



These tykes may be waiting a long time for day care if they want to be close to mum and dad at Dal. (Jansen photo)

Day care

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a core group of ten people meet to write letters and proposals to university groups they hope will respond to the need for more day care at Dalhousie. The council of the faculty of medicine and the faculty as a whole have passed motions of support for needed day care, says Dawe, but now they need to apply more pressure on the university.

"We feel that the faculty and staff of the Tupper Building have indicated a real need for a day care facility in the immediate vicinity of their work. It would benefit not only parents of the attending children but employers and teachers of those parents who are affected by absenteeism of parents due to illness or other needs of



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Youth unemployment

By Geoff Stone

EMPLOYMENT FOR STUDENTS IN Halifax is scarce, but young people who are not in universities or colleges face even more closed doors and limited opportunities than do students.

Bev Young, co-ordinator of the Halifax Metro Outreach, says the real youth unemployment problem is explained by young people's lack of experience: no one is willing to give youth a break.

Now that high school diplomas have become necessary for even low-skill jobs, youth who have dropped out due to economic, emotional or social reasons are finding it harder to find meaningful work.

Youth who don't have time or money, especially single parents, to explore job possibilities, have few resources available to them if they have not finished their high school education.

Projects such as the Halifax Board of Trade Youth Project provide limited support to young people, some who have completed grade seven, but none that continued their education beyond grade nine.

Trainees in the program generally obtain a high school education and up to nine weeks experience in an industry once they graduate.

Using what is called "mini-stages," the trainees work for local industries, mostly big businesses, with such companies as the Nova Scotia Power Corporation, Sobeys, and Eatons involved. The jobs are mostly clerical.

Eighty five percent of the money for these projects comes from federal grants, and according to Randy Scaling, project co-ordinator, businesses are required only to "set the environment" for the twenty students trained.

According to one graduate, entry into the project requires a referral slip from Canada Employment. Applicants then write an entry test and are selected

after an interview with the trainers, who are hired by the board of trade.

Only 20 per cent of the original applicants are accepted into the project. So far, 50 per cent of the trainees have been women and only 10 per cent are black.

Other projects in Halifax are offered with the help of provincial and federal funding, but most of the money for youth employment is spent on the more popular student job creation programs.

Sharmen Langille of the Young Adult Employment Outreach says this type of project does not solve many of the problems youth face in the labour market. People are still laid off after the projects are completed, and many jobs provided are low skilled, such as dishwashing. There is consequently a high rate of job

turnover.

While employment programs seem to help during the non-summer months, the influx of students looking for work during the summer has a large impact on the chances other young people have of being hired.

Most businesses prefer to hire student even for unskilled labour. Young says as unemployment rises, the competition for jobs between students and non-students gets tighter.

Programs such as the federal government's Canadian Jobs Strategy have helped put youth into entry level low skilled job in the food industry and inventory control.

Companies that use these government grants in Nova Scotia are End Heat Aircraft Tech., Central Trust, National Sea and Maritime Tel and Tel.



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