

Is this the answer to OFY?

NUS criticizes summer employment program

OTTAWA (CUP)—Although the newspaper advertisements say Young Canada Works is a summer employment program for students, officials with the Department of Manpower and Immigration admit they don't expect to see many students apply directly for the \$30 million available.

Instead it will be up to established social agencies to sponsor a project which will be funded by the government with students paid the minimum provincial wage and heretofore through the existing student manpower centres in their areas. Previously, wages were set within a nationally established minimum and maximum scale.

Young Canada Works is Manpower and Immigration minister Bud Cullen's answer to the defunct Opportunities for Youth program which provided money for groups of students to plan and carry out community projects during the summer.

Cullen says Young Canada Works "will be oriented to the interests and aspirations of young Canadians" but the national secretary of the National Union of Students (NUS) says "This (program) is exactly what students don't want." Dan O'Connor says students want to be part of a year-round activity.

"They don't want a job as a summer fun thing," he said. O'Connor says the program will only be useful in giving students "fringe skills."

New Brunswick's weekly wages are set at \$146.00 for the project manager and \$112.00 for the other project workers. These pay scales are based on a 40 hour work-week at New Brunswick's minimum wage salary of \$2.80 an hour.

Applications for the York-Sunbury constituency are available from the various local Canadian Manpower centres, including the campus branches. Deadline for filing at regional centres is February 4, '77.

According to the Young Canada Works guide to applicants the program is designed to "reduce student summer unemployment by enabling established organizations to sponsor generating projects in areas of community need."

The key description to the kinds of projects which will be funded is found in the statement that projects must "provide worthwhile service or facilities to the community that do not duplicate or compete with existing services

or facilities."

However, under the heading "what kinds of projects must not create a community dependency that will cease to be responded to at the termination of Young Canada Works funding." Projects that "create jobs which are over and above those that would normally exist in the community" will be considered for this funding, but projects that are of the "same activity in the same community as a job creation project that was funded the previous year" will not be considered. NUS's O'Connor says the list of qualifications and conditions listed are often contradictory and are "almost

impossible to meet."

He said he suspects that when the final applications are considered the government will be forced to loosen the guidelines or be politically embarrassed by the lack of funded projects.

Travelling puppet shows and adventure playgrounds will be the kind of projects again supported through this kind of program O'Connor says because, like the OFY program, it does not help in long term or continuous projects which are needed by the community but not already there.

Federal New Democrat MP John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt) is less critical of Young Canada Works.

He says he thinks the program will help to "take up the slack of 30,000 students when the OFY program was cancelled."

Rodriguez says he hopes this program will attract more lower income students and he thinks the program can generate some necessary projects.

On October 13, 1976 in a letter to Cullen the National Union of Students stated that job creation projects "should be funded on a long-term basis."

This (new job projects suggestion) should not be taken as opposition to assistance for existing community services, but rather the suggestion that new

programs must do more than that," the letter said.

In conclusion the letter, signed by NUS president, Riel Miller stated that he hoped it should be possible for "Canadian students, through their representative organizations, to make a useful contribution to the development of federal employment policies."

In his reply Cullen "requested that officials of my department contact you to determine a mutually convenient date when we might meet."

No such meeting was ever requested by his officials. None is planned.

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Texas students take on the narcs

AUSTIN, TEXAS (ZNS/CUP) - The student government at the University of Texas in Austin has launched a program called "Identa-Narc."

Students are urged to call a special phone number with information on undercover drug agents and informers. The slogan of the program is, "Fink on them before they fink on you."

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