

DSU President Rod MacLeod speaks

The lowdown on tuition hikes

by Rod MacLeod,
President, Dalhousie Student Union

Since Human Resources and Development Minister Lloyd Axworthy released his Green Paper on "Improving Social Security in Canada" there has been a lot of protest. Some of this protest has been constructive, some of it has not. What follows is an outline of what the Dalhousie Student Union has done, is planning to do, and what you can do to help.

Part of the reason for protesting the proposed reforms is that they could potentially double tuition fees in Nova Scotia. This is significant because it would pose a very real barrier to higher education for many students. Just think how you would feel if you had to shell out twice as much for tuition. Would it be possible for you to do so?

Axworthy's proposal does include income contingent loan repayment (which means you only pay your loan if you have the money, and when you do start paying, your payments increase with your income) which is a loan system the DSU supports. However no loan system can diminish the reality that if our tuition's double, the debt would be enormous, which itself is a barrier to education.

The Dalhousie Student Union

is very concerned about this. We have expressed this concern in many ways so the voice of Dalhousie students will be heard by decision makers. For example, on Tuesday, November 1, several representatives from the student union met with the federal finance committee, which is touring the country to elicit feedback from people about the proposed changes. We let the finance committee know where we stand on the financial

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implications of the proposals.

The student union also sent representatives to Bridgewater on November 8 to attend a public forum with the Minister himself, Lloyd Axworthy. Over the course of the forum each DSU representative made a presentation and let the Minister know how his proposals would affect students' accessibility to higher education.

Incidentally, Axworthy refutes the notion of "doubling tuition."

Here are the facts. Dalhousie University receives \$39 million

from the government through Established Programs Financing (EPF) — the money Axworthy proposes to replace with student loans. If Dalhousie students have to pay this \$39 million it works out to be an additional \$3900 each. Add that to your tuition. Arts: \$3124, Science: \$3434, Education: \$3319, Engineering: \$3544, Commerce: \$3700 [average], Health Professions: \$3690 [average], Law: \$4000, Medicine: \$4369, Dentistry: \$4409, Graduate Studies: \$3553 [Masters average]. Dalhousie students, therefore, currently have an average tuition of \$3712. After the Axworthy proposals, the average Dal student will be paying \$3712 + \$3900 (the new student loan portion) = \$7612. Hmm, I guess Mr. Axworthy is right, our tuition's won't be doubling, they will more than double.

At a meeting with Axworthy the day after the Bridgewater affair, arranged by the Students' Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS), DSU representatives pointed out this fact, but again, he refuted it although he offered no explanation.

The DSU has also endorsed the "No More Smoke and Mirrors" document written by Kelly Lamrock, head of the New Brunswick Student Alliance. The DSU and dozens of other student associations signed onto the document

which has since received much attention from the Human Resources and Development (HRD) Committee currently traveling across the country asking people what they think of the Axworthy plan.

In the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) referendum held last month, Dalhousie students opted to pull out of CFS. In an effort to maintain Dal students' perspective on the national lobby scene, we have been working hard

...or his HRD committee members, please let us know.

to create a better national student lobby organization called the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA). To that end, Beth Owen (DSU V.P. Academic) and I participated in the latest CASA conference which produced not only a draft constitution for the new organization but also policies on ICLR's and EPF funding. They will be released to the media on December 7. These policies do much to respond to Axworthy's call for "students to have the guts to have meaningful dialogue on the

proposed changes," an area in my opinion where CFS has sat on their hands. Throwing eggs at the Minister does not get you anywhere.

So where do we go from here? The DSU is working on more plans to make sure that Dal students are heard. They include a written and oral submission to the HRD committee, a multi-message form letter for students to sign, a post card campaign, and a forum with Mary Clancy, our Liberal MP for Halifax. We are also trying to arrange a similar forum with Lloyd Axworthy for the next semester. If you have ideas on how to penetrate the heads of Lloyd Axworthy or his HRD committee members, please let us know.

Until then, there are things you can do. One is to email Mr. Axworthy himself. The address is lloyd.axworthy@hrdc-drnc.gc.ca. Another would be to write Axworthy or Mary Clancy a letter — no postage required (see DSU ad in this paper). Probably one of the best would be to come to a DSU Council meeting, the next one is Sunday, January 8 at 7 p.m. If you would like to get in touch with me, you can reach me at the Council offices at 494 1106 or email dsupres@ac.dal.ca, or Hal Maclean (DSU VP External) at the same number above or email dsuvpea@ac.dal.ca.

TIGER PATROL DRIVE HOME SERVICE 494-6400 • EVERY SUNDAY-FRIDAY

Dalhousie Tiger Patrol Shuttle Bus Service

The Shuttle Bus Service has been in operation for approximately two weeks.

This service is part of the Tiger Patrol service. Almost 200 students have taken advantage of this service. It is important to check the many posters that are around the campus for route and schedule information. If you have any questions about the routes or stops you can call the Dalhousie Security Office at 494-6400, any time.

There are two routes that the Shuttle bus travels, they are South and North area routes. Each route begins and ends at the Dalhousie Student Union Building (SUB) with five stops along the route before returning to the SUB for the next route. The South route includes, the Tupper building, Park Victoria, Fenwick, The SMU Tower and Peter Green Hall. The North Route includes the Preston and Jubilee Streets intersection, Two stops on Quinpool Rd, the Trade Mart Building on Brunswick Street and the North Commons area.

You will notice that on the Shuttle Bus advertisements all of the stops with departure times for each are indicated. This service runs from Sunday to Friday, starting at 6:15 each evening. The Shuttle Bus will not operate in extreme weather conditions.

Finally, this service cannot drive students to their front doors. Therefore, it is important for any student using this service to make further considerations for a safe walk from the Shuttle Bus stop to their homes. Please walk in groups or have someone meet you at the stop.

Tiffany Jay
Executive Vice President
Dalhousie Student Union

NORTHERN ROUTE DEPARTURES

1. Student Union Building (6136 University Ave.)		
6:50 pm	8:05 pm	9:20 pm 10:35 pm 11:50 pm
2. Jubilee Food Shops (6273 Jubilee Rd.)		
6:55 pm	8:10 pm	9:25 pm 10:40 pm 11:55 pm
3. MacRae's Barber Shop (6254 Quinpool Rd.)		
7:00 pm	8:15 pm	9:30 pm 10:45 pm 12:00 am
4. Bagel Works (6112 Quinpool Rd.)		
7:05 pm	8:20 pm	9:35 pm 10:50 pm 12:05 am
5. Trade Mart Building (2021 Brunswick St.)		
7:10 pm	8:25 pm	9:40 pm 10:55 pm 12:10 am
6. Canavan's Central Appraisal Centre (5771 Cunard St.)		
7:15 pm	8:30 pm	9:45 pm 11:00 pm 12:15 am

SOUTHERN ROUTE DEPARTURES

1. Student Union Building (6136 University Ave.)		
6:15 pm	7:30 pm	8:45 pm 10:00 pm 11:15 pm
2. Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building (5859 College St.)		
6:20 pm	7:35 pm	8:50 pm 10:05 pm 11:20 pm
3. Park Victoria Apartments (1333 South Park St.)		
6:25 pm	7:40 pm	8:55 pm 10:10 pm 11:25 pm
4. Fenwick Place (5599 Fenwick St.)		
6:30 pm	7:45 pm	9:00 pm 10:15 pm 11:30 pm
5. St. Mary's Tower Recreation Centre (Tower Rd.)		
6:35 pm	7:50 pm	9:05 pm 10:20 pm 11:35 pm
6. Peter Green Hall (1094 Wellington St.)		
6:40 pm	7:55 pm	9:10 pm 10:25 pm 11:40 pm