

News

Federal job training plan irks provinces

REGINA (CUP) -- Lloyd Axworthy's proposals for shifting federal funds into training skilled workers for jobs expected to be in demand have provincial education ministers concerned.

Axworthy, federal minister of employment and immigration, met with his provincial counterparts January 11 to discuss his National Training Program scheme. A week later, provincial education ministers meeting in Regina at the Council of Ministers of Education of Canada (CMEC) said they were unhappy with it.

Saskatchewan education minister Douglas MacArthur, who chairs the CMEC, said January 19 that Axworthy's proposals as laid out are a direct attack on the public education system.

"The CMEC takes exception to the suggestions of the federal minister of employment and immigration, Lloyd Axworthy, that the current disastrously high unemployment levels are related to the functioning of the post-secondary education and training systems," said MacArthur. "Rather, the CMEC sees this crisis as more directly related to the federal government's economic policies."

Few details of the National Training Program have been announced. It is believed to be based on a federal labour market study released last summer.

That report calls for:

- o A shift in funding towards job areas expected to be in high demand
- o Substantially increasing subsidies to companies that train employees for designated high-demand jobs
- o Chopping funds for training people in job areas where there are now surpluses of workers
- o Granting funds to revise the programs of training institutions, aligning them with federal priorities
- o Offering seed money to volunteer groups for self-help programs.

The federal government has already said it wants to encourage training in computers, aerospace technology, petroleum industries, welding, tool-and-die working and sheet metal crafts. Axworthy has promised to consult the provinces on the development of national priorities.

MacArthur said the key element in Axworthy's plan is the

diversion of funds away from public education systems, especially technical institutes and community colleges.

At their meeting, the provincial education ministers also discussed the Canada Student Assistance plan.

MacArthur said the CMEC would like to see a higher per-

centage of student aid in grants or bursaries rather than the current repayable loans.

He said the CMEC discussed a loans remission program, to ease the debt load of students forced to take loans to pay for their education.

Under the program they considered, a higher and higher per-

centage of a student's loan would become a bursary, and would not have to be paid back. After one year of study, for example, 20 per cent of the student's loan might become bursary, after two years 50 per cent, and so on.

But students would only be eligible to receive a remission if they completed a certain number

of years and maintained a certain grade point average, under the CMEC model.

MacArthur said the CMEC is willing to work towards developing a new federal-provincial student aid program, but so far has received no commitment from secretary of state Gerald Regan to participate.

Taking it to the voters

by Catherine Ricketts and Kevin Charles Little

Apathy or no apathy - You're going to vote!

This year's student union elections will crack that tough nut the apathetic student. Not only will voting take place over three days, but polls will be taken directly into most of the larger classes.

Paula Arditti, Chief Electoral Officer, hopes that this novel approach will augment the usual 20 per cent turnout to 70-80 per cent. She believes that most students have the intention to vote but are "just too lazy to get to the polls. This way they'll have no excuse."

A small group under her command will hit "the largest classes and work down from there." She thinks it will take about ten minutes to collect the ballots from each section. Full-time Dalhousie students must present their ID's in order to vote. Their cards will be punched and their names crossed from a master list.

Although permission to enter classes has yet to be obtained from the individual professors, all but one department has given the

go ahead. At the last departmental meeting for the school of Business Administration a motion was passed to disallow voting during class time.

Polling stations will be open on campus in addition to the in-class efforts.

The following are the candidates and candidate teams vying for office in the student union elections. For President and vice-President respectively, the contestants are: George Fraser and Steve Curry (Commerce and Biology), George Fraser and Nick Katsopontes (both economics students), Peter Rans and John Russell (English and Public Administration), and Dave Rideout and Randy Kelly (Science and Biology).

For Board of Governors: Jay Doucet, Atul Sharma (Medicine), and for Senate: Greg Fitzgerald (Economics), Philip Fraser (Commerce), Colin Hames (Commerce), Chris Hartt (Political Science), Free Kampremann (Arts) and Beth MacConnell (Law).

Students trade Dal for Bolivia next month

by Heather Roseveare

Eight Dalhousie students will adopt the foreign policy of Bolivia to role-play that country in the National Model United Nations (NMUN) to be held in New York next month.

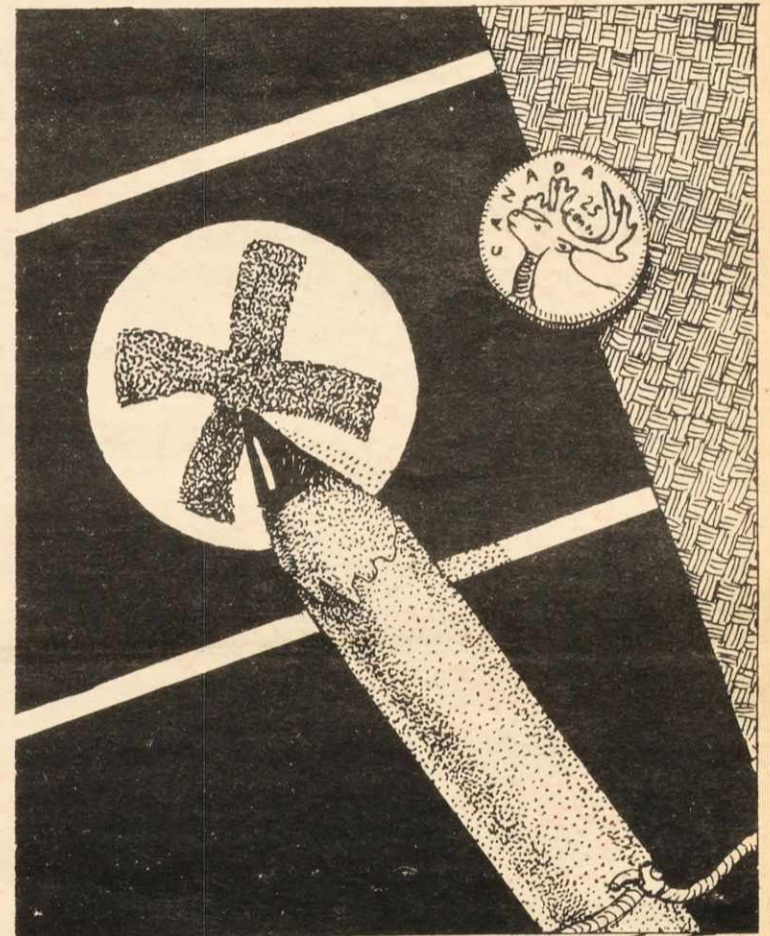
Judy Myrden, Michael Connor, Geoff Martin, Susan McIntyre, Peter Dawson, Christine Roquet, Charles Davidson and Mira Leah Gamsa comprise the second Dalhousie contingency ever to go to NMUN.

Last year's delegation repres-

ented Chili and the Bahamas. Myrden, treasurer of Dal's mock UN team, says Bolivia was chosen because "that was one of the few countries left."

Twelve hundred other North American students will attend the NMUN, including teams from Concordia, UPEI, and a CEGEP group from Montreal.

Myrden explains that any undergrad student could become part of the Dal delegation. Applications were called last October by the Political Science Society.



J. G. S. CUP

Although the delegation was to be chosen by last year's UN team, Myrden says "everyone who applied was accepted," adding that "many dropped out when they found out how much of a commitment it is."

Eight people are left to represent Dalhousie out of the original twenty-five applicants.

The group has been meeting weekly since December to draw up a resolution which they hope to get passed at the NMUN.

Myrden says "it's like a sixth

course." In fact, some American universities give credit for students' involvement in the NMUN.

With a cost of \$600 per person, the delegation has received donations from the Federal Department of External Affairs, the Provincial Department of Recreation and Culture, the Student Union and the Arts Society.

The conference will take place at the UN Headquarters. The students will meet with UN foreign ministers as well as Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Building manager resigns over missing money

by Cathy McDonald

A large missing sum of money has led to the resignation last Tuesday of Murdoch Ryan, from his position as Student Union Building Manager. The student union will not be pressing charges, President John Logan said, as Ryan has agreed to repay \$7,900.

In a routine monthly check of the relationship between expenses and income, an irregular ratio was found. Although it

cannot be proven that Ryan is responsible for what may be missing, Logan thinks there is a good case linking him to a substantial amount.

There is always money missing with irregularities occurring in many different areas of SUB management, but how much of it is attributable to Ryan is difficult to say, he said.

The system of accountability has not been operating the way it should said Student Union Man-

ager John Graham. From the moment a bank deposit is calculated and the bar services cash is put into bag for delivery to the bank, there should be only one person with access to the money. The system has been operating loosely this year, at times with five people all having a key to a room containing the money. In this situation no one can be held responsible for a potential theft.

The SUB manager should in theory have no access to any

money, playing an administrative role. Ryan was bar manager last year, and no one thought to take the keys from him, according to Kevin Feindel, Treasurer.

The system will now be tightened up. "If everybody did what they were told to do, there wouldn't be a problem," Graham said.

To press charges "wouldn't accomplish anything," Logan said. Ryan is quite willing to make amends. "He's been here nine

years. We'd hate to crucify him."

Feindel agreed the student union loses money here and there, such as after entertainment events. In one case last summer \$1,700 was missing. However, it is impossible to lay the blame with so many people working such an event.

Well-liked, Ryan did a "pretty damn good job" during his term of employment, Logan said.