

# Students may pay more, says departing Advanced Ed. Minister

by Shelby Cook

"We've tried to keep tuition low," said David Russell, Deputy Premier and Minister of Advanced Education on Wednesday, March 8, to an enthusiastic crowd.

However, despite his optimism, tuition fees are expected to gradually increase to fifteen percent of education costs. Students are now paying ten to twelve percent of the costs which are "about eight thousand dollars per year per student, on the average," Russell said. However, finances to private colleges, such as King's, Red Deer, and Camrose Lutheran will increase.

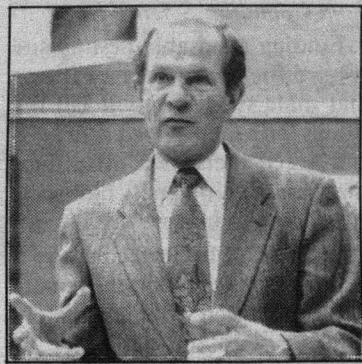
"By and large I believe we have been able to keep our student financing up and help out those who have needed it," he added.

Russell, who is not seeking re-election in the March 20 provincial election, will be a candidate to become Alberta's first elected senator this fall.

In his speech he outlined the accomplishments of the Lougheed and Getty governments, and he stressed his 22 years experience.

promoting himself as an experienced senator candidate.

According to Russell, Alberta has "more senior citizens enrolled in a post-secondary institution than any other Canadian province. The median age of students is 28."



Colin Northcutt

Dave Russell said tuition's on the rise and there's nothing he can do.

He also discussed how "distance education will be the wave of the future" due to the problem of accessibility for many people who want to pursue an education in their homes.

Regarding student loans, he said, "the system is starting to work," and the Student Finance

Board will become more cautious when giving out loans.

Russell supported Premier Getty's initiatives regarding the family and mentioned tht a major drug fight, wider in scope than the

Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC) will be launched as well. He stated that the problem of drug abuse has had a far-reaching effect on Albertans, from professional sports, to causing family breakups, and he added, even "moms have access to crack; it's quick to smoke" and easy to obtain.

The anti-drug campaign will be three pronged: education, prevention, and enforcement.

Touching most other issues, Russell made clear that he would not "draw a line between himself of Premier Getty in public."

The Heritage Trust Fund, with about fifteen billion dollars in its coffers now, will likely be a major source of funding for the anti-drug program, and "has to be spent frugally and carefully," by Premier Getty, said Russell.



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Find out at the next Gateway meeting. Newspaper staff will be gathering this Thursday at 5:00 pm in SUB 282 to endure some serious headaches over constitution bylaws, and to make plans for a staff party.