

Metis students face program drop

by Cam McCulloch

Karl Urion, of Native Student Services, is trying to keep a valuable University program afloat.

Urion is involved in an annual struggle to find funds for a program of unclassified courses offered by both the Universities of Alberta and Athabasca.

These courses are offered as a service to students who wish to get a taste of University without actually registering. Among those who take advantage of this are transfer, mature, and non-matriculated students.

Urion is especially concerned about Metis students.

While treaty Indians receive financial support through their own

Band or the Department of Indian Affairs, Metis students must arrange for their own loans.

Since funding assurance for the program usually comes too late, in August, many students are unable to then make successful loan applications to the Student Finance Board. Many Metis students, without alternate financial resources, are excluded from the program.

Urion is trying to assure continuity of funding so students can plan ahead and receive loan approvals in time to register for any one of the unclassified courses.

With a 67 per cent pass rate, the program is obviously a success, says Urion.

The required \$14,000 per year is

one-tenth the cost of a similar program offered off-campus in Slave Lake, Spruce Grove, and Blue Quill School.

In the past, the program has received funding from the Native Secretariat of the Provincial Government, the Department of Indian Affairs, and the University of Alberta itself.

Urion says, "Since it is not legitimate for the U of A to foot the bill we must go for external money."

The U of A has allocated enough money for this year, with 11 students registered in the program. But Urion adds, "If we don't get external funding we're going to have to let the program go."

Uranium stopped

MONTREAL (CUP) — Public protest has forced the British multinational Rio Tinto Zinc Ltd., which mines uranium from South Africa-occupied Namibia, to find another shipping line to transport uranium into Canada.

This could mean that uranium will no longer come through the Port of Montreal, or any other Canadian port.

Most shipments are en route to Eldorado Nuclear Ltd., a Canadian crown corporation which processes and refines the metal for export in Port Hope, Ontario.

Rio Tinto has used the Norway-based Canadian Christensen African Lines (CCAL) to ship uranium into Canada for several years, and is currently under contract with Eldorado.

But now, according to David Bauman, CCAL's Canadian representative, public outcry about the illegally-obtained Namibian uranium has prompted Rio Tinto to drop CCAL.

"We are very close to making that decision, but it was made for us by our suppliers (Rio Tinto) because of the problems it was causing us," said Bauman.

John Kinloch, a member of the ad-hoc Direct Action Network Against Military-Nuclear Racism, has been engaged in the protest campaign against the shipments since last April.

"Eldorado Nuclear is not going to allow this to interrupt their contract," he said. "Both Eldorado and the Canadian government have stated that breaking their contract would be detrimental to their reputation in the international business world."

The big word for Eldorado is to find another shipper — Canadian, European or otherwise — to bring uranium into the plant at Port Hope," he said.

Trade sanctions against South African imports announced recently by the Canadian government include a ban on uranium as well as other products such as coal, iron, steel and agriculture.

But according to the External Affairs department, the only uranium coming into Canada now is Namibian, not South African and therefore not subject to the terms of the sanctions. As a result, the Canadian government intends to honour the contract between Eldorado and Rio Tinto until its termination in 1988.

Peter Senton, an official of CCAL's North American broker, March Shipping Ltd., believes the shipping line has been unjustly caught in the controversy surrounding Canada's trade with South Africa.

"It is rather unfair for a protest to take place against a company that is transporting the material," he said. "This carrier, regardless of politics or social upheaval in South Africa, has a main objective to carry

products from point A to B."

Both Senton and Bauman said the loss of Rio Tinto's business combined with the government sanctions could seriously threaten the future operations of their companies.

"It means we are going to concentrate more on the U.S. market," said Bauman, "which is disappointing since we've operated a stable service from South Africa to Canada since 1948 and this is the first time

there has been government intervention."

Asked if he knew about the new sanctions and CCAL's rejection, an official at Eldorado Nuclear Ltd. said, "No, but even if I did I wouldn't say anything. That is a commercial arrangement."

As a crown corporation, Eldorado is not legally required to divulge any information to the public under the Access to Information Act.



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