

**Meeting with New Brunswick's Minister of Education,
the Honourable Elvy Robichaud**

On Wednesday, the 22nd September, we met with the Minister of Education in order to learn the government's intentions with respect to post-secondary education in New Brunswick. We felt that since last June's election, primary and secondary education had stolen the limelight.

During our discussion, which

Notice

Board Meeting

**10:30 am November 27, 1999
Main Board Room
Ground Floor
Victoria Health Centre
Brunswick Street
Fredericton**

**All FNBFA Board meetings
are open to individual faculty
members, and an invitation to
attend is extended to anyone
wishing to do so**

**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:

FNBFA Bulletin
65 Brunswick, Suite 297,
Fredericton, NB E3B 1G5

lasted more than an hour, we (Jack Vanderlinde, President, Claude Dionne, Vice-president, Desmond Morley, Executive Director) spoke with the Minister, Mr. Robichaud, the Deputy Minister, Dennis Cochrane and James Cromwell, Director of Post-secondary Affairs of the Department of Education. Our discussion principally bore on the government's commitment to post-secondary education and its financing; the priorities of, and cooperation between, teaching institutions; the Millennium Scholarship fund; and the financing of research.

For openers, the Minister told us that he had "in his hands" a report prepared by the former vice-rector of the University of Moncton on the state of Universities in New Brunswick as well as their financing. The Minister released this report on November 16 and it has been sent to Cabinet for approval.

On the subject of financing, the Minister reminded us that, during the election campaign, Premier Lord committed himself to giving adequate support to health and education. A figure of 2% annual increase over the next three years was suggested. However, the Minister noted, the examination of the public accounts could lead the gov-

ernment to retreat from its electoral promises.

We also learned, during our audience, that the Department has concluded an agreement with Ottawa on the funding of the Millennium Scholarships intended to assure greater accessibility to post-secondary education. The global sum is \$7.2M over three years. 95% of these funds will be disbursed to persons in second or higher years with demonstrated financial need (that is, persons who have received or are eligible to receive student loans). 5% or \$360,000 will be reserved for high school students demonstrating exceptional scholarship.

Shortly before the Minister arrived at the meeting, the Deputy Minister and Mr. Cromwell (who was there in place of the Assistant Deputy Minister, Ms. Rachel Bard) informed us that the government was considering introducing a white paper to discuss and define freedom of access to information concerning University finances. This paper will try to reconcile access to information and accountability in institutions receiving public funds. The Federation will be invited to participate in hearings on this white paper. Both Mr. Cochrane and Mr.

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President's Message

Dear colleagues:

At the outset I would like to offer my best wishes to those of our member associations involved in contract negotiations. Although labour negotiations are not part of the mandate of our Federation, we nonetheless recognize and fully support the collective voice of the faculty in determining the evolution of the profession.

Last May, the Federation embarked on a quest to renew itself in the face of a changing world. A new mission statement launched us on an effort to become more relevant to the grass roots. To this end we have endeavoured to improve communications with the member associations and involve them more fully in running their federation. Reports of the Federation's activities have been sent to the associations at regular intervals, and a significant

start has been made on our Web Page currently at

www.brunnet.net/fnbfa

soon to be located at

www.fnbfa.nb.ca

and also mirrored at

www.fappunb.nb.ca.

We hope you will visit the Web site and let us have your comments. The changes in mandate have been largely accommodated without displacing the primary lobbying and informing functions of the federation..

We anticipate that, in addition to carrying the federation's news, our web-site will be able to host local association news when the associations are involved in labour disputes. The **Bulletin** and all recent business and briefs of the federation will be made available in timely fashion. The bottle-neck on publication posed by the need to translate

all communications has recently been addressed by members of the local associations volunteering their time.

The increasing commercialization of Universities has been of ongoing concern to the Federation. In particular, the government's participation in attempting to skew research and the curriculum towards the private needs of industry is most disturbing. As will be evident from some of the reports in this issue, much of our effort these last six months has been directed towards contradicting the representations of industry and bureaucrats whose agenda appears to be to make universities the servants of industry. It will take a concerted effort by all members of academia as well as allied groups to turn back this ill-conceived tide that is sweeping the nation.

J. Vanderlinde, President

COMMERCIALIZATION OF THE UNIVERSITIES

On October 29-31, the President and the Executive director attended the "**Universities and Colleges in the Public Interest**" Conference in Ottawa, sponsored by the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT). The conference was devoted solely to an examination of the many manifestations of the forces seeking to commercialize Canada's universities.

The Conference began with a "book launch" at which "**Universities for Sale**" by Neil Tudiver (James Lorimer and Company Ltd., Publisher - ISBN 1-55028-690-0), the first of a CAUT monograph series, was released. [This publication is highly recommended reading for all who are interested in this topic - Ed.]

The Conference itself was a

fast-paced exposé of how our universities, starved of public funding, are increasingly being seduced by the prospect of generous grants from commercial interests while disregarding the ethical problems which this may cause.

Dr. Nancy Olivieri, M.D., who insisted on publishing research results unfavourable to the interests of Apotex, the drug manufacturer who had been funding her research, spoke of the ongoing sanctions taken against her by the employer, the Toronto Sick Children's Hospital and by the University of Toronto, where she is a faculty member. Each of these institutions stood to be the beneficiary of many millions of dollars - which they have not yet received - in largesse from Apotex before Dr. Olivieri "blew the whistle", and both are actively trying to rid themselves

of her.

The keynote speaker of the opening Plenary Session, Dr. Ursula Franklin, professor emerita of Engineering at the University of Toronto, imparted simple but irrefutable wisdom to her audience of approximately 200 faculty members from across Canada. "Knowledge", she said, "is a public good and not a private possession". Therefore, it should never be kept secret. "Global [commercial] competitiveness", she declared, "is merely the privatization of war".

Prof. Franklin, a metallurgist, deplored the trend towards reduced private research and the clamouring of industry for publicly-funded institutions to fill the gap. At one time, she said, the large metals compa-

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COMMERCIALIZATION OF THE UNIVERSITIES

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nies (e.g. Dofasco, Inco and Alcan) would have their own metallurgical research facilities and researchers on staff. Recently, however, they have realized that they do not have to invest in their own facilities, because the universities have been only too willing to provide them with the necessary research infrastructure and personnel in return for

much-needed infusions of money. Successive federal governments have fostered the growth of this phenomenon by raising no objection to the use of these taxpayer-subsidized facilities for the private needs of industrial interests at a fraction of what it would cost them to maintain their own.

In all, there were 18 presenters at the conference, which was punctuated by five "breakout group" discussions. CAUT plans to publish the proceedings of the conference at an early future date, and faculty members are encouraged to obtain a copy of them.

Meeting with New Brunswick's Minister of Education

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Cromwell insisted that this accountability was not an attempt to micro-manage the Universities. On the contrary, they endorsed the view that Universities must protect their autonomy in our society.

We also discussed with the Minister the establishment, in Fredericton, of a private establishment, Unexus University, that will dispense its courses over the Internet. The Minister responded that the government was considering introducing a law limiting the use of the term "university" but that it would be difficult to deal retroactively with Unexus University.

The Minister also spoke to us of the partnership necessary between the Universities and other post-secondary institutions in New

Brunswick. It was clear to him that all the players in the system must cooperate and that it is imperative to avoid costly and useless duplication. Moreover, he added that the post-secondary education system and the universities need to renew themselves with the participation of all affected. He concluded by telling us that universities are a priority with the government and that we must do the best we can with available resources. Along this line, the Federation and its members will be asked to take a greater part in the debate on the renewal of the system.

Finally, the Minister acknowledged the importance of the research performed in our Universities and stated that we have obtained an equitable part of

Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) grants given the priorities of the government.

Before the meeting ended, the Minister reiterated that education is a priority for the government and he affirmed the extreme importance of pursuing the development of higher education and assuring its adequate financing.

As a result of this meeting, we concluded that the Minister has a good grasp of his portfolio with respect to universities and that he understands their complexity. It seems to us that he has a realistic view of the financial situation and anticipates that the players in the system will cooperate to bring the necessary renewal and better prepare their learners for the challenges of the third Millennium.

FEDERATION WEB SITE

The Federation now has a dedicated Web site, in both official languages, which will contain items of current interest concerning its activities and undertakings. *For the time being*, the site has a **temporary address** at

<http://www.brunnet.net/fnbfa>

Negotiations are ongoing with alternative Internet service providers for permanent English and French addresses, and we will keep you informed of further developments as they occur.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (ACST)

The mandate of the ACST is to "... provide the Prime Minister with expert, non-partisan advice on national science and technology goals and their application to the Canadian economy", according to correspondence received by the Federation from Jacqueline Thayer Scott, a member of the Council and Chair of its Expert Panel on Skills.

Ms. Thayer Scott's letter requested that the Federation send representatives to an invitation-only Consultation Workshop held on June 3 and 4 last on the Moncton campus of l'Université de Moncton. Profs. Lionel Dionne (APPUMAS), Don Fields (AUNBT), Francis Weil (ABPPUM) and the Executive Director attended the event.

The objective of the Consultation Workshop was to identify, and to report to the Prime Minister on, the critical skills needed in areas of the Canadian economy which al-

ready are strong, or "... where opportunities for economic growth and for job creation are high". The sectors of the economy under discussion were aerospace, automotive, bio-pharmaceuticals and biotechnologies in agriculture, aquaculture and forestry; environmental technologies; and information and telecommunications technologies.

The Federation's most compelling motivation for participating in such deliberations as those under discussion is to attempt to counterbalance the apparent dedication of most, if not all, of such government advisory bodies to the allocation of resources to the acquisition of "skills" rather than of "knowledge".

Fortunately, the Federation is not alone in its concerns in this regard. At the opening Plenary Session, the observation of one of the other participants that the economy of the 21st Century will place a pre-

mium on "knowledge" over "information" met with unexpectedly widespread approval.

The outcome of this two-day symposium, attended by approximately 50 contributing participants, is difficult to gauge. It is felt, however, that the Federation's delegates, and others sympathetic to the importance of those aspects of post-secondary education which are not solely devoted to the transfer of the type of "skills" customarily denoted by the word, were successful in reinforcing to the organizers of the event the proposition that the allocation of resources to the development of "soft skills" such as critical analysis and evaluation, and adaptability, is of at least equal importance with their allocation to the development of "skills" of more immediate and direct practical application.

SKILLS ACQUISITION REVISITED...

Hard on the heels of the Consultation Workshop convened earlier in the month by the ACST's Expert Panel on Skills [see above - Ed.], on June 22 and 23 the President and the Executive Director attended - again in Moncton, this time at the Beauséjour Hotel - the "**Skills Development in the Knowledge-Based Economy**" conference jointly organized by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council (APEC), Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), Industry Canada and the Policy Research Secretariat.

The conference (at which attendance was, again, by invitation only) was described by its organizers as a "Policy Research Initiative.... intended to augment the current state of understanding of skills development for the knowl-

edge economy". Its principal findings were as follows:

A very broad view of skills and their outcomes must be taken. It was acknowledged that a "society of skillful and adaptable individuals is the product of long and complex processes...". Emphasis was placed on the "social nature of competence", and on the importance of families, social cohesion and the role of investments in early childhood in the development of "skills" in the wide sense.

Skills development has winners and losers. It was a consensus both that "the knowledge-based economy has its victims", and that "economic policy must serve human purposes". Hence, policy makers should ensure that "quality of life" should play a large role in the balancing of social and economic policies.

Though the proposition that there is a national skills shortage is a myth, regional perspectives are of fundamental importance.

Research conducted by HRDC shows that there is "no evidence of a generalized skills gap in Canada". However, whereas a number of presenters had taken issue with what were described to be "exaggerated claims about a brain drain to the U.S.", it is "very real, and of long standing, in Atlantic Canada" because this region attracts relatively few immigrants to offset its emigrants.

Skills-acquisition is only one dimension of a successful economy and society. Skills are "a necessary but not sufficient condition" for the development of an economy such as that of Atlantic Canada. The knowledge-based economy is largely an urban phenomenon, and the development of

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SKILLS ACQUISITION REVISITED . . .

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the economy of our own, more rural, region where there is "a good supply of high-tech graduates" is hindered more by the absence of entrepreneurship incentives and by the "clustering of a critical mass of high-tech corporations [outside the region]".

It appears that the participation in this conference by the Federation and by other representatives of the university community was worthwhile and that their interventions were heard. The Policy Research Secretariat produced the only official

public report of the conference. In the September, 1999 issue (Vol. 2, No. 3) of its quarterly publication "Horizons", the following passage is included in the report:

"There was debate and differences of opinion over which skill sets should be emphasized. Universities ... are under pressure to build skills in areas thought to be more directly relevant to the knowledge-based economy... [This does not] sit well with some supporters of the traditional role and approach of the universities. **Conference participants were told of research**

suggesting that the skills that really matter in the knowledge-based economy-team building, leadership, selfmanagement - may not be the kind of skills that tend to be associated with a narrow, vocational approach to training". [Emphasis added - Ed.]

The Federation will continue to broadcast the message, in every forum in which it is necessary to do so, that "the skills that really matter" are not those which will be imparted through the conversion of the universities into little more than training schools.

STATUS OF WOMEN ESSAY PRIZE

The Status of Women Committee is pleased to announce the winner of the 1998-1999 Status of Women essay prize. Andrea Mossman, a Mount Allison University student, was awarded the prize for her essay entitled "A New Rapunzel: Re-evaluation of the hairlessness Myth". Her essay explores the Western feminine beauty ideal specifically with regard to body hair. It argues that the beauty ideal operates to maintain an artificial gender binary. Women are socially validated as sex objects; they remain passive, seeking outside approval instead of looking for power in the economic and political system. Hair being a sexual symbol, needs to be controlled and monitored on women; it is a visual means by which complicity with the patriarchal culture can be exhibited. Women whose hair does not conform to the

gendered norms and particularly women who do not eliminate body hair and facial hair commit serious transgressions of gender boundaries and face social repercussions such as ridicule, shame and rejection. Mossman deplores that the social system buys into the prescriptive and destructive beauty ideal instead of freeing its members from anxiety about body image.

An Honourable Mention was given to E.M. Atkinson-Lamb, also a Mount Allison student who submitted two excellent essays portraying the life and work of two female artists. Her essay "Eva Hesse" offers a psychobiographical examination of the sculptor based on her work and journals. It argues that the duality between fatalism and positivism, between a profound sense of loss and beauty mani-

festated in Hesse's work is also reflected in her personality. Her second essay "Unmasking a History Painter, Elisabeth Vigée-Lebrun" chronicles the struggle of the 18th century French painter to be accepted as a history painter by the male-dominated French Academy. The study examines the philosophical undercurrents of the century and in particular the influence of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who upheld the doctrine that dictated the complete subordination of women to a rigidly patriarchal society.

The Status of Women Essay Contest will take place again during the academic year 1999-2000. Guidelines and entry forms will be available from your local Status of Women Committee members or at FNBFA.

WOMEN WRITERS ON NEW BRUNSWICK'S CAMPUSES - AN UPDATE

In 1998 the Status of Women Committee prepared a synopsis of female professors on New Brunswick campuses who write prose fiction or poetry. The profiles of the writers were forwarded to departments of French and English literature. Our survey featured the work of Simone-Rainville LeBlanc (Centre

universitaire de Moncton), Theresa Quigley (Centre universitaire de Moncton), Christiane St.-Pierre (Centre universitaire de Shippagan), Liliane Welsh (Mount Allison University) and Nela Rio (St. Thomas University). Early this year the work of Evelyne Foex (Centre universitaire de Moncton) was brought to our atten-

tion. A profile prepared by Rose-Hélène Lanteigne (Centre universitaire de Moncton) has been distributed to Department of French and English. We will be happy to provide a summary of Evelyne Foex's work and a copy of last year's survey to other members of FNBFA by request.

Conviviality at the Prix Nicole Raymond Award reception. Above [left to right] Claude Dionne (ABPPUM), Rick McGaw (AUNBT) and Jon Thompson (AUNBT). Below: [l-r] Uta Doerr (FAUST), Peter Kepros (AUNBT), Ian Fraser (FAUST), Hans vanderLeest (MAFA) and Lionel Dionne (APPUMAS)



Prix Nicole Raymond Award winners [left to right] Claude Dionne (1998), Allan Sharp (1988) Rick McGaw (1999) and Jon Thompson (1992).



The 1999-2000 Executive Committee of the Federation [left to right]: Claude Dionne, Vice-president; Daniel Bélanger, Treasurer; Ian Fraser, Past-president; and Jack Vanderlinde, President.

ANNE-MARIE ARSENEAULT : PORTRAIT OF A COMMITTED WOMAN

The ABPPUM has the honour of inaugurating this series of profiles which will appear in each issue of the *Bulletin* featuring one of our distinguished members. Our executive committee has decided, for its choice of criteria, to focus on involvement in community services. We are proud to underline here the numerous contributions, internal as much as external to the Université de Moncton, of Anne-Marie Arseneault.

An Acadian born in Prince Edward Island, Anne-Marie teaches at l'École des sciences infirmières since 1973. She earned a Bachelor of Nursing at the Université de Moncton and a Master's of science in community health and epidemiology at Queen's University in addition to having followed specialized courses in geriatrics and bio-ethics at the Geriatrics Institute of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, at the J. & R. Kennedy Institute of Ethics at Georgetown University and at the Université de Montréal. She has published alone or in collaboration, a chapter of a book and ten articles in journals at the local (Égalité, La Revue de l'Université de Moncton), provincial (Nursing Quebec, Registered Nurse), national (Revue canadienne de recherche en science infirmière, Revue canadienne du vieillissement) and international levels (Health Care for Women International, International Nursing Review, Journal of Advanced Nursing). She has also presented alone or with others, some ten papers at scientific conferences, and some 15 lectures on the health and rights of elderly women and on the history of nursing. She has been an external reader and jury member of several master's theses. Her principal fields of teaching are in theoretical and clinical community health, health and human development and professional ethics.



greatly appreciated by her students, Anne-Marie has particularly stood out in the realm of her involvements. At her own school, she has participated in diverse committees including the program committee. She was a member of the Academic Senate from 1988 to 1992, as well as several sub-committees of the Senate during these four years and after. She was part of the board of directors of the journal *Égalité* and the *Revue de l'Université de Moncton*. Anne-Marie has also been very active in our association : she represented her school on the Council of ABPPUM from 1986 to 1988, then held a seat on the executive, from 1996 to 1999, the last two years as external vice president and hence responsible for relations with the CAUT and the FNBFA.

Her external involvements span the national, provincial and regional levels. Since 1986, she participated in various committees of the Canadian Association of University Schools of Nursing, notably on the accreditation committee of which she was president in 1995-96. Since 1987,

Anne-Marie was several times a member of visiting teams evaluating the programs in nursing science for example at l'Université de Montréal, l'Université du Québec à Hull and at McGill University. In September 2000 she will participate in an accreditation visit at the University of British Columbia. Her involvement with the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing, on whose board she served in 1997-98 is also noteworthy. She is a member of several committees of the Nurses Association of New Brunswick, such as, among others, the education committee, since 1996. She was a member of the "Comité vieillir au féminin de l'Université du 3e âge" from 1986 to 1995, treasurer of the New Brunswick Multicultural Health Council from 1988 to 1995, and member of the Ethics committee of the Beauséjour Hospital Corporation since 1995.

In short, Anne-Marie Arseneault is a committed professor, who begrudges neither time nor effort to advance the cause of her profession, of women, and of the ABPPUM. She is a team player who furthers progress of causes wherever she goes. We are happy and very proud to present her today in recognition of her numerous contributions and we hope that she will not soon retire!

Greg Allain, President ABPPUM

In addition to being a professor

Scholarship Winner



Prof. Gary Long of l'Université de Moncton, Campus d'Edmundston is seen presenting the Federation's Semeluk Scholarship for 1998-1999 to Josée Sirois at the latter's graduation exercises. Josée, who is enrolled at the Campus d'Edmunston of l'Université de Moncton plans to pursue her studies in the sciences.

Prix Nicole Raymond Award



At the Annual Plenary Session and General Meeting of the Federation held at the Fredericton Campus of the University of New Brunswick on May 13 and 14 1999, Prof. William (Bill) Graham, President of CAUT, presented the Federation's prestigious Prix Nicole Raymond Award for 1999 to Prof. Rick McGaw (right). We offer Prof. McGaw our sincere congratulations.

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