

December 6, 2023

BY EMAIL: Kelly.Regan2@novascotia.ca

Received LCO
December 6, 2023

Hon. Kelly Regan, MLA
Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts
c/o Legislative Committees Office
1700 Granville Street
One Government Place, 2nd Floor
Halifax, NS B3J 1X5

Dear Honourable Chair:

I am pleased to provide you with Advanced Education's responses to the follow up questions from the November 22, 2023, Standing Committee on Public Accounts, with respect to Student Housing Needs, as follows:

Question 1. What is the price difference between a regular student housing unit, and a barrier-free unit?

Response: While the per square footage cost is virtually the same, the barrier-free units are bigger to meet accessible codes and standards and, as a result, are approximately \$56,000 more per unit than a standard studio-style unit.

Question 2. Acadia University received a \$2.7 million forgivable loan in 2012. How many beds did this create?

Response: 300.

Question 3. The Advanced Education expenses were \$165.1 million this year, and it was over 24.4 per cent. Can tell us why it was over – what exactly it was or what those costs were from?

Response: The 2022-2023 actuals were higher than budget primarily due to additional funding of:

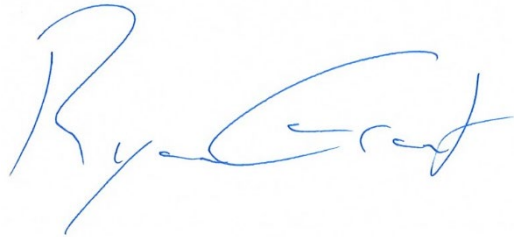
- \$58.9 million for Cape Breton University health initiatives;
- \$37.4 million to St. Francis Xavier University to advance the development of the Institute for Innovation Health;
- \$25.0 million for Saint Mary's University health initiatives;

\$25.0 million for Research Nova Scotia – Research Opportunities Fund;
\$5.0 million to Cape Breton University to support the Tartan Down Affordable Housing project;
\$3.0 million support for the Atlantic School of Theology residence renovations;
\$2.0 million to Mitchener Institute for Medical Laboratory Technologist Cohorts;
\$1.9 million for the Mitacs program to support additional student internship units;
and
\$1.5 million for Dalhousie health science equipment.

I hope this information is satisfactory, and please reach out to me if there is anything further required.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to you and the Committee for the opportunity to attend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ryan Grant". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ryan" and the last name "Grant" clearly distinguishable.

Ryan Grant
Deputy Minister

c: Lindsay Wadden, Executive Director, Strategy, Policy and Partnerships
Kim Langille, Committee Clerk, Standing Committee on Public Accounts

December 11, 2023

Received LCO
December 11, 2023

Honourable Kelly Regan, MLA
Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts
C/O Legislative Committees Office
Via email: legislativecommitteesoffice@novascotia.ca

Dear MLA Regan:

As a follow up to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts on November 22, 2023, with respect to Student Housing Needs, I am forwarding you a list of municipalities that currently do not permit backyard or secondary suites.

Since our appearance, staff have reviewed this data and are pleased to say that the number has been further reduced, and currently only 5 municipalities do not permit backyard or secondary suites, nor plan to, at this time. They are:

- District of Chester
- Town of Oxford
- Town of Digby
- Town of Mulgrave
- Town of Shelburne
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I trust this information is helpful. If you have any questions please contact Vicki Elliott-Lopez, Senior Executive Director of Housing at vicki.elliott-lopez@novascotia.ca.

Sincerely,



Byron Rafuse, FCPA
Deputy Minister

cc: Kim Langille, Committee Clerk