



February 6, 2012

Ms. Joan Jessome, President
Nova Scotia Government Employees Union
100 Eileen Stubbs Avenue
Dartmouth, NS B3B 1Y6

Dear Ms Jessome


We are writing to follow up on the conversation between legal counsel for the NSGEU and the Province on February 1, 2012 concerning the proposed merger of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and Dalhousie University.

Both Dalhousie and the Province appreciate the uncertainty and the concerns your members have in respect of the proposed merger and what it may mean for them personally and professionally. Although we had hoped that we would be able to finalize our discussions and be in a position to put these concerns to rest we continue to work on the terms of the merger.

Dalhousie and the Province are united in their belief that the success of the proposed merger depends in large part on the staff and employees of the college. We wish to reassure you that every effort is being taken to achieve an agreement which minimizes impacts on employees in order to make this merger successful.

In light of the concerns that have been expressed, we wish to reassure you that any agreement will be implemented through legislation. The legislation that will be brought forward will depend on the terms of the agreement we hope to reach but in any event will include provisions which will provide for a transfer of NSGEU members under the terms of the existing collective agreement, recognizing service, providing a right for existing employees to continue to participate in the Public Service Superannuation Plan and confirming that s. 31 of the Trade Union Act applies. Other than providing a right to employees to continue to participate in the PSSP there is no intention or desire to tie either the Union or Dalhousie's hands in achieving a satisfactory Collective Agreement post merger.

Yours truly,


Susan Spence Wach
Associate Vice-President Academic
Dalhousie University


Paul T LaFleche
Deputy Minister
Department of Agriculture