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SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



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February 9, 1990

Rt. Hon. M. Brian Mulroney
Prime Minister
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

We write with regard to the crisis facing the funding of universities in this country. As you are aware, the major source of funding is through EPF transfer payments to the provincial governments. Last year the rate of growth in the EPF was reduced by 1% effective in the fiscal year 1990/1991 (Bill C-33).

We urge you to demonstrate your frequently articulated commitment to higher education by rejecting the option of a budget reduction in transfer payments for post-secondary education. At the very least we urge you to postpone any changes to the present EPF legislation until the outcome of the proposed federal provincial task force on Human Resource Development is known.

Although the direct constitutional responsibility for higher education in this country rests with the provinces, it is critical that a national position provides priority to the funding of post-secondary educational institutions across the country, and that it be firmly stated and appropriately funded. Any change in EPF legislation would have the effect of further reductions in the transfer payments and, at this time, would have a devastating effect on the quality of our universities and other post-secondary institutions nationally.

We urge you in the strongest possible terms to take the course of action outlined above. We thank you in advance for the careful consideration of this view, which we are confident it will receive.

Yours sincerely,



William G. Saywell
President



Michael Fellman
President, Faculty Association



Roberto Zanatta
President, Student Society

WGS/led

c: Hon. Michael H. Wilson, PC
Minister
House of Commons

All B.C. Cabinet Ministers

All P.C. Members of Parliament