

June 19, 2000



Mr. Brendan Bell
MLA, Yellowknife North

The new Student Financial Assistance rules

Mr. Bell, my name is Azure DeGrow; I am one of your constituents. I would like to bring to your attention how the new Student Financial Assistance rules affect me.

This spring I completed the third year of a 5- year B.of Arts/Ed. Degree at the University of Lethbridge. I intend to finish obtaining my degree and teaching in the NWT once I have completed my education.

I was schooled in the NWT from grade 2 - 12, inclusive, a total of 11 years.

Under the old system I was entitled to 1 year (2 semesters) of grants for every 3 years I was schooled in the NWT. I obtained 6 semesters of grants which was my limit.

Under the new system I would be entitled to 11 semesters of grants (one semester for every year of schooling in the NWT).

To my dismay, I found out that only students that are entering post secondary studies for the first time qualify under the new system. I believe this to be a gross injustice to myself. Had I wasted away my last few years and just entered university this fall, I would be entitled to 11 semesters of grants (5 more than I was entitled to under the old system). Instead, I was a responsible person for the past few years but am unable to qualify for the grants under the new system.

I understand that one has to draw the line somewhere, but surely, to not include continuing students as I in the new system of grant entitlement does not appear just.

I would hope you could review my case with the Minister of Education and/or bring up this injustice in the House as obviously other continuing students are affected as I am.

If you should need further information please call me at my home #669-7642 during the evening or at my work # 920-8792 during the day.

Yours truly,

Azure DeGrow
97 Hordal Road



