

From: Sasha Sears <ssears@greaterhalifax.com>
Sent: April-25-14 2:57 PM
To: Office
Subject: Written Statement for Law Amendments Committee

Hello,

I'd like to submit a written statement for the Law Amendments Committee that will be hearing presentations about the elimination of the Graduate Retention Rebate on Monday April 28th, 2014.

Public spending on youth retention is crucial now, and this is glaringly obvious from the Ivany Report. Getting a little closer to balancing the budget today is irrelevant if it comes at the expense of future tax revenues. A declining youth population today means a smaller workforce tomorrow, which means less tax revenue in the future...if tax revenue growth can't keep up with growth in the cost of government services like healthcare then everyone will be worse off. I would be so bold to presume youth retention efforts will pay for themselves over the long-run if they are successful, because you end up keeping a tax base here. It's important to note that this isn't "our generation's" issue. Failure to retain youth will impact negatively on everyone.

The Graduate Retention Rebate was one of the few services that was committed to youth retention. Perhaps that \$35 million could be better used, but the fact that the GGR was eliminated and the money allocated to that program is now considered savings sends a very strong message to the youth of the province that our government doesn't really care to take an active part in helping us stay here. I urge you to re-consider this decision or at least utilize that money to create a better retention program for our youth. It's needed, it's important and I would hope our own government would champion the youth of this province in staying here.

Regards,

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