

Media Fee

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their radio and also for the paper, and that is the way their radio gets all their money and allows them to stay separate from the Student Union," says Panton, obviously annoyed at the situation.

Panton is hopeful but is also conscious that students cannot be expected to give money without problems. A few years ago a twenty dollar building fee was added to student fees to subsidize the construction and renovation of UPEI facilities. This extra fee has angered UPEI students and Panton fears that CIMN's levy will do the same.

"I hope it goes through, but I am not holding my breath. If it does go through, I see great things in the future and if it doesn't go through, personally I feel we might as well just pack up," says Panton. "I don't know whether the students here care or not. I think the average student will think it's quite a lot. There was that whole problem with the building fee several years ago."

Kent Bruyneel, Editor-in-Chief of the Cadre, thinks that the media fee is unlikely to be accepted by UPEI students.

"They have a chance on a vote with the students to see if

they are going to have a radio station or not; I don't think they (CIMN) have any chance of winning."

In the event the media fee is accepted, the proceeds will likely be divided between the student newspaper and the radio station. It is yet to be decided how much money will be given to the station and how much money will be handed out to the paper.

"That is something else we have to look at," explains Lewis, "Since we are still funding the paper, we [the Union] are looking at a 70/30 or a 60/40 split."

Few options have been thought of, in the event students reject the proposal.

"We haven't really come to that. The other option may be for the radio station to collect a membership fee. We really haven't discussed any of that," says Lewis.

Much is left up in the air as to the future of the UPEI radio station. CIMN management tries to stay hopeful but are left feeling powerless in this situation. All is left in the hands of the students. Nothing can be done until the spring 2000 election, except to educate the campus on the need of a radio station to voice their opinions and to share with the community.

NEWS

Only \$975 to become a Canadian?

by Jesse Clarke
Controversial right of landing fees cause uproar at World University of Service Canada

TORONTO (CUP) - Canadians are warm and welcoming to refugees. Many of us would agree with this statement, even in light of the negative public response to the recent influx of Chinese migrants on the West Coast. It is a statement our government would also like Canadians to believe.

In some ways this statement is accurate. Relative to many countries, Canada has an open and progressive refugee policy.

However, many advocates for refugees and immigrants believe our policy falls short in certain key areas. Some critics argue that Canada's refugee policy may even violate the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Convention on Refugees.

The source of this harsh criticism is a little-known fee charged to all refugees and immigrants

seeking landed immigrant status in Canada. The Right of Landing Fee is \$975, and it must be paid by every person over 19 seeking landed immigrant status.

Canada is the only country in the

immigration system's rising revenues is inspiring political action from a wide range of individual Canadians.

Stephanie Connolly, president of the Victoria University Student's

WUSC refugee students, automatically received a Canadian government loan of over \$2000 to cover his landing fee and transportation costs.

Conteh describes how he believed he would be given extra time to repay the loan, since he was a student.

"I was shocked when I had a conversation with one of the immigration officers," explains Conteh. "I thought they would postpone repayment until we're done university, but he told me that we are supposed to begin repaying right away."

Soon after settling in Canada, finding a place to live, and registering for classes, Conteh began to receive notices of repayment.

"They sent me some forms and indicated that I was supposed to return them with a cheque," Conteh says. "I don't know the consequences of not paying, but it's illegal, the message is clear."

The message was also very clear for Connolly and the rest of the WUSC Committee who were

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-Charles Conteh

World University Service Canada sponsored refugee student

world which charges this fee to refugees as well as immigrants.

Since this fee was first charged in 1995, revenues from newly arriving Canadians, both immigrants and refugees, have increased from \$134.4 million to \$363.2 million.

Newcomers arriving in Canada in 1993 paid \$460 on average, only one third of the \$1526 fee faced by today's new arrivals.

The shameful secret behind the

Administrative Council, and Rebecca Dolgoy, a student commissioner at the University of Toronto, are two such individuals who are taking an interest in the rights of immigrants and refugees.

The two student leaders have been inspired by the plight of their friend Charles Conteh, a World University Service Canada (WUSC) sponsored refugee student at Victoria College.

Conteh, like all