



Fed's budget sends mixed message to students

BY STEPHANIE NOLEN

The three per cent tax on student loans is gone. But so is the interest-free period on paybacks.

The student tax credit is up. So are loan limits.

But transfer payments are still frozen, so funding won't be increased.

With such a mix of good and bad, it is no surprise that student leaders have mixed reactions to the budget brought down by the federal government last week.

The budget will mean a lot of changes to the loan program and education funding.

The hated three per cent tax on student loans has been removed. Brought in a year ago, that tax forced students to pay back three percent of the value of their loan before they even saw the money.

All full time post-secondary students can now claim an \$80 per education credit on their taxes. That's up from \$60 per month, for all full-

time post-secondary students. Students with disabilities will now be able to claim the \$80 credit even if they are only studying part-time. There is also a promise that loan limits will be raised; the current level, set in 1983, is \$105 per week.

But on the down side, the six month interest-free period for student loan paybacks has been eliminated: interest will be charged from graduation day. And the freeze on transfer payments was not removed. That means provincial governments have to cut \$9 billion from the education bill by 1995.

Scott McCrossin, chair of the Student Union of Nova Scotia, says the budget will bring about some positive changes, and he calls it a "real victory for the students' movement."

But McCrossin is frustrated that transfer payments are still frozen. He says the continued freeze will mean even tougher times for students in the smaller provinces.

"Little old Nova Scotia gets beat

to shit again," he says, predicting another healthy hike in tuition fees at all of the province's post-secondary institutions.

**"Little old
Nova Scotia
gets
beat
to shit
again"**

Kelly Lamrock, chair of the Canadian Federation of Students, calls the continued freeze proof the federal government "still hasn't learned its lesson." Lamrock says this is a budget drafted by a government which doesn't value post-secondary education or have a commitment to building a solid economic future.

Perhaps the biggest blow the budget held for students, besides the freeze in transfer payments, is the elimination of the interest free period for student loan repayment. The change makes the CSL very similar to bank loans.

The government says the changes are necessary to cover the costs of students who default. CFS says their statistics show 90 per cent of all students repay their loans.

Also announced in the budget was a merger for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and the Canada Council, and the elimination of the Science Council of Canada. These changes will make life more difficult for grad students; these institutions provide grants, resources and opportunities for research.

"Students are finding they have to go to higher and higher levels of

education, in order to compete in the job market and internationally," McCrossin says. "These changes are going to mean there is a lot less money and less opportunities for graduate work."

But McCrossin says the many positive changes in the budget are proof

the students' movement can win help for the education funding crisis. The three per cent tax, for example, was the victim of a CFS battle.

"A lot of hard lobbying paid off," he says. "CFS deserves a lot of credit. But then, we're all CFS."



Come meet Premier Cameron

BY TANYA FADER

The Nova Scotia Business economic environment is an area of concern that should not be confined to particular Business or Masters of Business Administration students who have a personal interest in such an outlook.

Future growth sectors of the economy naturally spin off into all areas of academic study and have direct impact on the employment and lifestyle trends students will be immersed in - now and in the future.

The association of Students of Economics and Commerce (AIESEC) has taken a step to provide students an opportunity to gain a perspective on what the Premier, Don Cameron, views as 'The Economic Climate of Nova Scotia'.

On Wednesday, March 11, 1992 AIESEC Dalhousie's sixth annual business luncheon will enable students (from any faculty or area of

**This year's luncheon
will help students gain a
perspective on the
bigger picture**

interest) to attend and have an opportunity to derive an insight on Nova Scotia's future. As well the luncheon provides students the opportunity to ask questions to the Premier in regards to concerns or opportunities that need to be addressed.

Government funding for university education seems to be one of the

most vocal issues and thus, the question period provides for an excellent opportunity to address this issue.

Issues such as future growth sectors in the economy, medical frontiers, employment changes in the province are some examples of the questions that pervade the students mind but are hardly ever answered.

Hopefully, this year's luncheon will provide students with a gained perspective on the bigger picture.

It has been partially subsidized by the DSU, AIESEC, and the Dalhousie School of Business to make the cost of tickets (\$18) more affordable and encouraging for students to attend.

Tickets are being sold in the SUB from March 5-7, or on the first floor of the School of Business at the AIESEC office until March 10.

Stand-Up Comedy



"It Cracked Me Up"

Presented by the...



(Lord Nelson Hotel
at Spring Garden Rd.)

Win Win Win
\$1000.00

Grand Prize

"The Rubber Chicken Show"
Comedy Contest

\$100.00 Nightly Prizes Every Friday and Saturday

January 31 - March 20 Inc.

Finals March 21

Showtimes 9:30 p.m.

NO COVER
FOR INFO :
443-4583



DAL - OUTREACH
LESTER PEARSON INSTITUTE, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

The Tuesday Brown Bag Lunch Series is held weekly from 12 noon to 1:00 pm in the Seminar Room of the Lester Pearson Institute 1321 Edward St., Halifax. All discussions are open to the public. Bring your lunch and we'll supply the coffee.

Mar 3rd: "Street Kids in Latin America",
Speaker: Ms. Kristie Creighton

Mar 10th The Struggle for Community: Reflections from North East Thailand
Mr. Sean Kelly

Mar. 17th: Developing Aquaculture for Coastal Communities: Using Science with People
Speaker: Dr. Gary Newkirk

Mar. 24th: A Canadian Volunteer Abroad - For Whose Benefit?
Reflections from Costa Rica
Speaker: Ms. Helen Brédin

Mar. 31st. Sustainable Development and Poverty: The Challenge for Rio
Speaker: Dr. Robert Clarke

DAL - Outreach is supported by the Canadian International Development Agency's Public Participation Programme.