

# Government boosts job creation program

OTTAWA (CUP) — With Canadian students facing a possible 25 per cent unemployment rate this summer, the federal government has decided to step up its job creation program.

Employment minister Lloyd Axworthy announced Feb. 24 that summer job programs will receive \$170 million, up from \$120 million last summer.

Axworthy's department expects this funding to create 70,000 jobs and to place another 328,000 stu-

dents through Hire-A-Student centres.

But Bruce Tate, a Canadian Federation of Students researcher, claims the program is less impressive than it sounds. He said the extra 17,000 jobs the federal government will create this summer will do little for the more than 250,000 students expected to be unemployed. Tate said the program has been cut in recent years, and this year's increase will only bring its funding back to 1979 levels,

when inflation is considered.

Last year, 216,000 of the more than one million high school and post-secondary students looking for jobs were unemployed in July. CFS-Ontario researcher Richard Balnis predicts about 25 per cent of students may be unemployed at this summer's peak.

Tate said the government's estimate that 328,000 students will be placed through the more than 400 Hire-A-Student centres is deceptive because many of the jobs last only

a few days. The *Toronto Star* reported in March 1982 that "up to 20 per cent of the jobs listed for students involved work of five days or less."

"One job placement could earn the student \$100," said Tate. "What's that going to do for their living costs for that week, much less for school the following year?"

The government's claim that the program will prepare students for the job market is ironic, said Tate, because unemployment and a series of short-term jobs are indeed preparation for today's job market. He added that surveys for the student associations at the University of Victoria and Queen's University show 60 to 70 per cent of summer jobs are unrelated to students' programs or career goals.

Tate said the funding increase shows the government has recognized how serious youth unemployment has become, but their strategy will not help most 18 to 24 year-old unemployed people.

"On one hand, they're at least admitting there's a problem," said Tate. "On the other hand, one has to question if this approach is the answer."

CFS contends the only solution to summer unemployment is for the government to cut military spending, increase funding to the more job-intensive social services, end spending restraints and run larger short-term deficits. They claim this will create jobs and in the long-run wipe out the federal deficit.

## Summer Employment — The Big Question

by Bob Morrison

"It's difficult for me to believe someone can't find a summer job", said Bev Young, manager of the Canada Employment Centre on Campus.

Young explained those who say they can't find jobs probably do not try hard enough. "Finding a summer job is a full time job in itself and those who are willing to put in the time will get jobs," she said.

This year will likely be the most difficult year yet for students seeking summer jobs. Young does not see any significant increase in government summer job creation to meet the need. Provincial job creation will remain at almost the same level as last year. The federal government is only slightly increas-

ing its involvement with an expansion of the Summer Canada Grant program.

"I expect from two to three thousand people to apply through this office and several hundred to directly receive positions through our efforts", said Young. She added, however, fewer jobs are being filled through formal channels. Most jobs are now being filled by word of mouth as companies now see no real need for advertising in order to fill positions, she said.

The Employment Office is attempting to help students in applying for jobs by having workshops telling students the best ways to search for jobs and how to write a resume.

When asked when students

should start applying Young said "four or five months ago". She explained all good career-oriented jobs were filled in October when companies sent their representatives to the university. In January the process began again and she said encourages students to register as soon as possible as "deadlines are passing already."

Young did offer some final words of wisdom for students. "The key to finding a job is to start as early as possible and from all of these applications, one is sure to come through."

"Students must also lower their expectations in salaries and working conditions if they want to obtain a job," she said.



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