

# CROSSCANADA

## Innu demand negotiations

OTTAWA (CUP) — While most of us were enjoying Thanksgiving weekend by celebrating with family, 47 Innu were camping out on Parliament Hill under threat of being arrested by RCMP officers.

The protesters were from Davis Inlet in Labrador, a community that received international attention after a video showing six Innu children, high on gasoline and suicidal, was picked up by media world-wide.

"We are here in order to push the government to start negotiating with the Innu directly," said Peter Penashue, president of the Innu Nation.

The Innu of Davis Inlet say they want to communicate directly with the federal government. They want to move out of their poverty-stricken island into the more habitable Little Slango Pond.

The Innu were forced to settle as a community in Davis Inlet due to encroaching European civilization. Since then, this community has been plagued by alcoholism, sexual abuse, solvent abuse and domestic violence.

The stumbling block between the Innu of Davis Inlet and the federal government is the ruling that, in order for native communities to receive substantial funding, they must register under the Indian Act.

The Innu refuse to do so on the grounds that the Act is "outdated and paternalistic," said James. "It is like apartheid."

If they were to register under the Act, the government would have authority over how Band Councils are chosen, and can veto band by-laws, pass regulations over local matters, and unilaterally decide how monies are to be spent.

The Canadian Human Rights Commission released a report in August stating that requiring the Innu to register under the Indian Act "would be nothing more than a symbolic act of subordination."

The report recommends that the federal government formally acknowledge its constitutional responsibility towards the Innu, enter into direct negotiations with the Innu with respect to self-government, assist in the relocation of the Innu to a site chosen by them, and provide the necessary funding.

The federal government insists that the Innu will not fall under the same category as other natives by registering under the Indian Act, since they do not live on a reserve. Therefore, many of the regulations would not apply.

The act is "the only mechanism for the federal government to fund the Innu without having to go through the province," said Suesan Saville of the Ministry of Indian and Northern Affairs. "Over the past four or five years lots of changes to the Act have been made," she said.

Thanks to the media attention, the Innu escaped arrest and left on the sixth day of their protest, after the federal government assured them that they would have discussions with the new Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs following the elections. They were also promised some funds to support them through the winter months.

## 'Erratic' prof to be fired

TORONTO (CUP) — University of Toronto religious studies professor Herbert Richardson had a history of erratic behavior in the classroom, according to ex-students.

Richardson, who operates his own publishing company and chain of unaccredited universities, is being dismissed from his tenured position.

Although Vice-Dean Donald Dewees said he could not comment on the specific reasons for the dismissal, he acknowledged that Richardson has been the subject of numerous student complaints in recent years.

"He had a habit of humiliating students. He would suddenly grow very, very angry, scaring everyone in the class," said one student who asked to remain anonymous.

"He offered to buy all the books on the reading list for all of the students in class. If we decided to pay him back, he said the money would be given to the Salvation Army. It seemed a bit obsessive. Nice, but a bit grandiose," said another former student.

During one session, the student said, Richardson wanted to have the class sit in a perfect circle. When a teaching assistant tried to arrange the desks and failed, according to the student, Richardson fired the TA on the spot and in front of the class.

The dismissal of the teaching assistant was not officially recognized since the TA was not hired through the teaching assistants' union. Neither the university nor the department of religious studies was aware that a TA had been employed by Richardson at the time.

"It's true that he behaved erratically," said a second student in the same class. He was very unpredictable. Often he appeared to be crying. But I think I can understand since he often told us that he was suffering from Alzheimer's disease. It kind of accounts for his behavior."

There is evidence Richardson's classroom conduct has been questioned by students for some time. For at least five years, Richardson received overwhelmingly negative reviews in the student council's anti-calendar, including repeated references to his "highly unorthodox" and "erratic" classroom behavior.

Students surveyed in the anti-calendar criticized Richardson's tendency to ignore the curriculum as set by the Religious Studies department and repeated failures to honor the university's grading policy.

An academic tribunal will determine whether the university's dismissal proceedings against Richardson will continue. According to the university, there are four reasons they are dismissing the professor, reasons that remain confidential.

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# Election feedback

by Judy Reid

The federal election results held a few surprises for Canadians waking up to a new government on October 26. However, a majority Liberal Government did not appear to be one of them.

Of 295 seats, 177 belong to the Liberals, 54 to the Bloc Québécois, 52 have been claimed by the Reform party, the New Democrats and Progressive Conservatives scavenged 9 and 2 seats respectively, leaving just one left over for independent Gilles Bernier.

Canadians can no longer debate who will become our next leader. Instead they argue over which election results came as the biggest shock: the Bloc Québécois becoming the official opposition, that the Reform party could have been the official opposition, or that the elected New Democrats and Conservatives combined would have enough players for a softball team.

Many Dalhousie students are mulling over the party numbers, but more are concerned with what happens next. Through the following survey, students have voiced hope, concern, apprehension, resignation and cynicism with Canada's newly elected government.

The three questions asked were: 1. How did you vote? 2. What do you think of the election results? and 3. How do you think it will affect you?

**George Clarke**  
3rd year Law

1. Conservative.
2. I think it was inevitable that the Conservatives would get wiped out. However, I think that voters will very quickly become just as disgruntled with the Liberals as they have been with the Conservatives in the past.
3. I don't feel it will affect me differently. Things are going to continue to get worse for students. It's inevitable.



**Monica Jones**

- 1st year Science
1. Natural Law.
  2. Rather predictable considering final week of campaign.
  3. I have seen no improvement in the last few years, and don't plan on seeing improvement for students with Liberals in power.



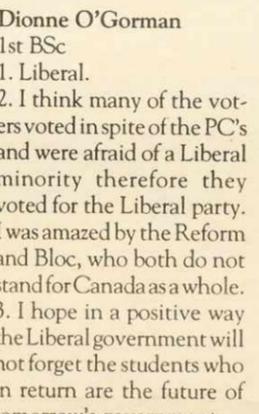
**Heather Fitzgerald**

- 1st year general Arts
1. Mary Clancy, Liberal.
  2. Very pleased that the Liberals won a majority, but concerned that the two regional parties (Bloc and Reform) are forming the main opposition.
  3. Hopefully the Liberals can come up with a plan to create a brighter outlook for our futures, i.e. jobs and Canada as a national body and not broken up into regional areas and interests.



**Harold MacPhee**

- 1st year Arts
1. Liberal.
  2. Wonderful. No more PCs. Pretty Childish People. Only two left.
  3. I hope the new government will facilitate a positive economic balance for all students, including me.



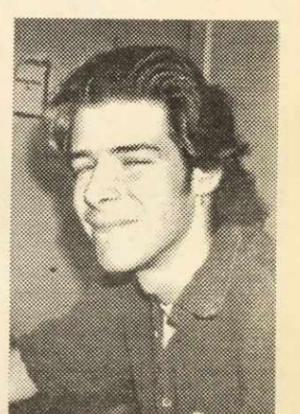
**Dionne O'Gorman**

- 1st BSc
1. Liberal.
  2. I think many of the voters voted in spite of the PC's and were afraid of a Liberal minority therefore they voted for the Liberal party. I was amazed by the Reform and Bloc, who both do not stand for Canada as a whole.
  3. I hope in a positive way the Liberal government will not forget the students who in return are the future of tomorrow's government.



**Andy Hoffman**

- 3rd year English
1. I spoiled my ballot.
  2. Scared by the rise of the Reform.
  3. I don't know. They will probably cut off all funding for universities. Surprise, surprise.



**Lisa Wollersheim**

- 1st year, Bachelor Science
1. I chose not to vote.
  2. It doesn't matter who's going to win, I'll be disappointed regardless, because there isn't a political party out there that's going to make a difference.
  3. I'm afraid that more restrictions will be put on student loans, and that acceptance into post-secondary institutions will become even more political than it already is.



**Iain Tench**

- 3rd year Psychology
1. Liberal.
  2. Predictable in many ways. However I am not sure if anyone was prepared for what happened with the Western vote.
  3. I would rather wait and see, then, analyze the effects.

## Harbour cleanup stalled

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suspect there are other ways [to save money] that I haven't even thought about."

"All the options have been looked at," says Paul Calda, President of Halifax Harbour Cleanup Incorporated (HHCI), a crown corporation established in 1988 to design and build a regional sewage system. "There are no

cheaper solutions."

Ruffman says he hopes the new Liberal government will be bold and innovative. He has been involved with the planning since the beginning, and is dismayed that "thinking [on this project] hasn't changed in 23 years."

"By no means is this project a done deal," he says. "There must be a public debate about the alternatives and about the structure of HHCI."

"It has totally secret board meetings, and you can't even read its minutes. We twice asked to speak to the Board and were never granted access."

That's true, says Calda, but it's beside the point.

"We are no different than anybody else. It's nothing unusual that board meetings are board meetings — they are not public meetings."