

*For immediate release*

## **DFA challenging Truro daycare closure**

*Halifax, July 20, 2016* – The Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA), which represents more than 900 academic staff at Dalhousie University, is challenging a decision by the Dalhousie administration to close a daycare centre on the university’s Agricultural Campus in Bible Hill.

In June, Dalhousie announced that the Agricultural Campus Daycare would be shut down as of September 2, 2016, leaving the children of Truro-based faculty, staff, students and community members without child care services on campus.

On July 12, the DFA wrote a letter to Dalhousie President Richard Florizone stating that “the provision of daycare facilities is an important and necessary benefit for Members of the DFA Bargaining Unit” and that the closure of the daycare centre would violate the terms of the Collective Agreement between the DFA and the Dalhousie Board of Governors. A follow-up meeting with Dr. Florizone on July 19 failed to reverse the decision to close the daycare.

“The daycare centre on the Faculty of Agriculture campus provides a crucial support for junior faculty members with young families, as they establish their teaching and research careers,” said DFA President Laurene Rehman. “We are particularly concerned that the closure of the daycare centre will have a negative impact on existing female faculty members, as well as Dalhousie’s ability to recruit female faculty members to the Agricultural Campus in the future.”

Dr. Rehman said the DFA has heard from at least one young faculty member who indicated that the daycare facility was an important consideration in her decision to accept an appointment to the Faculty of Agriculture.

The DFA will now proceed to the next stage of the grievance process, arbitration under the Collective Agreement. “The DFA will be taking every possible step to have this grievance heard and decided before September 2,” Dr. Rehman said.

-30-

For more information, contact:

Donna Balkan, Communications Officer  
Dalhousie Faculty Association  
902-266-5429 (cell)  
Email: [donna.balkan@dal.ca](mailto:donna.balkan@dal.ca)