

From: Meghan Doucette <mg861287@dal.ca>
Sent: April-27-14 8:26 AM
To: Office
Subject: Proposed Elimination of the Graduate Retention Rebate

Hello,

It is my understanding that the Law Amendments Committee of Nova Scotia is hearing presentations regarding the proposed eliminations of the Graduate Retention Rebate on Monday, April 28, 2014. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend but please take note of this written statement in the official recordings.

I can understand that perhaps the Graduate Retention Rebate is not accomplishing the government's desired goals. Although I was depending on this rebate when I graduated I would not be opposed to reallocating the \$35 million for something else. However, these funds should be used to help youth in other ways. The Canadian Government spends \$12,000 on benefits and services per Canadian under the age of 45 and nearly \$45,000 for every retiree (<http://gensqueeze.ca/the-squeeze/>). This is simply unjust. Young people are the future of Nova Scotia and this province should seize the opportunity to shift these figures in favor of young people. Therefore, I propose that this \$35 million be used for students, new graduates, and young families. To figure out what the needs are of young people they should ask us! Public consultations could be held at physical locations throughout the province or online. Personally, I would like to see public investments in universities, environmental organizations, Greenbelting in Halifax, bike lanes in both urban and rural settings, and help for first time home buyers or builders. I do not speak for everyone though so the government should take this opportunity to engage youth and start creating a province where young people want to be.

Regards,

Meghan Doucette