

THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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GREFFIER DE L'ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE

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August 8, 2016

Mr. David Coon, MLA
Leader of the Third Party
3rd Floor, West Block, Departmental Building
Legislative Assembly Complex
96 St. John Street
Fredericton, New Brunswick

Dear Mr. Coon:

Enclosed is a copy of the response to your Petition 56, which was tabled in the Legislature on June 29, 2016.

Sincerely,

 Donald J. Forestell
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

DJF/jet

Enclosure

c. Léopold Mallet
François Robichaud
Shannon Carmont

AUG 08 2016

July 20, 2016

**CLERK'S OFFICE /
BUREAU DU GREFFIER**

Mr. Donald Forestell
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton NB E3B 5H1

Dear Mr. Forestell:

Thank you for your letter of July 12, 2016 concerning Petition No. 56 tabled by Mr. Coon requesting reinstatement of the Tuition Tax Rebate program and forgiveness of all provincial student debt for graduates of post-secondary institutions in New Brunswick.

The Department of Finance and the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour have taken under advisement the position of the petitioners listed. The Tuition Tax Rebate Program was discontinued for the following reasons:

- The program did not provide financial aid to students during their years of study. As such, the program did not play a role in ensuring a more accessible and affordable post-secondary education for New Brunswickers;
- The program was only applicable to students who had graduated and were employed. If graduated students did not have a job, they did not qualify for the program; and
- The program was not working as a retention/repatriation tool, as had been originally intended.

As a result, the Tuition Access Bursary (TAB) has been established to increase affordability and access for New Brunswick students to attend public post-secondary institutions in New Brunswick. TAB provides upfront, non-repayable funding to students from families with gross household incomes of



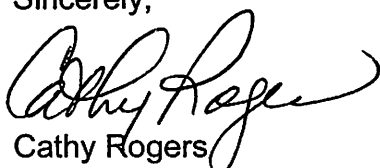
\$60,000 or less attending publicly funded college or university programs in New Brunswick. TAB is a first step in a multi-phased plan to ensure New Brunswickers can earn a degree or diploma.

TAB is designed to increase access for those who may otherwise not have considered post-secondary education, reduce debt, curb youth outmigration, help address declining enrolment and provide an incentive for New Brunswick youth to stay and study in New Brunswick. Amendments to the *Post-Secondary Student Financial Assistance Act* received Royal Assent on July 8, 2016.

Individuals experiencing difficulties with student loan repayment are encouraged to discuss a Revision of Terms or the Repayment Assistance Plan with the National Student Loans Service Centre.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Sincerely,



Cathy Rogers
Minister

cc: Honourable Donald Arseneault, Minister of Post-Secondary Education,
Training and Labour