

At least he's got one

## Youth minister does his job

By LOIS CORBETT

The federal minister of youth says it will take special efforts to deal with the high levels of youth unemployment in Nova Scotia's black and native communities.

Jean Charest, the 28-year-old minister in Brian Mulroney's cabinet, addressed a youth forum at Dalhousie University last Thursday, where he told P.C. Youth members, students, politicians and the media that his government has an "excellent" record of creating job opportunities for young people.

That success, he says, is due in part to the conservatives' emphasis on the private sector and in making business people 'partners in job creation'.

"But you're right. We need to do something special to deal with that (the number of young black and native people who cannot find work). The private sector is just not going to hire women, disabled people or blacks," says Charest.

The youngest-ever cabinet minister admitted after his speech that the private sector does not hold all the answers to the problem of youth unemployment, especially for groups that face discrimination on the job market. But his presentation to the party faithful held few clues that the government's strategy might just not work.

Charest says the conservatives' job creation strategy concerned with youth has two goals: "Is it designed to get us re-elected? Yes. but more fundamentally, this program is made for young people, and to help them get the skills they need to find a job."

"I don't care what happens, but we will have changed the mentality of working people and employers in Canada by the time we're finished," he says.

Change is a big part of Charest's plan: he says the government, by offering the private sector money to train young workers, will make certain Canada will have a "competitive labour market in the future."

"Times have changed. Our generation has been left with a lot of problems, and we have to deal with them in a new way," says Charest.

Opposition critics who claim the government is abandoning young people are obstacles to change, the minister says. When his department announced it would spend \$180 million for the summer employment program, Challenge 87, opposition Liberals and New Democrats charged that the amount, at the same level of spending as the Challenge '86 program, was insufficient.

Charest disagrees. "They're just fighting for the past. They're saying, 'don't change anything, we like it that way.' The fact is, we will change

things," he says.

According to the youth minister, keeping the level of funding at the same level as last year is change. Since there will be fewer students looking for work this summer, the government is justified in keeping Challenge '87 costs down.

"(University students) are not the ones that necessarily need it the most. They ate it up last year. . . It's the number of young people who are falling between the cracks, those who have quit school, who are the most vulnerable on the labour market," says Charest.

The minister defends the money his government has committed to youth job creation by saying times are tough. "No, it's not enough. It's never enough. But it's the same amount we spent in 1986, even though we cut from the employment programs in other departments. The government just does not have the financial resources it once had. Fiscal restraint is something we're going to have to deal with," he says.

Meanwhile, young people in Atlantic Canada are already dealing with their own form of fiscal restraint. 30.5 per cent of youth in Newfoundland are out of work, 21.1 per cent of people aged 15 to 24 in Nova Scotia can't find jobs, and in New Brunswick, 28.5 per cent of young people are facing similar prospects for employment.



Federal Minister of Youth, Jean Charest, who visited the Grawood lounge last week, says cuts to summer employment programs will help to change things.

## Howe Hall party condemned

By GEOFF STONE

The theme of a recent Howe Hall house party has angered students at Dalhousie who say it was insensitive for the participants to trivialize problems faced by people who have suffered incest.

Resident assistants who attended the Friday night party sponsored by Henderson House sent a letter to Howe Hall representatives criticizing the party's theme of a "Goeller Night", mocking the Goellers, a family from the Annapolis Valley with a long history of incest.

Jolene Pattison, a Shirreff Hall resident, says the theme of the party could isolate Dalhousie students or others who have faced abuse or incest: "There have to be people in residence affected by incest."

According to Judy Hayashi of the Dalhousie counselling services, it has only been in the last ten years that the issue of child abuse has been openly discussed. People are becoming more sensitive to the realities of abuse, helping people to admit to their abuse as children. A recent report on child abuse by the library of parliament revealed there are a vast number of unreported cases, with only a fraction being helped.

Hayashi says the support services offered by the university counselling services in the SUB and other services will aid a problem that has been so long neglected.

Howe Hall president John Hiscock and Howe Hall representative to council Joe Morrison say they both regret the incident.

At a student council meeting

last Sunday, Morrison said the theme was intended more to poke fun at "hicks" than at incest. He suggested to the Gazette that "People don't look at it (the situation of the Goeller family) objectively."

By TOBY SANGER

Spending \$109,000 to repair and furnish the president's house doesn't sit well with Dalhousie staff and students, who have been told to tighten their belts.

Dr. Howard Clark told a special meeting of senate this week that spending on his house included \$70,000 worth of new furniture.

The announcement came immediately after president Clark appealed to senate members to accept faculty layoffs and budget cuts of over five per cent.

"I think it's absolutely shocking when they spent half a million on the house four years ago. If the president was serious about starting out on a new foot, he should have been more conservative about spending money on himself," says Delphine du Toit, a staff member at Dalhousie.

One student said the expense was an "extravagant waste of money . . . it's disgusting."

Clark defended the expenditures to the house on Oxford Street by saying the building is invaluable for strengthening links with alumni and the community.

## President's house escapes cutbacks

"Members of the Dalhousie community must recognize the use of the president's house for entertaining," he told senate.

"Nobody with a lot of money will give money to an institution that seems impoverished," says Clark.

In September, a proposal for a daycare for staff children was rejected because the administration said there was not enough money or space for the project. There are over 280 children now on the waiting list for daycare at the university.

Clark says the costs for furnishing his house were high because it is so big and some of the rooms are not being used.

The house needs new furniture because Clark is leaving his in Ontario, where his wife is continuing to do research.

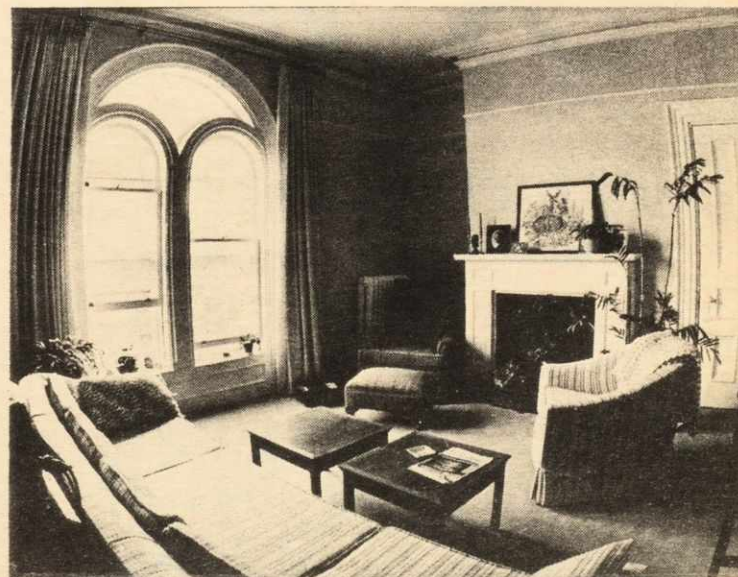
Over \$500,000 was spent on the house in the summer of 1983, after a year of president MacKay calling for financial restraint at the university. Coincidentally, it was also the year administration first attempted to cut faculty by implementing a "financial restraint" clause in the collective agreement.

The president told senate he was responding to rumours that repairs and redecorations in the house cost several thousands of dollars.

The Gazette learned of the costs over two weeks ago but despite repeated requests was unable to get confirmation of the figures

from either the president's office or from the vice-president of finance, Bryan Mason.

During a lengthy conversation last week, Mason told the Gazette he didn't have the total figure and it would take too long for his staff to compile it, as it wasn't a priority.



Out with the old an in with the new. Lucky students who visit the president's house on Oxford Street will be treated to a more refined aesthetic.