



Association of Psychologists of Nova Scotia  
1657 Barrington St., Suite 417  
Halifax NS B3J 2A1  
Phone: 902-422-9183 Fax: 902-462-9801  
www.apns.ca apns@apns.ca

May 10, 2011

Dr. T. Traves  
President  
H Hicks Administration Building  
Dalhousie University  
Halifax, N.S B3H 4R2

Dear Dr. Traves,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Association of Psychologists of Nova Scotia, which you can consider to be a friend of Dalhousie University.

As you would expect, there are many Dal alumni within our Association, from both your undergraduate and graduate programs. The Association was an important advocate for MPHEC and government support for the establishment of Dalhousie's Ph.D. program in Clinical Psychology. Our members arrange and supervise clinical practice experiences for Dalhousie students; and collaborate with Dalhousie faculty on their research projects.

We have become very concerned about developments with your Counselling and Psychological Services Centre. That Centre has an excellent reputation within the psychological community in Nova Scotia, in terms of the quality of its psychologists, its training of graduate students from Dalhousie and other universities, and its innovative programming and integrated provision of services for personal, career and learning problems. It could be considered the premier university counselling service in the Maritimes.

However we are aware that there have been very negative developments, which appear to be the serial dismantling of this excellent Centre. We are referring to the removal of responsibilities for study skills programming, then the discontinuation of the sole psychologist position for learning disabilities, and then the announced intention to separate out career counselling and to place the residual personal counselling service with medical services in a way that will potentially medicalize what is currently an educationally-embedded counselling service. We understand that each of these decisions was made without prior consultation with the psychologists within the Counselling and Psychological Services Centre, which perplexes us; and are contrary to their professional advice and not in keeping with the best standards of psychological practice.

We are aware of the financial constraints upon all universities and indeed the whole health and educational systems. Within this context, since all the above negative changes appear to involve, or risk, greater total expenses, then they are all the more difficult to understand. We presume that they are being done from some beliefs or philosophy about

psychological services. However, as you may expect, our philosophy about psychological services include the beliefs that they are important and best provided in a holistic manner, according to best professional standards, and organized with at least the meaningful consultation of the psychologists involved.

We believe this matter is important enough to merit your personal attention and involvement.

Please give it very serious consideration.

Of course if we can be of any assistance in your consideration of the issues, we would be pleased to help.

Sincerely,



Michael Ross, Ph.D.  
President, APNS

Cc Dr. Bonnie Neuman, VP Student Services  
Dr. Carolyn Watters, VP Academic and Provost  
Dr. Raymond Klein, Chair, Psychology Dept.  
Dr. Victor Day, Director, Counselling and Psychological Services Centre