

# Graduate programs to raise tuition?

Minister says "yes;"  
Administration says "no."

By MELISSA DOUCETTE

On December 15, 1998, an amendment was passed in the provincial legislature to the University Act. With the change, UPEI is now capable of granting graduate degrees. The first graduate program to be offered at UPEI will be a Masters degree in Education (MEd.). The faculty of Science is also in the developing stages required to offer graduate programs.

The amendment was debated in the legislature shortly before it broke for Christmas. Members from the New Democratic Party (NDP) and the Liberal Party both expressed support for the bill, but raised concerns surrounding tuition costs.

Both Nancy Guptil, Liberal MLA, and Dr. Herb Dickieson, leader of the provincial NDP, questioned the Conservatives on increased funding for UPEI. Dickieson felt that graduate programs at UPEI will be "an advancement for all Islanders," but indicated that the "big problem is the cost of education."

"Mr. Minister [Chester Gillan], if you would consider placing a tuition freeze on tuition costs for university students, and also some help with grants and student loans. It would be . . . much appreciated," stated Dickieson.

Guptil repeatedly stressed her concern over tuition hikes. She asked Chester Gillan, Minister of Education, if the new programs would

require an increase in tuition.

"To answer your . . . query, will therefore the entire campus have to substantiate by a higher tuition increase? In all probability, yes," Gillan replied.


But a tuition freeze would be unwelcome to the University administration.

Dr. Lawrence Heider, Acting President of UPEI, stated that he was against a tuition freeze. He claimed that if tuition was frozen and the University's operating grant was cut, UPEI would have no way to replace lost revenues. The result from this combination could mean program cuts, he added.

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## Irish class at UPEI

Traditional Celtic Language of Ireland Finding Converts

By RANDY McDONALD

This semester, the Modern Languages department at UPEI is offering courses in another language. Dr. Colman O'Hare of the English department is teaching almost 30 students the Irish language on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

"It's not like saying things like *begorrah*, it's a completely different language," O'Hare explains, adding that Irish is a Celtic language, most closely related to Scottish Gaelic and Manx, more distantly to Welsh, Breton and Cornish.

Even though the Irish language began its centuries-long decline in the 17th century following the British conquest of Ireland and wholesale colonization, as late as 1820 no man

could be a minister in the Presbyterian Church of Ireland if he couldn't preach in fluent Irish.

In the 19th century, the Irish language took several severe blows, not least of which was the Irish Famine of the 1840's that devastated the Irish-speaking districts of Ireland, and the mass emigration that followed that catastrophe. Even in the 1920's, on the eve of the independence of the Republic of Ireland, schoolchildren in the future Republic of Ireland were punished if they spoke Irish in class.

Today, though Irish is the second official language of the Republic of Ireland and is a compulsory subject in Irish schools, Irish is fast approaching extinction. While a third of

the Irish population claims to understand Irish, only 71 thousand people claim practical speaking knowledge of the lan-

guage, and of these 71 thousand people only 11 per cent use Irish in everyday life.

O'Hare was not born into

an Irish-speaking community, although he knew a few words

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~~ IRISH ~~  
(M.L. 101D)  
will be offered from  
January to April 1999  
on Tuesdays and Thursdays  
from 7:00 - 8:15 p.m.

Irish 101: a welcomed addition to the Modern Languages department

-Photo by Richard Haines