

THE BRUNS



NATIONAL NEWS

FROM UNIVERSITY NEWSROOMS ACROSS CANADA

Terrorism, debt, and economy top G-20 agenda

by Mark Kennedy
Ontario

Finance ministers and central bank governors from the world's most powerful nations gathered in Ottawa last weekend to discuss terrorism and the global economy.

G-20 finance ministers and officials from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) addressed the stabilization of markets in the wake of Sept. 11, along with debt relief for the developing world and,

above all, measures to stop terrorist financing.

During the first of two Saturday press conferences Paul Martin, Canada's minister of finance, outlined the "action plan" agreed upon by all G-20 members.

The strategy will seek to coordinate an international effort against terrorism, address the problems facing poor countries and ensure that the benefits of globalization are shared more broadly, Martin said.

Martin also addressed the G-20 and IMF's plans to allow poor nations to suspend their debt repayments and encouraged rich countries to increase foreign aid to the developing world.

The current financial crises in the Global South, Martin argued, are largely the result of the terrorist attacks on the U.S. two months ago.

"There is a recognition that the poorest nations are having a more difficult time paying their debts after Sept. 11."

Martin also emphasized the member nations' commitment to thwarting global terrorism.

"Every single member of the G-20, without exception, has said that they will put [the anti-terrorism plan] into implementation as soon as they can pass the legislation," he said.

Asked about his earlier remarks concerning the need for "commonality" in fighting

terrorism and how it related to Canada's own contentious anti-terrorism legislation, Bill C-36, Martin replied: "What happened to that legislation is that it has been submitted to a parliamentary committee. They're debating all of the issues, and this is not a debate that anyone takes lightly."

"The one thing nobody wants to do in order to fight terrorism is allow the terrorists to win in terms of our values," Martin added.

During Saturday afternoon's IMF Financial Committee meeting, several thousand protesters converged on heavy police barricades in downtown Ottawa, just outside of the Chateau Laurier Hotel. Although there were

dozens of arrests, the demonstrations were mainly peaceful.

In a press conference held after their meeting, senior IMF officials echoed the sentiment of the G-20 in committing financial and technological resources in the fight against terrorism, as well as committing to global poverty reduction.

In his opening remarks, Gordon Brown, chancellor and chair of the IMF, called on all countries to utilize existing United Nations mechanisms in fighting terrorism and to report "suspicious transactions" within their borders.

"The outcome of this discussion was to build up confidence and make clear that the international community is united in its fight against [terrorist] money laundering."

There was also talk of tying in anti-terrorist measures as a condition on aid packages to developing countries, although Horst Kohler, managing director of the IMF, said that such measures would be "premature."

Responding to a question about aid, Brown outlined the IMF's poverty reduction projection costs in no unclear terms.

"It [will] cost \$10 billion for primary education to be available for all, \$12 billion for the global health initiative to work in cutting infant mortality ... and \$20 billion to halve the amount of poverty, as we promised to do by 2015."

When one reporter noted that critics of the IMF have said the organization "throws promises around, but never follows up on them," Brown countered by noting that more countries are going through the debt-reduction process now than in 1997.

"Of course, we have to do more ... I believe there is now also the political will to do that," he said.

NB government supports US

By Ben Conoley
The Brunswickan

Premier Bernard Lord and the Legislative Assembly have officially passed support to the United States as they deal with the events of Sept. 11.

In addition to the unanimous decision to show support, the assembly has also decided to officially "proudly express" its support to all the Canadians serving in the military right now and "a continued spirit of tolerance, understanding and community among and between the people of New Brunswick as we deal with the aftermath of Sept. 11."

Premier Lord gave a speech yesterday in which he expressed his gratitude towards the people of New Brunswick

who have been offering support and condolences towards those affected by the terrorist attacks. He made mention of the many charity drives throughout the province.

"I wish to thank the citizens of New Brunswick for their caring and compassion, ranging from the citizens of Moncton who welcomed stranded travelers diverted to the Moncton Airport, to organizers and contributors to teddy bear campaigns for the children of New York, to the long lines of volunteers at the blood donor clinics, and others who have responded in one form or another," Lord said.

Lord presented the Book of Condolence for the victims of Sept. 11 to U.S. Ambassador to Canada, Paul Cellucci.



Mark McGinnis/ The Brunswickan

Remind you of money?

UNB celebrates Earth Weekend

by David MacCoubrey
The Brunswickan

On November 23rd and 24th, the UNB Environmental Society will be hosting UNB's first annual Earth Weekend.

Its focus is to better inform UNB students and residents of Fredericton about the impacts of local environmental issues. The Society believes that it can educate the public to make a difference and improve their

standard of living of the community. The two-day event begins Friday, at 3:30 p.m. sharp, in the SUB cafeteria with the Clean the Campus event.

The following day at noon there will be an Environmental Open House in the SUB Cafeteria. It will be comprised of speakers, interactive presentations and displays. The open house displays will be presented by students, professors, public interest organizations and local groups of concerned citizens.

The presentations will include local environmental issues, the benefits of recycling, composting, buying local products or organic products and overall healthy living. The objective of the displays will be to provide a forum for concerned people to come together and learn how to lessen their negative impact on the environment.

The Weekend will end with a dinner at three o'clock with the Food for Thought Proportional Dinner. It is a dinner designed to point out the gap between the upper and lower classes of the world. This event costs only five dollars. The catch is that to eat, you must draw a number from a hat, which dictates which class you will eat in. Your meal could be a box of Kraft dinner or a feast prepared especially for you. The food is donated by Aura Foods, as well as, dishes are prepared by local people.

All people are welcome to attend. If you are interested in joining the Environmental Society, it meets every Thursday in Tilley Hall, Room 124 at 7:00 p.m.

McGill group takes on blood donation policies

By Patrick Pagden
The McGill Daily

A spokesperson from McGill University's queer student association joined other gay activists at a conference in Ottawa last week to condemn the Canadian Blood Services' national blood donor policy.

The conference, "Blood-borne HIV and Hepatitis: Optimizing the Donor Selection Process," gave Queer McGill, as well as groups such as the Canadian AIDS Society and the Canadian Federation of Students, a chance to discuss their concerns with the blood donation procedures of Canadian Blood Services (CBS) and Héma-Québec, Quebec's blood-collection agency.

For years, Queer McGill has challenged Héma-Québec's policy of barring gay men from giving blood. Each year, the group protests the annual McGill University student association blood drive and has been circulating a petition since 1996.

Queer McGill spokesperson Manuel Mendelzon spoke at the conference about his concerns with the Héma-Québec donor screening process.

"This policy is based on stereotypes and really old science," he said.

Mendelzon cited the Héma-Québec questionnaire which asks whether the potential donor has had homosexual sex, or has had sex with someone who has had homosexual sex. It does not ask whether donors have had unprotected sex.

"The way that the blood donor screening system works currently is more unsafe than safe because it screens out donors on the basis of the fact that

they are in a high-risk group, rather than because they participate in high-risk behaviour," Mendelzon said.

"This question discriminates against social groups rather than unsafe practices," Mendelzon also argued that the term "sex" needs more clarity to ensure public safety, adding that sex can be defined differently by different people.

"What kind of safeguard to the country's blood supply comes in the form of such a vague question?" Mendelzon asked.

Ron Chaplin, spokesperson for Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere (EGALE), challenged CBS and Héma-Québec to prove that their policies are well-founded, and not based on prejudice against certain groups.

"CBS and Héma-Québec must draft regulations that are non-discriminatory, or be able and willing to demonstrate that current restrictions are necessary," said Chaplin.

Brian Huskins, a delegate from the Canadian AIDS Society, spoke about the conflict between civil rights and the safety of donated blood.

"In the eighties," he said, "when the questionnaire was first developed, scientists who didn't know where HIV came from looked specifically at the group that was infected with it."

Huskins explained that although the safety of donated blood is paramount, the questions on the selection process need to be justified in order to balance the rights of the donors with those of the recipients.

Héma-Québec, among other groups, brought forward statistical and medical information in order to defend their current policy, and groups like the Canadian Hemophilia Society called on delegates not to confuse the issue of discrimination with blood safety.

The CBS and Héma-Québec must "make sure to err on the side of safety, and not to mix issues," said the hemophilia society's Daniel Lapointe.

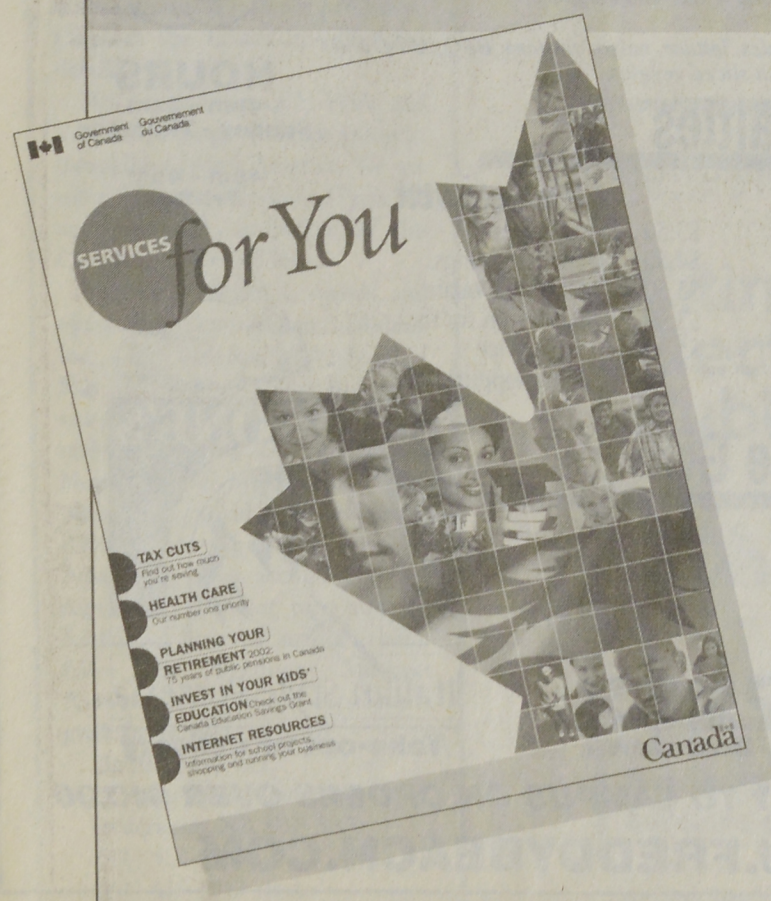
Héma-Québec and CBS will take delegates' views into consideration when they make a series of recommendations to the federal government about whether the donor policy should be changed.



Another late night...

Mark McGinnis/The Brunswickan

You've got mail... coming soon



A booklet on Government of Canada services. Look for information on:

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