

# This is your educational neighbourhood

By **MELISSA DOUCETTE**

The number of people and terms discussed in terms of education can be boggling to the average student.

If you have ever been confused by this maze of information, read this short list of some of the pertinent names and topics. If you're still really confused, remember that you are probably more informed than some politicians!

**Paul Martin**, Federal Minister of Finance. Prepares the budget and decides what money goes where. He also decides where to take money from, like the \$7 billion he cut from education since 1993.

**Pierre Pettigrew**, Federal Minister of Human Resources Development Canada. Responsible for job creation initiatives, the Canadian Student Loan Program, and many others – it's one of the largest portfolios in the Federal government. If you have a student loan, this man owns 60 percent of your life.

**Jean Monty**, Chair of the Millennium Scholarship Fund

(MSF) and CEO of Bell Canada (BCE). The MSF will distribute money to students (criteria has not yet been set). In 1995, BCE owed the Federal government \$1.9 billion in deferred taxes.

**Jean Chrétien**, Prime Minister of Canada. Paul Martin's boss, and employee of Canadian citizens. Participant on a House of Commons Committee that decided police should carry pepper spray instead of mace. Claims not to know what pepper spray is ("Pepper? It's what I put on my plate."). Also originator of quotes such as "Fish don't have passports," "Seals don't eat beef," and other memorable proverbs.

**APEC** (Asian Pacific Economic Council). In November 1997, the APEC conference was held on the University of British Columbia campus. It was attended by such illustrious dictators as former Indonesian President Suharto, who killed over 600,000 people during his reign. Jean Chrétien was afraid Canadian student demonstrators would make Suharto feel bad. *These students* now know what pepper spray is. Appar-

ently, you also put pepper in your eyes.

**CHST** (Canadian Health and Social Transfer) payments. The new funding mechanism for social programs, including education. Before the CHST, programs like education had money specifically designated for them. Now, one lump sum is given to the provinces (cf "passing the buck"), who decide where the money goes. There isn't as much money involved in the CHST as there was in the old system of funding.

**Loan Remissions**. Cancellation of limited portions of debt accrued through student loans. Usually available for the provincial portion of a student loan, it is only available after graduation. Students must apply for loan remission, and generally must demonstrate a level of need.

**Grants**. Money given to students in need to help reduce high debt loads. The only criteria grants have is need. Canada does not have a national granting system, and PEI stopped its provincial granting system around 1995. **Special Opportunity Grants (SOG)** are targeted at certain groups, such as students with disabilities, students who are single parents,

some women in doctoral studies, etc. Check with Student Development for more details.

**SSHRC** (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council), **NSERC** (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council), **MRC** (Medical Research Council). These councils grant money to various academics across the country to assist in research. Many graduate students depend on these to finance their studies. Funding for these councils has been drastically cut since 1993, although a portion was restored in the last Federal budget. Although there are more Arts students than any other discipline, SSHRC's are the least funded of the three granting councils.

**CFS** (Canadian Federation of Students). Canada's national student movement, consisting of over 400,000 students and 60 universities and colleges. The main principle of the CFS is universal post-secondary education. Both the UPEI Student Union (Local 31) and the UPEI Graduate Student's Association (Local 70) are members of the CFS.

**UPEI Student Union Council**. All full-time students belong to the student union, and Council is a representation of

the student body. It has reps from the faculties of science, business, arts, nursing, and education. There is also a first-year rep, an AVC rep, a board of governor's rep, and a MAPUS (mature and part-time students) rep, as well as several senate reps. The Council Executive consists of a President, Vice-President External, Vice-President Internal, Vice-President Finance, and Vice-President Operations.

**CUPE**, Canadian Union of Public Employees. This union is a national organization that represents thousands of university and college staff members (and many other types of workers). UPEI staff belongs to CUPE 1870. CUPE in general gives considerable support to students.

**The Simpsons**. Quite possibly the best show on earth. Invaluable asset for stressed out students, and fertile breeding ground for a slew of interdisciplinary thesis topics.

More of your neighbours to appear in future issues... stay tuned for the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), provincial government members, and UPEI administrative figures.

## The Cadre

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