



A booklet listing Federal summer job prospects. Because of the cuts, employment officers had to go through each booklet and cross out the positions no longer in existence. On these two pages are Summer Canada Works (total 528 jobs last year) and Summer Career Access (total 47 jobs). (Photo: MacLeod)

Has your job been jettisoned?

By Carolyn Ryan

around next year for Prince Edward Island students. And the UPEI Student

At least 619 government summer jobs won't be

Union is not very happy with that.

A six-week campaign to protest government underfunding in education and student jobs had been planned, and will start unfolding this week, said Michelle Dorsey, SU President.

Meetings with the provincial Minister of Education, Leone Bagnole, soup-kitchen information sessions with students, a Main Event to raise funds for summer positions, and a final climactic Lobby Day with provincial MLA's at Province House in mid-February, are some of the events planned to alert students and the public to the dwindling financial alternatives open to students trying to attend university.

The campaign arose last term from a Student Union Council meeting (see November 29 issue) when Councillors were angered to hear of the extent of the fledgling Conservative government's plans to cut funding for student

employment, especially in the area of Summer Works and Summer Career Access projects, which account for 575 of the jobs mentioned above.

CFS rep for P.E.I. Cathy Campbell and Ombudsman Jacinta Gallant volunteered to start working on an agenda, and over Christmas some of the groundwork was done.

The campaign will start with an information blitz, including articles in the *Netted Gem*, a radio talk show mid-week on CIMN, posters, and printed pamphlets.

Organizers are focussing on employment program cuts as a symptom of the larger problem of student underfunding, and mean to make their point by an extensive use of statistics such as the following:

- Only 36% of young people with no post-secondary education have full-time, year-round job.
- Half of those with post-

secondary education work full-time for the whole year.

— Nationally, 81,685 jobs with Summer Canada in 1984 won't exist in the summer of 1985.

— One-third of post-secondary students view summer savings as their primary source of funding for education.

— In June, 1984, the official government figure for youth unemployment was 463,000, but Youth Minister Celine Hervieux-Payette said this omitted 106,000 young people who had given up looking for work and 250,000 youths underemployed through working part-time ... this totals 819,000 people from the ages of 15-24.

Dorsey says the Jobs campaign will not necessarily be asking the government to reinstate what existed in the past for students. Instead, politicians will be asked to ensure that such programs be replaced with programs

creating productive, positive jobs rather than "do-nothing" positions.

"The government is saying the private sector will pick up the slack in the economy and replace the lost jobs," said UPEI Ombudsman Jacinta Gallant, "But what are students supposed to do in the meantime?" She says such an adjustment period could take five years or more.

In short, the Student Union campaign is trying to bring about an increase in awareness on the part of students especially and the general public as well, that the cuts being made in Ottawa will slash students badly.

It won't hurt, either, to remind Prime Minister Mulroney of a statement he made in June of 1984, to the effect that "nothing can be too dramatic, nothing can be enough, to deal with the problem of youth unemployment."

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