

Maclean's editor optimistic

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them as it once had been. Government cutbacks have left schools with little money, forcing them to charge more for tuition. Higher tuition means less students can go to university because it's too expensive. She fears universities will be a privilege left only for the upper classes. It's a cycle that Dowsett-Johnston is afraid of.

But enough about what Dowsett-Johnston says about the state of education. What does she say about the rankings?

What makes the University of Toronto the number one school in the country, for instance?

She says it's a combination of things. Class size plays a part, as does the library. And all the factors need money — a rare commodity at many schools.

This past year, Dal was nowhere near the top of the rankings. While she says Dal offers a wide range of programs, one area where she says Dal does falter is in student accessibility.

Dowsett-Johnston says Dalhousie, because of its size, does not lend itself to making connections with its students. She says smaller schools, like Saint Mary's, do a better job at making the link.

Even though huge schools like the University of Toronto come in number one, this is all related to the amount of money available to the school.

In the end, Dowsett-Johnston's argument comes down to money as the monster behind the university machine.

She just hopes you aren't scared off from university life for good.

Deadlines surprising

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"W"'s are not factored into Grade Point Average (GPA) calculations, but do show up on transcripts. Most graduate schools give you the opportunity to explain a "W", and some, such as the Dalhousie medical school, even require an explanation.

But Hildi Konok, assistant dean of the faculty of arts and social sciences, says getting a "W" isn't

such a big deal.

"I know that students tend to freak out over the "W"'s. But the only time it has a negative impact is in an already weak transcript," she said.

Mark Galley, a psychology major, disagrees.

"No matter what you apply for or where you go the "W" will follow you... it puts the rest of your academic performance for that year in question."

Tobin's pre-election cash injection means tuition freeze for Memorial

BY JEFF POWER

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) — The Newfoundland government dished out almost \$12-million for post-secondary education last week, paving the way for a two-year tuition freeze for students at the province's only university.

Memorial University will get an extra \$7-million for its operating grant while the remaining \$4.9-million will go to the College of the North Atlantic, Newfoundland's public college system.

Newfoundland Premier Brian Tobin announced the new money at a Jan. 14 news conference, prompting media analysts and opposition leaders to call the move a case of pre-election spending.

"It is time to begin... reinvesting in these institutions now that efficiencies have been found," Tobin said.

"They've all played their part in restraint for the first two or three years of this government's plan and now it's time — prudently — to reinvest."

Memorial responded to the news Friday by officially endorsing a tuition-freeze for the next two years.

Currently set at \$99-million, the university's budget is now guaranteed to stay at \$106-million for the next two years.

Since 1994, the provincial government had cut its payments to Memorial by \$19.6-million.

University officials hailed the cash injection as "the best birthday present" Memorial could receive for its 50th anniversary.

"I'm particularly pleased for our students," said Memorial president Art May.

"Their fees have been increasing over the past number of

But while government and university officials were pleased with the money, student leaders say more is still needed.

Dale Kirby, chair of the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Students, says while he is glad the government is doing something, he doesn't see how the announcement will help relieve high student debt loads.

"The \$12-million the government is reinvesting in post-secondary education falls short

"In the end, this is a Band-Aid solution to a much larger problem that is there."

years and we were very concerned about the impact that was having on accessibility and student debt loads."

May added the money would allow Memorial to be "the lowest cost [university] in Atlantic Canada... [and] that's a place where we want to be."

Students attending the College of the North Atlantic will also no longer have to worry about tuition increases, says Vince Withers, chairman of the college's governing board.

"[The College was] going to have to increase our tuition fees, in the next two years, by between 20 and 30 percent," he said, but that will no longer happen.

of the reinstatement of funding to pre-1994 levels that Newfoundland students have asked for," he said.

Kirby says students need five times the money the government is currently offering to offset the 250 percent increase in tuition fees over the last decade

"[It's] a start, but it's only that," he said. "It's not groundbreaking."

Brett Dawe, a vice-president with Memorial's student union, says he was "generally pleased with the tuition freeze". But he agrees with Kirby that there is nothing new to address student debt.

"In the end, this is a Band-Aid solution to a much larger problem that is there," Dawe said.

Students launch anti-sweatshop campaign

BY ANDREW SUNSTRUM

TORONTO (CUP) — A group of University of Toronto students have launched a campaign to ensure ethical standards are met before companies are granted the right to use the school's logo.

Following in the footsteps of successful campaigns at Duke University and Brown University in the U.S., Students Against Sweatshops has begun to pressure the university into passing a code of conduct for its licensees and bulk purchases.

A sweatshop refers to the conditions common in Indonesia, China and Honduras where workers (mostly women) are paid wages so low they can barely survive on them. They also work extended overtime hours, sometimes in poor or dangerous conditions, and are denied the right to organize unions.

At U of T, there are currently between 10 and 12 licensees who are granted the rights to use the university's insignia on their products — everything from sweatshirts to binders.

The current licensee policy stipulates these companies must agree to fulfil a number of responsibilities, including uphold the reputation and prestige of the university, promoting and increasing the distribution and sale of the product and accepting joint responsibility for policing the use of the logo.

But members of Students Against Sweatshops say any code of conduct governing university procurement must include full

public disclosure of factory names and addresses and implement a serious living wage policy, which is not in the present policy.

They argue U of T's present licensing policy does nothing to respect workers' rights.

"Without independent monitoring of the process you can't ensure that U of T clothing was made fairly and safely and for a living wage," said Ian Thomson, who has been working on the campaign to implement ethical standards in U of T's licensing policy since September.

The rampant nature of sweatshop working conditions in the garment industry makes it hard to avoid clothes that are manufactured under such conditions, argues Thomson.

"If you're wearing clothing right now, chances are you're wearing something that was made in these conditions," he said.

Administrators say that they are currently reviewing revisions to the licensing policy and will likely implement them next month.

Alison Liddell, manager of the university's affinity services, has been working on the policy revisions for months.

She explains that any company wishing to use the U of T insignia must meet several criteria and present U of T with references before they are approved.

"It's not necessarily difficult to become a licensee, but it is time-consuming," Liddell said.

Rivi Frankle, director of

alumni and development at U of T, says that plans to amend the licensing policy at U of T have been underway for a year and a half.

"We're trying to touch on everything the university should consider when licensing the university's crest," she said of the ongoing revisions.

Frankle has studied the Duke University policy because it provides useful input for the deliberations, but says U of T's policy won't be as comprehensive as Duke's.

"Because [Duke's] was so detailed, the first thought must be 'My god how can you police that? Who will look at all the details and how?'" Frankle asked.

Duke's code of conduct deals with a range of internationally-accepted labour standards, including guarantees of health and safety, freedom of association and collective bargaining.

It also offers protection against child labour, forced labour, sound environmental practices and ethical business conduct.

Tico Almeida, founder of the Duke University chapter of Students Against Sweatshops in Raleigh, N.C., says the goal is to change the entire policing system.

"The most significant aspect of Duke's code is that independent monitors will be selected and given permission to inspect factories for compliance," Almeida said.

Whereas U of T has a dozen licensees who use the university's insignia on their product, Duke has 700.



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CALGARY	—	18:55	—	—	—	—	—
TORONTO	—	16:00	12:25*	15:20	—	—	—
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*Week of Jan 4 only

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