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Sent: April-28-14 10:46 AM
To: Office
Cc: catherine Hefler
Subject: Law Amendments Committee (Elimination of the GRR)

To the Law Amendments Committee of the Nova Scotia Legislature.

My name is Christopher Bouey, I am a graduate of Dalhousie University with a Master in Architecture. I am an anomaly in Canada, as I was born in Alberta, but decided to stay in Nova Scotia after my degree to pursue my career. There were many reasons for making this decision. My love for this place being chief among them. My love for the landscape, the climate, and most significantly my love for a local women whom I met in Architecture School during my degree and I married after our graduation. It was a deliberate decision to stay, because almost everything was working against us. The economy was not working in our favour. I managed to secure employment after a few months of searching, but I was very lucky. My wife had a much more difficult experience. It took her two years to find appropriate employment, and she is now hoping to finish her probationary period at her firm without being let go.

After careful budgeting, using money left to us by our parents. We decided to purchase a duplex on Willow Street in the North End, contributing to the Halifax housing market, and making a decision to remain in Halifax indefinitely. We took much into consideration when making this decision, and a big part of this was the Graduate Retention Rebate, which would allow us some security every year at tax time. Now that this option is gone, we are having to re-evaluate our place in Nova Scotia. The truth is that Alberta has always been the better economic decision, and though the GRR was a small compensation for remaining in the province, it was a definite positive reason for staying.

This province is losing its young professionals. The future plans to reallocate the GRR to grants for students, while admirable is a short sighted option. While this may attract students, it does not eliminate the "brain drain" that Nova Scotia is suffering from. The students will use the grants, but they will leave this province; taking advantage your schools, to use their skills in Western Canada, where employment opportunities abound.

Last year you lost 3.200 young people to Alberta and the West. Yet you did not lose my wife and I, two intelligent young Architects who are committed to bettering Halifax, and Nova Scotia as a whole. Now that the GRR is gone, my wife and I have been looking at options to sell our home, and head West. In removing the GRR, you are making a terrible decision. I do love the landscape, climate and people of Nova Scotia, but I am continually frustrated and disappointed by its government.

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