

Dartmouth boycotts S.A.

By TOBY SANGER

Dartmouth City Council unanimously voted last week to sever all the city's links with South Africa.

Under the seven point programme adopted to make the city "apartheid-free", councillors instructed the city to not invest in financial institutions which do business with South Africa.

The city will also boycott South African goods and not be represented at any functions attended by South African government representatives.

Corrie Douma, a member of the Coalition Against Apartheid (CAA) which petitioned council to adopt the program, says she was surprised the motion passed so easily and was impressed by the support council members showed for the motion.

The programme also involves recommending the school board to implement an educational program dealing with apartheid, urging other municipalities to take similar action, calling on the federal government to impose total mandatory sanctions and demanding the South African government lift the state of emergency and free political prisoners.

Dartmouth follows Toronto, Vancouver and Regina in passing divestment legislation.

The CAA wrote to Halifax mayor Ron Wallace, asking that he support a similar motion for Halifax.

Wallace told the *Gazette* his council will discuss the issue at their next meeting.

Dartmouth council is now setting up a committee to implement the programme.

Deputy city treasurer Larry Corrigan says Dartmouth has never made a direct investment in South Africa but whether the city would have to transfer its funds from the Royal Bank "is a question we'll have to look into as a result of this motion."

Douma says apartheid should not just be a concern of the federal government:

"Everybody should be concerned about what is going on in South Africa. It's a slow genocide."

"We're not just in this little corner of Canada separated from what goes on in the outside world."

She says one of the coalition's next actions will be to approach Sobey's to ask them to boycott South African products and donate their existing stock to food banks.

Enrollment predictions all wrong

OTTAWA (CUP) — The 1980s would be the decade during which post-secondary enrollment bottomed out, the demographers predicted. But the demographers were wrong.

While the age group that traditionally has the heaviest post-secondary participation rate — 17 to 21 year olds — has narrowed considerably in the last decade, colleges and universities across the country are reporting another year of steady enrollment increases.

An informal telephone survey conducted by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada confirms that predictions made 20 years ago are completely wrong. "We originally saw the group of 17 to 21 year olds declining, and we expected the participation rate to be about the same," said AUCC researcher Marino Kristjanson. "Perhaps we were relying too much on connecting these two."

According to the AUCC, enrollment across Canada has increased for the seventh consecutive year. Full-time undergraduate enrollment is up by 1.3 per cent, with the largest increases — 6.3 and 4.4 per cent, respectively — reported in Newfoundland and Saskatchewan. "We would have predicted differently," said Kristjanson. "I think we would have expected an overall decrease of at least that much."

AUCC statistics estimate there are about 414,000 full-time undergraduates enrolled in Canada's universities this year, with

255,000 part-time undergrads, 57,000 full-time graduate students, and 37,000 part-time grads.

In the 1982-83 year, statistics were 376,000; 233,000; 50,000; and 33,000 respectively. "These are significant increases, and in a short period of time too," says Kristjanson.

Most education groups and critics say high unemployment rates are keeping many young people in school. "What we have now is the unwilling student," said Lynn McDonald, federal New Democratic post-secondary education critic. "Enrollment is up because jobs are scarce." Kristjanson says several factors influence enrollment changes, but agrees poor employment prospects place greater demand for higher education.

Jean Wright, an accessibility researcher for the Canadian Federation of Students, said groups that traditionally have avoided universities are now unexpectedly enrolling for post-secondary education. "For example, women who are older and who are going back to school is the trend that no one really predicted," said Wright.

But for the record number of students in Canada's schools, life isn't easy. Besides dealing with jammed classrooms, inadequate resources and outdated equipment, many students are forced to take on student loans — increased in most provinces in favour of grants — to finance their education.

"On the one hand, it's good that the money is available," said Wright. "But it is unfortunate that students have to borrow heavily into debt to go to school." The average debt for a student with a Canada Student Loan is about \$5,000, said Wright. "And that doesn't include provincial student aid debts."

In British Columbia, where the Social Credit government abolished the grants portion of its assistance program two years ago, the average student aid debt has skyrocketed to \$15,000, an increase of \$12,000 since 1984.

Howard McCurdy, former NDP post-secondary education critic, said rising fees and enormous debt loads "are scaring away the people who benefited for decades by increased accessibility — women, disabled, natives, minorities and low income groups." Said counterpart McDonald, "Our participation rate is much higher than in other countries, but we still don't make university or college education very accessible. Financial difficulties here are much greater than in other countries, particularly in Europe."

With federal and provincial governments restraining post-secondary funding, education lobby groups say the quality of education in Canada is being increasingly threatened. "The problem is really one of quality, not accessibility," said CFS researcher Wright. "The education is still there, but it is not as good as it used to be."



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