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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Board of Governors should take lead from students on fees, misogyny and climate change

HALIFAX- Students are gathering at Dalhousie Board of Governors meeting today to show their disappointment with the Board's decisions on tuition fees, issues of misogyny on campus, and divestment from fossil fuels.

The Dalhousie Budget Advisory Committee is recommending increasing tuition fees by three per cent. The provincial budget released Thursday April 9, will allow the Board of Governors to drastically increase tuition fees in future years.

"Students are hearing from government that we need to trust universities to set reasonable fees in a deregulated system. Given the track record at Dalhousie we don't trust the Board to act in students' best interests," said Isabelle Ofume, student organizer with Students Against Fee Hikes.

In November, the Board voted against divesting from fossil fuels and announced March 25 that Shell will directly fund Dalhousie programming in the faculties of engineering, science, and management. There also have been no tangible actions from the Board since incidents of misogyny, sexism, and homophobia on campus were made public this year.

"Involvement in the fossil fuel industry has gone from bad to worse at Dalhousie," said Katie Rae Pefitt, Divest Dal member. "Instead of taking a step toward a future free from fossil fuels Dalhousie has chosen to invest in a relationship with Shell—one of Canada's largest fossil fuel polluters."

"We need immediate action from the Board to address systemic issues of misogyny and rape culture on campus," said Katelyn Armstrong, South House student board member. "The Board has not implemented vital services including anonymous reporting and trauma-informed counselling, leaving students to fill in the gaps."

"The Governors of Dalhousie have failed students, time and time again," said Jennifer Nowoselski, Vice President Internal of the Dalhousie Student Union. "Despite mass student mobilization on these issues, the decision-makers at this university have ignored our calls and shut students out of the conversation."

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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