

# POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Budget 2014–2015 will reflect the value of our post-secondary institutions and their graduates to our economy by increasing support and offering incentives to live, work, and start a family in our province.

To stay, new graduates need job opportunities. Budget 2014–2015 provides financial support to employers to reduce the costs associated with hiring a new grad in their first year on the job. New summer and co-op jobs will be created to help students and new grads build employable skills and access career opportunities. Financial barriers that prevent graduates from establishing roots here will be reduced.

New graduate scholarships will give students the funding they need to continue important work in research and development, here in Nova Scotia Universities.

- Eliminate the interest on the provincial portion of student loans for eligible students who have entered repayment on their provincial loans on or after November 1, 2007 (\$1.6 million)
- Provide tuition relief to encourage more medical graduates (\$750,000)
- Modernize the Apprenticeship Program to give apprentices the experience they need to access good jobs (\$2.6 million)
- Provide financial incentives through the START program to encourage Nova Scotia employers to hire apprentices requiring work experience (\$500,000)

- Provide new graduate scholarships for innovation and research (\$1.85 million)
- Increase university operating grants by 1 per cent (\$3.1 million)
- Help new graduates start their careers here by defraying the cost employers incur in the first year of hiring through the Graduate to Opportunities program (\$1.6 million)
- Help high-value businesses recruit and provide meaningful work experiences to university and community college students by expanding the Strategic Cooperative Education Incentive program to a total of 425 funded private and non-profit positions each year (\$500,000)
- Expand the Student Career Skills Development Program to support another 250 not-for-profit summer jobs in high unemployment areas for a total of 750 jobs for post-secondary students looking for career-specific experience (\$1 million)