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Our 30th Anniversary!

2003

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to report that, in a referendum held on the issue on February 25 and 26 last, our colleagues at l'Association des bibliothécaires, professeures et professeurs de l'Université de Moncton (ABPPUM) voted by a strong margin to maintain their membership in the Federation.

A letter from the Bureau de Direction of l'ABPPUM is, at its request, reproduced in its entirety elsewhere in this issue. [See below - **Ed.**]

On your behalf I thank each one of the individual members of l'ABPPUM who generated and participated in the debate which led to the referendum, because complacency is the enemy of progress. I have no doubt that the Federation will be the stronger for this carefully considered re-affirmation by l'ABPPUM of its solidarity with its colleagues in each of the other faculty associations in New Brunswick.

Claude Dionne, President

OPEN LETTER TO THE COUNCIL OF THE FNBFA

Dear Colleagues :

The members of the Professors' and Librarians' Union of the *Université de Moncton (ABPPUM)* have just concluded a very trying yet democratically conducted debate. We are proud to have brought the debate to its conclusion.

The referendum in which 50.6% of the members participated reveals that a very strong majority of our members (64.3%) believes that our association with FNBFA deserves our contribution in both financial as well as human terms.

If we look beyond the results of the referendum, the exercise has permitted our members to reflect upon the mission and the achievements of FNBFA as well as to reflect upon our role within this collaboration. We asked ourselves, in the manner of a late but well-known American President, ask not what your union can do for you, but what you ...

You may rest assured, therefore, that we will work together in order to build solidarity, a principle cited constantly during our debate and the motivating factor, we presume, behind the results of the referendum.

We pledge to renew this commitment to solidarity within the collectivity of unions that makes up the FNBFA. We would like to take this occasion, therefore, to send to you directly, our colleagues, this message of solidarity and commitment on the part of ABPPUM through the publication of this letter in the next number of the *Bulletin*. It is our first in what will be a long series of contributions to the publication.

In solidarity and on behalf of ABPPUM,

Members of the Executive Committee :

Michèle L. Caron

Linda Lequin

Anne-Marie Arseneault

Serge Jolicoeur

Wilkie Darismé

SOCIAL WELFARE, UNIVERSITIES ALSO NEED FUNDING GUARANTEES

[Published in the Telegraph Journal January 30, 2003]

The "Guest Column" is a regular feature on the editorial page. Today's contributor is Desmond Morley, Executive Director of the Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations

Next week, the provincial premiers will be pushing the Prime Minister to restore federal transfers of health care funding to their 1996 levels by the year 2010, and to replace the Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST) with a dedicated Canada Health Transfer. More power to Premier Lord and his fellow premiers. To ask that federal funding for anything, let alone health care, be restored merely to the levels of 14 years earlier is not, by any means, fiscally irresponsible.

Nevertheless, while all of us would welcome the enshrinement of federal funding for health care in legislation devoted solely to that envelope – under the existing CHST, health care funding is lumped in with post-secondary education and social assistance funding – the sorry recent history of federal social program transfers should give us cause for concern.

In 1977, the Established Programs Financing (EPF) Act was introduced to regulate the transfer of federal funding for both health care and post-secondary education to the provinces. Social assistance transfers continued, for the time being, to be made under the Canada Assistance Plan enacted in 1966.

Two-thirds of EPF transfers were, notionally, to be spent on health care, with the remaining one-third going to post-secondary education. Although this intended division was not compulsory under the EPF legislation, it appears that successive Conservative and Liberal governments in New Brunswick were, indeed, relatively faithful to this unwritten "two-thirds/one-third" allocation principle.

Unfortunately, EPF funding was compromised by frequent cutbacks and freezes between 1983 and 1996, when the much-vaunted CHST was introduced to replace it. Rather, though, than alleviate the social spending problems of revenue-starved provincial governments, the CHST - which shuffles around the billions of dollars it costs to keep Canadians variously healthy, well-educated, and fed and housed, in a "now-you-see-it-now-you-don't" federal shell game - has made them worse.

CHST funding is now lower in "real" or "constant" dollars than it was in 1996, even though since then it also has included social assistance funding. Yet, at a time when the demand for health care services is growing exponentially as the population ages, and as expensive new technologies drive up the cost of delivering them, provincial governments are expected to find in the CHST adequate funding for post-secondary education as well.

Consequently, the 3.4 per cent annual increase in operating funding granted to the universities in the recent New Brunswick budget may be as much as the Lord government can afford, but it is nowhere near enough; and further cutbacks, and increases in tuition fees, are likely to continue. Our provincial government knows this; but, having to meet an exploding health care bill from the same underfunded source, it probably can do little more to improve the situation.

Therefore, Premier Lord and his provincial counterparts should be lobbying the Prime Minister not only to introduce a Canada Health Transfer, but also to return to the Canada Assistance Plan and to enact corresponding federal legislation, such as the Canada Post-Secondary Education Act first proposed by the Canadian Association of University Teachers more than 20 years ago, which would guarantee adequate levels of funding for post-secondary education after the CHST is gone.

If they do not do so, the funding of both social assistance programs and our universities will continue to lurch along its traditionally uncertain path for the foreseeable future.

BUDGET WASN'T FRIENDLY TO UNIVERSITIES

[Published in the Telegraph Journal February 24, 2003]

The "Guest Column" is a regular feature on the editorial page. Today's contributor is Desmond Morley, Executive Director of the Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations.

On Valentine's Day, many organizations involved in the consultation process which preceded the National Summit on Innovation and Learning found the 495-page summary of its deliberations in their mail boxes.

The university community, especially, was pleased that this comprehensive report indicated the federal government – in true Valentine's spirit – appeared to be on the point of making a serious attempt at rekindling the close relationship it had enjoyed with post-secondary education until the early 1990's.

The recommendations of the Summit, held in November, 2002 and sponsored federally by Hon. Jane Stewart, Minister of Human Resources Development, and Hon. Allan Rock, Minister of Industry, were unequivocal in advocating increased federal support in all areas related to post-secondary education.

Among these recommendations were the expansion of capacity in the post-secondary system by increasing physical, human and financial infrastructure; the introduction of a Canada Post-Secondary Education Act similar to the Canada Health Act; and the adjustment of the system of student financial assistance "to meet the needs of students, the post-secondary education sector, and the needs of the economy".

A survey was also published locally last week showing the dilemma faced by a large percentage of University of New Brunswick students – though UNB students are not alone in this - in balancing study time with working extra hours to pay rising tuition fees.

In response to the UNB survey, New Brunswick Education Minister Dr. Dennis Furlong observed that the underlying cause of the universities' ongoing need to increase tuition fees has been cutbacks in federal funding transfers to the province.

Consequently, the release of the Summit report could not, it seemed, have been more timely.

Unfortunately, however, the recent federal Budget has failed dismally to embrace the Summit's wisdom. True, the Budget has created a Canada Graduate Scholarship Program, and has allocated increased funding to research; but by not dealing with the issue of their basic operating funding, it has completely ignored the universities' most fundamental need.

It is particularly unhelpful to New Brunswick that the Budget also ignores Census data -some of it, again, released last week - which tell us that, while almost half of the 1.3 million new jobs created nationally between 1991 and 2001 required university qualifications, and only 25% required high school graduation, this province's workforce continues to have an inordinately high percentage of high-school graduates, and a below-average number of post-secondary graduates.

Without doubt, the global "good-help-is-hard-to-find" phenomenon, which is expected to begin with the first massive baby-boomer retirements less than a decade from now, will siphon away even more of our skilled workers than the 1,700 or so who are already leaving every year. If so, and if we fail to educate far more of our workforce at the post-secondary level than we are now doing, New Brunswick will have a hard time meeting its growing internal requirements for them.

This big-spending Budget (in which, nevertheless, the overall allocations for post-secondary education are only one-fifth of what would be needed to restore federal funding for it even to levels of a decade ago) has been widely acknowledged to be a "something-for-everyone" budget.

Regrettably, such budgets usually have a "not-enough-for-anyone" outcome as well - and this one is no exception.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

The Communications Committee has been spending the time since the last Bulletin in January completing a number of projects and assessing their overall success.

- The advertisements in both the Telegraph Journal and L'Acadie Nouvelle have been halted due to budgetary constraints and will commence again this September. It has been decided that running the ads through the summer would not be cost effective, and instead we would wait to launch a new advertisement campaign starting in September.
- The Bookmark campaign has garnered a number of positive comments, and owing to the fairly low cost for the purchase of 5,000 bookmarks the committee has decided to order a second run. Again the bookmarks will be distributed throughout the province in the local bookstores and will be used as a promotional insert by the Federation with outgoing correspondence.
- Due to the response to last year's portfolio campaign (e.g. a "thank-you" letter from John Herron MP) as well as numerous comments from our members, and the way in which the office has been able to use the portfolios as introductions and explanations as to the role FNBFA plays in advocating for the university community, we decided to launch the portfolio campaign again this year. The newspaper portfolio consists of the nine articles we had published in 2002. This portfolio is being sent out to all New Brunswick MLA's and MP's, as well as University Presidents, members of the MPHEC and the Presidents of both the

provincial and local student unions. Copies will also be sent to the broadcast media.

- The Anniversary Campaign is now in full swing. As you may recall from the January Bulletin the Federation purchased an anniversary sticker at minimal cost. The sticker is being placed on all correspondence leaving the Federation office and was designed to alert the readers to the fact that we are one of the “oldest kids on the block” when it comes to advocating for the university community as a whole. We also modified the home page of the website, by adding a moving banner (in French and English), to mark the occasion.
- The committee has been extremely successful in strengthening our relationships with the print media. We have a strong rapport with the editors of both the Telegraph Journal and the Moncton Times Transcript. Although we are still finding it quite difficult to get our articles published in L’Acadie Nouvelle, rest assured we will continue to try to strengthen that relationship, as well as that with the Daily Gleaner.
- The committee will also begin the second phase of its media relationship building. The plan is to have meetings during the summer with the program managers of the provincial radio and television stations.
- The committee has had three articles published in the Telegraph Journal since the last Bulletin: **Social Welfare, Universities Also Need Funding; Budget Wasn’t Friendly To Universities; and Petty Politics Keeps Aid From Students**. Due to space concerns we cannot reprint all our articles in the Bulletin; however complete copies of these and all previous articles can be found on our website at: www.fnbfa.ca.
- The web site continues to be a going concern. As I have argued in the past, the website is a passive lobbying mechanism for the Federation. Anyone who visits the website is in fact being persuaded of our views by reading our articles, bulletins and briefs. The number of hits during the shortest month, February, was approximately **37,000**.

Ian H. Fraser, Chair.

FEDERATION TO HONOUR IAN FRASER

The Executive is pleased to announce that the Board has voted unanimously to award the Federation’s prestigious **Prix Nicole Raymond Award** for 2003 to one of its members, Prof. Ian Fraser (Chair of the Psychology Department, St. Thomas University).

The presentation of the award to Prof. Fraser will be made at the Federation’s Annual Plenary Session on May 13, to be held in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting proceedings, which will be convened this year in Room 203 of the Wu Centre on the campus of the University of New Brunswick.

Prof. Fraser’s faculty colleagues are warmly encouraged to attend.

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL PLENARY SESSION:
TO BE HELD**

**Tuesday, May 13, 2003 at 1:00 p.m.
Room 203, Wu Centre
University of New Brunswick**

PROPOSED AGENDA

- 1. Reading and Approval of the Agenda.**
- 2. Introduction of Guests.**
- 3. Report of the Nominating Committee.**
- 4. First Call for Nomination of Officers for 2003-2004 FNBFA Executive.**
- 5. Reading and Approval of the Minutes of Annual Plenary Session of May 9, 2002.**
- 6. Second Call for Nominations of Officers for 2003-2004 FNBFA Executive.**
- 7. Business Arising from the Minutes.**
- 8. Last Call for Nominations of Officers for 2003-2004 FNBFA Executive.**
- 9. Election of Officers.**
- 10. Report from CAUT.**
- 11. Report from the President.**
- 12. Report from the Treasurer.**
- 13. Report from the Executive Director.**
- 14. Reports from the Standing Committees.**
 - Communications Committee
 - Legal Defense Fund Committee
 - Prix Nicole Raymond Award Committee
 - Scholarship Awards Committee
 - Status of Women Committee
- 15. Policy Recommendations of Plenary Session.**
- 16. Other Business.**
- 17. Annual General Meeting (See AGM Agenda)**

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Tuesday, May 13, 2003 *
Room 203, Wu Centre
University of New Brunswick**

PROPOSED AGENDA

- 1. Reading and Approval of the Agenda.**
- 2. Reading and Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of March 23, 2003.**
- 3. Business Arising.**
- 4. Reports from Local Associations.**
- 5. Consideration of Recommendations of Plenary Session.**
- 6. Appointments to Committees.**
- 7. Other Business.**
- 8. Order of the Day: 4:00 p.m. Guest Speaker (To be announced.)**
- 9. Adjournment.**
- 10. Wine and cheese reception and presentation of 2003 Prix Nicole Raymond Award to Prof. Ian Fraser.**

*** The Annual General Meeting to follow the Annual Plenary Session.**

**NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN FOR OFFICERS OF THE
FEDERATION FOR 2003-2004**

The Nominating Committee has proposed the names of the following members for the positions listed below:

President:
Claude Dionne (ABPPUM)
Vice-President:
Hans vanderLeest (MAFA)
Secretary/Treasurer:
Daniel Bélanger (ABPPUMCE)

ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS

(The following is excerpted from Article 10.7 of the By-laws of the Federation):

“... additional nominations may be given to the President or the Secretary/Treasurer up to the close of nominations at the Annual Plenary Session as long as these nominations are signed by at least five (5) members from the constituent faculty associations/unions in good standing and by the person nominated to indicate a willingness to stand for election”.

**Executive Members
2002-2003**

President: Claude Dionne
(506) 858-4602

Vice-president: Hans vanderLeest
(506) 364-2557

Secretary-treasurer: Daniel
Bélanger
(506) 737-5151

Past President: Jack Vanderlinde
(506) 453-4723

Committee Chairs

Status of Women Committee
Karen Bamford (MAFA)

Legal Defence Fund
Jon Thompson (AUNBT)

Prix Nicole Raymond Award
Berkeley Fleming (MAFA)

Communications Committee
Ian Fraser (FAUST)

Scholarship Awards
Daniel Bélanger (ABPPUMCE)

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Executive Director
Desmond Morley

Secretary
Patricia Lewington

Editorial Board
Ian Fraser, Editor

Your Opinions are Welcomed

A special invitation is extended to those members of local associations who are interested in commenting upon university life in general. Readers are invited to send their opinions and/or comments, in writing, to the address above.

Opinions expressed in the Bulletin are not necessarily those of the Executive and/or Board of FNBFA/FAPPUNB