



Provincial government policies are having disastrous effects at U.B.C. and the other post-secondary institutions in the Province. We have already seen huge tuition increases, layoffs, overcrowded classrooms, program and course cuts, real wage declines, and so on. Faculty tenure is still being threatened. Student aid has been restricted to full-time students only, while student grants have been eliminated altogether. The Provincial government has promised more of the same in 1985.

None of this has been the product of public discussion, and the Provincial government remains hidden behind closed doors. Its goal appears to be a highly technical and elitist university system, with a large reduction in the quality of education. At the same time, and as part of these apparent goals, it seeks a large reduction in the rights and strengths of unions, faculty and students. The appointed members of the Board of Governors and University administration have done little to deter the government from its objectives.

The question is still open: how do we respond? So far it has been limited. Students, faculty and staff remain, by and large, inactive and divided. Yet, we share an equal interest in strong organizations and adequate government funding. But, if we remain divided, we cannot possibly defend ourselves, or persuade the government to re-think its priorities.

It is more necessary than ever to build solidarity on campus. This may not be easy, but we believe it must be done. In fact, we already have the beginnings in the Campus Community Alliance, which was formed in August of 1983, and is made up of several unions (AUCE, CUPE 2278, OTEU), the Committee of Concerned Academics, Campus Chaplains, the Graduate Student Society, the Alma Mater Society, and other student groups. However, in order to be effective in the future, we must attract other campus organizations, and deepen the commitment of those who are already members.

The following is a statement of unity - a list of basic principles which we stand by as an alliance of different groups. They express our opposition to Provincial government policies as well as our concern with some recent actions undertaken by the University.

- No more funding cuts. Increase the funding to post-secondary institutions.
- No more layoffs. We want jobs, not impersonal, technical universities.
- For faculty tenure. Tenure is essential for job security and academic freedom.
- Reduce tuitions to 1983-84 levels. Bring back student grants. Bring back loans for part-time students.
- Respect student autonomy. Respect union rights.
- For quality education. Reduce class sizes. No program or course eliminations.
- For more programs and services for the disabled.
- For quality, low cost day care facilities for all campus members.
- For adequate procedures to deal with cases of sexual harassment.
- For a more open discussion and democratic participation in budgeting priorities on campus. All students, faculty and staff have the right to be heard and make decisions.
- For adequate wage increases. Campus wage-earners are already financially strapped.
- For the principle, "A harm done to one is a harm done to all."

We invite responses to this statement. We also invite your group to attend the next Campus Community Alliance meeting. The next meeting of the Alliance is on Thursday 1 November at 2:00 p.m. in the Campus Lutheran Centre (5885 University Boulevard). Correspondence by mail or phone. Contact: Bill Collier at [REDACTED]