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**CAPE BRETON UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS' UNION
Fax Cover Sheet**

To: Law Amendments Committee

From: Matt Latimer

Date: April 28th/14

Re: Financial Measures Act

Fax #: _____

Number of Pages (including cover): _____

Message: In lieu of my oral statement
on LRR implications

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A Students Reaction to Slashing the Graduate Retention Rebate

What message does eliminating the graduate retention rebate without a full reinvestment in the PSE sector send to youth, PSE students, grads, and their families?

The message is clear: We are not a priority; maintaining and supporting young people in this province is not a priority.

Nova Scotia has the most universities per capita of any province. As a result, some of the most elite, highly educated minds are fostered right here in Nova Scotia. Instead of sending strong signals and creating solid policy around fostering, retaining, and integrating our elite youth, the province of Nova Scotia has decided to cut tens of millions of dollars from student/graduate financial assistance. Instead of forging a partnership between today's young minds and the Nova Scotia economy, we would rather export this knowledge and this determination to other economies, making them prosper. Instead of investing in our future and placing faith in the hands of our young Nova Scotians, we are making it harder and harder for our youth to live and work in Nova Scotia.

I am a soon-to-be business grad with an accounting major and a legal studies concentration. I have served as President and CEO of my students' union - the largest non-labour union in my municipality and region. I have strong ties to Nova Scotia and even stronger aspirations to be a major economic contributor. But this is what I can tell the Nova Scotia government for certain: after slashing the GRR and not reallocating to PSE, I will not subject myself to disadvantaged career opportunities, subordinate wages, and rising costs of tuition, all to stay in the province I was raised in; the province that, with this budget, has sent me a clear signal that I am not a priority, I am not wanted.

I will have no apprehensions about leaving this province when I am entering the workforce if the NS government does not make significant policy improvements towards retaining youth.