



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SACKVILLE, NB — On Nov 21, 2016, Mount Allison announces additional Psychiatric and Psychologist Services.

The Mount Allison Students' Union (MASU) is pleased that the Mount Allison Universities' Department of Student Affairs recently announced the hiring of psychiatrist Dr. Dinesh Bhalla, and psychologist Janice Chisholm-Briand to the Wellness Center.

The MASU has and will continue to work closely with the University on the issue of mental health on campus. A number of improvements have been made over previous years, particularly of recent, but MASU considers this to be a huge step forward. "This is a conversation started by one of my predecessors, Heather Webster, a few years ago, and I'm thrilled that through continuous work we've finally arrived at a solution" says MASU President, Ryan LeBreton. The Union strongly believes that these additional services will have a positive and substantive impact for the student body.

In order to access Dr. Bhalla's services, students must get a referral from either a physician, psychiatrist, clinical psychologist or counsellor. Once the referral is received, Dr. Bhalla's office will contact the student directly. Janice Chisholm-Briand will assist with completing or updating psycho-educational assessments. The service is primarily for those who may have a LD, ADHD, ASD and/or co-existing mental health issues. For further information on both services, please contact Anne Comfort [acomfort@mta.ca] or the Wellness center [wellness@mta.ca].

The MASU will continue to advocate for increased mental health support both on campus and through our Provincial and Federal advocacy groups; NBSA and CASA. "The last two weeks, a few students and I have been meeting with MLAs and MPs to advocate for Mental Health to government, so this announcement re-affirms Mount Allison's commitment to continuously move forward" says LeBreton. The Students' Union believes in a multifaceted approach to ensure that student wellness is a conversation that never ends and is always moving forward.