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## **Students condemn Dalhousie request for massive tuition fee hikes**

HALIFAX- Students are disappointed to hear that the Dalhousie administration has submitted a request for tuition fee “resets” for engineering, pharmacy, and agriculture students that are likely to be more than \$1,000 per year.

“Students will be hit hard by these extreme increases,” said John Hutton, Vice President Academic and External of the Dalhousie Student Union. “The Liberal government allowed for a tuition fee free-for-all, and that’s exactly what’s happening at Dalhousie. This will make education less accessible for low and middle-income people.”

At a Board of Governors meeting on June 23, Provost Carolyn Watters, confirmed that Dalhousie has submitted a request to government to increase tuition fees for engineering, pharmacy, and agriculture. Watters confirmed that the request aims to align tuition fees at the Agricultural Campus with the Halifax campuses, which would require an increase of more than \$1400 for agricultural students. The average tuition at Dalhousie in Halifax is \$8457, compared to \$7020 in Truro.

Ongoing tuition fee increases have made university education increasingly difficult to access and left many young people with massive levels of student debt. Students in Nova Scotia graduate with an average of \$37,000 in debt. This April, the Nova Scotia government announced that universities would be allowed to increase tuition fees on a one-time basis, with almost no oversight. The provincial government has also deregulated tuition fees for all out of province and graduate students, while maintaining deregulation for international, law, medicine, and dentistry students.

“This so-called reset brings tuition fee increases to a new extreme,” said Hutton. “Dalhousie's actions show that they are all too willing to go along with a government strategy that is saddling young people with record-levels of debt and pushing youth out of the province.”

The Dalhousie Student Union has called on Dalhousie to use \$3.6 million in cash reserves to freeze tuition fees for 2015-16. As of March 31, 2014, Dalhousie had \$161.3 million in cash or cash equivalents.

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