

# Letters to the editor

I just finished reading the article, "The fixed link from Holland College to UPEI" in the October 28th issue of The Cadre, and I must say I am very upset.

Before deciding to further my educational career at UPEI, I attended Holland College. I graduated from the Youth Work program in 1994, but decided I wanted something more. I am NOT saying that Holland College was not adequate, it just wasn't what I was looking for. However, if I had to come to UPEI straight out of high school instead of studying at Holland College, I never would have stayed. Holland College gave me the necessary skills I needed to succeed at a university level, such as self-motivation and good study habits -- something I had not acquired in high school.

Most courses at Holland College use STEP -- Self-Teaching Education Program -- which encourages students to work and develop skills at their own pace. The course in which I participated also had a pass mark of 75% -- well above the necessary 60% required by UPEI. I am therefore confused as to why Ms. Broderick is so strongly opposed to the new transfer policy. If young students straight out of high school are qualified to study courses at a university level, than shouldn't mature students with one or two years post-secondary education have that same qualification?

John Crossely also seemed opposed to the new policy stating, "colleges do not emphasize a self-directed or autonomous type of work", and because of the presence of inferior college students, the university will have to, "integrate such things as skills training into the courses." I beg to differ. In its very name, STEP strongly encourages self-direction and motivation. Don't worry Mr. Crossely, college students are coming to university well equipped with the skills they require to excel and we are doing it. I am very proud of my Dean's List distinction. Not bad for a college student whom you believe lacks skills and motivation.

I feel it is about time the university recognized the hard work and dedication that college students demonstrated in their previous studies.

Lana Mill  
Holland College Alumni &  
4th year UPEI Arts student.

I am uncertain with how my comments may have been received in the October 28<sup>th</sup> *Cadre* article, "The Fixed link from Holland College to UPEI."

A university education is synonymous with the concept of critical thinking as well as of theory and knowledge-based learning. A college education is a training institute that focuses on skills and practical experience. Our Island needs both of these institutions as Islanders look to further their education and enter the workforce. In the article, my comments may have downplayed the importance of a college education, especially with the remark of wondering if college educated students "will be qualified to study courses at a university level." Any student is quite prepared to make the transition from one institution to the other.

The argument against the transfer of credits from the college to the university level is not an attack on students' abilities to adapt. The argument against credit transfers is for the protection of two separate ideologies: academia and technical experience. Specific courses offered at UPEI and Holland College may contain the same factual information. However, the student transferring credit to UPEI is not transferring the experience of theory surrounding those facts-- the student transfers the practical experience. Is the transferring of credits between both institutions robbing the students of a proper education in their respective institutions? I have considered this question over the past number of weeks and feel that the answer is yes. Should anyone be interested in a further explanation of my stance, please contact me at the Student Union.

Sincerely,  
Janice Broderick

## The student voice

By Melissa Doucette,  
CFS National Executive Representative

For those of you who don't know, all full-time students of UPEI are members of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), an organization that was formed in 1981. At this point, students nationwide decided that a broad partnership of student associations was needed in order to have a strong, unified voice to protect accessible and high-quality post-secondary education, as well as to develop savings on services that many students need or use. Some of the latter you may be familiar with are International Student Identity Cards (ISIC); Travel CUTS; Student Work Abroad Programs (SWAP); and more.

Since the Federation's beginnings, we have grown to approximately 400,000 students in 60 post-secondary education institutions. Every year, the Federation campaigns for issues important to students; this year our top concerns are the Federal Budget, the Canadian Health and Social Transfer Payments (CHST), and of particular importance to Atlantic Canadians, employment issues. Other campaigns include support for the establishment of a National Post Secondary Education Act, and opposing the increasing use of incidental fees. Contrary to some beliefs, we have never, ever, refused the offer of a tuition freeze; in fact, British Columbia is now enjoying the benefits of a two-year tuition freeze, largely due to the lobbying efforts of their provincial CFS component. Essentially, the Federation refuses to let student concerns be ignored.

Students need an effective national voice now more than ever. We must unite to keep post-secondary education accessible to *everyone*; it must be the province of all, instead of being for the privileged few. We refuse to mortgage our future for the price of learning; we will not sacrifice our hopes before they can ever be reached; we will no longer allow the lifeblood of this country to be leeched away.

Prince Edward Island has a newly formed component of the CFS, and we need your help. Lend your courage to the Canadian Federation of Students. The CFS is strong now, but we need your vitality to carry us through the worst crisis ever faced by post-secondary education in this country. If you are interested in helping us, or have any questions or concerns - we exist for you -- please contact one of the following:

Yancy Ross, Provincial Chair :

gross@upeii.ca

Melissa Doucette, National Executive Representative :  
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Next week: Income Contingent Loan Repayment Plans (ICLRP's), the proposed loan system every student needs to know about.