



March 16, 2023

To our valued community,

Re: Moving forward together to address street party culture (second report from Inspiring Communities)

Last spring, Dalhousie announced that it was embarking on a process to establish a new multi-stakeholder collaborative framework to address high risk student behaviour, particularly street parties, in our shared neighbourhood. The goal of this new framework is to bring multiple stakeholders from different sectors together to develop a common roadmap for moving forward.

What follows is the second report for Dalhousie, the community, partners and students from **Inspiring Communities, an independent not-for-profit organization based in Nova Scotia that works to build collaborative relationships for social change in Atlantic Canada**. This report is the outcome of a second community strategies lab in early December and reflection of activities and efforts since fall 2022.

The report captures roles and strengths of the various stakeholders involved in addressing this issue, themes for actions including placemaking, student experience and harm reduction, as well as some organizational suggestions on how a collaborative network can be structured. We embrace **Inspiring Communities'** work to capture partner and community input and analyze the issue through an equity lens to create an honest account of the issue that grounds our long-term efforts on much needed culture change. We also thank Inspiring Communities for their comprehensive recommendations on how we can focus efforts and strengthen our work together. We are happy to report that much of this work is now underway.

Many factors contribute to the growing phenomenon of street parties and our peer jurisdictions who have been grappling with this issue for over a decade have shown us that there is no simple solution or magic wand to make this go away. That said, joint engagements like this one effectively identify multiple levers that various partners can use to reduce the negative impact of these events, and build a community that we all want to be a part of. Our goal is that we begin, and continue to build relationships so we are utilizing those levers in a more coordinated, and effective manner.

To do this, Dalhousie is working actively with Halifax Regional Municipality to explore opportunities for strengthened coordination and response to unsanctioned street gatherings across university, key city and emergency first response partners. This couples with Dalhousie's ongoing planning to build a more engaged and vibrant campus culture in Fall 2023 through engaging on campus events and programming.

We also continue to actively work with our neighbours on community building and placemaking activities in our shared community.

We look forward to continuing this planning through the collaborative framework, our engagement directly with students and through focussed partnerships designed to translate plans into action. Again, we want to thank all stakeholders for giving their time and continuing to participate in this process, particularly as we build a shared roadmap that effectively addresses this complex issue.

Sincerely,

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