

# Tuition Costs Around Canada.

By SHEENAGH MURPHY

Times are tough all over for those interested in secondary education judging from reports from Universities around the country. The Brunswickan contacted several universities across Canada for comments.

In the west, the situation seems slightly better than in the Maritimes. According to a spokesperson for The Peak, the Simon Fraser University student newspaper, "things move slow out here (British Columbia) and as yet there has been no word on tuition or residence increases."

He said that members of the university are concerned with higher education cutbacks, but that nothing elaborate to combat this cutbacks have been planned. "There's a few active campaigns here and there" he said "but while everyone likes the idea of fighting cutbacks, apathy predominates".

He felt that the administration was "holding the university students in suspense" and that "the less students knew about it the better is the attitude."

According to Jackie Brown of The Peak, Student tuition fees took a leap last year so will probably not increase this year.

The university has applied for its operating grant for the upcoming year but the province's decision will not be known until late April or early May.

Brown said that if the operating grant was not met, that university will probably consider cutting back on some of its services.

University costs and spending are monitored by a university review committee under the president.

Verne McDonald, wire editor of the University of British Columbia student newspaper the Ubssey said that it's not likely their university will see any increase.

He said that last year there had been a 25 per cent increase in tuition which brought their present tuition increase up to five or six hundred dollars per year.

He said that the university of BC was planning a rally in conjunction with other western universities. Students intend to march on the Legislative buildings in Victoria to protest cutbacks in higher education.

He said that the BC Students Federation also intend to lobby the MLA's and other political figures.

The word from the Prairies is that there will be an 8.2 per cent tuition increase. According to

Carillon news editor Glenn Brown "this brings up their tuition to the highest in western Canada", this at the University of Regina, Saskatchewan. He said there had been small demonstrations when the Board of Governors had their informal meeting.

At the official meeting, five to six hundred students occupied the board room for four hours. Brown said that the meeting got rather loud and that there was "yelling back and forth". Despite this the Board was not swayed and tuition went up. "A lot of students got really fed up and just left the room" said Brown.

Brown said that there was a rumor going around that there would also be an increase in residence fees, but nothing definite as yet. He said students intend a small demonstration and there will be a special meeting of different universities as well as a tentatively scheduled special mailing of the Carillon.

Ontario student newspaper the Silhouette from Hamilton reports no tuition increase next year. There was however a \$100.00 increase in tuition last year which brings the average tuition up to around \$750, according to the spokesperson.

The spokesperson also said that there will probably be residence increases. He said this will be settled in a few weeks. The Silhouette spokesperson said that the paper took part in the Queens Park rally which took place last week.

The rally was connected with the insufficient increase in operating grants from the Ontario University government. The universities received only a 5 per cent increase in operating grants over last year.

Queens University student newspaper The Queens Journal reports no tuition hikes next year but there will be residence fee increases.

A spokesperson for the Journal said that the Ontario universities were "hit hard" by cutbacks on campus and by insufficient government operating grants. He said that members are planning a meeting in Ottawa. The Ontario Federation of Students is to oppose long term higher education cutbacks and decreases.

The spokesperson said that Queens University took a neutral stand in reference to the Queens Park rally, although they did support it in principle. Despite this, 120 or so students from the university attended the rally

according to the spokesperson. He said that the amount of money received from the provincial government is only 8.0 per cent of what the university needs to operate. He said the present inflation at 9.5 percent the government gave only 4.5 percent as an increase.

One of the pertinent results of these cutbacks in higher education involves universities such as Trent University and Brock. He said that with less money and the trend today of decreasing enrolment, the universities may be obliged to fold as they could not compete with major universities.

The Ontario government also has a policy on differential fees which means that foreign students are obliged to pay more. The spokesperson said that the only university in Ontario which voted for differential fees was Queens. Differential fees will be implemented in September.

Sir George Williams University, Montreal Quebec reports no expectation of tuition increases. A spokesperson for the student newspaper the Georgian said this was due to the Parti Quebecois' platform of free tuition. Kevin Quinn said that while the

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## Library Hours Cutback

By JON LEES

University cutbacks that affect Maritime Universities are not a unique situation in Canada. According to the University of Regina's newspaper the Carillon, their library hours have been cutback 11 and one half hours per week. They have been cutback 1/2 hour from Monday to Friday, 5 hours on Saturdays and 4 hours on Sundays. The article says that the cutbacks are due to the lack of student work force to help out in

the library. According to the paper the "commissionaires work force has been declining" because students don't like to work late nights and weekends.

Sid Harland, head Librarian at the University of Regina claims that a return to the old hours would not end in positive results. He maintains that it would end in higher costs for the library, personnel recruitment problems and the bringing in of off-campus security forces.

The University of Toronto and other Ontario Universities are having cutback problems as well. According to the Medium II, the U of T student newspaper 300 part time instructors will be cut back next year at York University. It also says that Ryerson Polytechnical Institute is having difficulties too. Their facilities are closing earlier than before, there is now a curfew on students impairing them from completing important assignments. The University of Toronto has had academic spending cut by four percent. This means teaching cutbacks. Their Engineering Department has had cutbacks as well. With the decline of the dollar, the cost of equipment going up and the fact that most of their equipment is foreign bought, their Engineering department is going to be suffering greatly in a matter of years.

The U of T libraries are also facing cutbacks in the form of a reduced order of books.



Dr. John Anderson speaks to students in Blue Lounge yesterday concerning university operating grants, etc.

## UNB To Meet With Hatfield

By SHEENAGH MURPHY

Representative from the University of New Brunswick Fredericton and St. John Campuses will be meeting with Premier Richard Hatfield today to discuss possible increases in operating grants to universities.

As a representative of the Council of Maritime Premiers, Hatfield along with the other two premiers of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island gave only a 6.6 per cent increase in operating grants over last years. Berube and vp external Susan Shalala in conjunction with other student representatives from around the province have been attempting to get an increase in that operating grant.

Representatives Berube and



Shalala from UNB-Fredericton and Steven Hutchison and Dave Somerville from UNB-Saint John will be meeting with the premier.

Berube said he was optimistic about the outcome of the meeting with the premier but refused to

say why. He did say that "some monies may be coming" because members of the administration have been working on a plan of sorts to achieve this result. Berube said he did not wish to disclose what the plan was.

Berube said he was not pleased with the Board of Governor's decision to delay the question of tuition costs until May but "there wasn't much he could do about it". He said a lot of the members have to travel from places such as Ottawa.

He also said that there has been no word on the alterations and renovations fund, which is the only other grant for the provincial government and comprises a good part of the university's capital.

## Shalala on Exec.

Vice president external Susan Shalala has been accepted as a member of the executive committee of the Atlantic Federation of Students.

Recently, AFS spokesperson Tony Kelly expressed his unwillingness to have Shalala represented on the executive. Shalala would be representing the New Brunswick element of the Atlantic on AFS. She is presently chairperson of the New Brunswick Coalition of Students, and Kelly felt that the NBCS would undermine work which AFS was trying to do. He had felt that people might choose to drop out of

However, at a recent conference of the NBCS held at Mount Allison University, AFS and NBS members Mount Allison and St. Thomas University placed their support behind Shalala. Spokespersons for the two universities

said that unless she was admitted to the executive, they New Brunswick seat would remain empty.

the organization when they saw that they did not need to belong by Shalala's example.

Shalala is to attend a Halifax AFS conference this weekend.

The Bruns staff wish you the best of luck this summer

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