

BULLETIN

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CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR IMMUNOLOGY
SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE D'IMMUNOLOGIE



President - Président:

Vice-President - Vice-Président:

Secretary-Treasurer - Secrétaire-Trésorier:

Past-President - Président Sortant:

March 22, 1988

To the CSI membership:

In the past two years, some major events have occurred within your Society. The success of the 1986 international congress has given the CSI a sense of unprecedented self-confidence. This has resulted in the holding of a spring meeting in 1987, separate from the CFBS. The high participation, financial and scientific success of that meeting has raised the question of whether or not we should continue holding such meetings, and if so, do we want to continue to be part of the Canadian Federation of Biological Societies. Strong, and, mind you, valid opinions have been voiced in support of total separation, of a return to the traditional format of meetings with the CFBS and of all the conceivable in-between options.

The situation is indeed complex and for the CFBS has acquired an additional urgency since the Physiologists have signified their intention of pulling out of the Federation, without, it seems, having made a serious attempt at finding another solution.

I want to assure you at the outset, that no decision on that score will be taken for at least another year, and then, not without a referendum of the entire CSI membership.

The first step out of this transitory state is as full an exchange of information and opinions as is practicable. The present issue of the Bulletin is therefore entirely devoted to letters from senior CSI members and from presidents of sister societies which either have or have had a similar dilemma. Please read them carefully.

In the last pages you will also find a questionnaire which I would urge you to complete and return to me within two weeks so we can compile the results and publish them in the next issue of the Bulletin.

At the time of writing, I have just returned from our Second Spring Meeting at Mt Gabriel. It was attended by close to 200 participants, including over 80 graduate students. There were three symposia and two poster sessions. Science was discussed from breakfast to (I am told) 5 a.m. in the bar! Everyone got to know each other and the organizers received only positive comments.

At the council meeting, the overwhelming feeling was that we were onto something good and it was decided that we would meet again in Lake Louise in March 1989. The annual general meeting will be held at that time.

In addition we will sponsor a symposium at the Calgary CFBS meeting in June 1989.

We will also continue to support, and indeed participate in the CFBS Science policy lobbying efforts which seem to be both worthwhile and indeed successful.

You should know that both the Lake Louise meeting and the Mount Gabriel meeting were financially self-supported and that travel bursaries were awarded in both instances. The interest on the revenue from the International Congress is accumulating and will be used, in 1989 for travel bursaries to student members to go to Lake Louise and for students members, post doctoral fellows and young staff members to go to the Berlin Congress.

I am fully aware that it is not easy to please everybody, but your Council is firmly committed to cater to the scientific needs of the largest possible segment of the membership. Please read the Bulletin and let us know how you feel.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Potworowski', written in a cursive style.

Edouard Potworowski
President

EFP:dn

may have begun to learn that it must speak through a spokesman skilled at communicating to non-scientist politicians about the need to support our activities both from the long term cultural, as well as economic, points of view for Canada. The Federation has, on and off over the years, provided good and bad spokesmen for science and the Science Policy Committees over the years have been extremely varied in quality and competence as well as energy.

The experiment that we are in was an effectual compromise which allowed us to set up an annual meeting (and the first was extremely well attended and uniformly thought to be enjoyable) at which immunologists would have the opportunity to meet and interact, have a reasonable social time and also provide a place where students could meet prospective employers, other students and faculty. We did not propose to leave the Federation, in my view, mainly because of the advantages to be retained to the membership as a result of its voice in science policy. At this point, even this situation has now changed since a Consortium has been developed, initially led by the Federation, but now involving almost all of the scientific bodies in Canada which allows us to feed-in through individuals such as Dean Befus to the highest levels, and involves us in organized lobbying activity as well. Through this mechanism, the membership can be informed and it is indeed, at present, a moot point as to whether our membership in the Federation is of practical use to us. It certainly costs us more money to achieve this membership if this is the only reason why we are members of the Federation than it would as a member of the Consortium. As a consequence, there is evidence that other Societies have either taken the move to leave the Federation or are contemplating doing so. The Microbiologists have never joined the Federation but have advantage from the Consortium in science policy.

It seems to me that immunologists must have a regular annual meeting at which they interact and exchange views in Canada. Canada is too diverse and too large to expect that Canadian immunologists will form any cohesive sense unless this occurs. This has to be the prime motivation of our Society and anything which achieves that is to be applauded. Whether this occurs by a meeting with the Federation or outside it is a separate issue. The issue of scientific policy and our voice in it can, it appears, be met by our involvement in the Consortium without necessarily an involvement in the Federation. We must decide whether it is possible to find a time and also to negotiate satisfactorily, appropriate venues which will allow us to provide reasonably priced accommodation so that our students will not be disadvantaged. The alternative is to find ways and means to generate additional monies or funds as a result of our revenues from our endowment to extensively subsidize such activities beyond the level which we are currently able to achieve.

The choice which we face is extremely difficult and both the voices in favour of leaving the Federation and those against it make valid points. In balance, I personally have seen little evidence over the past 20

years of significant advantages to the Society and its membership of its own membership in the Federation. I would be perfectly happy to retain membership in the Federation for a finite period of time only and set up a series of criteria on the basis of which we would decide whether we would continue that membership. I believe it is essential that we have an annual meeting and that, so far, the only time that I have seen as many immunologists together from across Canada in the last 20 years, other than the International Congress in Toronto, was at our annual meeting last year in Lake Louise. Therefore, if it is up to a decision of one or the other, assuming no rejuvenation of the Federation, I would vote resoundingly in favour of the separate annual meeting.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



John Bienenstock, M.D.
Past President, CSI

JB/mw/2.14



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March 1, 1988

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Dear Ed,

I would like to address the critical issue of the membership of the Canadian Society for Immunology within the Canadian Federation of Biological Societies. There has been concern raised over the years of the benefits that CSI gains from membership in the Federation and my assessment is that this issue has reached its present pinnacle as a result of increasing dissatisfaction with the usefulness of the annual Federation meeting to the membership of CSI. The success of the 1987 Spring Meeting in Lake Louise and the clear promise of an equally successful meeting in March, 1988 in Mont Gabriel have only served to emphasize the deficits that the annual meeting of the Federation represents to the membership to our Society.

However, it is not my intention or capability to discuss the pros and cons of participation in the annual meeting of the Federation, but to address the increasingly important benefits that membership in the CFBS provides to our Society.

For approximately 3 years I have served as the Representative of the CSI on the Science Policy Committee of CFBS. Over this period of time we have seen a revolution in the activity and impact of science lobbying activities in Canada. It is my assessment that this has been a direct result of the efforts of the CFBS and, most importantly, in the establishment of a permanent Federation office in Ottawa together with the appointment of Dr. Clement Gauthier as Science Policy Officer for the Science Policy Committee of the Federation. Together with strong and active chairmen of the Science Policy Committee, Dr. Gauthier has had tremendous impact upon our lobbying activities.



Olympic Village and Speedskating - 1988

Through the efforts of Dr. Gauthier, members of the Science Policy Committee, CFBS and the National Consortium of Educational and Scientific Societies, the last 3 years have seen interactions between the academic and scientific community and government that have not occurred previously. For example, a Standing Committee on Science and Technology has been established for the House of Commons after some 20 years of unsuccessful effort to achieve this objective. In addition, the Prime Minister established the National Advisory Board on Science and Technology and as a result of a sub-committee report on university funding Mr. Mulroney announced \$ 1.3 billion in supplementary funding for science and technology in Canada. Supplementary budgets to MRC and NSERC of \$ 30 million and \$ 50 million respectively were integrated into base budgets in 1986. Additional supplementary budgets of \$ 3 million were made available to MRC in 1986 and 1987, while NSERC received a \$ 6 million supplementary budget in 1987. Doubling of the base budgets of the Granting Councils is now a prime objective of CFBS and a strong lobby has been orchestrated.

Through the Science Policy Officer the Federation played an essential role in the development of amendments to bill C-22 (the Patent Act) and was a strong voice in its final adoption by the Government and the Senate.

An example that impressed me the most was the evolution of the Government matching policy for funds to the Granting Councils. An effective dialogue was established between government and CFBS and more than 80% of the CFBS recommendations were implemented by the Finance Department. For example, the clause that allowed for funds from various foundations and lay agencies to be matched was directly from a recommendation by the Federation. Without the adoption of such recommendations, the matching policy would not have been as successful as it has been. Unfortunately, despite repeated attempts to provide an inflationary clause in the matching policy, we were unsuccessful in achieving this objective.

CFBS has established effective liaison committees with MRC and NSERC and has developed an important credibility base. With this credibility, the Federation was invited to participate in the National Science and Technology Policy Forum (1986), the National Forum on Post Secondary Education (1987) and the National Conference on Technology and Innovation (1988). Moreover, with the Labour Congress, the CAUT, the Chemical Institute of Canada and the Canadian Association of Nurses, CFBS was one of five major organizations invited to sign the National Industrial Adjustment Service Agreement with the Department of Employment and Immigration Canada, on January 18, 1988. This participation clearly speaks to the high profile that the Federation has established nationally, one which is critical to maintain and extend.

The Federation through Dr. Gauthier's position as Chairman of the National Consortium of Scientific and Educational Societies has been instrumental in leading the Consortium from a position of relative disarray in early 1985 to the point where it is now a major player in representing scientists, academics and students within the country. The Consortium is a unique coalition of 35 national organizations under

the chairmanship of Dr. Gauthier. It holds monthly meetings in Ottawa to discuss R & D policies and in late January 1988 organized for the fourth successive year a successful lobby of parliamentarians. Except for organizing a week of formal lobby activities annually, the Consortium is largely an organization for exchange of information. It has no budget or permanent secretariat, no official right to speak on behalf of its members and provides none of the services related to science policy or other issues that CFBS provides to its member societies. Perhaps most importantly of these services are the regular mailings of memoranda (every 30-45 days) relating to science policies in the country. In addition, the membership of the Federation receives the CFBS newsletter twice a year that includes updated information on science policy activities. The newsletter is also delivered to parliamentarians, agencies and other segments of the scientific community in an effort to convey our views and concerns on science policy issues to a broad readership. Although each of these examples of the activity of the Science Policy Committee of the CFBS may be viewed as minor and relatively insignificant contributions, collectively they represent a concerted and successful effort to influence science funding and policy in Canada. I do not believe that the efforts of the Federation can be underestimated or its leadership role among professionals denied.

Significant improvement in communication and lobbying is essential, particularly at the level of networking among various professional societies and a greater participation in programs to enhance both government and public awareness of central issues. Do not underestimate the enormity of the task to establish such involvement by the scientific community and I believe that only through the Federation and its leadership in the Consortium can such an objective be achieved. Given the quintessential nature of lobby activities of the government and public, the CSI must solidify and extend its role in the Federation so that a strong and unified voice exists in our lobbying activities. It is foolish to think that we could contribute to science policy efforts in the country so effectively if we were not a member of the Federation.

It could be said that membership in the Consortium, but withdrawal from the Federation, might be an effective alternative to membership in CFBS. However, as indicated above, the strength of the Consortium is the Federation and CSI would be opting for a position analogous to some 50,000 other science professionals in the country. These professionals contribute little to the lobbying activities which are largely supported by the Federation in its salary support to Dr. Gauthier and our national office which is so instrumental in the activities of the Consortium.

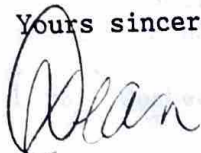
The position of CSI must be to strengthen lobbying activities through commitment to and enrichment of the Federation, rather than withdrawing our support to the Federation and passing the buck to others to carry the financial and moral burden of the scientific and academic community in the country.

We should open an effective dialogue with CFBS to seek solutions

to the problems we see with membership in the Federation. I am optimistic that such negotiations could bear fruit and that an appropriate model could be designed where CSI could interact with other societies within CFBS for productive meetings.

I hope that my comments will contribute to an understanding of the importance of the Federation to CSI and Canadian science and lead to a reaffirmation of our commitment to the Federation, as well as to the continued evolution in the structure and activities of CFBS.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dean', written over a circular scribble.

Dean Befus, Ph.D.
Professor
Microbiology & Infectious Diseases

ADB/ghh

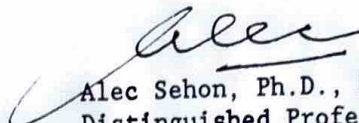
cc: Dr. Clement Gauthier
Dr. Bernie Bressler, University of British Columbia
Dr. R. Capek
Dr. Gerald Marks, Queen's University

I hope that our membership at large will agree that there is nothing to be gained from splitting off the CSI from the CFBS, and that there is much to be lost by such a move.

With kind regards and best wishes, and looking forward to seeing you at the Spring Meeting of the C.S.I.,

Sincerely yours,

February 5, 1968


Alec Sehon, Ph.D., D.Sc.,
Distinguished Professor,
Head, Immunology Department,
Director, MRC Group,
President, CSI (1969-71).

AS/yh

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February 5, 1988

Dr. Edouard F. Potworowski,
President, Canadian Society for Immunology,
Institute Armand-Frappier,
C.P. 100,
Laval, PQ
H7N 4Z3

Dear Dr. Potworowski:

RE: Relations between the CSM and the CFBS

The Canadian Society of Microbiologists currently has 740 members. Its annual meetings are held in June, usually at University campuses across Canada from Victoria to Halifax, and it had its 37th annual meeting last year in Saskatoon. Depending on the location the registration is somewhere in the range 150 to 350, and it has held meetings jointly with the Genetics Society of Canada and the Canadian Phytopathological Society. Commercial exhibits are an important component of the meetings both technically and financially.

The Society maintains a Secretariat in Ottawa and the budget of the Society is of the order of \$60,000 per year.

In the early 70's the Society discussed the possibility of joining the Canadian Federation of Biological Societies and, after a trial joint meeting which I think was held in Quebec, did so join the CFBS. Meetings were held as part of the CFBS in Winnipeg (1975), Halifax (1976), and Calgary (1977). However, during 1976 it had become clear that there were two important problems which were difficult to resolve. First, the Society suffered a loss of identity and it became difficult to conduct its scientific and social affairs. Second, the Society lost control of its programming in the annual meeting. Despite its large representation in the Federation, it had a disproportionately small say in the running of the meetings. During this period the CSM lost 100 members.

Dr. Edouard F. Potworowski

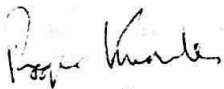
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During the winter of 1976-77 the CSM held a ballot regarding the question whether to remain within the Federation and a clear majority of members was in favour of leaving the CFBS. The 1977 meeting in Calgary was our last as part of the Federation.

We have not cut our ties with the CFBS entirely, however. Although we have our own Science Policy Committee we also support the CFBS Science Policy Committee and subscribe \$25,000 per year to its operation.

I hope that this information may be useful to your society in any deliberations it may have regarding its relations with the Federation.

Yours sincerely,



R. Knowles

President

Canadian Society of Microbiologists

RK/mp

The Executive of the CSM has been asked by its membership to give the reasons for this decision.

The reasons are not primarily monetary though monetary matters certainly brought the issue to a head. The main reason for the motion is that the members who attended the meeting felt that the Canadian Society of Microbiologists has lost more than it has gained by joining the Federation. The extent to which the CSM has lost its identity as a Society at the Federation Meetings, the extent to which it has had to give up its decision making powers in such areas as programming at scientific meetings, science policy and financing are the basic reasons for the desire to withdraw.

The Canadian Society of Microbiologists celebrated its 25th anniversary this year. It has been a strong and active society which had, up to a year ago, built its membership up to over 800. Microbiology is an interdisciplinary science and as a result microbiologists are a group of people with widely divergent interests. Over the years, special interest groups have fallen away from our Society and to prevent further erosion we have felt that we must take extra steps to satisfy the needs of our members within the Society. The most important of these is programming at meetings. We need to be able to arrange programs which will satisfy the needs of our very diverse groups. This means having more symposia, more focal topic sessions as well as ten-minute paper and poster sessions. To satisfy our various needs many of these sessions would have to run concurrently. So far we have been frustrated by the rigidity and inflexibility of the CFBS programming system and our attempts to establish a dialogue on this matter with the Honorary Secretary of the CFBS have been singularly unsuccessful. A letter sent on Sept. 5, 1975, for instance, with a specific question regarding programming policy has not yet been answered.

In matters of Science Policy we are in general agreement that the public and government should be made aware of the sad state of financing of research in Canada. We feel, however, that other matters of national interest in relation to science should also be brought to the attention of the public.

In matters of financing we feel there should have been more dialogue regarding the impact of fee charges on Society membership. Last year our Society lost 100 members. Our fees are now \$25 per year. With the increase in the Federation levy, the increase in subscription rates for our Journal and our own increased costs, our dues will have to rise to \$37 per member to meet our expenses. As regards the increase in the Federation levy for next year we stress again that every attempt was made to anticipate an increase in fees for the coming year. Our fiscal year runs from June 1 to May 31 and a by-law change to make it run concurrently with that of the CFBS takes 2 years to implement. The Federation office knew of our problem but all attempts to get an estimate of the fee increase to enable us to bill our membership accordingly were unsuccessful. Again, we had a communication problem.

Our plan then is as follows. Since our membership is 700 and only 40 members were present at the General Meeting, we will conduct a mail ballot to determine whether our membership wishes to remain in the CFBS. This ballot will be accompanied by a statement from a member in favor of remaining within the CFBS and a statement from one opposed. It will also be accompanied by a bill for the amount of extra dues required to meet the new Federation levy.

If the membership, by ballot, indicates that it wishes the Society to separate from the CFBS then the Canadian Society of Microbiologists will meet its commitment to pay the new Federation levy for 1977 and will participate in the Calgary meeting as its last meeting with the Federation.

If the ballot indicates that the membership would prefer to stay within the CFBS, I would hope that some improvement in the extent of dialogue between the CSM and the CFBS could be achieved."

After much discussion of our statement, the Federation Board made the following motion which they asked that we transmit to our membership:

"The members of the Board of the Canadian Federation of Biological Societies express deep concern at the possible withdrawal of the Canadian Society of Microbiologists and urge the membership of the Canadian Society of Microbiologists to remain within the Canadian Federation of Biological Societies particularly in view of the crucial crises facing the future of Science in Canada. The Board acknowledges the expressed desires of the CSM to increase the flexibility of the meetings and pledges its support within the constraints of the Federation." Motion carried unanimously.

I have since corresponded with the Honorary Secretary to clarify the phrase "constraints of the Federation". If one reads the Constitution of the CFBS one finds that no constraints are mentioned. Program policy of the CFBS seems to be largely in the hands of the Honorary Secretary and the Program Committee of the CFBS. We have one representative on this committee and there are eight societies.

In my opinion, our problems with the Canadian Federation of Biological Societies arise from the fact that the Federation has become much more of a decision-making body in areas in which we never anticipated that it would have an interest when we joined. We, as a Society, have lost much of our autonomy in matters such as programming at scientific meetings, science

**La Société canadienne des Microbiologistes devrait-elle demeurer ou non membre
de la Fédération canadienne des Sociétés de Biologie?**

Vous recevrez bientôt par le courrier un bulletin de vote vous demandant votre opinion sur la question. Si vous n'avez pas assisté au congrès d'Halifax, vous devez vous demander pourquoi cette question surgit-elle deux ans après l'adhésion à la Fédération. Pour le bénéfice de ceux qui n'ont pas participé au congrès, je pense que quelques informations de base sont requises.

Lorsque nous nous sommes joints à la Fédération il y a deux ans, c'était dans le but de tenir des rencontres conjointes avec d'autres sociétés partageant des intérêts communs. Nous pensions que de telles rencontres avec la Fédération viendraient enrichir le programme scientifique et attireraient un plus grand nombre de membres aux réunions. La contribution de la SCM à la Fédération était modeste: \$5.00 par membre annuellement. Lorsque nos représentants eurent assisté aux rencontres du Conseil de la Fédération, rencontres tenues à l'Université de Dalhousie en juin dernier, ils découvrirent que la Fédération avait décidé d'assumer, aux cours de l'année qui s'était écoulée, un rôle beaucoup plus important dans les activités de ses sociétés constituantes. Comme tous le savent, l'année dernière a été une année de bouleversement, de crise quant aux octrois gouvernementaux accordés pour la recherche. La Fédération, sous la présidence de Dr. Gordin Kaplan de l'Université d'Ottawa, décida de coopérer avec d'autres institutions pour faire pression auprès du Gouvernement en vue d'accroître le montant d'argent disponible pour la recherche. Comme vous le savez, le Gouvernement a rendu disponible un montant additionnel de \$2,000,000.00 au Conseil de Recherche Médicale pour fins de recherche. Il est impossible de dire quelle institution est véritablement responsable de ce virement de situation, de ce réajustement dans la politique du Gouvernement, mais sans aucun doute les réclamations sur la colline parlementaire et dans la presse écrite ont eu leurs effets. A la dernière rencontre annuelle, le Conseil a décidé d'accroître ses relations publiques et le coût de cette décision a largement contribué à augmenter les frais de cotisation de la Fédération, la quelle cotisation a été approuvée par le Conseil pour l'année en cours. Au cours de la Réunion du Conseil, on a exprimé l'opinion que la Fédération canadienne des Sociétés de Biologie devrait devenir le porte-parole des Sciences bio-médicales au Canada. La cotisation annuelle de la Fédération sera de \$15.00 par membre cette année, accroissement triple du taux en deux ans. Seule parmi les huit sociétés membre, la SCM s'est opposée à une telle augmentation. Puisque la nouvelle cotisation à la Fédération est due en janvier et que notre adhésion a déjà été confirmée pour l'année qui vient, il nous faudra leur envoyer un montant additionnel afin de couvrir les frais supplémentaires encourrus par cette nouvelle cotisation de la Fédération.

Le Comité de la Politique des Sciences de la Fédération canadienne des Sociétés de Biologie a travaillé en étroite relation avec la comité des Relations Publiques et s'est concentré principalement sur le problème d'obtenir davantage de fonds pour la recherche. Notre propre comité de la Politique des Sciences, sous la présidence de Dr. Mervyn Franklin, a jugé que bien que les buts du Comité de la Fédération sont louables, ils n'en demeurent pas moins trop restreints. Il y a d'autres intérêts d'ordre national à considérer, tel le besoin de promouvoir une industrie de fermentation et d'instituer une banque de vaccins. Lorsque la question a été portée à l'attention de la Fédération, cette dernière a répondu que chaque société était libre d'agir selon sa propre politique scientifique. Sur ce, nous avons répondu qu'il nous était difficile d'appliquer notre politique efficacement pour la simple raison que la Fédération siphonnait littéralement notre argent pour financer sa propre Politique scientifique.

Un autre problème auquel nous avons dû faire face lors de nos entretiens avec la Fédération concerne la programmation de nos rencontres scientifiques. La Fédération a un Comité de Programmation qui contrôle d'une façon rigide le contenu de ses rencontres. Ils sont d'avis qu'il devrait y avoir le moins de chevauchement possible quant aux symposia et aux sessions scientifiques même lorsqu'elles sont destinées à des sociétés aux intérêts largement divers. A la rencontre annuelle de notre conseil tenue à Winnipeg en 1975, on a exprimé le désir de s'éloigner des sessions de 10 minutes strictement parlant pour des sessions et symposia d'intérêt plus précis. En tant que Vice-Président et donc en charge de la programmation pour la rencontre d'Halifax, j'ai réussi dans une certaine mesure à régler certains désaccords mais non sans difficulté.

Au congrès annuel de la Société canadienne des Microbiologistes tenu à Halifax, le mécontentement des membres quant à leurs relations avec la Fédération canadienne des Sociétés de Biologie, s'est exprimé sous forme de motion à l'effet que la Société canadienne des Microbiologistes se retire de la Fédération canadienne des Sociétés de Biologie; cette motion sera sujette à un vote par courrier de la part des membres de la

SCM. L'Exécutif a été mandaté de présenter cette motion au Conseil de la Fédération et d'expliquer au Conseil les raisons de sa tenue. Ceci a été fait et le texte du compte-rendu déposé au Conseil de la Fédération figure ci-dessous:

"Compte-rendu par le Président de la Société canadienne des Microbiologistes au Conseil de la Fédération des Sociétés de Biologie sur une rencontre du Conseil tenue en date du 18 juin 1976 à l'Université de Dalhousie:

Monsieur le Président:

Lors de la rencontre annuelle de la Société canadienne des Microbiologistes tenue le mercredi 16 juin, la motion suivante a été adoptée par les membres présents:

La SCM avise la FCSB qu'elle a l'intention de quitter la FCSB après la tenue du Congrès de 1977, cette intention sera confirmée ou infirmée par voix de vote de la part des membres. L'Exécutif de la SCM veut informer la FCSB des raisons de son départ de la Fédération. La SCM exprime sa volonté de coopérer avec FCSB pour organiser d'une façon mutuellement acceptable la Politique des Sciences.

L'Exécutif de la SCM a été pressé par ses membres de donner les raisons de cette décision.

Les raisons ne sont pas essentiellement d'ordre monétaire quoique les finances en soient à l'origine. La raison principale de cette motion est la suivante: les membres qui assistaient à la réunion annuelle sont d'avis que la Société canadienne des Microbiologistes a perdu plus qu'elle n'a gagné en se joignant à la Fédération. Le fait que la SCM ait perdu son identité en tant que Société au sein de la Fédération, plus le fait qu'elle a dû renoncer à son pouvoir de décision en matière de programmation aux rencontres scientifiques, en matière de politique scientifique et de finances sont les raisons qui justifient son désir de se retirer.

Le Société canadienne des Microbiologistes célébrait son 25ième anniversaire cette année. Elle a été une Société forte et active jusqu'à il y a un an, comptant plus de 800 membres. La Microbiologie est une science interdisciplinaire et en conséquence les microbiologistes forment un groupe de personnes partageant des intérêts divers. Au fil des années, des groupements à intérêts particuliers se sont retranchés de notre société, et pour prévenir à nouveau de tel désistement, nous avons jugé bon qu'il fallait prendre des mesures supplémentaires pour répondre aux besoins des membres de notre Société. Le plus important de ces besoins est la programmation au cours des réunions. Nous devons être en mesure d'organiser des programmes qui vont satisfaire les besoins les plus divers de nos membres. Cela signifie qu'il faut mettre sur pied des symposia additionnels, davantage de sessions à caractère précis en plus des sessions d'affichage et des courtes présentations scientifiques d'une période de 10 minutes. Pour satisfaire ces divers besoins, plusieurs sessions devraient avoir lieu simultanément. Jusqu'ici nous avons été frustrés par la rigidité et le manque de flexibilité du système de programmation de la FCSB et nos tentatives en vue d'établir un dialogue à ce sujet avec le Secrétaire honorifique de la FCSB ont été vaines. Citons, par exemple, l'envoi d'une lettre le 5 septembre 1975 portant sur une question spécifique de la politique de programmation qui est demeurée sans réponse.

En matière de Politique des Sciences, nous sommes en général d'accord que le public et le gouvernement devraient être mis au courant du triste état de financement de la recherche au Canada. Nous pensons, cependant, que d'autres sujets scientifiques d'intérêt national devraient être portés à l'attention du public.

En matière de financement, nous pensons qu'il devrait y avoir plus de dialogue quant à la conséquence du changement de cotisations pour les membres de la Société. L'année dernière notre Société a perdu 100 membres. Nos cotisations sont maintenant de \$25.00 par année. En plus de l'accroissement de la taxe de la Fédération, de l'augmentation des frais d'inscription pour le journal et notre propre accroissement de coût, nos contributions devront s'élever à \$37.00 par membre afin de rencontrer nos dépenses. En ce qui concerne l'augmentation de la cotisation de la Fédération pour l'année qui vient, nous soulignons une fois de plus que nous avons fait notre possible pour prévenir l'accroissement des coûts. Notre année fiscale s'échelonne du 1er juin au 31 mai et un changement de statut qui serait en accord avec la FCSB prendrait 2 ans à s'effectuer. L'Office de la Fédération connaissait notre problème mais toutes les tentatives en vue d'obtenir une estimation de l'augmentation des coûts, nous permettant de faire le réajustement de la cotisation avec nos membres, ont été infructueuses. Demmeuveau nous avons un problème de communication.

Nos projets sont les suivants: Puisque nos effectifs se chiffrent à 700 membres et que seulement 40 étaient présents lors de la rencontre générale, nous allons procéder à un vote par courrier pour déterminer si nos membres désirent demeurer dans la FCSB. Le bulletin de vote sera accompagné d'une déclaration par un membre en faveur de demeurer au sein de la

FCSB et d'une déclaration d'un membre qui s'y oppose. Le bulletin de vote sera aussi accompagné d'une facture au montant nécessaire pour rencontrer les taxes de la nouvelle taxe de la Fédération. Si les membres lors du vote désirent que la Société se sépare de la FCSB, alors la Société canadienne des Microbiologistes rencontrera ses obligations en vue de payer la nouvelle taxe de la Fédération pour 1977 et participera au congrès de Calgary pour sa dernière réunion avec la Fédération.

Si le vote indique, que les membres préfèrent demeurer au sein de la FCSB j'espère vivement une amélioration quant au dialogue entre la SCM et la FCSB.

Après maintes discussions de notre déclaration, le Conseil de la Fédération a proposé la motion suivante qu'on nous demande de transmettre à nos membres.

"Les membres du conseil canadien de la Fédération des Sociétés de Biologie exprime le profond regret quant au retrait possible de la Société canadienne des Microbiologistes et demande aux membres de la Société canadienne des Microbiologistes de demeurer au sein de la Fédération canadienne des Sociétés de Biologie particulièrement en prévision du bouleversement de la crise cruciale à laquelle devra faire face la Science dans le futur au Canada. Le Conseil reconnaît les desirs exprimés par la SCM en vue d'augmenter la flexibilité dans les contacts et promet son soutien selon les restrictions de la Fédération." La motion fut unanimement adoptée.

J'ai depuis communiqué avec le Secrétaire honorifique pour clarifier l'expression "restrictions de la Fédération". En lisant la constitution de la FCSB, on remarquera que ces restrictions ne sont pas définies. La politique de la programmation de la FCSB semble reposer largement dans les mains du Secrétaire honorifique et du Comité de Programmation de la FCSB. Nous n'avons qu'un représentant à ce Comité et il est formé de huit sociétés.

A mon avis, nos problèmes avec la Fédération canadienne des Sociétés de Biologie viennent du fait que la Fédération est devenue beaucoup plus un exécutif, i.e., prend beaucoup plus de décisions dans des domaines que nous n'avions pas anticipés lors de notre affiliation. Nous avons en tant que Société, perdu beaucoup de notre autonomie dans des domaines tels que la programmation des réunions scientifiques, de la politique des Sciences et des finances. Selon la constitution de la Fédération, la Fédération est gouvernée par un Comité où siège, pour chaque société constituante, trois représentants. Ces Sociétés, bien sûr, varient grandement quant à leurs affectifs. Les revenus de la Fédération venant des diverses Sociétés en 1975 sont cités comme suit dans le rapport de la Fédération:

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|---|--------|
| Société canadienne de Physiologie | 3,142 |
| Société de Pharmacologie du Canada | 1,704 |
| Association canadienne des Anatomistes | 1,340 |
| Société canadienne de Biochimie | 5,032 |
| Société de Nutrition du Canada | 2,031 |
| Société canadienne de Biologie cellulaire | 1,407 |
| Société canadienne pour l'Immunologie | 1,763 |
| Société canadienne des Microbiologistes | 5,196 |
| Total | 21,615 |

Comme on peut le voir, la Société canadienne des Microbiologistes est la société la plus grande au sein de la Fédération quant au montant imposable, bien que nous n'ayons rien de plus à dire au Conseil de la Fédération et dans les Comités de la Fédération que les sociétés à nombre plus restreint. Si nous voulons demeurer dans la Fédération, je pense que nous ne devrions le faire que si nous sommes représentés à l'Exécutif en proportion du nombre de membres que nous sommes. Ceci exigerait une reformulation de la Constitution de la Fédération. Je doute que la Fédération y consente, mais j'ai l'intention d'exploiter cette possibilité. Puisque la Fédération se porte garante d'un nouveau rôle dominateur dans les affaires des sociétés constituantes, une nouvelle méthode de représentation plus démocratique de chaque société sera requise. Même si un tel changement dans la représentation se réalise nous devons nous demander si l'adhésion, en ce qu'elle était originellement conçue, est bonne pour la Société canadienne des Microbiologistes, maintenant que la Fédération semble mener plutôt que suivre. Voulons-nous que la majorité des sociétés décident pour notre Société dans les domaines de programmation, de politique scientifique et de financement?

R.A. MacLeod
Président
Société canadienne des Microbiologistes

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March 10, 1988

An Open Letter to Canadian Physiologists:

As a Canadian physiologist and Past President of the Canadian Federation of Biological Societies, I am writing this letter to express my deep concern over the recent decision taken by the Canadian Physiological Society to withdraw from CFBS. Regrettably this decision was made without any advance warning to the Executive or Board of Directors of CFBS. In addition, an opportunity was not provided for the President or members of the Executive of CFBS to react to the viewpoints being expressed by certain members of CPS. I would like to react to the single issue of the effectiveness of the science policy lobby of CFBS.

It is certainly the case that the science policy efforts/lobby of CFBS have had a checkered history over the last 10 years. Indeed during the more liberal spending years by the federal government, of the 60's and early 70's, the Board of Directors of CFBS never felt or understood the necessity to engage in an intensive science lobby. Moreover, as scientists, this certainly is not an area in which we can consider ourselves experts. Finally, a policy decision was made for CFBS to become more concerned with lobbying our politicians to ensure stable funding of the granting councils. It was not until the hiring of a paid lobbyist and the moving of our office to Ottawa, that this approach became consistent and effective. I have learned during the last two years in which I personally engaged in intensive lobbying on behalf of all members of CFBS that it is an extremely slow, at times frustrating, and yet at other times, dramatically effective process. Writing a letter to a politician full of facts and data does create a lasting impression. However, nurturing contacts at senior bureaucratic levels, in Ottawa, being able to react in advance of policies being considered by the government, and establishing a feeling of confidence within the minds of both ministers of the Crown, deputy ministers and their assistants, have allowed us to achieve significant results in impressing upon the government the importance of consistent policy towards science in this country. On the practical side, our science policy officer, Dr. Gauthier and myself were directly involved with the drafting of guidelines for the matching grants initiative before it became a policy of the federal government. Whether we agree with the matching grants program or not, it is important to emphasize that the matching grants would have become government policy with or without our input. Our input at last salvaged the program and incorporated as many positive features, for Canadian

Scientists, as possible. This ability to be able to input into the government decision making process in advance of it becoming a firm policy, is what makes our science policy effective.

Another extremely important area in which science policy of CFBS has attempted to influence the well-being of all Canadian scientists has been the establishment of our liaison committee with the Medical Research Council of Canada and more recently NSERC. These committees now provide an opportunity for all members of CFBS to input directly into the policy making process of both these granting councils.

The development of these relationships, both with government and the granting councils, is not an easy process. It requires consistent communication, nurturing of relationships with important officials, and an ability to react immediately (sometimes within 24 hours) to questions posed by these two groups. I feel that this can only be achieved by a paid official whose sole function it is to look after these particular interests for all members of the Canadian Federation of Biological Societies. I do not believe it is possible for any single society or any member of a society to devote the time and the energy required to provide a consistent science policy lobby. Therefore, at least on the issue of science policy I would urge all members of the Canadian Physiological Society to write the President of the Society expressing their views clearly on this issue. I feel that the decision to withdraw from CFBS would be reversed if all members of the Society had an opportunity to hear the facts and to be able to vote on the decision.

Bernard H. Bressler, Ph.D.,
Past-President CFBS

BHB/tj