



Canadian Union of Students



your CUS dollar

In trying to provide you with the most value for your CUS dollar, Canada's national student union focuses its attention on three primary areas: providing student services, maintaining and developing communication and exchange in the student movement, and representing student interests in the political arena.

The area of immediate interest to most students is that of 'CUS services'. It is to these services that the overwhelming part of your dollar is allocated.

The second area of concern is that of student communications. CUS offers a regular opportunity for students from universities across the country to exchange experiences and ideas by providing conferences, seminars, etc. and by operating an efficient communications network for member student councils. In this way, new ideas and fresh approaches are brought into the student community to help provide it with ways in which it can improve campus life.

The third area of concern is the political field, involving students in various questions of national importance. An example of such a question is that of 'universal accessibility', the principle that financial considerations should have no influence upon the ability of students to enter university.

1) PUBLICATIONS: We have a publication service which produces papers and articles on education, co-ops, communications etc. which anyone may use. This, along with lists of resource people, tapes, films and bibliographies, offer the student a chance to discover for himself the current ideas on education.

2) CO-OPS: For the past two years CUS has had a full time co-op fieldworker who has helped campuses set-up co-ops for their students. Focusing on membership education as the key to developing the movement CUS has been working at two levels — the first is the establishment of a theoretical framework through discussion; the second has been technical assistance and advice to those already working with co-ops, and those about to enter into that area. Co-ops exist at present in Halifax, Fredericton, Moncton, Kingston, Toronto, Waterloo, Guelph, Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Edmonton and New Westminster.

In addition, CUS is working with the Canadian Labour Congress and the co-operative Union of Canada in the formation of the Co-operative Housing Foundation.

3) RESEARCH SERVICE: The office has files on most subjects which are important to the student, both at the council level and elsewhere. Information on communications, organizing, university relations, structures of the university etc., can be supplied on request.

4) LIFE INSURANCE: While CUS does not adhere to the concept of Life Insurance, we do offer a special student insurance rate for members. The offer is made through Canadian Premier Life who has a representative for every member campus. If you are interested, contact him through your student council for more information.

5) TRAVEL: CUS has a travel department which organizes flights to Europe and elsewhere. Last year over 1,100 students made use of the flights and other services. (Eurail passes, car hire, etc.). This year

19 flights are planned, going to London, Rome, Moscow and Tokyo. These leave from Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver. There is also a possibility of flights to Cuba.

More information may be gotten from:
CUS Travel Department
44 St. George Street
Toronto 5, Ontario

6) CUS LOBBY: CUS has a lobby in Parliament which has in the past resulted in the Student Loan Plan, Air Canada half-prices, housing legislation among others. Briefs on taxation, broadcasting and housing have been presented this year.

7) FIELDWORKERS: There are now four regional fieldworkers one each in B.C., the Prairies, Ontario and the Maritimes who work with students, student councils and National Council Members to discuss and work on the issues facing the student today. The National Council, consisting of 14 representatives from the regions, a Program Commissioner, a Finance Commissioner, the Past-President, the President, Vice-President and President-Elect, is the top decision-making body in CUS between Congresses.

One cannot talk about the economic and social problems of prospective students in a vacuum. As CUS came to grips with the question of universal accessibility, those in the Union found they had to consider all aspects of education, and of society, as it is impossible to change the university substantially (given the important role the university plays in the North American society) without changing society.

An awareness of this has grown over the past few years as students, some in councils, some outside them, have come up against the entrenched power of the administration or the government at a municipal, provincial and federal level. Events in such places as Saskatchewan (Thatcher's attempt to control the university), Simon Fraser University (Administration's refusal to act to change the university structures, despite a Canadian Association of University Teacher's censure), UNB (the president's firing of a professor without stated reasons), Windsor (Administration interference in the student newspaper) have all shown students that they must fight for their rights to decide for themselves what type of education they want, and how the university will be run, and by whom.

So, the Canadian Union of Students has become involved in the real issues which face students, and which affect their lives from day to day. What this means is that the visible work by CUS is not as obvious as it once was. Questions like "what do we get for our dollar?" cannot be answered with a glib list of services which you are offered. We do offer some. We do not, in fact, want to defend the CUS as an entity in itself. What we want to do is discuss the issues which CUS is facing, issues which affect all students. And this can only be done in practice, working together on campuses to change the systems which are exploiting and manipulating the student and the community. Thus self-determination is needed in education, over housing plans, in the choice of professors and administrators, in the university's relationship with the community outside. And that is the concern of CUS.

CUS Referendum Events

MOUNT ST. VINCENT

Mon. Jan. 20 12:30 General Student Body Meeting
Speaker: Steven Langdon President SAC University of Toronto

Wed. Jan. 22 12:30 General Student Body Meeting
Speaker: Peter Warriar President CUS

Thurs. Jan. 23 7:00 p.m. Residence Meeting
Speaker: Barry McPeake CUS Maritime Fieldworker

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

Tues. Jan. 21 12:30 General Student Body Meeting
Speaker: Peter Warriar President CUS

Thurs. Jan. 23 12:30 Question and answer sessions
Speaker: Barry McPeake CUS Maritime Fieldworker

UNIVERSITY OF KINGS COLLEGE

Sun. Jan. 19 2:00 Teach-in
Speakers: Wayne Hankey CUS Program Commissioner
Steven Langdon President SAC University of Toronto
Steven Hart Past President of Kings

Mon. Jan. 20 6:15 Formal Dinner
Speaker: Wayne Hankey CUS Program Commissioner

Tues. Jan. 21 7:30 Informal Session with free beer
Speaker: Peter Warriar President CUS

Wed. Jan. 22 6:15 Formal Dinner
Speaker: Barry McPeake CUS Maritime Fieldworker

Thurs. Jan. 23 7:30 Teach-in
Assorted Speakers