

New Janitorial contract for UNB

by Julianne Philpott

In a memo released on March 23rd, The Department of Physical Plant announced that as of May 1, 2007, Omni Facility Services Canada Corporation will take over a three-year janitorial services contract.

After a lengthy process of tendering, the Proposal Review Committee came to a final decision and awarded the contract to "the company that would provide the best value to the university within our financial means."

Once the financial aspects of the contract were decided upon, the second concern for the committee was quality assurance. This was deemed the most important evaluation criterion of all, and remains to be an "important part of the implementation plan for both Omni and the Department of Physical Plant."

A dependable and high quality janitorial service is something that institutions like UNB require. Unfortunately, sometimes workers go unnoticed for the effort they give each day in providing clean and sanitary conditions for our faculty, staff, and students.

In keeping with this notion, but obviously concerned with certain financial constraints, Mike Carter, the Director of the Department of Physical Plant, stated that it is vital



Internet

to "ensure that the work performed under our new janitorial services contract is matched, in the best possible manner."

As a member of the student body, I was pleased to read that the Proposal Review Committee is being expanded to form a Fredericton Campus Custodial Committee (FCCC). Essentially, this means that the committee will now be comprised of support staff and have representation from students. It is important that students have a voice regarding issues that pertain to their learning facilities, as their learning environment is a part of their educational experience.

With sufficient communication and feedback, it is Carter's expectation that we "will have a successful contract that meets our janitorial requirements."

Lakehead SU defeats motion to leave CFS

by Doug Diaczuk
Argus (Lakehead University)

THUNDER BAY, Ont. (CUP) -- The Lakehead University Student Union has decided not to initiate the procedure to leave the Canadian Federation of Students.

At the March 22nd board of directors meeting, a motion to serve notice to defederate from the CFS was defeated by a vote of seven for and nine against.

Originally the board was going to vote on beginning the process of collecting signatures from 700 students -- 10 percent of the student population -- in order to hold a referendum to leave the CFS. The motion was amended to have the board serve the CFS notice of defederation -- CFS policy requires at least six months notice for such action.

The issue drew a larger than normal crowd to the board table. Most students in attendance spoke against leaving the national lobby group.

James Gallant, former LUSU board member and provincial CFS executive, outlined some of the reasons why he thought leaving the organization was a bad idea.

"The CFS is a student-driven organization run by students for students. How does this not represent students?" he said. "The fault does not fall into the organization but the representatives to that organization."

"We can't expect to sway politicians just as a small group. We need a united voice. That is what the CFS gives."



Internet

Matt Granville, who introduced the motion, said he feels the CFS is a good organization in theory, but in practice, it is lacking.

"In paper and in theory, the federation is an excellent organization to advocate for student rights," Granville said.

He went on to say that some services provided by the CFS -- access to a local Travel CUTS, for example -- are not available to Thunder Bay students. Other services, such as the off-campus housing directory homes4students.com,

don't provide any local listings.

Granville believes that if LUSU begins the process of defederation, it will force the CFS to come to Lakehead and make its presence felt, something he believes is lacking right now.

LUSU vice-president Brendon Johnson, the northern region commissioner for the CFS Northern Ontario Office and LUSU's representative to the CFS, was quick to defend the CFS.

He cited such things as the Spirit of the North conference, the national Day

of Action to reduce tuition fees, and the more than 700 signatures of students who supported the CFS fight to lower tuition fees.

"I realize there are other student groups out there fighting for the same things, but are there other groups that have three million members across the country?" Johnson said.

"I think that LUSU should not be leading the charge on this. If the students feel strongly enough on this, they will come up with the 700 signatures."

Cutting for Cancer

by Julianne Philpott

What would it take for you to shave your head? For Jacquelyn Stephen, vice president of Lady Dunn Hall, it took support from friends and family, and \$5,000 cash.

Stephen shaved her head this past Friday at the Social Club after reaching a goal that Lady Dunn has had for years. Jacqueline decided that shaving her shoulder-length hair would be great motivation for her house to raise the money. "I decided to shave my head," she explained, "because I thought that it would give my house... some extra incentive to try and raise the \$5,000 for our house charity."

Lady Dunn's house charity is The Breast Cancer Research Foundation. They gave the money to the Canadian Cancer Society and told them that they would like it to go towards

Breast Cancer.

Five thousand dollars is no small chunk of change. A lot of people were involved with raising the money, and the ladies of Lady Dunn put a lot of effort into reaching their goal. "It was pretty hard. The girls worked really hard all year trying to raise that money," Stephen explained. "[With] all of our events this year, we tried to get more people involved and make them campus-wide."

Matt Harris of the Social Club also helped the girls. He let the girls have a plinko event to raise more money, and even donated the final \$400. "Matt Harris was really supportive of our charity," Stephen offered.

For males who have relatively short hair, shaving their heads is not all that traumatizing. But for most women, long hair is preferred and shaving their heads is simply out of the question. After Stephen had put her fears aside and took the plunge, she offered her thoughts. "It felt

unbelievably weird. Everyone kept telling me I was going to cry but all I could do was smile and laugh with how it tickled." She continued, "I just could not believe it was happening."

Once the money was raised and the event was over, Jacquelyn was left with \$5,000 more and a head of hair less. Support from the people closest to her was what helped her the most. She said that without her friends and family, she would have never been able to get through it. "I do not think I would be coping with it as well as I have been without the amazing support from my friends and family."

Throughout the year, numerous fundraisers and charity events take place all around campus. Although shaving your head for cancer may be one of the most celebrated charities, there are others that are just waiting for your support. Congratulations to Jacquelyn and the girls of Lady Dunn.



Jonathan Hudon /The Brunswick

Nova Scotia freezes tuition

Student groups decry lack of action on fee reductions

by William Wolfe-Wylie
CUP Atlantic Bureau Chief

SACKVILLE, N.B. (CUP) -- Nova Scotia has frozen tuition fees at September 2006 levels for the 2007-08 academic year, but some student leaders are surprised that the budget doesn't carry more for students.

For two years the provincial government has been promising to reduce tuition fees to the national average by the 2010-11 academic year. With that in mind, said Ezra Edelstein, the president of the Dalhousie University Students' Union, students were expecting a \$365 reduction in their tuition fees for next year.

Edelstein said that being presented with a freeze was a good thing, but not what they were expecting.

"The government has made a commitment to post-secondary education, just not the commitment they said they would," Edelstein said.

But according to Kevin Finch, a spokesman for the Department of Education, the government is living up to its commitments. The promise to reduce tuition fees, he said, was still on track, adding "it could be back-end loaded," meaning students would see one large tuition fee decrease, instead of a series of smaller ones.

In 2006-07, the national average tuition fee was \$4,347. Currently, students in Nova Scotia pay the highest tuition in the country at an

average of \$6,571.

Edelstein is bracing for an active year with the Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations, a Nova Scotia student lobby group. He said that it is now up to the Dalhousie Students' Union and ANSSA to make sure that the government lives up to its commitments.

"ANSSA's job next year will be to make sure that the government keeps its promise," Edelstein said.

The 2007 budget means that what would have been a 3.9 percent tuition fee increase is now being subsidized by the province. In addition to that funding commitment, the bursary for students from Nova Scotia that was introduced in January is being increased to \$500 from \$440.

Finch said that how the government moves forward with the tuition fee reduction commitment will depend on several factors, including "equalization payments from Ottawa and offshore resources."

Danielle Sampson, the Maritimes organizer for the Canadian Federation of Students, agreed that while

the tuition fee freeze was good for students, it was not what was expected.

"It's a step in the right direction," Sampson said. "We'll be looking for more over the next three budgets."

Regarding the bursary for Nova Scotia residents, Sampson criticized the move, arguing, "It's not going to affect the base rate of what students are paying."

But while students in Nova Scotia are decrying the move, students farther down the highway in New Brunswick are looking at the freeze with jealous eyes.

Students at Mount Allison for Change (SMAC), a student group that has been arguing for a tuition fee freeze since September, sees the freeze as a major victory for students in Nova Scotia.

"While we acknowledge that it is not the final solution to the national crisis in accessibility to education, we believe that the tuition freeze in Nova Scotia is a great victory for students of that province," said Chelsey Ricketts, a spokeswoman for SMAC.



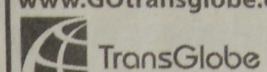
Attention Students!!!

Welcome home to TransGlobe
Affordable Student Apartments:

- ✓ Variety of rental units to accommodate different living arrangements
- ✓ Conveniently close to campus
- ✓ 24 hr. emergency contact number (peace of mind for the parents)
- ✓ Steps to shopping & restaurant

Let TransGlobe find your home away from home

1-888-310-7000
www.GOTransglobe.com



ATCAN

SELF STORAGE

24 Hour Access - 7 Days a Week

Packing Supplies Available

Individually Alarmed Heated Units

Affordable/Flexible Rental Terms

Variety of Sizes

Student Military and Seniors Rates!

Atcan Self Storage

20 Acorn Street

Fredericton, NB

451-8080

10% off for students!

www.atcan.ca