

Simon Fraser bookstore protesting protectionist tax**Students petition to drop book tariff**

VANCOUVER (CUP) — A university bookstore is asking students to lobby Prime Minister Brian Mulroney to remove the 10 per cent tariff imposed in June on English language books from other countries.

"Students and people who read in general are being penalized," said Debbie Harvie, manager of Simon Fraser University's bookstore. "We are asking people to actively work to get the tariff rescinded."

The tariff was imposed after the American government put a 35 per cent tax on Canadian shakes and shingles.

Although course books are tax

exempt, Harvie said students will begin to pay more for general interest books in October or November, when the tariff begins to affect new orders from publishers.

"The government thought there would be an outrage in June, and then that outrage would disappear," she said. "But the issue is not dead." Harvie said about 4,000 SFU students signed a petition against the tariff, and the store has sent between 1,000 and 1,500 postcards to the prime minister protesting the tax.

The petition and cards are part of a national campaign organized by

the Canadian Booksellers' Association.

At New Westminster's Douglas College, technical services librarian Penny Swanson said the tax interferes with intellectual freedom because additional paperwork necessary for tax exemption will further delay the arrival of books in Canada.

"I don't know what the federal government thinks is going to happen to Canadian research and development," said Swanson, explaining that Canadian researchers often consult findings of their American counterparts.

"It seems to me that the ex-

change of knowledge can only help," said Swanson. "If we can get the information easily from someone else, then we should — we don't want to re-invent the wheel."

And Kevin Williams, manager of the downtown branch of Duthies' books, said students shopping in off-campus bookstores may end up paying the tariff on books not readily identifiable as texts, such as those in literature classes.

Williams also said the tariff will affect the number of titles available in Canada.

"Every time a book price goes up, you have to worry about it going through a price break," he

said. "A book which it might be possible to sell a copy of at \$39.95 will probably be impossible to sell at \$44.95."

Williams is disappointed with the federal response, which told the industry the book tariff would come off when the Americans remove the shake and shingle tax.

"Canadian citizens are paying two ways," said Williams. "The tariff already hurt the B.C. economy, and now we're having to pay higher prices for books."

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