FNBFA concerned

The Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations is deeply concerned with the financial implications of the Federal government's proposal to cut $1.5 billion from its allocation to the provinces towards Established Programmes Financing for medicare, hospitals, and higher education. Federal ministers have stated in public that the Federal government will not cut back on its support of medical services, particularly medicare. In effect, the major burden of the proposed cutbacks to E.P.F. is likely to be borne by the universities.

Universities in New Brunswick are already facing severe financial restraints, necessitating cutbacks in library services, extension, sports and cultural programmes, and support staff. The loss of the Federal government support could mean a cut of 15% to 20% in operating revenues. Such a loss would be devastating to the universities, and could only be borne with massive retrenchment in services and personnel. The range of programmes offered and the number of student places would have to be cut, both in New Brunswick, and in the Maritimes. Universities would also be forced to impose major increases in student fees, to make up some of their revenue losses. Poorer regions, such as the Maritimes, could not hope to make up this deficit from purely provincial resources.

In effect, the Maritime university system is in grave danger of deteriorating slowly into small parochial institutions, accessible only to an elite body of wealthier students.

The universities desperately need the active support and help of the general public in their lobbying campaign to persuade the Federal government not to impose the crippling cuts to Established Programmes Fnancing forecast for the October budget. Every letter of protest counts in the government's "war office" as a signal that the voting public does not support their actions.

PLEASE write a brief letter of protest, urging Prime Minister Trudeau not to cut federal support for higher education. Letters should be sent to: The Right Honourable Pierre Trudeau, Office of the Prime Minister, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario. (No stamp required). The lobbying effort would also be helped if you would send a letter to your local Member of Parliament urging him or her to fight in the House of Commons to prevent these proposed cuts from being implemented (also post free.)

Yours sincerely,
Claudia Whalen
President, FNBFA/FAPUNB

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