

Laval faculty make major gains after 18 months

QUEBEC CITY (CUP) — A four-month strike by Laval University professors, which cancelled classes for 25,000 students, has ended with faculty making considerable gains in their demands.

After 18 months of bargaining and one of the longest strikes at a Canadian University. The faculty union voted 85 per cent Dec. 23 to approve a contract that provides a 34 per cent wage hike as well as a grievance procedure, job security, a sabbatical leave system, a salary structure and increased decision-making power in the university.

Students began the first of two thirteen week terms Jan. 11. Classes will extend to early July, instead of the usual mid-April, to make up last time.

The long and bitter struggle revolved around academic freedom and faculty involvement in university decision-making. Throughout the 16-week shutdown, administration charged the union with illegal picketing and strong-arm tactics.

Under the new contract, grievances about tenure, promotions and nonrenewal of professor contracts will be arbitrated by an internal committee composed of union and university representatives, union president Joel de

LaNoue said in a recent interview. The former committee, chaired by the university vice-rector gave unfair consideration to grievances from several professors whose contracts were not renewed the union said.

The new agreement provides full job security by disallowing the firing of tenured faculty, although they must agree to changes in job description, said De LaNoue. Positions cannot be removed without departmental approval he added.

Along with the wage increase, a salary structure was agreed upon which will equalize current disparities between professors of similar rank and experience, the union president noted.

During the dispute, faculty argued that the University's lack of minimum and maximum salaries, or rules governing them, led to considerable variations between equally qualified professors that should be governing them.

The contract also establishes departmental committees to discuss working conditions, and hiring and assigning of departmental tasks in response to union complaints that professors were virtually powerless in the university.

Despite the favorable settlement the union has an \$800,000 debt for strike pay and, as a result, union dues will increase by about \$600 over the next 18 months for each member. Donations from faculty unions across the country are expected to slice almost \$70,000 off the debt.

According to University rector Larkin Kerwin the cancellation of

agriculture and forestry research for the strike's duration was the greatest loss. He said the university faces a deficit this year because of extra expenses incurred during the strike.

Kerwin said a study done for the university said enrollment next term will drop 10 per cent but that half of those students will return in September. The decrease will

mean lost revenue he said.

Andrew Wake, a representative of the Laval student association, which support the professors, said the faculty struggle was the same as that facing students. He said both students and professors are being attacked by the provincial government through budget cut-backs, centralization and deterioration of study and working conditions.

Report says Canadian rich benefit from hidden tax breaks

TORONTO (CUP) — Removal of inequalities in the Canadian income tax system would provide enough to eliminate poverty in Canada many times over, according to a recent report from the National Council on Welfare.

The report, entitled "The Hidden Welfare System", says the rich do not pay their fair share of taxes and this inequality cost the government \$6.4 billion in 1974.

A "dramatically restructured" system of tax subsidies would ensure that those with the highest incomes do not receive the greatest benefits, states the report from the 21-member body established in 1969 to advise the national health and welfare minister on welfare policy.

Citing a chief theme that the tax deductions system is inequitable the report states, "far more money than the poor ever receive from their welfare system" is transferred "to principle beneficiaries" who "are most assuredly not the poor."

This is done by the government "not collecting the full amount of their fair share of taxes," which if collected would "eliminate all poverty in this country many times over."

In one of a number of radio and television talk shows since the release of the report, Douglas Barr, chair of the committee

producing the report called for legislation requiring the government to release complete income tax figures to public scrutiny.

Barr noted that the lack of such a law allowed the federal government to cut back expenditures for child care in the spring of 1976 while doubling deductions for child care under the Income Tax Act.

Since everyone is allowed the same amount in personal deductions, the system allows the rich

greater tax savings than the poor, he contended.

The report calls for "a credit of a fixed amount which taxpayers could apply against his-her tax bill." Under this system, taxpayers with different income would be given uniform deductions in actual tax payment, the report states.

Barr says members of his committee have been asked to speak across Canada on the report. The report has been raised in Parliament and the Ontario legislature.

Gives \$800 Dalhousie makes emergency advance to AFS

By NIGEL ALLEN AND VALERIE MANSOUR

HALIFAX (CUP) — Dalhousie Student Union voted Sunday to give Atlantic Federation of Students (AFS-SEA) \$800 in emergency funding. The funding, a "show of support for the spirit of AFS-SEA", will last until the Feb. 16 Dalhousie referendum on continued membership in AFS-SEA and National Union of Students.

At a council meeting Dec. 5, \$2000 was requested as Dalhousie's "fair share" of the expanded FEA-AFS budget, as Dalhousie has 25 percent of Atlantic students. Council rejected the \$1000 loan/\$1000 grant package because a budget was not presented. AFS-SEA secretary Don Soucy, stressing the psychological effect of the Atlantic's largest university "not supporting students", presented a "vague but adequate" budget this Sunday.



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