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# QUEST FOR FUNDS

Sask. Education Minister angry

## "Dodge Report threat to education"

Saskatchewan (CUP) - Saskatchewan's Education Minister is angry at the direction federal policies toward post-secondary education are taking.

Doug McArthur told a Saskatoon audience recently that the federal proposals based on the July 1981 "Dodge Report" are the "Biggest threat to higher education today."

The report states that the universities are not providing the kind of skilled employees in demand, so federal policies must be changed so that they will do so. McArthur said three propos-

ed federal approaches to post-secondary education are to reduce funding, target it to specific programs, or introduce a voucher system.

In the voucher system, students who enrolled in programs the government deemed to be in high demand would receive vouchers paying for some or all of their education.

The objections to these proposals are "self-evident," McArthur said. "The universities will become occupational training centres, or be sacrificed to the whims of politicians."

McArthur said the federal government is determined to dismantle the Established Programs Financing (EPF) program of transfers to the provinces targeted for post-secondary education and health care.

"The federal government intends to spend less, but develop a high visibility and direct control over spending," said McArthur. "This is frightening."

McArthur said the federal government's claim that the provinces have been incorrectly using EPF funds is "nonsense." He said federal charges that provincial funding increases for advanced education and health care have not kept pace with the increase in federal transfers under EPF "are true because that's the way it was supposed to be."

"If we did increase correspondingly, it would put provincial expenditures up," he said. "No reasonable person would advocate this."

McArthur hopes a conference planned by the Council of Ministers of Education of Canada will strengthen the provinces in their negotiations with the federal government, by influencing public opinion.

"I shudder when I see university officials saying federal proposals are reasonable," said McArthur. "We must work together to gain public support."

McArthur says he opposes major increases in tuition fees. "Ideally, I want to see them stay at 11 per cent (of operating costs) or be reduced."

When asked how he would respond if tuition fees were raised 30 per cent in Saskatchewan, similar to the hike announced at the U of BC, McArthur replied: "If 30 per cent increases were reached, we would have to put a stop to it."

## U of Vic joins differential list

VICTORIA (CUP) — The University of Victoria may soon add itself to the list of Canadian institutions charging international students more money in tuition fees.

Differential fees might be imposed this fall, depending on U Vic's finances, says a university administrator.

U Vic academic vice president Alfred Fischer said recently he would not rule out the adoption of differential fees when the university sets its 1982-83 policy in May. The institution must "see what resources we have" before making a decision, he said.

Funding available to the universities in B.C., including U Vic, will not be definite until the provincial government budget is approved, likely in April.

Fischer said U Vic and UBC might be forced to implement differential fees to prevent international students from transferring from one university to the other in an effort to avoid the higher fees.

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