

# Committee changes mystify students

HALIFAX (CUP) — Changes in the Maritimes education advisory committee touted as victories for two provincial premiers are actually just election ploys, according to student lobby groups.

Meanwhile, students in New Brunswick aren't even aware of the modifications.

After initially balking, the premiers of New Brunswick and PEI agreed with Nova Scotia head John Buchanan's proposal to add four directors to the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) at a July 7 meeting.

The MPHEC recommends post-secondary funding levels and directs university programs from a regional perspective. The changes have stilled rumours that Nova Scotia was consider-

ing pulling out of the organization.

But Royden Trainor, chair of the Students' Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS), representing seven of the province's 14 universities, doesn't think the new appointments will make the commission more effective.

"I think all of us are confused as to why the premier even wanted the change. They (Nova Scotia) can still be outvoted," said Trainor.

Traditionally, the directors on the MPHEC board number six from Nova Scotia, five from New Brunswick and four from PEI. The fifteen are nominated from three categories; the public at large, university faculty or administration, and the public service.

The changes mean Nova Sco-

tia will pick up three more representatives while New Brunswick ups its delegation by one. PEI retains four directors.

Trainor says the additions will be used as a carrot to gain stu-

dent votes in election campaigns.

"At a meeting last week, no one had heard of the changes," said James Small, NBSA vice-chair and vice-president exter-

nal of the University of New Brunswick student council. "the executive has not really been informed of anything."

"It's politicking but I'm really not sure of its effect

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