

## Out-of-town voting controversy continues

OTTAWA (CUP) — The controversy surrounding where students vote continues as the major opposition political parties take measures to get as many students as possible to register for the October 30 election.

Changes in the Election Act removed the option students had to be enumerated either in their home constituency or in the constituency where they attend an educational institution.

According to regulations drafted by Canada's chief electoral officer, students who are not "on their own" must vote in their home constituency. If the students are unable to be in their home constituencies on election day, they would have to go through a complicated procedure to cast their ballot by proxy.

Memos to district returning officers and pamphlets being sent to educational institutions across the country are

quite specific as to where students may vote. Students "away from home" must vote in their parents' ridings; only those "on their own" may vote in university constituencies.

Officials from the chief electoral officer's department have told CUP that students can vote in the constituency they consider their "ordinary residence".

Meanwhile, the New Democratic Party today (Sept. 14) sent a bulletin to its provincial headquarters urging local NDP organizations to ensure students are registered to vote. NDP officials told CUP the bulletin was a response to reports that some district returning officers were being very strict in enumerating students by following rules to the letter.

The NDP has advised its candidates to insist that students who live "on their own"

be included on the enumeration list.

"If you are too late to achieve this, insist that the students involved have their names added to the list of electors at the Court of Revision. If such students are living in rural polls they can be added to the lists during the revising

process or sworn in on election day" the bulletin says.

The Progressive Conservative youth wing has also sent out voting information to all their university club presidents.

Observers have estimated the political parties will spend more than \$26 million in the election. In 1968, they spent

a total of \$21 million.

It is expected the 265 ridings will have a combined electorate of 13.5 million but a more precise figure will not be available until enumeration is completed, probably next week. Students and other first time voters will number some 2.8 million.

## Hometown voting possible

By MARGOT BREWER

If you're not happy with the candidates offered in York-Sunbury for the upcoming federal election, or perhaps you simply want to vote for a candidate in your own home riding, then vote at home.

And that is not as impossible as it may seem.

Chief Returning Officer for York-Sunbury, Fred Blair said in a BRUNSWICKAN interview this week that there is a very simple procedure to follow so that on Election Day, your vote can be cast in your home

riding even though you cannot be there yourself.

According to new regulations in the Canada Elections Act UNB students will be able to choose the MP they want to represent them by a proxy vote.

Blair outlined the procedure to follow if students wish to vote in another Electoral District.

"First, the student should ensure that his name is on the electoral list in the district where he wishes to vote. This can be done by examining the list in the polling Division

or enquiring from someone back home," he said.

"The student should then appoint a proxy voter to mark his ballot on Election Day. This can be anyone who is on the same Polling Division list as himself and is not an appointed proxy voter for another person," he continued.

A student who is away from home must also present a certificate to the Returning Officer in the district that he wishes to vote in certifying that he is a full time student at a recognized educational institution. This can be supplied by the Registrar or other university official.

The forms that are needed to arrange a proxy vote can be obtained from the Chief Returning Officer and must be mailed to the Chief Returning Officer in the student's home district.

A pamphlet circulating on campus, called Elections Canada answers some of the questions that out-of-town students might have.

The Returning Office for York-Sunbury is located on the ground floor of the Woolworth Building on Queen Street.

## Union sets up review board

By BOB JOHNSON

The New Brunswick Union of Students is entering stage three of its program to have the province's student aid program re-evaluated, said NBUS secretary-treasurer Roy Neale.

The union will meet in Bathurst in early October to formulate a review board consisting of students and representatives of New Brunswick's Department of Youth, said Neale. This board will be involved in reviewing the applications of students who have requested financial assistance.

Neale said he hoped the board would be in operation by October 20 and that one aspect of the early October meeting in Bathurst would be the selection of the students to sit on the review board.

Commenting on the review carried out by the department of youth, Neale said the recent revisions were "a lot more than we expected to get on the first try."

"It was too much to expect a student to borrow \$1,400," he said.

The revisions to the student aid program now provide the first \$1,100 in the form of a loan, the next \$600 is a bursary and any amount above this, to a maximum of \$300, is a loan.

The NBUS proposal was to have the first \$500 a loan and \$1,600 split up 60 per cent bursary and 40 per cent loan. Thus, maximum assistance would be \$1,160 loan and \$940 bursary.

The purpose of the review board will be to ensure that money, which has been transferred to the department for the student assistance program, is used, said the NBUS secretary-treasurer.

Neale said he thought two students and two departments of youth representatives would be a reasonable number of people to have on the review board.

"We want to ensure that each student is treated individually as to his financial needs," he said.

Meanwhile, the Justice Department is working out the details with respect to the Official Secrets Act which will be applicable to the students serving on the review board, and the monetary obligations to these students, which is expected to be borne by the NBUS.

## NBUS expenses total \$800

Expenses accumulated by the New Brunswick Union of Students in their attempts to have the student aid program in New Brunswick revised, have amounted to \$800, said Roy Neale, NBUS secretary-treasurer.

Most of the expense has been in the newspaper advertising campaign carried out by the union, he said.

Neale added that the financing is the responsibility of the participating universities, and this will be one of the topics to be discussed at NBUS's Bathurst meeting in early October.

Neale said that about one third of New Brunswick's post secondary students attend UNB and this will be a factor in establishing the financial responsibility of the Student's

Representative Council of this university.

He added however that on a percentage basis students at UNB do not rely as much as students in other N.B. universities on the student aid program for financial assistance. This will be another aspect in establishing the contribution UNB's SRC will make to the financial responsibilities of NBUS, he said.

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