



President's Message

There have been a number of developments since the last edition of the **Bulletin** was published in September.

When the federal election was called for November 27 the Federation issued an editorial, describing the poor state of federal funding for post-secondary education, to New Brunswick's four daily newspapers. It was published in both the **Telegraph Journal** and **Times-Transcript**. [The editorial will be reproduced in the next full issue of the **Bulletin - Ed.**] Also, former MPHEC Chair **Tim Andrew** delivered a commentary which had been adapted from the editorial on the November 24 edition of "Information Morning" on CBC Radio.

The Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) embarked several months ago upon its "Fund the Future" postcard campaign. The goal of this campaign was to distribute for signature preprinted postcards addressed to the Prime Minister, urging the support of his government for Canada's universities. The Federation was able to enlist the participation in this undertaking of the New Brunswick Student Alliance, which re-

portedly obtained signatures on approximately 15,000 cards and returned them to CAUT during the election campaign.

In response to the suggestion at the Annual Plenary Session of the guest speaker, New Brunswick Deputy Minister of Education (Francophone) **Raymond Daigle**, that we should maintain an ongoing dialogue with his Department, the Executive Director and I met on September 14 with him and Deputy Minister (Anglophone) **Robin Roe**. They advised us that, following the model of the Federation's 1997 "At The Doorstep Of The 21st Century" video/information package [see December, 1997 issue of the **Bulletin - Ed.**] the possibility of using the Department's considerable resources to promote actively the economic value of higher education to high school students and their parents was under consideration. (In a subsequent informal meeting with the Executive Director, M. Daigle confirmed that a recommendation to that effect had subsequently appeared in the first draft of the report of the ad-hoc committee struck by the Minister to examine the issue of accessibility. We are

greatly encouraged by this news and we have offered to help in any way we can.)

In keeping with our increased commitment to playing a more visible role in the community, we have commissioned the broadcasting of 20 fifteen-second "Christmas Greetings" television spots in each official language on CBC-TV and CBFT, respectively, at minimal and very reasonable cost. They will be broadcast between December 18th and 29th.

We had expected to bring a full issue of the **Bulletin** to you at this time. I regret, however, that this has not been possible owing, in part, to a minor but temporarily disabling hand injury suffered by our translator, Diane Lizotte. Diane has been translating our written materials since 1992, and we wish her a speedy and complete recovery. We will publish a complete issue early in the New Year.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the Federation, I wish you and your loved ones a happy, healthy and peaceful Festive Season.

Sincerely,
Jack Vanderlinde

