week, complaining of diarrhea.

The students had just eaten their first few meals of residence food and were also suffering from chills,

headaches, muscle pain and nausea.

Health officials are uncertain if any single dish or beverage caused the students' discomfort, but the stool samples taken from afflicted students started growing *Campylobacter*, an organism known to cause food poisoning.

The Grawood Dalhousie's Student Lounge

the Grawood will
be open to all Dalhousie students
for lunch 11:30 - 2:00.
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