

THE FEDERAL BUDGET: THE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT LEARNED ITS LESSON

Ottawa -- In his first budget, Finance Minister Don Mazankowski claimed that "the government launched its prosperity initiative last year as a broadly based consultation process". Obviously students weren't part of that process, and the prosperity promised in the budget isn't likely to apply to them.

"This government still hasn't learned its lesson" said Kelly Lamrock, Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students. "All this talk about prosperity doesn't mean a thing of education is left out of the picture. The continued freeze in transfer payments for post secondary education means that 9 billion dollars will be cut by 1995 and that's bad news for the whole country".

Lamrock added that the elimination of the 3% tax on student loans is a "great victory for students, but it is marred by the decision to eliminate the six month interest subsidy for graduating students. The government is worried about students defaulting on their loans, but doesn't the government know that more than 90% of all student borrows repay their Canada student loans? This doesn't look at all like the great reforms students were waiting for."

Finally, Lamrock noted this last bit of absurdity: "The decision to merge the Social Science and Humanities Research Council and the Canada Council is appalling. Graduate students will see it for what it is: a decision born out of ignorance, showing that the government doesn't know what either artists or social scientists need".

UPEI STUDENT CENTRE... THE HEART OF THE UNIVERSITY

Something is missing at UPEI. It has been talked about by students, Councils and executives, and faculty alike, since UPEI was formed in 1969. Many ideas have been discussed. Something needs to be done.

In 1989 a formal discussion paper went to the presidential UPEI Space Needs Committee on the future space needs of the Student Union. It was presented by them SU President, Lisa Murphy. In short, the construction of a new Student Centre.

The ideal scenario for a Student Union Centre would be a complex offered as a central gathering spot for the students, other members of the University Community, and individuals from the community at large. The Complex would exist to provide those social, recreational, educational, and cultural activities which are not formally provided through the Academic Curriculum or other University Services. The building could also house currently offered University services that would have and compliment Student Union functions and operation.

The Student Union Centre (the Barn), presently, does not adequately satisfy the need of UPEI students, as appreciated by the Student Union organization. The structure of the building is limited in so far as it does not permit consolidation of the existing services in an efficient manner. The building does not offer the space needed to accommodate the already existing services. The current building does not lend itself to future expansion initiatives.

The construction of a new Student Union Centre would greatly enlarge the space and the scope of current operations with room for development. The Student Centre should contain facilities and services which are for the benefit of the entire university community. Certain facilities would be primarily used by certain sub-groups within the university. Such services possibly offered would include: A coffee shop, study lounges, hanging-out and relaxing lounges, multi-purpose rooms, sub-organization offices, and the list goes on.

One section of the building would contain a licensed lounge (imagine the Panther Lounge not in the Barn!?!), another area offices for the Student Union