

# news from CUASA

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Editor: Barry Rutland

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## PLENTY OF JOBS, NO SALARIES

Recently, you will have received from OCUFA an urgent request to write to your M.P. and MPP, protesting the threatened cutback by the Federal Government of the monies it transfers to the provinces for health care and post-secondary education under the Established Programmes Funding (EPF) agreement. Alan MacEachen, the Minister of Finance, has given notice that he intends to reduce the Federal contribution by 1.5 billion dollars. This would deprive the Ontario treasury of approximately \$400 million in university grants by 1984.

This amount is equivalent to eight Carletons. Given the Ontario Government's current policy of underfunding the Colleges and Universities, and the priority assigned to health over education, it is evident that, were MacEachen to make good his threat, post-secondary education would face catastrophe.

Enrollments are currently healthy. Revised demographic projections forecast declines in the 80's and early 90's that are marginal in relation to what was anticipated previously (see CUASA newsletter, Vol 11, No. 7, April 1981). Clearly, there is a demand for the services of academics. However, the prospect of working for next to nothing, or not working at all, stares us in the face.

CUASA urges its members to write to their M.P.'s on the Hill and MPP's at Queen's Park. Budget Day is set for early November. While the EPF negotiations will not take place until the new year, MacEachen will be building his intentions into his plans for the next twelve months. Get your letters off as soon as possible.

In case you missed the OCUFA appeal, here is what is suggested:

### TO PROVINCIAL MPP's

1. Indicate you are one of the MPP's constituents; that you wish to protest the priority given to university funding by the provincial government; and that you want your MPP to tell you, as a constituent, what he or she is prepared to do.
2. Select one or more of the following points (or add your own) and ask your MPP to obtain answers for you from the government.
  - (a) Political leaders have repeatedly asserted that this province will have to "live by its wits" in the future. Why is the human resource potential represented by future generations of students being placed in jeopardy by continued underfunding? Why,

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## TO PROVINCIAL MPP's (cont.)

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when there is a desperate need for a strong basic and applied research base in Ontario, are the essential elements like universities being allowed to decline? Why, when economic recovery will depend on highly qualified graduates and researchers working in the universities, is the government not diverting financial resources to the universities to prime the pump?

- (b) The Minister's Special Committee has recommended a major increase in funding for the university system. This prestigious and non-partisan committee has provided unassailable evidence of the universities needs. What steps is the government taking to implement the principal recommendation of the Committee?
- (c) The federal government is planning to cut unilaterally the transfer payments under EPF to the provinces for higher education. Premier Davis, in a reply to OCUFA questioning during the last election campaign, stated that "the Government of Ontario will do everything in its power to ensure that the federal government revises its plans." What steps is the government currently taking to resist this move by the federal level?
- 3. Letters should be designed to provoke replies; to register concerns; to show the MPP's there are voters with an issue. Avoid essays, avoid attacks on individuals.
- 4. If you can, send copies to the Minister of Colleges and Universities, the Premier, and OCUFA.

## TO FEDERAL M.P.'s

- 1. Indicate you are one of the M.P.'s constituents; that you wish to protest the action of the federal government in threatening to cut transfer payments to the provinces for post-secondary education; and that you want your M.P. to tell you, as a constituent, what he or she is prepared to do.
- 2. Indicate that the faculty associations, at local, provincial and national levels, have been pressing for a public inquiry into university funding in Canada, and ask if the M.P. is prepared to make representations to the government for a freeze on transfer payment cuts while such an inquiry is taking place.
- 3. Ask the MP if he or she will endorse the recommendations on university funding of the Parliamentary Task Force report: Fiscal Federalism in Canada, released in August 1981.
- 4. Indicate that the economic recovery of Canada depends, in expert opinion, on a flow of well-trained graduates of all disciplines into the work force, and on a healthy basic and applied research community. Ask what steps the government will take to ensure it will meet the national responsibilities in this regard.
- 5. Ask the M.P. if he or she is prepared to raise these points with Ministers of the Federal Cabinet and/or in party caucus meetings.
- 6. Letters should ask for replies. They should not be essays, nor should they attack individual politicians. They should register concern and indicate that as a constituent you expect action from your M.P. If you can, send copies to the Prime Minister, to OCUFA, and to CAUT.
- 7. Letters to M.P.'s may be sent to the Member (no postage required) at the House of Commons, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa K1A 0A6.