

# How to appeal your loan

by R. Metcalfe

The Canada Student Loan Program, and the complementary Nova Scotia Bursary Program are administered by the Nova Scotia Student Aid Office. The criteria by which loans and bursaries are dispensed permit an appeal by the recipient of their initial award. Appeal forms are available at the N.S. Student Aid Office at present and permit consideration of the student's particular financial difficulty on an individual basis.

Should a student appeal his summer saving requirement he/she must submit an appeal with third party documentation showing that he/she was unable to find employment, or did not find employment until late in the summer, or, alternatively, that the student incurred some exceptional expense(s) requiring his/her funds.

Should a student appeal his/her saving requirement after having been employed during the preceding year, he/she is required to submit a budget for the preceding 8 months. This budget should

account for all the student's funds with the exception of savings declared. Exceptional expenses such as the cost of trips to the parental home, dental work, bank payments, etc., should be included in the appeal.

If a student wishes to appeal his/her initial award, and has no additional financial claims other than that submitted in his CSL application, additional consideration might be gained for the student's case if the student can gain support from the offices on campus such as the Awards Office, the Chaplain's Office, etc., for his weak financial base. This support might only be useful if the original award leaves the student with a large monetary shortfall.

The important element to note in relation to appeals is that an appeal has a greater likelihood for a successful resolution if the student can submit third-party documentation for his expense claims/budget, or third-party support for his needy status. The dean of the student's faculty is usually dis-

posed to submit a letter of support for the student should his/her weak financial status be directly affecting the student's academic performance.

Finally it is worthwhile noting that the Awards Officers on campus are readily available to aid any student in preparing his/her appeal. It is advisable to make good use of these resource personnel as they maintain close liaison with the N.S. Student Aid Office.

If the student has their appeal refused, or permitted to an extent inadequate to the student, the student may re-appeal the decision. Should this be required it is advisable to deliver this re-appeal directly to the office of the Minister of Education for the Province. This technique should be used to insure that the person (people) determining the original application and the appeal are not called upon to assess the re-appeal.

## Active Summer for NUS

by Roger Metcalfe

There are signs that in the next twelve months the National Union of Students (NUS) will clearly show its value to Canadian students.

NUS now has far more resources and support from student leaders than at any time since it was founded in November, 1972. If this support continues, and is used wisely, not only will 1975-76 show the value of NUS but by 1976-77 Canada will have a strong and vital national students' organization for the first time in nine years.

The national conference held in May at Glendon College endorsed a fund-raising programme to provide the capital funds that NUS had done without for over two years. To the surprise of some observers, the programme succeeded. Over \$30,000 was pledged within a month. So far about 90% of the money pledged has been paid.

Perhaps more important, over half of the contributors were unions that had shown little interest in NUS. Much of this new interest was attributed to the impact of last year's student aid campaign, and better communications.

With day-to-day financial problems eliminated, NUS turned to further work on student issues. It had by far the most active summer in its history. This activity included visits to all major campuses in the Atlantic and Western provinces, plus most of those in Ontario.

NUS was able to prepare a brief on foreign students for the joint committee studying the immigration green paper. The committee found the brief important enough to invite NUS attendance at the Ottawa hearings. A supplementary brief may be submitted, based upon the comments of student unions. It would also answer some of the questions raised by the parliamentary committee.

A presentation of student activity and concerns was made to external examiners of Canadian education. This examination was part of a review conducted by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, a group of 24 developed countries (including Canada). The NUS presentation climaxed several weeks spent encouraging participation in the review by

people outside government. Despite the reluctance of Canadian officials to open up the hearings, NUS was able to alert the National Indian Brotherhood and to allow students in some provinces time to prepare for the examiners.

Work has continued on student aid, which has the highest priority for the national organization. Much of this has been the collection of comparative statistics from the provinces and territories, and assistance to the local groups that were active during the summer. Plans have been made to accelerate the student aid campaign this fall, so that students can make it clear to the federal and provincial governments that they are dissatisfied with the current system.

Detailed work on the housing problem has begun. The focus of this effort will be to encourage students to join with the other groups fighting for decent housing. The policies established by the national conference acknowledge that in view of the general housing situation students cannot try to go it alone in fighting for better accommodation.

Much of NUS's resources will be tied up in referenda during 1975-76. About 15 of its members will be voting to raise the membership fee from 30 cents to a dollar per student. In addition, at least ten student unions will be voting to join NUS. The total membership could be doubled this time next year.

The October 1975 national conference is being held at U.N.B. in Fredericton. The theme of the conference is "Post-secondary Education - Who Will Pay?" This is a pressing matter since within two years the governments will be deciding that question.

Due to its location the conference will provide an opportunity for many more Atlantic student unions to observe NUS in operation. The Atlantic Federation of Students is encouraging a large Atlantic attendance at the conference.

Dalhousie Student Union has been a NUS member since April 1973. It is regarded as one of the student unions whose faith and support created the base from which NUS is now able to move.

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