



JASON CHIU (CUP)

DEMONSTRATING ON PARLIAMENT HILL Students and faculty from the University of Ottawa, Carleton University, Queen's University and other members of the public converged at the national landmark the afternoon of 7 February.

CANADIAN STUDENTS UNITE

Across the country, university students gathered last Wednesday to mark the Canadian Federation of Students National Day of Action. From coast-to-coast, students held demonstrations to demand an affordable postsecondary system.

MONTRÉAL STUDENTS DEMAND ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION

About 1000 students from Montréal universities and colleges braved freezing temperatures to oppose the end of the Québec tuition freeze and to demand a reduction in all tuition and ancillary fees.

During the demonstration in front of Québec Premier Jean Charest's Montréal office, students also called for a massive reinvestment in education from the Québec and federal government, while a large contingent of the students demanded free education.

Chanting "education is a right" and "reduce all fees," students from McGill University, Concordia University, l'Université du Québec à Montréal, Dawson College, CEGEP Rosemont, CEGEP de Vieux de Montréal and CEGEP Ahunistic converged outside Charest's office.

Max Silverman, Student Society of McGill University (SSMU) Vice-President (External Affairs), explained that the demonstration was part of a wider student mobilization for the upcoming Québec election and the expected end of the tuition fee freeze should the Liberals be re-elected. He added that the SSMU believes in free and accessible education, and the fight to keep the freeze is the first stage in that struggle.

"SSMU's position is that education is a right and we ultimately believe in the elimination of all financial barriers to education ... and certainly that's what we're going to keep advocating for, but that starts with stopping Jean Charest's plan to defreeze tuition," he said.

Jesse Rosenfeld
CUP Québec Bureau Chief

ATLANTIC CAMPUSES TAKE PART IN NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

SACKVILLE, NB (CUP)—Last Wednesday morning, Ezra Edelstein was on the streets of Halifax watching approximately 100 students from a half-dozen university campuses march past him on their way to the provincial legislature.

Edelstein is the President of the Dalhousie Students' Union—the largest students' union in the Maritime provinces that didn't take part in the Canadian Federation of Students' (CFS) National Day of Action. The SU at Dalhousie isn't a member of the CFS.

However, the Day of Action was observed by other Atlantic institutions. Memorial University of Newfoundland held rallies, as did the University of Prince Edward Island. And Mount Allison University, while affiliated with neither CFS or their rival group, the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), also took part in the Day of Action. The University of New Brunswick undergraduate Students' Union is CASA-affiliated and so also didn't take part, but the graduate SU, which is a CFS member, held events on campus.

But while their message was directed at all levels of government, not all political leaders are responding the way the CFS might have hoped.

Dennis Cochrane, Deputy Minister of Education in Nova Scotia, said that while the provincial government is taking postsecondary education seriously, tuition freezes or reductions aren't in the cards just yet.

Instead, he said, his government is focusing now on slowing growth, noting the recently imposed 3.9 per cent annual growth cap placed on tuition fees.

However, Cochrane said he supports the ideas behind the Day of Action.

"We certainly want the federal government's attention," he said.

William Wolfe-Wylie
CUP Atlantic Bureau Chief

HEADS OF QUÉBEC UNIVERSITIES CALL FOR HIGHER TUITION FEES

MONTRÉAL (CUP)—As students called for lower tuition fees in demonstrations across Canada, the heads of the four Québec medical universities called for the provincial tuition freeze to be lifted.

McGill University Principal Heather Munroe-Blum joined heads of l'Université Laval, l'Université de Sherbrooke, and l'Université de Montréal in calling for a governmental reinvestment in education and—in unison for the first time—an end to the Québec tuition freeze.

L'Université Laval rector Luc Vinet stressed that, while they hadn't agreed on specifics, all four believed that the

13-year freeze must be lifted.

"We should move in steps," Vinet said. "We all agree on the unfreezing. As to how, and to what level—it is to be further discussed."

Kelly Ebbels
The McGill Daily

FREE UNIVERSITY TUITION COMES WITH A PRICE: THINK TANK

WATERLOO, Ontario (CUP)—McMaster University student Meena Bhardwaj said she's looking for a part-time job to help her pay for school next year. Her parents were able to cover the bulk of her tuition and residence fees this past year, but Bhardwaj knows the cost of a university education in Ontario is climbing. And like the thousands of students that took part in the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) National Day of Action on 7 February, Bhardwaj isn't happy.

"I really don't see where the money is going," she said, explaining that she paid five per cent more for her tuition this year than she would have in 2005/06.

"It's a public system, but they're making it very hard for the average person to go to university. Only middle class students will be able to afford it," she added.

As tuition fees jumped at universities in Ontario this past year, so has student protest. Back in October 2006, the CFS staged a mock funeral outside of Queen's Park in Toronto to "mourn the death of affordable postsecondary education." And last month, students at the York, Toronto and Laurentian university campuses camped out in the sub-zero winter temperatures in a campaign they dubbed "Freeze for the Fees."

According to the 2005 *Global Higher Education Report*, a study released by the Educational Policy Institute, when compared to other postsecondary school systems in Europe, the United States, Japan, and Australia, the evidence suggests Canada is among the more expensive places to get an education.

While Canada performed poorly in the affordability rankings, the country did well in factors of accessibility, such as participation rate and educational equity. The flip side of higher tuition fees, according to Usher, is being able to create room for more students.

Adrian Ma
CUP Ontario Bureau Chief



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January featured STUDENT GROUP

UoFA

Phi Delta Theta Fraternity

www.PhiDeltaTheta.ca

E-mail: President@PhiDeltaTheta.ca

Office: 10942-87 Ave, Edmonton, AB T6G 0X3



Year Established: 12/09/1930

Membership: 15

Purpose of the Group:

Friendship, Sound Learning, and Moral Rectitude; we benefit our members as well as the community. We provide funding for Lou Gehrig's disease, Youth Emergency Shelter, and Youth CO-OP. We provide academic, personal, and career support for our members.

Phi Delta Theta, in last semester alone, helped raise funds for CNIB, & ABC Headstart for Literature with Delta Gamma and Kappa Alpha Theta, wrapped gifts at Millwoods Town Center in support of the Youth Emergency Shelter just before Christmas and raised funds for ALS through BBQs. We also collected donations for the Old Strathcona Youth Society. We have a large campus fundraiser in spring in support of the Youth Society as well as more activities for charity.



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