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Summer work programmes more popular than before By BILL MITCHELL "The turnout for the informa-

SUMMER WORKS PROgrammes are more popular than ever this year in the face of worsening employment prospects for students in Canada.

Schemes such as Katimavik and the Student Work Abroad Programme (SWAP) emphasize work experience in Canada and abroad at the expense of lower wages.

David Jennings, regional communications officer for Katimavik, says they are receiving more applications than usual this year.

"The demand is particulary greater among students," he says. Heather Crosby, Travel Cuts manager, says there has also been an increase in interest in SWAP. "The turnout for the information sessions last November were up between 30 and 50 percent from previous years," she says.

She says although actual applications for SWAP are presently the same as last year, there is no final deadline for applications. "So it is difficult to tell exact

numbers," she says. Crosby says poor employment prospects are a probable cause of the increase in interest in SWAP.

"Feedback from previous participants, and the new exemptions from British taxation laws are also factors too," she added. Laurie Edwards, of Canada

employment, says the unemployment rate for students last summer was almost 16 percent. That figure refers to the percentage of students unable to find a single day's work.

Cathy MacPherson, a Dal stu-

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dent who has successfully applied for SWAP, says she had not gotten a summer job in Halifax, and did not feel her prospects for summer employment were high.

"SWAP does give me a chance to go to Britain and have a summer job. The money won't pay for much more than living expenses, but I hope it will be enough to travel across Europe when the job finishes," she says. SWAP gives students a chance to work and live abroad.

Jennings says the Katimavik scheme is different from SWAP.

The programme lasts for nine months, with three months each at different locations. The participants are placed in a carefully selected group of 12 young people. The work concentrates on community projects.

"It's a year off that costs nothing," says Jennings.

Despite the increase in student demand for the Katimavik scheme, places have been restricted this year. Jennings says the government has cut back to 4,000 from the targeted 5,200 because it believes that Katimavik is not solid job creation.



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