

THE GATEWAY

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The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, Umax PowerLook 1000 flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of FENICE, Joanna, Kepler and Whitney. The Manitoban is the Gateway's sister paper, and we love her dearly, though "not in that way." The Gateway's games of choice are *Burning Crusade* and *Kitten Cannon*.

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New minister may bring greater federal focus to PSE

JENNIFER HUYGEN
News Writer

With the appointment of a new federal minister of Human Resources and Social Development on 4 January, student groups across the country are looking to the Conservative government to make good on their promises for national reform in the postsecondary education system.

Monte Solberg, the Conservative MP for Medicine Hat, assumed his new role as Minister of Human Resources and Social Development (HRSD) in Stephen Harper's recent Cabinet shuffle.

According to Phillippe Ouellette, National Director of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), "Monte Solberg has had a past of bringing vision and direction to different portfolios.

"What I'm going to be really interested in seeing from the new minister is what type of level of priority will he place postsecondary education in his portfolio, because HRSD is an enormous portfolio," he said.

The University of Alberta Students' Union isn't a current member of any national lobby group, choosing instead to focus its resources towards provincial change through participation in the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS).

"[W]ith a lot of what we advocate for students, it's the provincial government that makes a lot of the decisions and has a lot of the jurisdiction when

it comes to postsecondary education," explained SU Vice-President (External) Dave Cournoyer, who is also the chair of CAUS.

Traditionally considered a provincial jurisdiction, postsecondary education has recently received more focus on a national scale. The federal government currently works in conjunction with the provinces to provide financial assistance and educational savings programs for students, including Canada Student Loans and Canada Education Savings Grants.

However, Cournoyer also discussed the importance of developing a national strategy for education.

"In the past couple months [the Students' Union has] met with a number of MPs around the Edmonton-area," he explained. "[It will be] interesting to see whether postsecondary education becomes an issue in the next federal election, and we're going to be pushing our local MPs and people in the area to talk about postsecondary education and make it an issue in Edmonton."

According to Cournoyer, Alberta will also be affected by the appointment of Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St Albert MLA Doug Horner as the new provincial Minister of Advanced Education and Technology.

"I think it will be really interesting to see how the new provincial minister [of Advanced Education and Technology] interacts with the new



ALEENA REITSMAN

HIGH HOPES Cournoyer hopes the new appointment will be a boon for students.

federal minister," he said.

Despite the jurisdictional overlap, Ouellette and Cournoyer agree that Solberg has a lot of work ahead of him. Both emphasized the need for reform to the student financial aid system as well as the need to create more non-repayable grants in the place of loans. Ouellette further commented on the need for an increase in dedicated transfer funds to flow from the federal to the provincial level.

"[There] needs to be more funding in the system from the federal government to the provinces, and that needs to be in the form of a dedicated funding," Ouellette said. "There is no accountability [for] that money actually being spent on postsecondary."

Student groups hope to meet with Solberg soon to discuss their vision for postsecondary education.

"At the end of the day, there's an enormous opportunity for the Minister of HRSD and the current government to take a leadership role on postsecondary," Ouellette said. "It appears that everybody's waiting for it—provincial premiers are waiting for it, students are waiting for it, university professors are waiting for it."

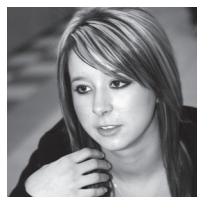
"It would be a no-brainer to me for [the federal government] to take a stance and to make this a full-blown priority."

Solberg was unavailable for comment when contacted by the Gateway.

STREETERS

Elements! Molecules! They're everywhere. In the food you eat, the air you breathe. Dad uses elements when he goes to work. Little Johnny learns about elements in school.

What's your favourite element on the periodic table?



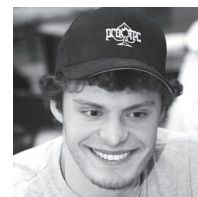
Andrea Wilson
Arts I



Ian Wright
Art and Design III



Aaron Hartley
Arts III



Mike Bachinsky
Phys Ed III

Fire. Are we talking about those kind of elements? Oh my god, that's like *Miss Congeniality*. Copper, for the Oilers.

Molybdenum; it's number 42. That's the answer to life, the universe and everything in *Hitchhiker's Guide*.

I'd have to go with hydrogen, it's simple and it explodes.

Favourite element, I'll have to say potassium, because it's called potassium but it's a letter K, which is weird. It should be a letter P.

Compiled and photographed by Liz Durden and Andrew Rurak