

Higher income equals higher education

By Brian Baker

TORONTO (CUP) —

Students from high-income families have significantly higher chances of getting a post-secondary education, a recent StatsCan report shows.

The survey documents an 83 per cent participation rate for students whose families earn an income over \$80,000 — a stark comparison to families earning less than \$55,000; only 55 per cent of youth from these families moved on to some form of post-secondary education.

Lynn Barr-Telford, a Statistics Canada official, explained the study looked at variables including access to post-secondary education, duration of studies and how the students pay for their education.

Barr-Telford said they looked at all aspects of where students were obtaining money to pay for their education.

Participation levels in Ontario are particularly low. Including tuition, students in this province need to spend an average of \$14,512 per year — considerably higher than the national average of \$11,200. For Adam Spence, Ontario University Student Association executive director, this figure is a serious barrier for lower income families.

"That's a pretty telling contrast of numbers, so the cost of education is more, people are having to spend more on their education to get more through loans, and these loans are more and more becoming private loans at a greater rate for Ontario students," said Spence.

Spence explained private

loans have become increasingly popular among students in Ontario. 30 per cent of students in this province sought help through private loans, while the national average is 14 per cent.

With the increasing demand for outside assistance, a more "selective and well-off" student will have a better chance of obtaining a university education than someone from a middle class background, he said.

"People who have more money and come from more affluent families are more likely to go to university," said Spence.

Jeff La Porte, OUSA's president, says the government needs to ensure that students from middle income families will qualify to

receive loans.

"The middle-income bracket aren't getting [loans] because their parents can afford to send them to school, but [the provincial government] doesn't see that the parents have mortgages and bills," La Porte said.

The provincial government's expectations of students don't add up, La Porte continued.


Ian Boyko, national chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students, said the study reveals that the cost of post-secondary education has become an insurmountable obstacle for thousands of families.

"Without a national system of needs-based grants and significant reductions in tuition fees, our

public system of higher education is becoming more elitist every year," he said in a release.

The first results of the report, titled Access, Persistence, and Planning, can be found at www.statcan.ca.

Want a HOT date?




Now Extended until
SEPTEMBER 29

Our STUDENT SEAT SALE is on till then.
Great rates, plus:

- Reserve your seat home for Christmas NOW for only \$20*
- Low season rates for high season dates — the best deal for Christmas.
- Only \$30 to change dates, compared with up to hundreds of dollars on other tickets.

Get your Christmas flight now, and change when your exam schedule comes out if needed.

For over 30 years, Travel CUTS has been getting students to school, back home, and to the world beyond. Visit www.travelcuts.com.



WIN TICKETS and AIRFARE to see THE DANDY WARHOLS LIVE at WEMBLEY Arena, UK!
Enter to win at www.travelcuts.com

Dandy Warhols contest sponsored by Travel CUTS, EMI Canada and Solo by Bell. Contest opens Aug. 31/03 & closes Oct. 15/03. Enter to win at www.travelcuts.com. No purchase necessary.

TRAVEL CUTS

See the world your way

Call Toll Free 1-888-FLY-CUTS (359-2887)

CHEAP PIZZA.



24 Slice PARTY PIZZA

(Any 3 Ingredients)

12.99

+ taxes
17.94 taxes and delivery included

GRECO:

310.30.30

307 University Ave

This Special Available For Delivery To:
UPEI, BROWN COURT, HOLLAND COLLEGE & COMPU COLLEGE ONLY!!!

*Not valid with other specials • This special available for delivery to UPEI, Brown Court, Holland College and Compu College only • Student ID required for pick up orders only • Restaurant of Greco's Food Systems Limited, used under license.

SF, Group of international crime fighting Hawaiian supermodels seek 18-24 male to knit us Lycra, Catsuit uniforms. Kung-fu grip an asset. No Poi allergies. Visit me at www.dugg.ca

..page [19] September 22 2003..