



## **GOVERNMENT STUDENT ROUNDTABLE REPORT!**

On August 21st, 2023, the Cape Breton University Students' Union (CBUSU) had the privilege of participating in a student government roundtable event in Halifax, wherein the President and Executive Vice President of CBUSU engaged in discussions with key stakeholders, including Deputy Minister of Advanced Education, Nancy MacLellan, and other representatives from the Department of Advanced Education. This event also featured the presence of various student leaders.

During this significant gathering, CBUSU had the opportunity to present a comprehensive campus report and highlight the prevailing issues that demand immediate attention, with food insecurity emerging as a prominent concern. In addition to addressing this pressing matter, CBUSU took the initiative to shed light on the Medical Services Insurance (MSI) issue.

Through sustained advocacy efforts in collaboration with esteemed organizations such as Students Nova Scotia, we are pleased to report that the provincial government has taken commendable steps to eliminate the 31-day out-of-province restriction for international students. While this development is certainly laudable, we firmly believe that there remains a considerable scope for further advocacy to comprehensively remove any barriers to healthcare access faced by international students.

It is our strong conviction that international students should not endure a year-long waiting period before gaining access to essential medical coverage for routine healthcare visits. Furthermore, we advocate for the enhancement of eligibility criteria for the Tier 2 program Guard. Me Plan B, which has the potential to result in substantial cost savings, reducing the financial burden from \$1,283 to a more manageable \$620.00.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, we remain committed to our advocacy efforts, working in partnership with the provincial government and other stakeholders, to ensure equitable healthcare access for all students. We firmly believe that by collectively addressing these issues, we can create a more inclusive and supportive environment for international students studying in Nova Scotia.