

Federal Budget criticized on PEI: Education and other social programs pushed aside

By Sarah Murphy
NEWS EDITOR

Last week's budget has invited severe criticism from Canadian tax payers including Islanders.

"[An] Emphasis on tax cuts was welcomed," said Annette Ryan, senior analyst for federal fiscal relations for the PEI government, "but it benefited the rich."

Bob Crockett, Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Regional Director for New Brunswick and PEI was also disappointed by this year's budget. Crockett insisted that it did not address critical issues such as health care, child poverty, job training, and education.

"It was the liberal government who started these programs and they are not keeping them up," said Crockett, who like Ryan believes the only benefits brought about by Martin's budget are for the wealthy. "It all has to do with fairness," he added.

"If the government does not answer the cry for help they are ignoring the very basic problems of our society," said Crockett, adding that a significant

amount of money should be put into healthcare, unemployment, child poverty, and housing, for which there is a significant shortage of across the nation. Municipalities also need help from higher levels of government said Crockett.

BJ McCarville, UPEI Student Union Vice President External and Canadian Federation of Student (CFS) provincial representative fears that post-secondary education was pushed to the sidelines in Martin's address.

McCarville received lots of support from the campus community in recent months when she campaigned in order to raise awareness about the current state of higher education in PEI and across the country through the CFS's Access 2000 campaign. She thinks it would be unfortunate to make cuts to education now.

"It boils down to 100 per cent politics. We are going to survive one way or the other," McCarville added. "[But] we are

hoping for the best from the province."

McCarville believes she has little say in the matter.

But Ryan disagrees, and maintains that education will not suffer in the province.

"The province has pretty much maintained their spending, even with \$18 million less [in transfer payments]," said Ryan, adding that government spending on post-secondary education had dropped from \$42.4 million in 1994-95, to \$42.3 million in 1998-99.

UPEI president Wade MacLauchlan is confident that post-secondary education remains on the government's agenda.

"The [Federal government] was very clear," MacLauchlan said. "Post secondary education is part of their commitment." MacLauchlan added that he believes that the federal government's initiative to inject money in research is an excellent idea, but that it is very important to get recognition of the need for the whole country to participate, especially smaller universities such as UPEI. □

Create. Investigate. Communicate.

The Faculty of Graduate Studies
at The University of Manitoba.



Apply Yourself!

www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/graduate_studies
Graduate_Studies@UManitoba.ca

Acadia Credit Courses



Need a personal line of credit?
Acadia's Spring and Summer on-campus and distance courses provide the best credit anywhere.
With courses ranging from Anatomy to Tales of Terror, we've got you covered!

Register by May 8 for Spring and by June 19 for Summer

For more information or a calendar:
902/ 585-1434 or 1-800-565-6568
Fax: 902/ 585-1068
continuing.education@acadiau.ca
<http://conted.acadiau.ca>

Acadia University
Continuing and
Distance Education
Willett House, 38 Crowell Dr.
Wolfville, Nova Scotia B0P 1X0