



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 12.2.1
Halifax Regional Council
January 27, 2026

TO: Mayor Fillmore and Members of Halifax Regional Council

FROM: Brad Anguish, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: January 20, 2026

SUBJECT: Noise Exemption Request – Dalhousie Sno-Fest 2026

ORIGIN

December 3, 2025 – Staff received an application through mail from the Dalhousie Student Union for an exemption from By-Law N-200, Respecting Noise, as outlined in Attachment A.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

By-law N-200 provides the option for individuals to request a noise exemption for activities that may disturb the peace and tranquility of a neighbourhood. The noise exemption request goes to public hearing to be decided by Halifax Regional Council. There are no financial implications or risks associated with this matter.

The specific dates, times and noise activities for which the applicant is requesting a noise exemption are identified in this report. Staff recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve the noise exemption request submitted for the Dalhousie Student Union’s Sno-Fest 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council:

Approve the Dalhousie Student Union’s Sno-Fest 2026 application for an exemption from the provisions of the Noise By-law pursuant to the contents of this report, and any matters raised at the public hearing.

BACKGROUND

By-law N-200, the *Noise By-law*, states under Section 3 of the **General Prohibition** section:

3. (1) No person shall engage in any activity that unreasonably disturbs or tends to disturb the peace and tranquility of a neighbourhood.

(2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), the activities listed in Schedule “A” during the prohibited times and places as set out therein are deemed to be activities that unreasonably disturb the peace and tranquility of a neighbourhood.

(3) For the purpose of a prosecution pursuant to subsections (1) or (2), evidence that one neighbour is unreasonably disturbed by a noise is prima facie evidence that the neighbourhood is unreasonably disturbed by the noise.

Part 6 of the By-law, “**Grant of Exemptions by Council**”, allows for any person to send an application to Regional Council requesting an exemption from any or all provisions of the Noise By-law for which that person may be prosecuted. The By-law states that an applicant or any person opposed to an application may be heard at a session of Council. Notice of the Council Session is required to be mailed to assessed property owners located within 100 feet of the properties which are subject to the hearing.

Part 6A of the By-law, “**Grant of Exemptions by Staff**”, allows the CAO or delegate to grant an exemption for a recurring event where a previous application was approved by Regional Council. The exemption may be granted if there are no significant changes to the scope of the event and associated benefits should all information in the application be substantively the same as the application approved by Council.

In deciding whether or not to grant an exemption, Council is to give consideration to:

- the social or commercial benefit of the proposed activity to the municipality;
- the viewpoints of community residents;
- the proposed hours of operation of the proposed noise-emitting activity; and
- the proposed duration of the subject activity.

DISCUSSION

The Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) is requesting a noise exemption for Sno-Fest 2026, an outdoor winter concert event. The event is scheduled for Thursday, February 5, 2026, from 7:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. (midnight). The concert will conclude at 11:00 p.m., with teardown continuing until approximately 12:00 a.m. (midnight). The event will take place within the Studley Quad at Dalhousie University, located at 6283 Alumni Crescent, Halifax, Nova Scotia (Attachment B).

The event organizers have stated that Sno-Fest will feature live musical performances with amplified sound to engage students and the campus community in a safe and inclusive environment. Activities requiring exemption include amplified music during the event and equipment load-out and cleanup following the concert. A site plan is included by the event organizers showing the layout of the event including staging, bar services, seating and washrooms (Attachment C).

Waste management will be handled through garbage and recycling bins distributed throughout the site, with cleanup coordinated by Dalhousie Facilities Management and DSU volunteers. Security services will be provided by Shadow Security with oversight from Dalhousie Security. Alcohol service will be managed under a Special Occasion Liquor License through Dalhousie University.

Due to the amplified sound that may impact neighbouring properties and teardown requirements, an exemption from By-Law N-200, Respecting Noise, is requested for the following date and times:

Thursday, February 5, 2026: 7:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. (midnight)

Notice of the Council Session at which the hearing is proposed to take place will be sent to property owners within 100 feet of the event location. The only property owner within this distance is Dalhousie University (Attachment D).

Under subsections 6(3) and (5) of the Noise By-law, Council may consider any matters it deems appropriate at the hearing and either reject the application or approve it with or without conditions.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

RISK CONSIDERATION

No risk considerations were identified.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Notification is provided to neighbouring properties to provide the opportunity for individuals to attend the public hearing and provide their input regarding the application for a noise exemption.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The applicant has committed to following appropriate waste and recycling practices. Containers are provided on site to facilitate proper sorting.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Regional Council may grant the Dalhousie Student Union's application for an exemption from the provisions of the Noise By-law with conditions; or
2. Regional Council may reject Dalhousie Student Union's application for an exemption in its entirety.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

By-Law N-200, Respecting Noise, Section 6

Grant Of Exemptions By Council

6. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this By-Law, any person may make application to Council to be granted an exemption from any of the provisions of this By-Law with respect to any emission of noise for which that person might be prosecuted; and Council, by resolution, may refuse to grant any exemption or may grant the exemption applied for or any exemption of lesser effect; and any exemption granted shall specify the time period, not in excess of six months, during which the exemption shall be effective and the exemption shall be in written form and shall include such terms and conditions as Council deems appropriate.
- (2) In deciding whether or not to grant an exemption, Council shall give consideration to the social or commercial benefit of the proposed activity to the municipality, the views of any residents of the municipality which may be expressed to Council, the proposed hours of operation of the proposed noise-emitting activity and the proposed duration of the subject activity.

- (3) In deciding whether or not to grant an exemption, Council shall give the applicant, and any person opposed to the application, an opportunity to be heard during a Council Session and may consider such other matters as it deems appropriate.
- (4) Notice of the time, date and purpose of the Council Session at which the hearing is proposed to take place shall be mailed to the assessed owner or owners as shown in the records of the Regional Assessment Office, of property located within 100 feet of the property which will be the subject of the hearing;
- (5) Any alleged breach by the applicant of any of the terms or conditions of any exemption granted by Council, shall be investigated by municipal staff, reported to Council in writing and Council shall determine whether or not a breach has taken place. If a breach has taken place, Council may pass a resolution revoking the exemption, without the necessity of giving notice of rescinding motion, and such exemption shall be null and void as of the passing of such resolution.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A: October 23, 2025, Application for Exemption from By-law N-200, Respecting Noise
- Attachment B: Aerial view of Studley Quad at Dalhousie University
- Attachment C: Site Plan
- Attachment D: 100ft Radius List

Report Prepared by: Vicki Aguinaga, Supervisor, Support Services 902.717.3903



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October 23, 2025

Halifax Regional Municipality
Attention: By-Law Standards – Noise Exemptions
PO Box 1749
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Subject: Noise Exemption Request for Sno-Fest 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU), I am submitting a request for a noise exemption for Sno-Fest 2026, our annual outdoor winter concert event.

Event Details:

Date: Thursday, February 5, 2026

Time: 7:00 PM – 12:00 AM (event will conclude at 11pm, with teardown continuing until 12:00AM)

Location: Studley Quad, Dalhousie University, 6283 Alumni Crescent, Halifax, NS B3H 4R2

Event Description:

Sno-Fest is an outdoor concert celebrating Dalhousie's winter festival. The event will feature live music performances and amplified sound to engage students and the broader campus community in a safe, inclusive environment.

Activities Requiring Exemption:

- Musical performances and amplified sound during the event
- Event load-out and cleanup following the concert

Additional Information:

Contact Name: Kristen Grant, Building & Events Manager



Waste Management: Garbage and recycling bins will be distributed throughout the event site, with cleanup coordinated by Dalhousie Facilities Management and DSU volunteers.

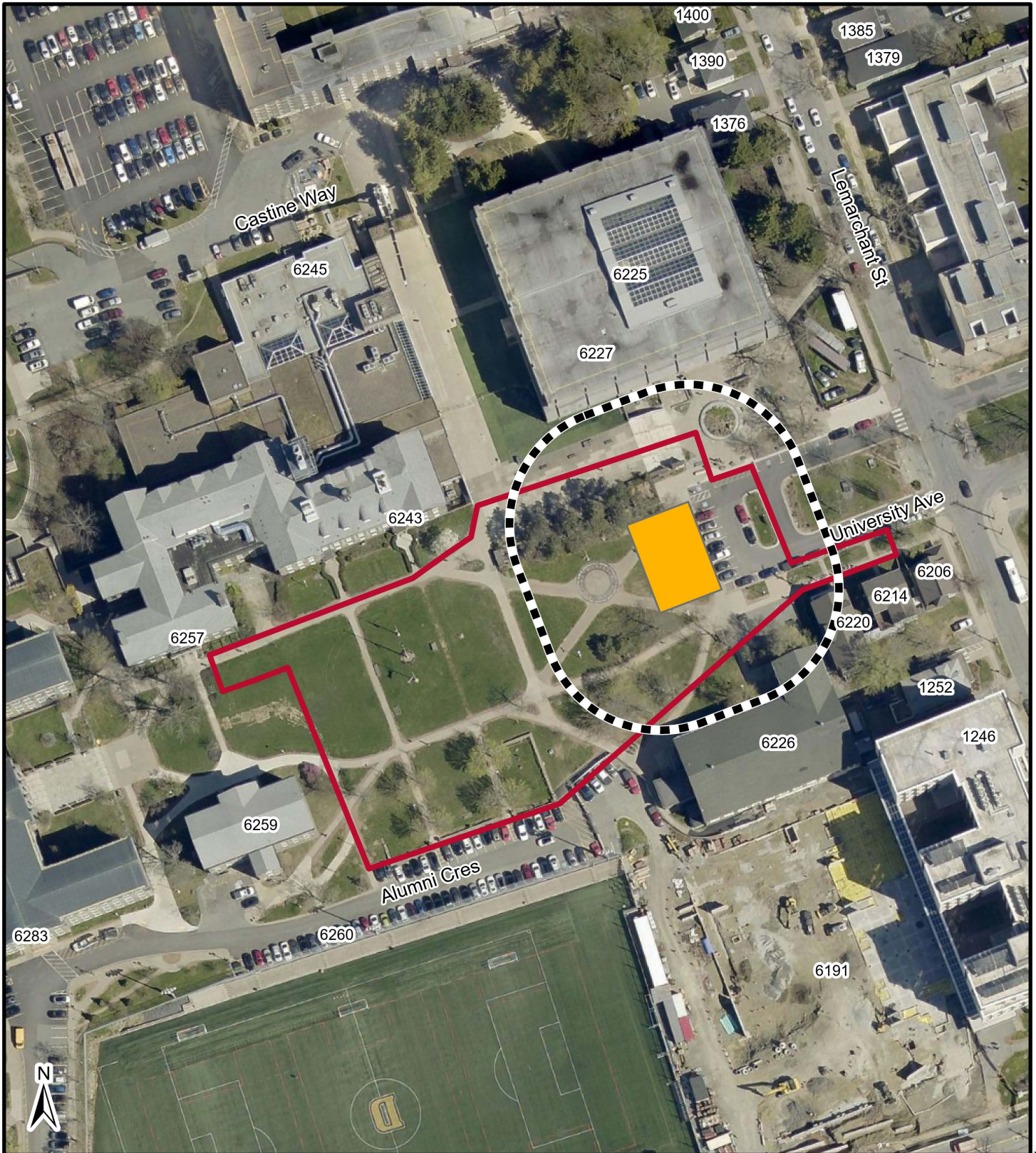
Attachment A

Liquor License: Managed under a Special Occasion Liquor License through Dalhousie University.

Security: Security services will be provided by Shadow Security, with oversight from Dalhousie Security.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please don't hesitate to reach out if further information is required.

Warm regards,
Kristen Grant
Building & Events Manager
Dalhousie Student Union



Map 1 - Location of Dal Snow Fest 2026

HALIFAX

6283 Alumni Crescent
Halifax



Approximate Stage Location



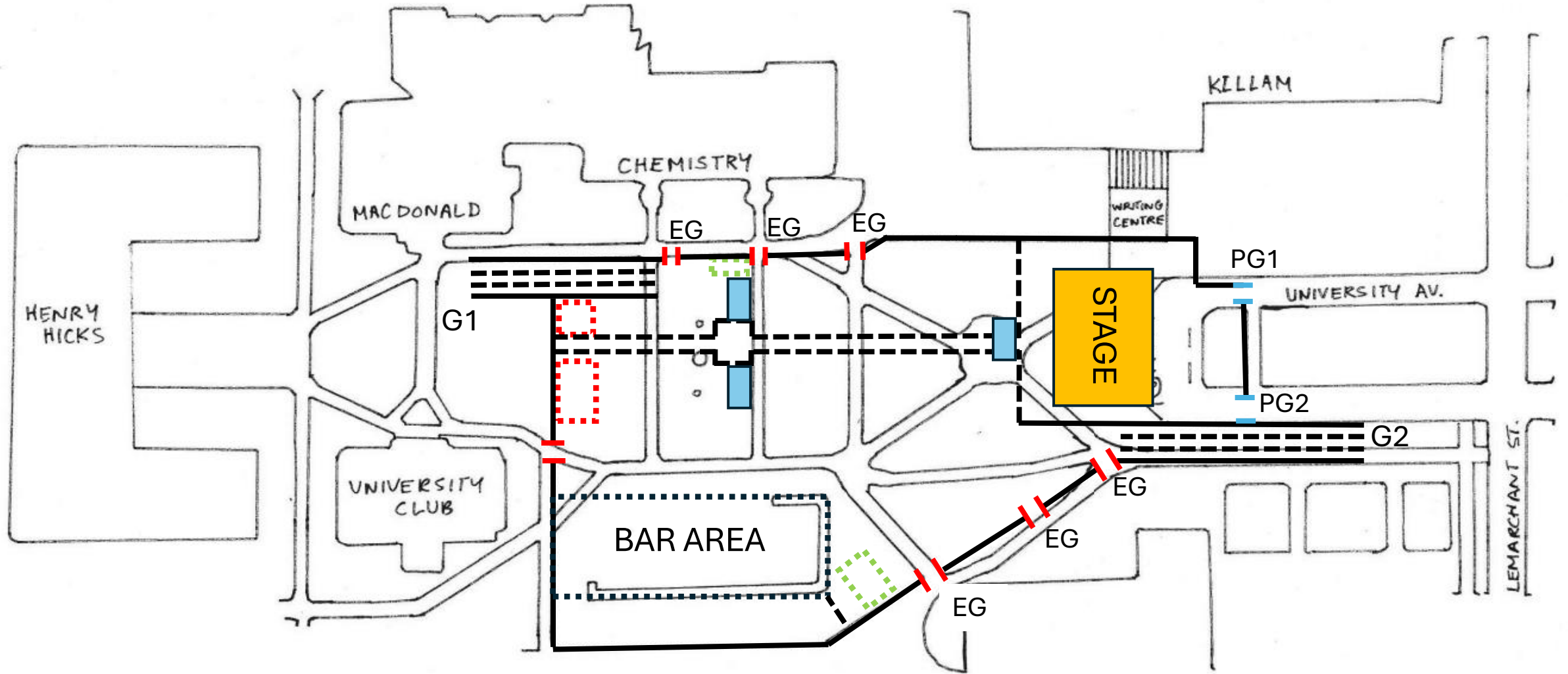
Approximate Event Area Boundary



100-Foot Radius of Stage



The accuracy of any representation on this plan is not guaranteed.



- • Exterior, 6ft perimeter fencing.
- - - • Interior, 4ft fencing.
- • Bar zone (unfenced)
- • Medical
- • Washrooms
- • Accessible Seating / Viewing

- G = "Ticket Gate" (10ft wide, divided into thirds)
- PG = "Production Gate" (10ft wide)
- EG = "Emergency Gate" (10ft wide)

Attachment D

Owner	Address	City	Postal Code	Country	Civic	Street Name	Street Type	Community	Civic Postal Code	PID	AAN	Number of Dwelling Units	Building Use
GOV OF DALHOUSIE COL & UNIV	UNIT 44, 6299 SOUTH ST	HALIFAX NS	B3H 4H6	CA	6257	ALUMNI	CRES	HALIFAX		40437501	06272991	0	POST SECONDARY
					6243	ALUMNI	CRES	HALIFAX		40437501	06272991	0	
					6245	CASTINE	WAY	HALIFAX		40437501	06272991	0	POST SECONDARY
					1376	LEMARCHANT	ST	HALIFAX	B3H 3P9	00031062	04567293	0	POST SECONDARY
					6259	ALUMNI	CRES	HALIFAX		00031062	04567293	0	SOCIAL CLUB
					6225	UNIVERSITY	AVE	HALIFAX	B3H 4H8	00031062	04567293	0	ARCHIVE, BAR/RESTAURANT, LIBRARY
					6287	ALUMNI	CRES	HALIFAX	B3H 4J1	00031062	04567293	0	DAYCARE, LABORATORY/RESEARCH, LIBRARY, MUSEUM, POST SECONDARY
					1453	LORD DALHOUSIE	DR	HALIFAX		00031062	04567293	0	POST SECONDARY
					6227	UNIVERSITY	AVE	HALIFAX	B3H 4H8	00031062	04567293	0	POST SECONDARY
					6260	ALUMNI	CRES	HALIFAX		00031062	04567293	0	
					6385	SOUTH	ST	HALIFAX	B3H 4J4	00031062	04567293	45	DORMITORY
					6375	EDZELL CASTLE	CIR	HALIFAX		00031062	04567293	0	
					1411	OXFORD	ST	HALIFAX	B3H 3Z1	00031062	04567293	0	LABORATORY/RESEARCH, PARKING STRUCTURE
					6230	COBURG	RD	HALIFAX	B3H 4J5	00031062	04567293	217	DORMITORY, DORMITORY, DORMITORY, POST SECONDARY
					6305	CASTINE	WAY	HALIFAX		00031062	04567293	0	
					6283	ALUMNI	CRES	HALIFAX	B3H 4H6	00031062	04567293	0	POST SECONDARY
					1459	OXFORD	ST	HALIFAX	B3H 4R2	00031062	04567293	0	OFFICE, SPRAY PAINT OPERATION, WAREHOUSE
					6390	COBURG	RD	HALIFAX		00031062	04567293	0	
					6220	UNIVERSITY	AVE	HALIFAX	B3H 1X1	00031104	04565932	1	RESIDENTIAL
					6214	UNIVERSITY	AVE	HALIFAX	B3H 1X1	00031104	04565932	1	RESIDENTIAL
6206	UNIVERSITY	AVE	HALIFAX	B3H 1X1	00031104	04565932	1	RESIDENTIAL					
6226	UNIVERSITY	AVE	HALIFAX	B3H 1X1	00031138	04566114	0	RECREATION FACILITY					
1246	LEMARCHANT	ST	HALIFAX	B3H 3P7	00031138	04566114	0	DORMITORY, OFFICE					
6191	SOUTH	ST	HALIFAX		00031138	04566114	0						
DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY	6299 SOUTH ST	HALIFAX NS	B3H 4H6	CA						41375775	10478855		

