

From: Tasha Ross <tashaross4@gmail.com>
Sent: April-25-14 10:16 AM
To: Office
Subject: Financial Measures Act - April 28 Discussion

As per the email that I received after signing the petition for the cut of the student retention program by the Liberal Government: Your Voice is Needed at Province House: Speak Out on the \$35 million cut to Youth Retention! I was told I could email my thoughts if unable to attend to this email.

My thoughts are this:

Nova Scotia is declining in so many ways, the taxes are high, the programs are scarce especially in rural communities, good jobs are hard to come by and debt especially as a recent graduate is high. Everyone speaks of going west, why because there is little keeping young people in this province. I love Nova Scotia, and I love being close to my family; I personally do not want to leave, we have beautiful coastlines and scenery, a quiet and country feel in Nova Scotia, plus great food and good people. However, when you are struggling financially day in and day out trying to make an honest living while paying back huge debt every little bit counts. Also you want a government that is willing to support young people. Right now Nova Scotia is aging we have the highest number of older adults in Canada and we need more working people to support this aging population, so why not use the money as the NDP thought was fit to keep young people in the province or at least give them a bit of a break financially. This was the first program that I can remember that a government put in place that was actually tangible for me something that I felt wow they do care about students and the debt we incur. I spent this money wisely and it has helped me pay back some of the money I borrowed to get a good education, however now that it is being taken away I feel like it is a kick in the face that there is less value being placed on us. \$2500 per year over 6 years is not a lot of money in the grand scheme of things but like I said it helped and it showed that we were being thought of, now that feeling is gone. I am very disappointed and frustrated in the priorities of this new government and I am now fearful of what this will mean for the province over the next 4 years, and also the damage it will do to the province in the long-term as this is only a small component of a larger picture, that larger picture being what will the Liberals do to keep young people working here if they do not even value the little that was given us with the Youth Retention program?

Sincerely,

Tasha Ross

Halifax, NS from Pictou County, NS

Graduate of Mount Saint Vincent University