

ng of Higher Education of Priorities...

says, but claims the province can only afford to offer long term solutions. King emphasizes the need to cut the provincial deficit and the importance of getting funding for projects that the province needs. King says he would "feel better by having the Trans Canada Highway funded, which provides jobs and gives up something we need, rather than just an endless toll of increased grants. "But he also says increased funding will be needed to train New Brunswickers so as to be more competitive.

CFS: The National Lobby

Jane Arnold hopes to play a major role in improving the prospects for Canadian students. As the Chairperson elect of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), she will be the spokesperson for over 400,000 students currently enrolled in post-secondary schools from coast to coast.

The main objective of CFS is to lobby the federal government on issues that directly affect Canadian students. An important issue is how provincial and federal funding affects the accessibility of post-secondary education.

Jane thinks that underfunding is a serious problem and she is determined to make a change. Education is constitutionally the responsibility of the provinces, although the federal government provides aid through transfer payments and Research grants. CFS maintains that this is still not enough to fit the ever increasing bill of educational costs and that as a result, this shortfall is made up through raised tuition fees.

Arnold believes that high tuition costs present many Canadians from obtaining exposure to higher education. As costs keep increasing, fewer qualified people will graduate into the Canadian economy. She is also concerned that Canadians will have to struggle to keep up with current world markets.

The new year brings with it the highly competitive Free Trade deal. CFS believes that Canada's success with Free Trade will depend on our economy's ability to keep up with the many diverse technological and social advancements, and that the best way to prepare for these

changes is through education, as well as research and development.

In 1984, the Federal Government promised to allocate 2.5% of the Gross National Product to research and development. To date this amount has not been provided. Jane thinks that now it is even more important that this funding be made available. "Canadian students desperately need these funds in order to have a prosperous future", she says.

In her role as CFS Chairperson, Arnold is going to lobby for a more federal approach to post-secondary education: "Taking more responsibility for higher education will force the federal government to see the desperate needs Canadian institutions are faced with. Hopefully then they will give the funds that will improve the accessibility and quality of post-secondary education."

*Stephane Comeau
Julie Hirschfield*

TABLE 2 ANNUAL TUITION FEE RANGES UNDER-GRADUATE ARTS AND SCIENCE 1987-88

Nova Scotia	\$1,520 - 1,735
New Brunswick	1,500 - 1,675
Prince Edward Island	1,560
Newfoundland	1,100
Quebec	450 - 830
Ontario	1,310 - 1,505
Manitoba	1,050 - 1,110
Saskatchewan	1,185 - 1,305
Alberta	940 - 1,060
British Columbia	1,380 - 1,690

Source: Statistics Canada

Quality of Education

The importance of higher education in today's information-oriented world is undeniable. It is clear from the statistics and views quoted earlier that higher education has not been as high on the provincial governments' list of priorities as many people think it should be. It is also quite likely that the quality of education isn't what it could be: is quality adversely affected by a higher student/teacher ratio? by the lack of certain books or journals in the libraries? by not having up-to-date lab equipment? One thing is certain, though, how high a priority is given to higher

education has far reaching implications. Opportunities squandered may never be regained...

TABLE 1 PROVINCIAL OPERATING GRANTS PER STUDENT (\$)

	1979-80		1980-81		1981-82		1982-83		1983-84	
	\$	Rank	\$	Rank	\$	Rank	\$	Rank	\$	Rank
Nova Scotia	4,074	10	4,379	9	4,908	8	5,079	8	5,154	8
New Brunswick	4,762	7	4,929	6	4,998	7	5,270	7	5,175	7
Prince Edward Island	4,246	8	4,441	8	4,720	9	5,023	9	5,089	9
Newfoundland	5,994	1	5,684	3	5,847	4	6,912	2	7,788	1
Quebec	5,299	4	5,935	2	6,176	3	5,915	5	5,713	5
Ontario	4,140	9	4,273	10	4,475	10	4,821	10	5,000	10
Manitoba	4,771	6	4,499	7	5,062	6	5,362	6	5,582	6
Saskatchewan	5,098	5	5,304	5	5,619	5	6,149	4	6,106	3
Alberta	5,815	2	6,285	1	6,812	1	7,328	1	7,182	2
British Columbia	5,337	3	5,683	4	6,433	2	6,402	3	6,072	4
CANADA	4,840		5,155		5,480		5,639		5,629	

Source: Tripartite Committee on Interprovincial Comparisons