August 20, 2019

Dalhousie Student Union Council:

It is with great excitement that I contact this body to welcome the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) as official prospective members of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). The Federation and its predecessor organizations, the National Union of Students, the Canadian Union of Students, and the National Federation of Canadian University Students, have represented post-secondary students in Canada since 1926. Currently, the CFS represents over 500,000 college and university students and proudly advocates for public, universal, tuition-free post-secondary education in Canada for both domestic and international students.

Prospective membership status of the DSU was ratified unanimously at our June 8-11, 2019 National General Meeting. Subsequent to the national meeting, the Federation's board of directors, the National Executive, met from August 6-8 to affirm that it would waive the 5% prospective membership fee allowed for in Federation Bylaws. This action is consistent with recent practice for prospective members.

As per Bylaw 1.2.b, prospective members shall have full voting rights in Federation national general meetings, including the right to designate a proxy to vote on its behalf, and shall have full access to Federation resources and materials, including the ISIC card, which costs $20 for non-members.

As a newly ratified prospective member, it is expected that the local shall work with the Federation to schedule a referendum on full membership within a year. However, should there be extenuating circumstances, it is possible to request the National Executive grant an extension to prospective membership.

As a member based organization we collect fees, first set at $3 in our Bylaws for both CFS and CFS-NS (combined $6). This fee is adjustable by inflation/CPI. If a vote on full membership is successful, members of the DSU begin contributing a per-semester combined (both CFS and CFS-NS) membership fee of $9.34.

We encourage you to familiarize yourself with our organization by visiting our website, where you will find information on our campaigns and services, minutes from general meetings, governing documents, and audited financial statements.

We are particularly excited to work with the DSU in its education and get-out-the-vote efforts for the federal election this fall. Students and youth can ensure that their issues are heard this election. Our national federal election campaign, Time To Be Bold, will be officially launched tomorrow, with Election Day two months away! We have shipped a variety of student-focused election materials to the Nova Scotia office for dissemination by the student union on campus.

Myself and members of the National Executive are happy to answer any questions or concerns you or your members may have about the organization. Please do not hesitate to contact me at executivedirector@cfs-fcee.ca.

Sincerely,

Justine De Jaegher
Executive Director