

## MEMORANDUM

To: The Dalhousie University community

From: Anne Forrestall, Assistant Vice-Provost Student Affairs

Date: May 11, 2016

**Re: Dalhousie hires first full-time Aboriginal Student Advisor and launches Aboriginal Student Centre**

On behalf of Dalhousie University, and in partnership with the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, I am pleased to announce the creation of Dalhousie's first full-time Aboriginal Student Advisor position that will oversee the newly named Aboriginal Student Centre.

Focused on enhancing the success of Aboriginal students both in and out of the classroom, the advisor position will direct the services, supports and programming of the Centre designed to assist Aboriginal students to meet their academic and personal goals. The Centre will also provide a space for social and cultural gatherings to continue to build a sense of community among students.

Previously, services and supports for Dalhousie's Aboriginal student population were offered by the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq through the Native Education Counselling Unit (NECU). The NECU was physically located on the Dalhousie campus and open to all post-secondary students across HRM.

Sara Swasson, who is Mi'gmaq from the Listuguj First Nation, moved into the role of Aboriginal Student Advisor on April 1, 2016 from her previous post as the liaison with the NECU. Sara is a graduate of Dalhousie and a former member of the Dalhousie Aboriginal Students' Association. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the role. A full-time employee of Dalhousie, Sara will report to the Director, Student Academic Success Services in Student Affairs.

Dalhousie is committed to being a place where everyone feels welcome and supported. We are very pleased to offer our Aboriginal students a dedicated space and programming to support their success and enhance the student experience at Dalhousie.

Please join me in welcoming Sara in her new role. The Aboriginal Student Centre is located on the fourth floor of the Student Union Building.

Anne Forrestall  
Assistant Vice-Provost, Student Affairs  
Dalhousie University

