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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Dalhousie Student Union Launches Sexual Assault & Harassment Phone Line:
(902) 425-1066**

HALIFAX—The Dalhousie Student Union’s Sexual Assault and Harassment Phone Line, the only service of its kind in Nova Scotia, is in its second week of operation. The 24/7, confidential service offers nonjudgmental, active listening, and information for anyone who has experienced sexualized or gender-based violence.

“We are proud to offer this service to our members,” said Kaitlynn Lowe, Vice President Internal for the Dalhousie Student Union. “We know that sexual assault and harassment is an issue on university campuses. We want students to know that they are not alone and we are here to listen.”

The Phone Line is aimed at students at both Dalhousie University and the University of King’s College, but no caller will be turned away. Every new student who attended orientation week received information about the Phone Line and the DSU is currently promoting the service amongst upper-year students, including at Dal Fest on September 18 and 19. The Phone Line is staffed by volunteers, the majority of whom are Dalhousie students.

“The services that currently exist can be unwieldy to navigate, especially when you are in crisis,” said Dan Nicholson, President of the Dalhousie Student Union. “The Phone Line offers students a soft place to land.”

The Sexual Assault and Harassment Phone Line is a pilot project of the Dalhousie Student Union and is currently scheduled to run until October 14. It was launched after over a year’s worth of planning. The Dalhousie Student Union will be approaching the University for long-term funding.

“The Sexual Assault and Harassment Phone Line is one more way that students at Dalhousie are working to combat rape culture and build a culture of consent on our campus and beyond,” said Lowe.

The Dalhousie Student Union is the province’s largest student union, representing over 18,500 undergraduate and graduate students at all campuses of Dalhousie University.

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For more information or to set up an interview with a spokesperson contact:

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