



Moving forward together to address street party culture  
Themes & Action Opportunities

*“More gets accomplished when everyone has a role to play.”*



Inspiring Communities' Report  
on December Convening

“Right now status quo problem-solving skills in the social impact sector rely on:

- Good intentions
- Building what \*we\* think should make a difference
- Designing solutions in a bubble or in silos
- Copying and pasting “best practices”
- Launching pilot programs and waiting for 6 months to a year to see results

We use logic models, grant applications and RFPs, and detailed program and evaluation designs to make us feel like we have certainty. The reality is that we often ignore a large amount of unnamed and untested assumptions that are informed by our biases and positionalities that we rarely pause to consider.”

Heather Hiscox, in her book [NO MORE Status Quo](#)

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## Background: How did we get here?

Large unsanctioned street parties have emerged as a growing concern over the last few years in the neighborhood near Dalhousie University. In 2017, a giant street party in the residential community surrounding the university received media attention; it was reported as having 2000-3000 attendees, while police estimated 1,200 to 1,500 people, many wearing Dalhousie gear. Twenty-three people were arrested. In 2021, during the pandemic, another street party was covered by the news media, with CBC reporting “hundreds” of students, and a police news release mentioning “thousands”. Ten people were arrested, and more were fined under public health provisions. In 2022, thousands again filled the streets, particularly the blocks near Jennings Street. The party lasted all day and resulted in police intervention using pepper spray and a participant being stabbed.

Community members have organized and expressed concerns about what they report as increased anti-social behaviour, including threats to personal safety, illegal drinking and substance use, property damage, noise, and garbage as a result of these large gatherings as well as regular house parties around these events. Students acknowledge concerns around violence, sexual assault, and impact on learning.

Giant street parties that are unsafe, characterized by overdrinking / binge drinking, substance use, physical injuries, property damage, and sexual assaults among other problems, began in Canada in the 1980s. The idea has grown and spread throughout the country since then. Predacious and cynical for-profit companies use social media to introduce a competition mindset, pitting university populations against each other, and then mine the results for content on platforms like Instagram and TikTok, reaping commercial rewards from ad revenues and sponsorships. The challenges contribute to an escalation in the scale of these parties and an increase in riskiness of actions undertaken at these events.

Other jurisdictions have been grappling with these parties for years, trying measures like increased police enforcement, blocking off party areas and issuing university sanctions. Yet every year, these parties continue to make news, often timed around Homecoming and, in Nova Scotia in particular, around St. Patrick’s Day. It must be underlined that although large street parties label themselves “hoco” or “homecoming”, they are not part of the sanctioned university celebrations, which are often focused on alumni and sports.

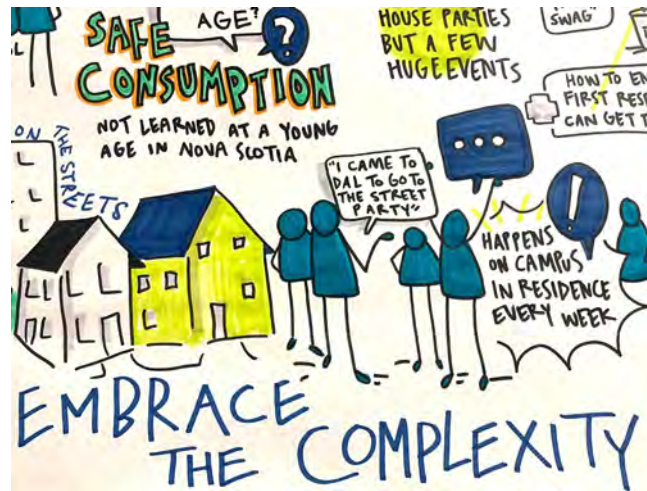
There is general agreement that a small subset of students is hosting and promoting these parties at any one time, but these students are influential and every year, new hosts emerge. This is a cultural problem, characterized by an expression of a particular privileged, entitled culture.

These parties might also be characterized as a symptom of an illness that affects our communities. As the pandemic has taught us, a healthy immune system is vital to fight illness. Relationships and community cohesion contribute to our social immune system. Therefore, in the long term, building

relationships, reimagining our shared use of public space and reweaving the fabric of communities is key to inoculate our communities, and make them inhospitable hosts for antisocial behaviour.

The problem of giant street parties will take long-term collaboration to address, but harm reduction and damage prevention efforts can be strengthened, and incremental change can happen right away.

Shared ownership of this process will ensure it stays on track.



## Background: Where IC came in.

In November 2021, Dalhousie reached out to Inspiring Communities to explore the possibilities of a collective impact approach. Inspiring Communities is a nonprofit that focuses on changing systems to improve equity. We have built our reputation for social innovation, based on our collective impact work in three communities and our experiments in networking and other forms of social innovation. As an intermediary organization, we place ourselves among the trailblazers helping to birth a new system, with extended roles in fostering communities of practice and hospicing the old system.

Belonging is a theme we have been exploring in our work recently; we recognized this issue would allow us to explore the interwoven complexities of building and shifting community norms, as well as the multiplicity of perspectives in the Dalhousie community, many of which were not engaged in this discussion. We recognized the opportunity to contribute an equity lens to the discussion. Finally, we hoped our established credibility would help all the stakeholders involved come to recognize this for a systems problem - a complex entangled issue that would not be resolved simply nor quickly.

As an independent third party, Inspiring Communities conducted a literature and media search, helped create a community survey for baseline attitudes, and interviewed stakeholders. This research informed the design of a two-day Community Strategies Lab which was facilitated by Inspiring Communities. The Lab, held in June, was co-created with a stakeholder group and saw 35 attendees take part over two days. Following the lab, a report was submitted.

The research and lab revealed a fracture in the relationships among students, the university and the community members who lived nearby. Neighbours and community members noted that while they welcome students, they found that there had been a progressive degeneration in the level of civility in interactions over the last number of years, along with a corresponding increase in destructiveness.

Meanwhile, some also expressed beliefs that Dalhousie was adversely affecting the shape of the community in various ways: removing heritage buildings, stopping extra payments to police for extra service, and running a dry campus. Each of these beliefs held a seed of truth, without additional context that might or might not have influenced the opinions of the community. Dalhousie as an institution was not meeting regularly with the surrounding community, although the CMC Community Engagement team dedicated resources to being responsive and keeping them informed.

At the Community Strategies Lab, research was presented, the sources of influence were examined and mapped, and experiences were shared. The attendees were not widely representative of the stakeholder community: it was attended mostly by representatives of Dalhousie and other institutions, students and a few neighbors, along with a public health representative and an HRM bylaws staff member. Students present represented groups of international students and student government, as well as residence staff and residents. Sharing of stories and experiences created mutual empathy, though there was one notable statement of feeling like this empathetic response was detracting from

the point of the event. Personal commitments were solicited at the end and revealed an appetite for action. There was a strong surge of energy to tackle the challenge of these parties, and further, to repair community relationships and commit to a collective impact approach. Attendees looked forward to an opportunity to connect again with more stakeholders in the room.

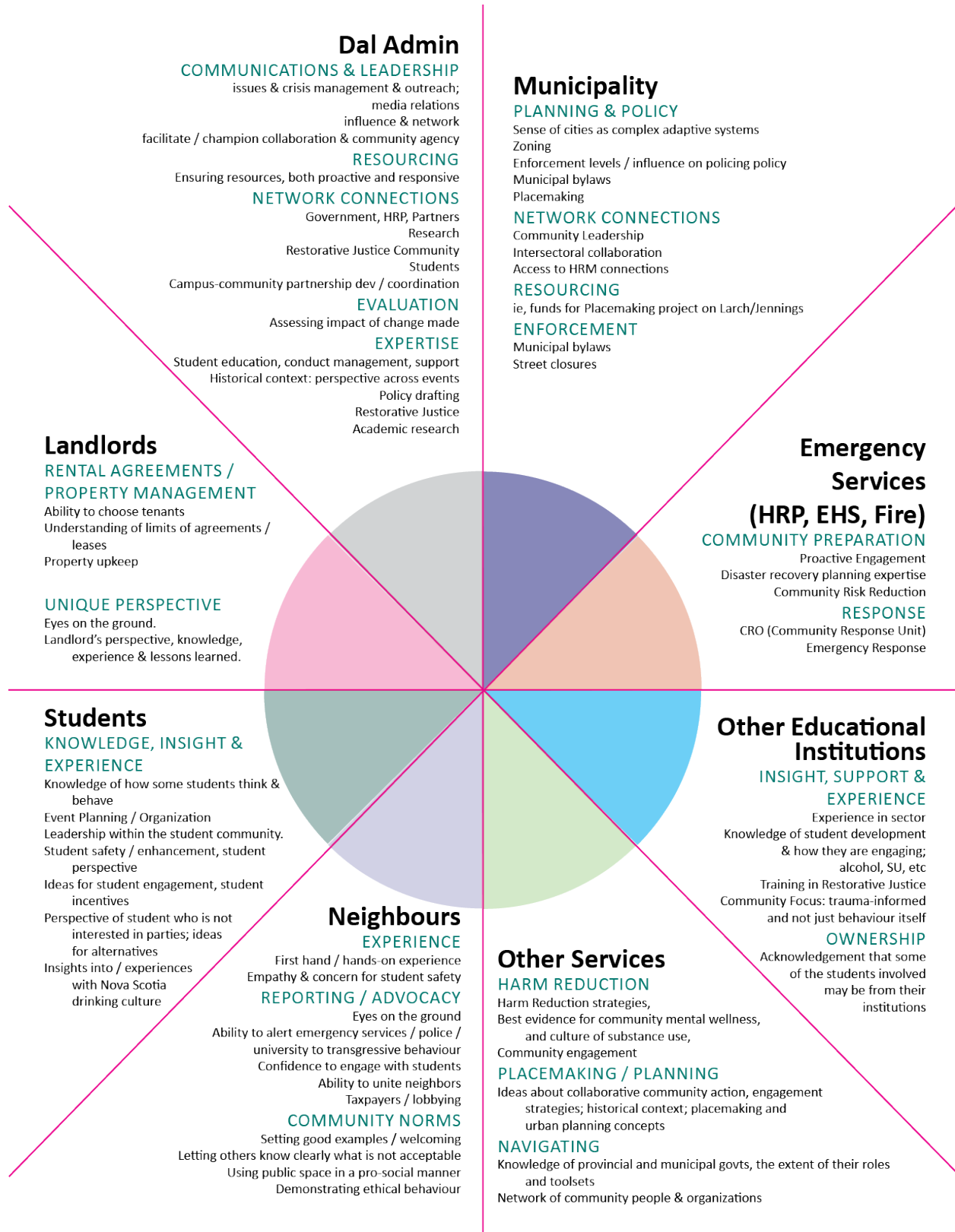
Dalhousie's commitment coming out of this lab, and their actions to date are shared at [Community Engagement on Street Party Culture](#). In addition to their commitment to a long term collective impact process and improved communication with neighbors, they remain engaged with an integrated response team (with police and emergency services) that is designated to help address and mitigate the potential impacts of unsanctioned parties. They have increased funding for security and harm reduction measures and training. Since Fall 2022 they have been actively engaging with the student body to build plans for peer-based programming and to better understand motivations and vectors of influence. They have a plan for supporting alcohol-free on-campus events.

The University's approach for Fall 2022 was informed by the first Community Strategies Lab. Because of the session, community members worked with Dal on a community-building event. Dalhousie communicated its harm reduction and mitigation approach to help put accurate information out to community, media and public. Their messaging was influenced by things that were heard in the session.

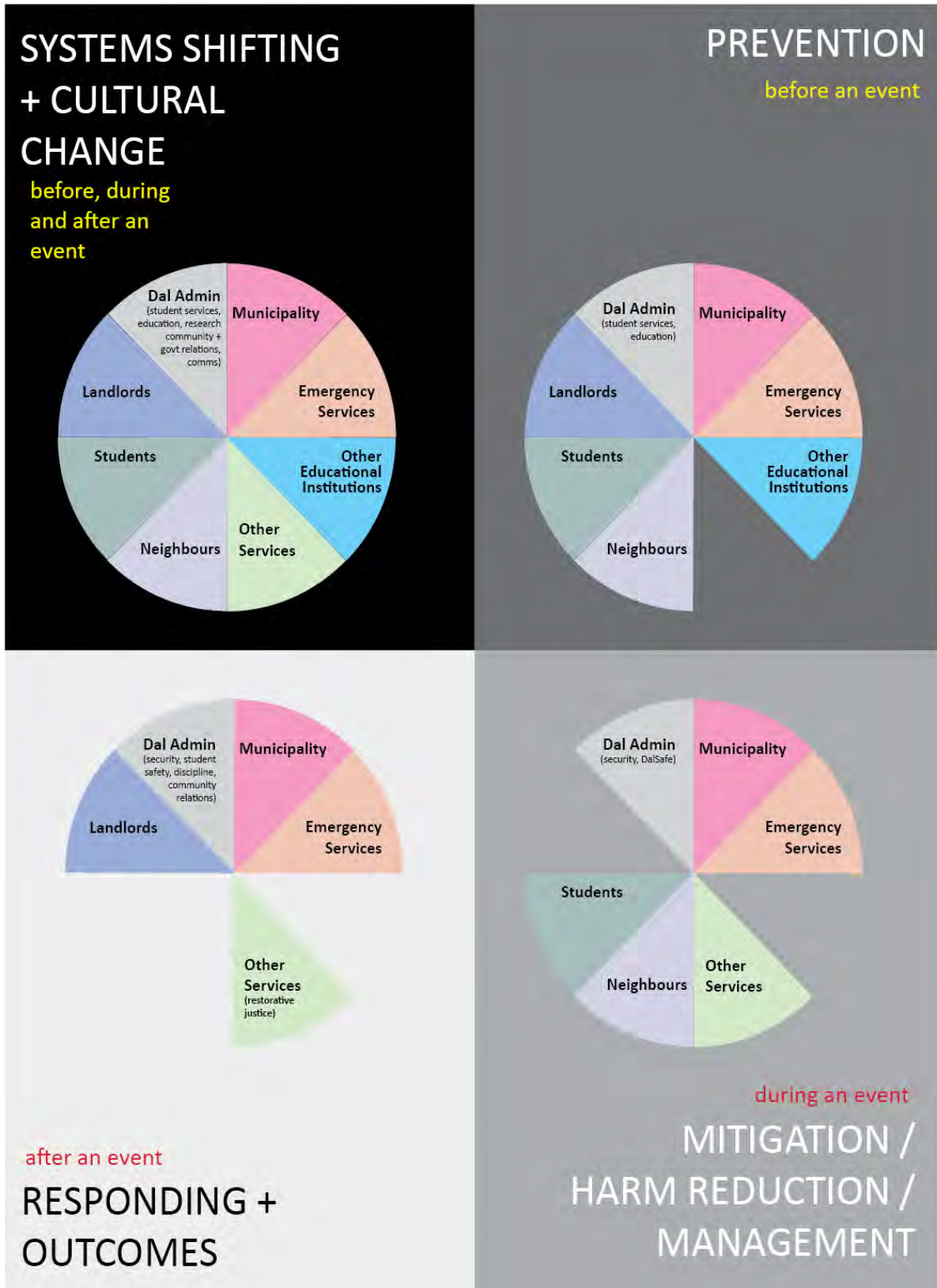
In Fall 2022, Dalhousie proactively communicated their expectations with students and the neighborhood ahead of the scheduled Homecoming, while laying mitigation plans in cooperation with emergency services. Hurricane Fiona disrupted activities across the province the weekend of Homecoming, and so the following weekend, planned and publicized through social media and word of mouth, a street gathering formed in midday and grew throughout the day, finally only dispersing after violence erupted.

Dalhousie meanwhile engaged Inspiring Communities to host a second Social Lab, the *Convening for Action* event held in December. Inspiring Communities reached out to draw in stakeholders from all the key groups affected by large unsanctioned parties, and the one-day event allowed us to map the roles and responsibilities of the key actors in the system.

The tools held by stakeholders, as identified by participants and organizers of the December lab:



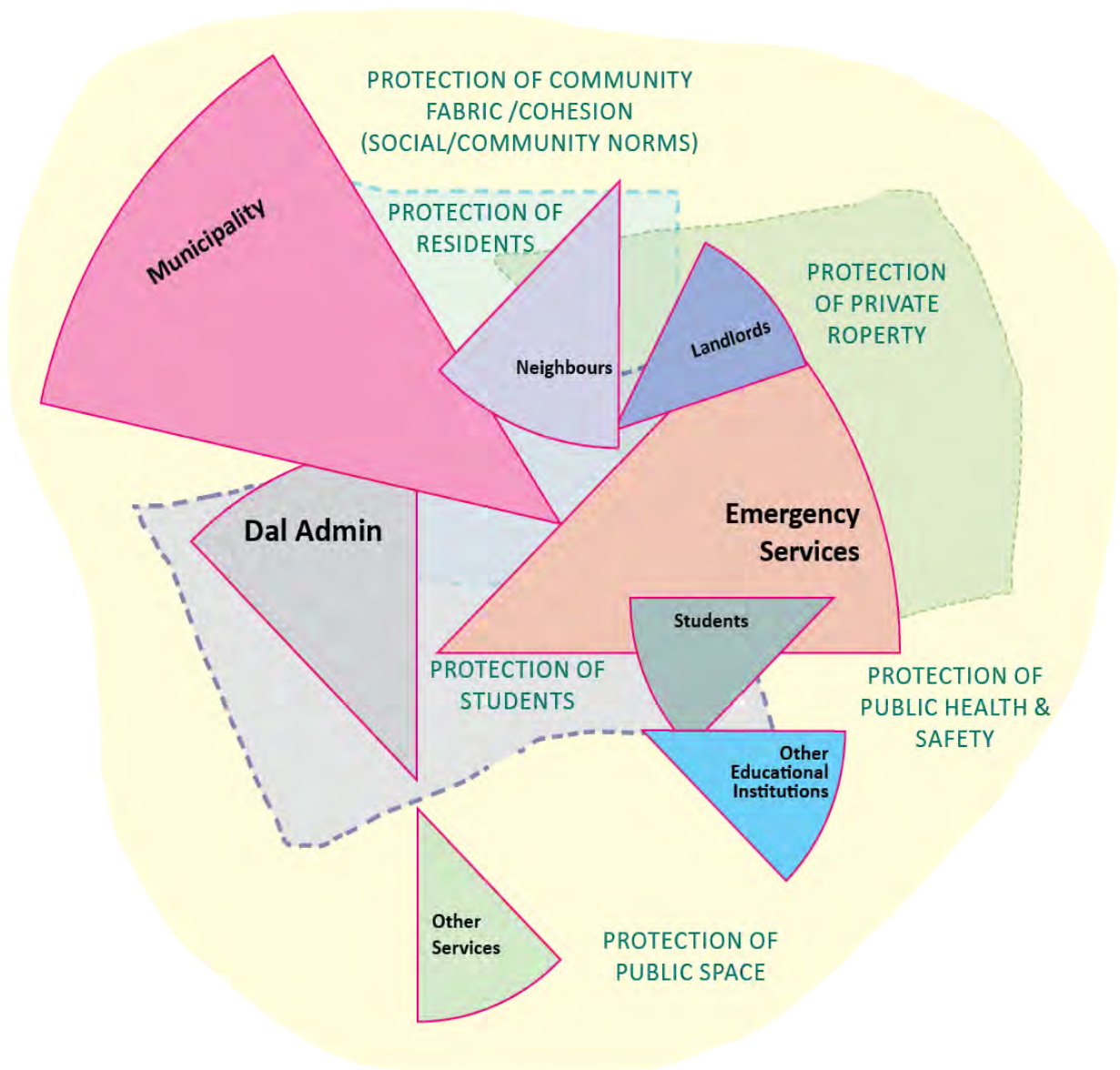
Roles separated into time cycle of an unsanctioned street party:



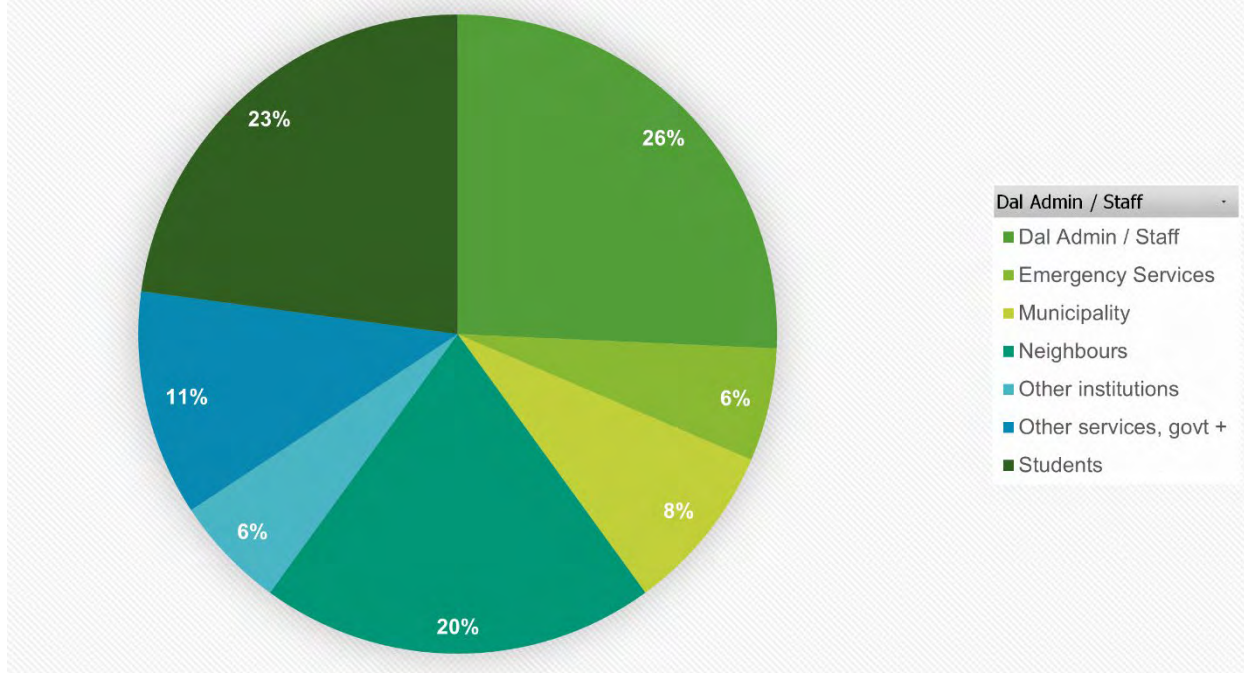


## PROTECTION MANDATES: SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES

There aren't clear delineations in most cases, and all have responsibilities for the big circle items--protecting public space, public health, community fabric and cohesion, and social-community norms. "OTHER SERVICES" could underlie everything as it is a large category, encompassing other government bodies, but for our purposes (reflecting who was in the room at the December Convening) their primary scope is the larger circle.



## Who Was In The Room



The wider range of stakeholders that gathered in December were more forward focused and ready for action, if still with an expectation that simple enforcement actions could resolve the issue.

It is important for us, as an equity-centered organization, to notice power and privilege differentials. We heard many people speak about the privilege of the students who are responsible for these parties. They are generally described as white, often from out of province, with a strong sense of entitlement. The students who came to the labs were largely international students. These students spoke about a fear of jeopardizing their education if they were to act as these party organizers do; about their differing attitudes towards drinking; and their commitment to their education. They fear that all students are at risk of being depicted bad neighbors, which is particularly fraught in a time when housing is scarce, and some students still feel the effects of racism and xenophobia when they are searching for housing.

Questions were raised around police response, another equity topic in Halifax, where the Wortley report has noted racial bias in policing. Many neighbors called for stronger police responses, describing the community policing approach of mingling, issuing warnings and managing the scene (during the day) as ineffective. Dalhousie students have expressed support for Black Lives Matter and other groups in calling for defunding of police. The Dalhousie Security approach is a harm reduction, restorative model.

The privilege felt by some neighbors does not negate the negative and sometimes frightening realities of their experiences, calming fearful children, feeling trapped by roaming mobs of students, experiencing

property damage, losing sleep, having their lawns used as toilets. Police are charged to protect and serve, and police response is necessary in these cases.

All agree that the best solution is long term prevention – shifting the culture so that large parties are no longer instigated, desired, or supported by systemic mechanisms including positive social feedback via social media.

## From here to there: **Our recommendations**

Based on what we have learned through interviews, research and what we heard at the two social labs, we have four key recommendations. These are interdependent and may weave together as part of a larger strategy.

### 1. **Multi stakeholder systems approach with arms’ length backbone**

Continue a multi stakeholder systems approach to build the health of the community, deepen relationships and help create a resilient social and cultural infrastructure that can be sustained through successive waves of incoming new students. We recommend that Dalhousie be a sustainer of this network, providing or procuring funding, but that an arms’-length backbone team be engaged. The neutrality of this backbone (not owned by Dalhousie) structure will facilitate stronger collaborative buy-in from all parties. This structure will coordinate activities led by a coalition of the willing, curious and disenfranchised to keep the connection(s) and accountability going, to centralize evaluation of experiments, and to offer a feedback mechanism to develop effective practices.

#### *Neutral External Coordination Support: Backbone or Core Team*

We recommend that Dalhousie fund and support a backbone or core team<sup>1</sup> to serve this process through convening meetings, tracking actions and managing administrative tasks. While we recommend ongoing close contact with Dalhousie staff, we do not recommend these roles be added to a Dal staff member’s role. This backbone team, which might not comprise full time role(s), might be contractors, a social enterprise or a nonprofit organization with experience in convening and evaluation. For instance, CoLab is familiar with the Dalhousie environment; Moe Drescher is another facilitator who would excel in such a role.

#### *Multi Stakeholder Body / Coalition*

A formally convened body of the stakeholders identified should be formed. This should include voices from each of the primary stakeholders: community members, students,

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<sup>1</sup> Backbone terminology is particular to Collective Impact initiatives while Core Teams or Secretariats are Social Lab terms. See Appendices for more information.

government representatives, emergency services providers, Dalhousie administrators and interested researchers. This group should be served and consulted directly by the backbone team [See the stakeholders report from the December convening](#). Some groups remain un- or under-represented, including alumni, parents, other city institutions, investment property owners, real estate developers and agents, community police, and the provincial government.

*See Appendices for the role and actions that this group can lead over a multi-year timeline.* Some of the actions suggested may lead to other themes being identified; this group may choose to review these regularly, identify next potential actions, determine whose scope of responsibility means they should be part of which action, and which may turn out to be dead ends after prototyping and evaluating. This team could independently determine, based on membership, how many meetings would be required to address the current state of the issue; and what variables would be evaluated to determine progress. They might confer with Dalhousie and other stakeholders to determine what level of progress could reasonably be expected over a five year timeline, to set goals.

## 2. **Maximize strengths**

Leverage Dalhousie's academic and research strength and resources; particularly in the School of Planning, the MPA program, Sustainability and Health Promotion programs. Potential areas of research have emerged from the social labs that sit within and between the signature research clusters of *Healthy People, Healthy Communities, Healthy Populations* and *Culture, Society, Community Development*. As well, the idea of a Policy Lab was suggested by the Queens experience. As a university, Dalhousie is uniquely positioned to contribute through the creation of new knowledge into the cultural phenomenon of large street parties and through applying planning theories and best practices through experimentation. Plus, through programs like the Sustainability Leadership Certificate program, Dalhousie has access to a passionate and talented pool of community leaders.

Dalhousie may choose to lead a national conversation in this area, pulling together researchers and those with experience in the topic from other institutions.

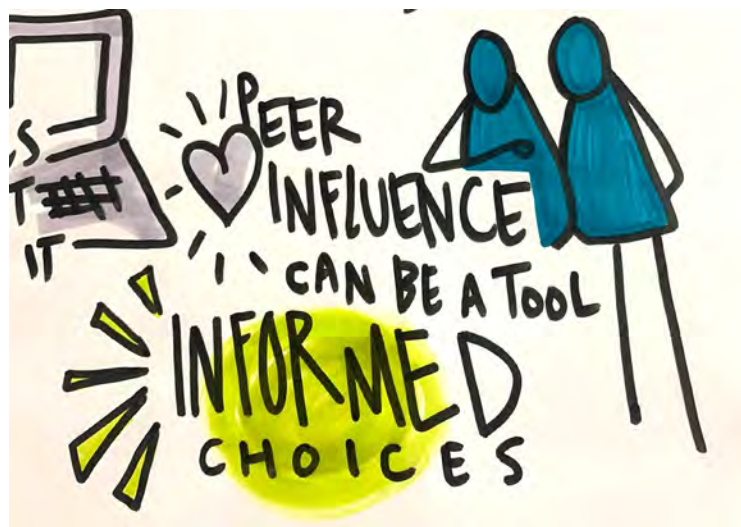
## 3. **Connect to the global level**

To contextualize not just the problem of street parties but also the response of building a strong and resilient community building, we suggest a mixed group of students/residents (up to 6 maximum) be identified to participate in this global program: [Map the System](#). While it may be late for entry for the 2023 cohort, the program is annual. The learnings from this process may then be captured to contribute to systems change at a global level.

The above-named potential national conversation may also contribute to global knowledge.

#### 4. **Re-envision the public space**

Organize a follow-up meeting with Professor Emeritus Frank Palermo and partner with the placemaking already happening in the neighborhood (HRM community developer Kate Moon is working with residents on and near Jennings Street). Start a Switch / Open Street festival that encourages residents to use their space (so no one else can). Coordinate with neighbours for a new, shared vision of what the neighbourhood around Dalhousie can be.



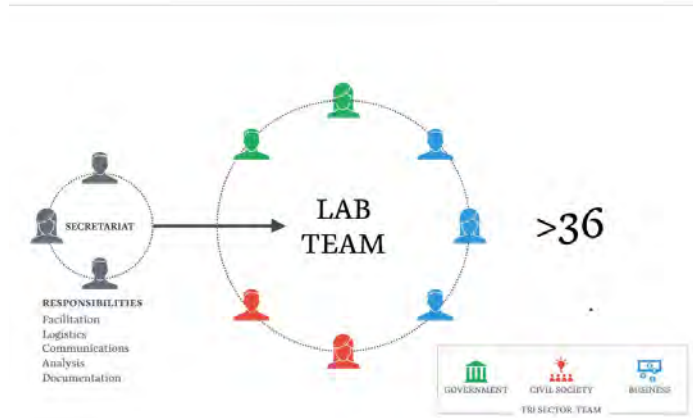
# APPENDICES

## A1 Backbone / Secretariat Role, Responsibilities and Governance

### Secretariat Model - Social Labs

There are two core teams in a social lab, the lab and the secretariat. The role of the secretariat is to support the lab team in their work, through providing a range of services, from facilitation to logistical support. In practice, these two teams are complemented by other teams in a governance role. The formal establishment of these teams is usually what marks the launch of a social lab.

*The lab team is constituted of key stakeholders relating to the challenge the lab aims to address, typically from civil society, government and business.*



References:

[Social Labs field book](#) - Pg 29

[Sustainable Food Lab as an example of roles, responsibility and governance/structure](#)

Civic Engagement Labs - Gabriella Gomez-Mont

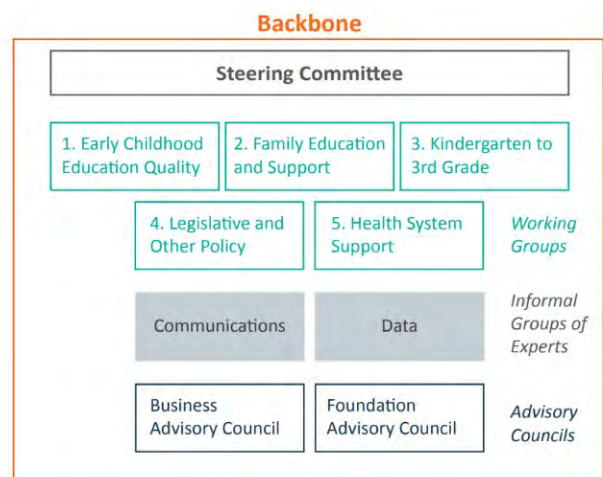
### Backbone Model - Collective Impact (CI)

Collective impact can be a **powerful and innovative approach to solving social problems and is a paradigm shift for how to create social change.**

Complex social problems are affected by large and interdependent systems that no single organization can change alone.

Collective impact (CI) is structured to foster shared leadership and create multiple avenues for engagement across stakeholders in a given system.

\*While critics have identified the model as lacking in depth in terms of equity and justice [“continuing to ignore structural racism and other forms of structural inequities.”](#) it has its benefits for



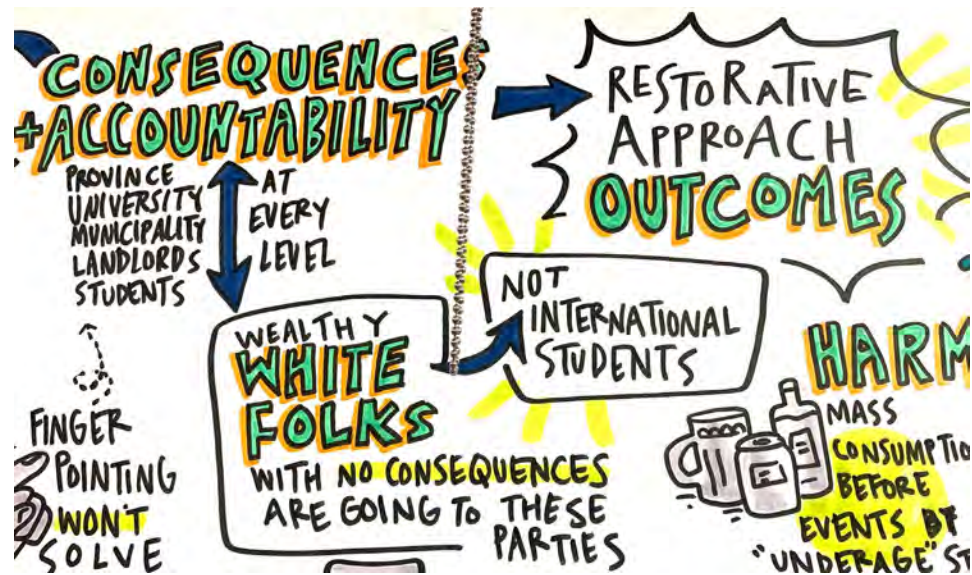
structure and governance that can also not be ignored. *See example structure of a CI initiative - Early Matters.*

The backbone provides dedicated staff to support the collective impact Initiative. These staff can plan, manage, and support the initiative through ongoing facilitation, technology and communications support, data collection and reporting, and handling the myriad logistical and administrative details needed for the initiative to function smoothly.

References:

[Backbone starter guide](#)

[Six proven practices for backbone organizations](#)



## A2 Suggested work plan for the “Coalition”

The Coalition will be supported by the Backbone/Secretariat as described in A1 above.

This group will establish values upon which the work will be based. These have been identified to date through this process:

- Safety for everyone\* is the top priority.
  - What “safety” means for each represented stakeholder group may require some discussion and probing.
- All partners in this process deserve respect: community members, students, government representatives, Dalhousie staff, emergency services providers.

The Coalition might choose to discuss the role of privilege and equity in their network and work.

This coalition can coordinate an action plan. The major steps might include:

- Developing a common vision / agenda / understanding of the problem and goal: *No parties? Some parties? Aim for elimination or mitigation? There was not a universal agreement on this at the social labs. This may remain an unresolved point, however, if it proves contentious. Work can begin on mitigation and this discussion may be picked up again in the future.*
- Identify leverage-point actions that may help (groups of actors may concurrently try different actions through coordinating). Identify short-term and medium-term priorities.
- Pilot experimental actions (prototype). Actions identified at the December convening are listed below, grouped by the themes that emerged.
- **Evaluate results.** Track what results were expected and what actually happened.
- Repeat successful experiments. Tweak less successful efforts. Keep a record of failures.

Potential themes around which to organize leverage-point actions.

- Placemaking
- Community Building
- Restorative Justice
- Student Experience
- Health Promotion/Harm Reduction
- Education & Research
- Policy at all levels: Dal, HRM, Province





## A3 Themes for Action

At the December 7 event, tables were asked to discuss the problem of large street parties from three time perspectives: BEFORE an event (prevention); DURING an event (mitigation); and AFTER an event (outcomes/consequences).

The discussion provided a rich set of potential actions, which we sorted and analyzed for unifying themes. Some of these themes entwine or naturally overlap. For each, we have identified “leads” or those stakeholder groups likely to hold the knowledge or scope to lead an action; and considerations that emerged in discussion.

Considerations	Prevention	Mitigation	Outcomes
<b>Placemaking</b>   Leads: Neighbours, Dal School of Planning, students, Dal Community Engagement			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reconsider the way the neighbourhood’s shared public space is used, and proactively reshape this.</li> <li>● Actively demonstrate community values: family, security, connection, diversity.</li> <li>● Switch / Open Streets model - like this.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Placemaking Grant - HRM (Jennings Street) - in progress</li> <li>● Work with Frank Palermo or others to develop a vision and plan for re-purposing the public space.</li> <li>● Request HRM host a Switch / Open Streets event early in fall in the neighborhood.</li> <li>● Explore what is happening with Kermesse, other neighborhood events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Guerilla party - early in street party day, join the street party en masse, kids, grandparents, relatives and friends. Bring sidewalk chalk and BBQs and hockey nets and balls. Dilute the youth with multiple generations.</li> </ul>	

Considerations	Prevention	Mitigation	Outcomes
<b>Health Promotion / Harm Reduction  </b> Leads: Dal Student Affairs, Public Health, students/DSU			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Addressing Nova Scotia / Halifax's drinking culture</li> <li>● Ensuring access to resources to reduce harmful outcomes during an event</li> <li>● Sexual assault prevention education</li> <li>● Mental health supports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Proactive communication around consequences, potential harms (Harm Reduction campaign)</li> <li>● Expand peer-centered harm reduction programming. Harm reduction campaign, communication on               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Safe practices of consumption</li> <li>○ Alcohol consumption</li> <li>○ Cannabis</li> <li>○ Other drugs used by students</li> <li>○ Use messaging from Keep it Social</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Bystander education</li> <li>● Naloxone education</li> <li>● Mental health first aid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Set up washrooms in advance - community (Dal and city) funded</li> <li>● Further investment in harm reduction strategies, mitigating risks of over intoxication, speaking of drinks, sexualized violence.</li> <li>● Have events that allow for community and unity of students for more positive results.</li> <li>● Allow for more safe(r) places to be available during large parties.</li> <li>● HR (Harm reduction) campaign and resource on site</li> <li>● Safe, drug test, resources/alcohol</li> <li>● Cheap food available</li> </ul>	

Considerations	Prevention	Mitigation	Outcomes
<p align="center"><b>“Build a Safer Party”</b>   <i>Might be considered part of Harm Reduction work. Leads: Students / Peer network / Neighbors</i></p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was energy at the December event for these kinds of solutions.</li> <li>• You could consider this a subset of Harm Reduction</li> <li>• Much depends on enlisting key party organizers / influencers.</li> <li>• Requires readiness of neighbors to engage</li> <li>• Willing to entertain smaller scale parties as a step in harm reduction / not approaching with a temperance mindset?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police visits to homes before and after events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enact a site plan to guarantee emergency vehicle &amp; neighbor access: Logistical map of party</li> <li>• Set up the infrastructure in the area to allow for emergency vehicles/community members to drive through if needed</li> <li>• Move party/gathering closer to Dal/University Avenue (allow DalSafe staff to support in managing the party)</li> <li>• Coordinate with the surrounding neighbourhood to host/make use of the street and surrounding area</li> <li>• Connect with fire and ambulance in advance to prep this</li> </ul>	

Considerations	Prevention	Mitigation	Outcomes
<b>Policy  </b> Leads: HRM, Neighbors, Dalhousie admin			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dal: Code of student conduct</li> <li>● Neighbors: Review zoning changes / municipal plans</li> <li>● HRM: approach to zoning, planning, emergency response</li> <li>● CAVEAT: Consider unintended equity effects of policy change</li> </ul>	<p>Code of student conduct:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Athletics/varsity players/health have deterrence (codes/Tim M) - Why can't others (management?)</li> <li>● StFX code includes on/off campus.</li> <li>● International field courses: Checking record before approving</li> <li>● Students employer checks.</li> <li>● What do students fear losing?</li> </ul> <p>HRM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Engage with landlords / IPO</li> <li>● Rental registration bylaw 2023</li> <li>● Proactive bylaw enforcement</li> <li>● Examine policies and zoning to remove barriers to building community</li> <li>● Bylaws need to be improved (nuisance bylaws) eg, Queens</li> </ul> <p>GOVERNMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Grants for renovations?</li> <li>● Work to ensure safer communities. Improvements needed in Residential Tenancies Act (province)?</li> <li>● Legislation (?)</li> </ul>		<p>Code of student conduct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Punishment can't always be shared with community members - that must be part of the communication</li> <li>● Dal legal aid help</li> <li>● Dal code of conduct: Publish yearly code findings, while respecting privacy legislation.</li> <li>● Student jobs- Employer checks.</li> <li>● Increased fines to help fund extra policing.</li> </ul>

Considerations	Prevention	Mitigation	Outcomes
<b>Community Building</b>   Leads: Neighbors, HRM, Police(?)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban Design / New visions for public space use</li> <li>• Connecting neighbors and students (eg, through events)</li> <li>• Reviewing zoning changes / municipal plans</li> <li>• Proactive policing &amp; bylaw governance</li> </ul>	<p>AMONG NEIGHBOURS / STUDENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growing connections between students and neighbors.</li> <li>• Build empathy (multi directional)</li> </ul> <p>AMONG NEIGHBOURS / POLICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build understanding of laws/share information.</li> <li>• Community building opportunities.</li> <li>• Proactive community policing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can HRP shut down six houses on Jennings Street before things get to the escalation point? Or at least monitor.</li> <li>• Work with the city to prevent DJ/sound equipment facilitators from attending (StFX did similar)</li> <li>• Determine a site plan that will guarantee emergency vehicle and neighbor access and work with city / emergency services to ensure this access is blocked and maintained.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police/ticketing - ensure that the aggregates are shared so neighbors feel secure.</li> <li>• Hold host houses/property owners accountable</li> <li>• Work with landlords:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Landlord improve leases – “schedule B” – consult with IPONS &amp; landlords on their experiences to date.</li> <li>○ Jennings Street, landlords outreach.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Considerations	Prevention	Mitigation	Outcomes
<b>Restorative Justice</b>   Leads: Dal Security, DalSafe Restorative Justice community			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate consequences Needs to be balanced</li> <li>• Process for addressing transgressions</li> <li>• Avoiding using police resources</li> <li>• Public will want to know outcomes, that justice is being served: plan to address this desire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to reach the students who organize parties?</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consequences can't always be shared with community members - that must be part of the communication.</li> <li>• Safety versus sanctioning</li> <li>• Work with transgressors and affected stakeholders</li> </ul>



Considerations	Prevention	Mitigation	Outcomes
<b>Student Experience</b>   Leads: DSU, Dalhousie, Other institutions			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Alternate events</li> <li>● Student Housing</li> <li>● Engaging peer to peer networks</li> <li>● Setting appropriate expectations from recruitment throughout student experience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identify effective communication channels with students               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ targeted communication to off-campus housing</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Pre-event social media /promotion of consequences.</li> <li>● Proactive communication with students around consequences (engage with other institutions for a united front)</li> <li>● Build an understanding among students of the dangers of the large crowds.</li> <li>● Work with bookstore to limit inventory of Dal shirts around this time</li> <li>● Grant from Dal to student teams to develop strategies to change street party behaviour as a course project.</li> <li>● Peer to peer education (SIF app) to get students into the community.</li> <li>● Communication with parents.</li> </ul>	<p>Peer to Peer teams / DalSafe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Work with community influencers to manage gatherings</li> <li>● Host sanctioned parties to allow for more to be done by police via bylaws.</li> <li>● Make use of peer/Dal Safe officer</li> <li>● Combine Dal fest programming with homecoming               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Share cost with Dal and DSU to fund entertainment, cost friendly food and support (consent/HR)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● No guest within residence to limit people from outside the HRM/not residence members</li> </ul>	

Considerations	Prevention	Mitigation	Outcomes
<b>Education &amp; Research  </b> Leads: Dalhousie academic units, DSU			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leverage Dalhousie’s academic and research assets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy lab</li> <li>Seminar/lecture series / fora on drinking culture, placemaking, building culture via ritual &amp; tradition, social media manipulation, etc.</li> <li>Fellowships or theses re student engagement in public street party activities (motivations, examination of history of development, effects of social media on this, harm reduction measures/ successes, comparative attitudes towards public drinking between students from Canadian and students from other countries....)</li> <li>Grant from Dal to student teams to develop strategies to change street party behaviour as a course project</li> </ul> <p>In cooperation with Harm Reduction / Health Promotion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peer centered harm reduction program created. Harm reduction campaign, communication on:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alcohol consumption</li> <li>Cannabis</li> <li>Other drugs used by students</li> <li>Use messaging from Keep it Social</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		



## A4 Raw Notes Collected at the Dec 7th session

Harm Reduction Based Community Planning for Fall

Dal - Proactive communication around consequences

Effective communication channels with students

Enact a site plan that will guarantee emergency vehicle and neighbor access

### Management / mitigation during an event

- Working with the city to prevent DJ/sound equipment facilitators from attending (StFX did similar)
- Set up washrooms in advance - community (Dal and city) funded
- Work with community influencers to manage gatherings
- An understanding from students of the dangers of the large crowds.
- Sanctioned parties allow for more to be done by police via bylaws.
- Allowing for more safe(r) places to be available during large parties.
- More harm reduction strategies, mitigating risks of over intoxication, speaking of drinks, sexualized violence.
- Having events that allow for community and unity of students for more positive results.

HR (Harm reduction) campaign and resource on site

Logistical map of party

- Entrance way for emergency vehicles, and community members

Peer centered harm reduction program created.

Harm reduction campaign, communication on

- alcohol consumption
- Cannabis
- Other drugs used by students
- Use messaging from Keep it Social

Set up the infrastructure in the area to allow for emergency vehicles/community members to drive through if needed

Moving party/gathering closer to Dal/University Avenue

- allows for DalSafe staff to support in managing the party

Coordinate with the surrounding neighbourhood to host/make use of the street and surrounding area

Connect with fire and ambulance in advance to prep this

Work with bookstore to limit inventory of Dal shirts around this time

Make use of peer/Dal Safe officer

Combine Dal fest programming with homecoming

- Shared cost with Dal and DSU to fund entertainment, cost friendly food and support (consent/HR)

No guest within residence to limit people from outside the HRM/not residence members  
Safe, drug test, resources/alcohol

## **Follow up**

Current follow ups:

Police/ticketing.

Student code of conduct.

Needs to be logical/appropriate (balanced)

Punishment can't always be shared with community members.

Bylaws need to be improved (nuisance bylaws) queens example.

Resources used wisely

Host houses/property owners to be accountable

Leases – “schedule be”

Dial legal aid help

Landlord improved leases

Jennings Street, landlords outreach.

Government? Safer communities. Residential tenancies act (province)

Grants for renovations?

Dal code of conduct:

Publishing yearly code findings, while respecting privacy legislation.

Safety versus sanctioning

Athletics/varsity players/health have deterrence (codes/Tim M)

Why can't others (management?)

StFX code includes on/off campus.

International field courses.

Checking record before approving

What do they FEAR losing?

Increased fines to help fund extra policing.

Students jobs... Employer checks.

Peer to peer education (SIF app) to get students into community.

Grant from Dal to student teams to develop strategies to change street party behaviour as a course project

HRM, lead nuisance bylaw with increased fines (Hamilton/Kingston)

HRP to just shut down six houses on Jennings Street before things get to the escalation point.

They monitor instead of shut down.

HRM plus HRP plus Dal need to develop a plan and associated money to better address this, shut down earlier.

## **PREVENTION**

- Understanding of laws/sharing information.
- Community building opportunities.
- Targeted communication to off-campus housing.
- Landlord engagement?
- Legislation
- Safe practises of consumption.
- Empathy building.
- Police visits to homes before and after events.
- Growing connections between students and neighbors.
- Rental registration, 2023
- Fines paid by parents – no consequence?
- Students grow into being better neighbors.
- Pre-event social media/promotion of consequences.
- Re-education not sustainable.
- Understaffed policing.
- Communication with parents.

## **Random jot notes**

Action plan

Student engagement plan

*Community building/ safety*

1.social

2.peer to peer

3.Dal events on campus day of.

Resourcing for day of event (shut down event earlier)

DAL harm reduction.

Plan for event day (enhance.)

HRM/PNS

1.nuisance bylaw developed (Hamilton and Kingston)

2.landlord contracts and engagement (Dal legal aid).

Dal -> relook at code of conduct (look into what Saint Francis Xavier does.)

Also what other repercussions there can be for DAL organizers  
DAL focus on organizers.  
DAL research/policy lab plan (researchers).

Perspectives and experience.  
Commitment to “progress”  
Safety of everyone is number one  
Jurisdiction?? Code??  
DAL report on code offenses  
Social media influence  
Ability to amplify.  
Promoting competitiveness.  
95% of students are great – not causing the problem and want to help the solution.  
Substance use influence in escalation

Can we define safety for all involved?  
Collaboration with university and city, making it an annual event.  
Not of interest to most international students.  
Rite of passage.  
Epic.  
“controlled Chaos”