

Moncton MP keynote speaker at PCY meeting

by DWIGHT MACMINN

Moncton Member of Parliament Dennis Cochrane was the keynote speaker Wednesday evening at a joint meeting of the UNB, York-Sunbury Progressive Conservative Youth Associations.

"You have a government (majority) that's large. We wanted change, and we don't see much" is a view Mr. Cochrane identifies as being held by a significant number of Canadians. In addressing the federal government's record for change, the MP concentrated on issues related to Canada-US relations and economic policy.

In defence of the view that Mr. Mulroney is merely cowering to US dictates, he pointed to the 'no thanks' the Strategic Defense Initiative received from the Conservative government. Noting the addition of 8000 Armed Forces personnel, the Frigate Program, and Canada's response to the Northern Sovereignty issue, the Moncton MP said that Canada does have its own identity and sovereignty which the present government is unwilling to compromise.

Turning to economic issues, Cochrane attacked the Foreign Investment Review Agency and cited the recent refusal of

an investment bid by Investment Canada "the somewhat look-alike replacement agency" as evidence that the government is not selling out.

On the themes of unemployment, interest rates and housing, he said "Interest rates for mortgages have dropped from 14 and 1/4 to 11%, unemployment from 11.6 to 10.1%, and housing starts are up by over

60% in NB."

The Tuna Affair was raised in a Question and Answer session which followed Cochrane's remarks. Asked about the media's handling of the story, he suggested that the national media has very little empathy with the plight of workers in St. Andrews.

The VIA Rail Atlantic run, reinstated by the Conservative

government, was also questioned. Cochrane noted the VIA Rail Passenger Act will provide government recognition of the Confederation responsibilities for rail travel. Continuing on the rail issue, Cochrane urged support for the Save Our Shops campaign which he initiated to keep railway jobs and a rail presence in Moncton.

Student sues school

A recent court ruling states that a student who fails a course can sue his school for breach of contract.

An Ontario provincial court judge handed down the ruling in the case of 37 year old Hughes Chicoine.

Chicoine, a student at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto, failed his first-year photography course. He said the instructor did

not follow the course outline as offered and advertised.

Chicoine's lawyer said Ryerson offered him the opportunity to repeat the year. Chicoine refused and is asking for a full refund and compensation for the student loan he took out.

Ryerson has expressed concern over the ruling. They say the case will open the floodgates for other such claims from dissatisfied students.

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