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- **Operations Coordinator**
- **Public Relations Coordinator**
- **Job Search Presenter Team Leader**
- **Job Search Presenters**

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Canada Alberta Chambers of Local Community Groups



Students and social workers walk out on Levesque

MONTREAL (CUP) — More than 1,000 social workers and McGill Social work students picketed Quebec Premier Rene Levesque's Montreal office as part of a province-wide day of protest against government cuts to social services November 12.

At the same time, more than 100,000 health and social affairs employees in the state network of employees in the state network of hospitals, school services, local community services and foster homes across Quebec protested against what Jacques Boissy, president of the Comite Provincial des Centres de Services Sociaux called, "the regressive social policy imposed by the Quebec government."

McGill social work students staged an all-day walkout in

staged an all-day walkout in conjunction with the day of protest, which was organized by the Confederation des Syndicats Nationaux (CSN). Workshops were held in place of classes for the social work students, allowing them to hear the issues and voice them to hear the issues and voice their concerns.

Vaugn Dowie, a community organizer at Montreal's Ville marie Social Services, spoke to the students, explaining that budget cutbacks were not exclusive to social services.

'The attack on low-income people is in all aspects of government dealing. The phenomenon of the government is to rid the deficit by picking the pockets of the people who can least pay," said

Dowie, however, was op-timistic for students entering the social work job market.

"Most of the people working in the system probably can't take it

much longer, so you will get jobs," he said.

Boissy, in a speech to demonstraters before the Hydro Quebec building which houses Premier Levesque's office, men-tioned that official statistics show the Quebec population has a lower rate of school attendance, a higher unemployment rate, and a lower average family income and life expectancy than the Canadian

"One should think that the government would seek to maintain and increase quality services in order to catch up," said Boissy. "But, on the contrary, it's begun a vicious cutbacks operation in the public sector, which will in-evitably translate into a destructive dismantling of many services needed by students, hospital patients, retired people, one-parent families, the poor, and children in need of social protec-

Brenda Yarcag, from the Montreal social affairs interunion committée, stated that close to 200 social workers and support personnel out of some 2,000 unionized employees in the three Montreal-based social affairs centers behind the protest action, might be laid off, meaning that thousands of cases would be

dropped.

She said the government's priorities were institutional care for the elderly and handicapped as well as youth protection as opposed to preventive, communityoriented services.

"Today's protest is meant to focus attention on the 'government's wrong priorities in social policies," said Yarcag.

