Dalhousie University student, Masuma Khan, wants people to show up for each other. A newsmaker in 2017, Khan delivered the keynote address at the NB Media Co-op’s Ninth Annual General Meeting on Sept. 19 at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton.

Khan opened her talk with a poem she wrote: “It’s time to talk about white supremacy, did I stutter? (...) while we’re still up with pain, you still slumber.”

Thrust into the limelight in 2017 when she successfully moved that the Dalhousie University Student Union not endorse the Canada 150 celebrations, Khan co-created a campaign called “Unlearn 150” to question the erasure of Indigenous peoples’ history that was implied by this celebration.

Elected to the Dalhousie Student Union on a platform of social justice and equity, Khan said that she was surprised that some of her constituents would not expect her to boycott the Canada 150 celebrations.

Pointing out the white fragility in the backlash she was receiving, Khan took to Facebook and wrote, “White fragility can kiss my ass. Your white tears are not sacred, this land is.”

Dalhousie University administration requested that Khan delete the post from social media, which she said she did but immediately regretted. “No one should ever not speak the truth,” said Khan.

Using the Dalhousie University Student Code of Conduct, a Dalhousie graduate student filed a complaint against Khan alleging “reverse racism.” The Senate Discipline Committee, which Khan is a member, reviewed the complaint and recommended sensitivity training and that Khan apologize. Khan refused to apologize.

When she searched for support on campus, Khan was told by a social worker that “reverse racism” existed. Dalhousie University dismissed the complaint but refused to apologize to Khan.

Khan successfully ran for the Dalhousie University Student Union executive again in 2018 because of her desire to support all marginalized students: “students needed someone to protect them.”

Khan remarked that she is a settler on Mi’kmaq territory in Kjipuktuk (Halifax) and an Afghan woman whose family was also affected by colonialism. Khan shared that her grandfather had searched for the “most British place in Canada” because of how colonization had affected him. “Assimilation is incredibly real,” said Khan.
Every year, people have an opportunity to visit the farms where their food comes from. This year, farms across New Brunswick opened their gates for visitors on Sunday, Sept. 16, to learn and experience the important work being done to provide safe, local food for families and their communities.

In late September, David Suzuki toured parts of rural New Brunswick, speaking about the importance of everyone’s shared relationship with the land, water, air and “all of our relations.” On September 22, he told a crowd in Elsipogtog First Nation: “Unless we are willing to encourage our children to reconnect with and appreciate the natural world, we can’t expect them to help protect and care for it.”

The Agricultural Alliance of New Brunswick (AABN) that coordinates Open Farm Day provides a description for each of the farms participating in this year’s event. Farmers in the produce sector–diary, livestock, crops (blueberries, strawberries, etc.), vineyards, bees, maple farm’s irrigation system, soil preparation and future orchards, and nurseries in the area. This unique, regenerative, human scale and relationship-based.

At the Hayes farm on Open Farm Day, Trealout along with Claire May and Katelyn Copage who are participating in the RFC training, encouraged visitors to tour the gardens. They answered questions about the farm’s irrigation system, soil preparation and future plans. They also participated in the rotten vegetable farm as well as recruited new farmers for their 2019 RFC training program.

The Hayes farm hosted their young children to tour their neighbourhood farm just after the 9am opening. Mark Trealout, the Farm’s Manager and an Instructor, describes their farm as a market garden with vegetable and herb crops. A pilot 30-week full-time Regenerative Farm Certificate (RFC) program was launched in April on the Hayes Farm, a 7.5 ac heritage farm nestled in a residential Fredericton neighbourhood. According to the AANS website: “The RFC program provides basic farm business and marketing training, and is further rounded out with field trips to a wide variety of successful farms, orchards, and nurseries in the area. This unique, accessible learning-to-farm program meets learners where they are and the agricultural practices taught are regenerative, human scale and relationship-based.”

The Hayes farm marketed their vegetables and herbs at the weekly Thursday night Fredericton market on Carleton Street until it closed at the end of August. They are now hosting a weekly stall at the University of New Brunswick Fredericton Campus Market in the Quad behind the Student Union Building on Wednesday afternoons until late October. As well, they sold out their weekly “share of the bounty” offering very quickly.

The Agricultural Alliance of New Brunswick (AABN) website by the farmers for Open Farm Day highlight their important relationship with their families and their farm: “Our 2nd generation farm was purchased 63 years ago from the Order of Salesian Priests.”

At the next farmer’s market, be sure to inquire if your local farm was part of Open Farm Day. Let them know about your interest in visiting them at Open Farm Day 2019 when all of New Brunswick can celebrate and support the important agricultural industry providing food for everyone.

Brian Beaton was raised on a seven-generation dairy farm in the Ottawa Valley in Ontario. New Brunswick has been his home since 2013.