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SUBMISSION TO THE PREMIERS OF THE ATLANTIC PROVINCES

November 22nd 1965

from DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.

A statement of the financial requirements of the Faculties of Medicine and Dentistry of Dalhousie University for the five years, 1966-71, was presented to the Premiers' of the Atlantic Provinces in June, 1965. The grants from the four Governments to the Faculties of Medicine and Dentistry at present amount to \$1,012,000. The requested grant for the next year is \$1,590,000. an increase of \$578,000.

Since the preparation of that statement three relevant developments have occurred:

- (1) The announcement by the Canadian Government of a Medicare Plan.
- (2) The submission of the Bladen Commission's Report to the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada and the subsequent recommendations by the A.U.C.C., to the Governments of Canada and the Provinces.
- (3) The establishment of the Health Resources Fund by the Canadian Government.

The announcement that the Medicare Plan is to be introduced in the near future makes it absolutely essential that medical schools be enlarged and provided with adequate operating budgets. The Health Resources Fund will provide valuable aid for expanding and equipping such facilities. However, increases in support for operating costs have not yet been decided upon, either through implementation of the Hall Commission's or the Bladen Commission's recommendations, or both. While it is possible that these recommendations may be considered and implemented during 1966, there now seems little likelihood of this before a Dominion-Provincial Conference which probably will not be convened until after the Universities and the Provincial Governments will have found it necessary to finalise their budgets for 1966-67.

Unless Dalhousie University is given an assurance in the next month that the increases here requested are approved by the Provincial Governments, it will be very difficult to recruit the required staff. Most potential candidates for new posts opening next July are making their decisions now or will do so within the next few weeks. Staff recruitment must be started immediately if enrollment is to be increased as soon as the new building is completed.

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With reference to Provincial Grants for Medicine and Dentistry, Dalhousie University therefore recommends to the Premiers of the four Atlantic Provinces as follows:

- (1) That the Governments of the four Atlantic Provinces establish either a Regional Advisory Commission on Education for the Health Professions, or a Regional Advisory Commission on Higher Education, or both, in order that the essential planning may be done and stability may be achieved now. Two bodies which may be considered for this purpose are the Association of Atlantic Universities and the Health Planning Committee of the Atlantic Provinces.
- (2) That the grants to the Faculties of Medicine and Dentistry at Dalhousie University be increased for the academic year 1966-67 from \$1,012,000. to \$1,590,000. in accord with the June 1965 submission.
- (3) That the increase in this grant for 1966-67 be apportioned among the four Governments on the basis of the proportion of students from each province as follows: Nova Scotia 45.4%, New Brunswick 23.6%, Newfoundland 22.1%, Prince Edward Island 8.8%, or such other formula as may be established by the Premiers to provide the full amount required by the two Faculties. Appendix A shows the amounts required from each Provinces if the proportion of students is used as the basis for allocation. These amounts will be modified if, as in the past, a larger proportion is borne by the Government of Nova Scotia. Appendix B compares on a percentage basis the proportion of students, the present grants and those proposed in Appendix A.
- (4) It is recommended that the support of the Faculties of Medicine and Dentistry of Dalhousie University be continued on a regional basis until such time as another medical or dental school is established in the area, and that any province planning to open a new school give sufficient notification to the other provinces of its withdrawal from the joint programme so that adjustment in grants and budgets may be made by the other Governments and the University.

Dalhousie University also requests that the Premiers consider the following proposals relating to federal grants for higher education. At present such grants are based on \$2.00 per capita of provincial population distributed by the Association

of Universities and Colleges of Canada to the institutions within the province on a per student basis.

- (1) It is suggested that in distributing this grant the students in medicine and dentistry at Dalhousie University be included in the total student enrollment of their home province, and that this per student grant be assigned to Dalhousie as though these two faculties were located within that province.
- (2) If the federal grant is increased, as proposed by the Bladen Commission, it is recommended that the Premiers approve in principle the establishment of a formula which will assign a "weighting" to students whose education is more costly.
- (3) Until the regional planning body has had an opportunity to consider the relative costs of educating students in each faculty, arriving at a suitable "weighting" formula it is recommended that the Governments of the four Atlantic Provinces assign a "weighting" of 5 per medical and dental student, with 1 for each arts and science student. The cost of medical and dental education is higher than that of graduate students for which a "weighting" of 5 was proposed by the Bladen Commission.

If all of the recommendations of the Bladen or Hall Commissions are implemented, there will be a substantial increase in federal support of medical and dental education. In that event, the projection and requests for provincial assistance shown in the June 1965 submission will be reviewed, with the possibility of substantial reduction in the additional amounts requested from the provinces for 1967, 1968 and subsequent years. However, it is emphasised that urgent action is necessary on the requests for next year, otherwise Dalhousie will not be able to enrol a medical class of 96 students in the fall of 1967.



APPENDIX A

PROVINCIAL GRANTS REQUIRED 1966-67 \*

	<u>Present Grant</u>	<u>Requested* Increase.</u>	<u>Total Grant in 1966-67</u>
Nova Scotia	\$ 650,000.	\$ 263,000.	\$ 913,000.
New Brunswick	150,000.	136,000.	286,000.
Newfoundland	152,000.	128,000.	280,000.
P. E. I.	60,000.	51,000.	111,000.
	<hr/> \$1,012,000.	\$578,000.	<hr/> \$1,590,000.

\* Based on percentage of students from each province rounded off to the nearest thousand dollars.

APPENDIX B

PROPORTIONS OF STUDENT ENROLMENT AND GRANTS BY PROVINCE.

	<u>Percentage of Students.</u>	<u>Percentage of present grant</u>	<u>Percentage of proposed grant.</u>
Nova Scotia	45.4	64.3	57.5
New Brunswick	23.6	14.8	18.
Newfoundland	22.1	15.	17.5
/P. E. I.	8.8	5.9	7.