

**From:** Kate Watson <k-watson@ns.sympatico.ca>  
**Sent:** April-27-14 10:16 AM  
**To:** Office  
**Subject:** Graduate Retention Rebate

Dear Premier McNeil, Members of the Nova Scotia Legislature and of the Law Amendments Committee,

I am writing today as a Nova Scotian concerned about the future of our province.

Nova Scotia is facing dramatic demographic decline, and I'm sure we can all agree that retaining and supporting our youth is key to ensuring a prosperous future for Nova Scotia.

I believe that this government is sending the wrong message by eliminating the Graduate Retention Rebate.

Graduates who were in the program had every right to make plans based on knowing they would receive the rebate, and they are now left high and dry. (My son is the perfect example of this. The rebate made it possible for him to buy a condo here, and he chose that over leaving the province.)

But if, as you contend, the rebate was not stemming the out-migration of youth, it seems obvious to me that the \$49.5 million saved by cancelling the program should have gone to new programs that will.

We simply cannot afford to keep losing our young people, and I am asking that you invest the entire amount of money from the Graduate Retention Program in programs that will help them thrive.

Sincerely,

Kate Watson