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Rally...

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other than government funding, suggesting corporate funding and drives for alumni support as options. "It shouldn't always be coming out of student pockets" she says.

Lynne MacMicheal, Dalhousie Student Union Vice-President External, believes the answer to increased tuition fees is quite simple: "increase student aid".

Student aid consists of two components: The Canadian Student Loan Program and The Provincial Bursary program. The former is especially important since almost 50% of Canada's half million full-time students rely on this program to help off-set the cost of their education.

"The federal government must increase this component of financial aid. It must make a commitment to making education accessible to everyone. Funding education is an investment in the future," said Phelps, chair of SUNS.

The only change made to the Canada Student Loan Program (CSLP) in the last seven years has been the introduction of a 3% tax which is to be effective next summer. This "administrative fee" will be deducted from the sum received by the student, however the student will eventually have to pay back and pay interest on the full amount of the loan. For example, a student requesting a \$3000 loan will get a check for \$2910, but will be responsible for a principal of \$3000.

The provincial government appears to be on the students' side. Joel Matheson, provincial minister of Advanced Education and Job Training, wrote in a news release that the Council of Ministers of Education of Canada is against the tax. "We oppose the imposition of the 3% administrative fee on student loans as this simply creates a higher burden for those students greatest in need."

He goes on to add that the ministers will press for an early meeting with the Secretary of State to ensure that the improvements required in the CSLP are effected in time for the 1991 academic year.

"People in Ottawa are coming to realise that the tax is bad and now it's close to being rescinded," said Phelps. "Good participation in this rally demonstrating opposition to the tax will help make sure that it's defeated."

