



**PROVINCIAL DENTAL BOARD OF NOVA SCOTIA
DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY – “Dentistry Facebook Posts”**

The Provincial Dental Board’s primary legal, moral, and ethical obligation is to protect the public interest. The Board does not have regulatory jurisdiction over dental students and therefore has no role in the current processes at Dalhousie University. However, in order to practice dentistry in Nova Scotia a dentist must have his or her competencies and credentials assessed by the Provincial Dental Board.

According to a March 2 update from Dalhousie University President Richard Florizone, twelve of the thirteen students who took part in the Facebook Group will return to the dental clinic under a number of conditions, giving some of them the opportunity to complete the requirements of their dental education program. Ultimately it is likely that these individuals may graduate from Dalhousie and apply for a license to practice dentistry.

The Provincial Dental Board takes its registration responsibility seriously and, as has always been the case, will ensure that any person applying to become a dentist in Nova Scotia demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Board that they meet all licensing requirements. One of the requirements is that the person is of good moral character and is a fit and proper person to be licensed as a dentist.

In response to the situation at Dalhousie, the Board is moving to strengthen its licensure review process by requiring all applicants to disclose any disciplinary proceedings or complaints made against them during their university education. The circumstances and results of any proceedings or complaints will be thoroughly reviewed and investigated by the Board and will be a serious consideration as part of the licensure process. Failure to disclose these types of complaints or proceedings when applying could result in subsequent disqualification from practice.

The Provincial Dental Board will also include information pertaining to the academic credentials and the date of registration of all licensees on its website.

These improvements will be instituted prior to the consideration of any future application for licensure.

We want to assure the public that the Board will follow and enforce its legislative mandate including ensuring that any individual applying is a fit and proper person to be licensed as a dentist.

Thank you.

Dr. Thomas Raddall III
Chair

Dr. Martin Gillis
Registrar

March 4, 2015