

NUS also demands that repayment of loans begin six months after the student finds full employment, instead of six months after graduation, as is currently the case.

The demand for the elimination of the summer savings requirement was highlighted by unemployment among students last summer estimated by New Democratic MP John Rodriguez at between 15 and 20 per cent.

The exact figure is impossible to determine since the department of manpower and immigration cancelled a special survey on student employment following the elimination of the Opportunities for Youth program and the 30,000 jobs it provided this year.

Rodriguez, in a statement, cited studies showing that students from families with incomes less than \$6000 yearly had only a 25 per cent chance of attending university this fall, and a 47 per cent chance to attend other post-secondary institutions. Another study shows students from income backgrounds of \$15,000 upwards are three times as likely to go on to higher education as the former group.

NUS recommends that students contribution be assessed on the basis of their actual earnings, as is the case in Nova Scotia.

Cutbacks

Cutbacks in public expenditures - social service and education costs - have been felt in every province at steadily increasing rates in the past three years.

In Ontario increased funding for post-secondary education decreased to 14.4 per cent last year from 16.9 per cent the previous (1974-75) academic year. This year, university presidents are talking about raising an additional 11 per cent not covered by government funding through tuition fee hikes.

Alberta has had an 11 per cent ceiling on increases in operating grants for the past two years. The British Columbia government is shutting down a university.

Nationally, the current estimates from Statistics Canada for the 1976-77 academic year show a decrease in non-university sector of post-secondary education to 11.6 from 17.8 per cent the previous year, and 10 per cent from a previous 19.5 per cent for universities.

That the decreases are slated to continue can be seen in current negotiations in cost-sharing between the federal government and the provinces, covered under the Fiscal Arrangements Act (FAA) which expires next April.

Under the FAA there is already a 15 per cent ceiling on increases in fiscal transfers, through which the federal government matches dollar-for-dollar what

the provincial governments spend from their own revenues. Federal proposals in recent negotiations call for a reduction in these payments and the elimination of revenue-guarantee, meaning the loss of between \$750 million and \$1 billion for provinces affected by federal tax revisions.

Federal officials have admitted the new proposals, which include a transfer of taxation powers to the provinces. Cash grants based on the growth of the gross national product will mean further reductions in public expenditures.

Wealthier provinces like Ontario have expressed interest in the tax transfer proposal, which would untie provincial expenditures from federal matching grants and allow the provinces to spend even less on post-secondary education. Smaller provinces have rejected the proposal since their small tax bases would mean drastic reductions in revenues.

The Trudeau government has let the provinces know it can amend the formula

National Student Day DECLARATION

THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE STUDENTS OF CANADA TO PARTICIPATE IN DECISIONS WHICH WILL AFFECT THE FUTURE OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION.

THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE STUDENTS OF CANADA TO EXAMINE THEIR OBLIGATIONS TO SOCIETY; TO THE FUTURE STUDENTS OF THIS COUNTRY; AND TO EACH OTHER.

THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE STUDENTS TO HOLD A NATIONAL STUDENT DAY AND BEGIN THE SEARCH FOR A JUST AND WISE FUTURE FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION.

THAT TIME IS NOVEMBER 9TH.

ON NOVEMBER 9TH STUDENTS WILL CONSIDER

- INCREASING TUITION FEES
- RISING UNEMPLOYMENT
- REGRESSIVE STUDENT AID CHANGES
- CUTBACKS IN EDUCATION AND OTHER PARTS OF SOCIETY

AND FURTHER CONCERNS THAT CANADIAN STUDENTS SHARE.
ON NOVEMBER 9TH THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS WILL RECEIVE A STATEMENT OF CANADIAN STUDENTS' CONCERNS.

without their approval because the FAA is a federal act.

The Trudeau government has let the provinces know it can amend the formula without their approval because the FAA is a federal act.

NUS argues in a brief to be presented to federal officials on National Student Day that student representatives should be present at fiscal negotiations, which are attended only by federal and provincial government ministers.

The brief notes that provinces frequently inflate their operating budgets to attract more federal revenues and then divert the funds into other areas. It calls for strict federal control over the transfers to ensure these are used for post-secondary education.

The NUS brief goes on to advocate the elimination of ceilings on fiscal transfers, with the federal government increasing funding of provincial public expenditures until the costs have been met.

NUS also "recommends investigation of a greater corporate tax contribution as a possible means of expanding funds for post-secondary education," the brief states.

Unemployment Aid

Faced with record unemployment among students seeking summer jobs, the national and provincial organizations made unemployment their top priority over the summer and delegates to the NUS conference in October voted to make unemployment a NUS priority following National Student Day.

Student unemployment is a microcosm of the mass unemployment in Canada today. Seasonally adjusted figures from Statistics Canada show that 750,000 people in the labor force are looking for work. This situation was aggravated rather than eased by the curtailment of job creation programs under the federal government's cutbacks policies.

The Canadian Labor Congress, as part of its opposition to the wage and price controls program has demanded the government make full employment its number one priority.

NUS lobbied the manpower ministry to resume job creation programs after the cancellation of OFY and related programs.

Manpower minister Jack Cullen's recent announcement of his "five-year employment strategy" did little to assuage the opponents of the Trudeau government's restraint policies. It promises the creation of a "Canada Works" and a "Young Canada Works" program, the latter aimed at students, to provide 61,000 jobs and 21,000 jobs respectively. The student jobs are to be based on provincial minimum wages and are of short duration, lasting up to 14 weeks.

Meanwhile, the ministry raised the minimum time required to be eligible for Unemployment Insurance to 12 from 8

work weeks, effectively disqualifying many students who may need the benefits if they fail to find work the following summer.

Rationale

Cutbacks in post-secondary education funding, which include not only direct fiscal reduction but also tuition hikes and increasing emphasis on loans in student

financial aid, show an attempt to rationalize education in a period of economic recession and the resulting decreased demand for an educated labor force.

Education will continue to experience boom and bust years as long as it is tied to the fluctuating welfare of private corporations. And during the bust periods, low-income students will be the first to go.

As the author of a NUS discussion paper puts it, "At the present time, students' interests do not coincide with those of the government and corporations. The latter seem determined to compromise accessibility to post-secondary education and students will have to fight in order to keep their fundamental right to higher education."

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FIGHT FOR US ALL