

NEWS

Deadline: Wednesday at 12:00 noon. News Desk: 453-4983

MP raises issue of 3% tax on loans

by Kayleigh Freeman

During question period in the House of Commons on Friday, Bud Bird, Member of Parliament for Fredericton-York Sunbury, questioned the government's progress on eliminating the 3% fee on student loans.

The federal budget, released in 1992, had indicated that discussions were ongoing with Canadian banks about changes in the student loan program, one of which was to be the elimination of the 3% surcharge.

As outlined in a recent press release, Bird questioned "if these

negotiations have now reached the stage that the surcharge of 3% on student loans can in fact be eliminated."

Responding to Bird's question, the Honorable Gerry Weiner reaffirmed that the banks and the government were still discussing the matter.

Bird later commented, outside the House, that he was disappointed with the response he was given.

"Surely after more than a full year of negotiation, a way can be found for the banks to eliminate this extra charge from the student loan process. It has become an irritating symbol to students across the country who are finding their education costs so difficult to bear."

Members of the PC Youth Federation support Bird's initiative. Jim MacGee, president of the Fredericton York Sunbury PC Youth, says Bird realizes that many of his constituents are students, and that questioning his party's progress on the issue shows his concern for those constituents.

Dennis McCarron, president of the UNB/STU PC Youth, echoed MacGee's feelings and commented that Bird's action was indicative of some of the other initiatives he has taken during his time at Parliament.

UNB SU Vice-President External, Tammy Yates, while

applauding the fact that the issue was brought up a year the initiative's unveiling, feels more needs to be done. She comments that she is "very supportive" of the MP's action and "would like to see more of it."

In a recent release in response to Bird's initiative, Yates says it is "encouraging to see (student) concerns finally finding their way to Ottawa," and that "we have to hope he is willing to continue working with students."

Approximately 50 percent of students at UNB rely on Canada Student Loans to cover their educational costs, and, for those receiving a full student loan, \$3360, the tax amounts to approximately \$100.

Yates comments that the 3% tax is "one of the most unfair taxes we've seen."

"A student's financial need is assessed under the Canada Student Loan Program, but then the government takes back 3% of that money. It seems like a sick joke to students who are struggling to pay tuition, buy groceries and pay rent," she continues.

Gold Medal for Science

by Mark I. Minor

Dr. Pierre Deslongchamps, who received his Ph.D. from the University of New Brunswick in 1964, will be awarded the Canada Gold Medal for Science and Engineering in June. The award

recognizes Deslongchamps' extensive contributions to research in organic chemistry in Canada over the span of his career.

Deslongchamps received his BSc from Université de Montreal in 1959. After his years of study

at UNB under Dr. Adenok Valenta, he pursued post doctoral studies at Harvard University until 1966. He taught and undertook research briefly at Université de Montreal before joining the Faculty at Université de Sherbrooke in 1967.

As well, Deslongchamps holds several honorary doctorates from institutions such as Université Pierre et Marie Curie in Paris, Université de Montreal, University of New Brunswick and Bishops University. Among other distinctions conferred on Deslongchamps are his

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UNB CNSA delegates Suzanne Emery and Randy Hickey are shown with the CNSA Atlantic Achievement Award won by UNB at the recent CNSA National conference. Kevin L. Porter photo.

UNB CNSA wins Atlantic Achievement Award

CNSA Press Release

The university of New Brunswick school of nursing sent two delegates to the 1993 Canadian Nursing Students' Association (CNSA/AEIC) National Conference held in Edmonton, Alberta on Jan. 27-31. The focus of this conference was "Discovering Ourselves".

Approximately 150 students from across Canada were in attendance. The speakers addressed many issues such as Spirituality in Nursing, Women in Health Care, Empowerment and Sexuality.

UNB is proud to return from this conference with the Atlantic Achievement Award given to the school in the Atlantic region who has best promoted CNSA and nursing image in the region.

UNB's two representatives at the four day event were Randy Hickey and Suzanne Emery. Some highlights of the Conference included: guest speakers, business meetings, a visit to the Alberta Registered Nursing Archives, election of officers, a banquet, a night at

Edmonton's popular Cook County Saloon and a charity auction where a UNB Nursing sweatshirt was auctioned for \$60.

In 1970, McGill University proposed the idea for a Canadian Association of University Nursing Students, and two years later the constitution was adopted at the University of Windsor. In 1992 during the National Conference at Queen's University the assembly voted to include diploma and collaborative nursing students. This was a major victory for CNSA uniting diploma and university students.

CNSA/AEIC is the official voice of nursing students across Canada. Its aim is to increase the legal, moral, professional, and educational aspects that are an integral part of nursing.

The Conference is held in a different region each year and next year UNB will be proud to host this event. If anyone is interested in finding out more about CNSA/AEIC and next year's conference, information is displayed in the Lobby of MacLaggan Hall.

UNB students going to Sri Lanka

Press Release

Sri Lanka, the land once described as serendipity, will soon be host to two students from UNB. Michelle Forbes and Greg Hoare have been awarded Visiting Fellowships by the International Centre for Ethnic Studies in September.

Both Forbes and Hoare will work with Dr. Neelan Tiruchelvam, who works as an observer in teams which monitor the conduct of democratic elections in what were one-party Third World regimes. Tiruchelvam is also known internationally for his work on human rights. He has been intimately involved in the peace process in Sri Lanka.

Students will also work with Dr. Rhadika Coomaraswamy

who is Director of the International Centre for Ethnic Studies, Colombo, and has published extensively.

While in Sri Lanka Michelle Forbes will undertake a study of bilingualism in Canada and compare it with the state's policy in respect of Sinhalese and Tamil as official languages in Sri Lanka. Greg Hoare will compare devolution and decentralization in Canada with the provincial council set up in Sri Lanka.

Hoare says that the whole process began when he and Forbes began to fill out a Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) application. Before they could finish the application, they learned that the federal government had deleted 640 million dollars from the foreign

aid budget. "Both of us were very disheartened by the news," says Hoare "we felt that any and all chances of working in Sri Lanka had just disappeared." However, it was during the Christmas Break that Dr. A. I. Wilson of UNB's political science department decided to go to bat for his two students. Using his own international reputation, he was able to secure the confidence of the Sri Lankan government, the International Centre for Ethnic Studies, the Ford Foundation and CIDA in order that Forbes and Hoare might be given this opportunity. "For budding political scientists," says Hoare, "it is perhaps the best Christmas present that we could have received." Their adventure begins Sept. 1, 1993 and concludes March 1, 1994.



Shown are political science students Michelle Forbes and Greg Hoare, with Dr. A.I. Wilson of the UNB political science department. With Dr. Wilson's assistance, the two students were able to secure Visiting Fellowships from the International Centre for Ethnic Studies. The students will be doing research in Sri Lanka from September till March. Kevin L. Porter photo.