

Members of the Law Amendments Committee,

The last few weeks has brought consternation to not only our office, but tens of thousands of hard working NSGEU members throughout the province. We've seen news trickle down from our Union, the news and the latest essential services legislation has been the main discussion around the lunch rooms, I'm sure.

With little notice of the meeting and a full week of work related travel under my belt, I couldn't commit to the 10pm presentation spot that was offered to me. I'm glad some work comrades have filled up the spots until that time, and in lieu of participating to the oral arguments myself, I'm writing on behalf of our office, here at Addiction Services in Amherst. Our arguments are:

1. We have a hard enough time recruiting and retaining the great workers we currently have here in Nova Scotia. By limiting our voice, we stand the chance to lose experienced people and will have a harder time recruiting qualified staff, who comprise our voting communities and who are positively engaged in political processes.
2. Equal rights through the province would be void, because currently, some NSGEU Locals are at differing bargaining collective agreements, and therefore folks with similar work responsibilities have significant inequities in regards to their benefits.
3. The right to strike is a fundamental right protecting that which our union has fought so hard to defend. By what measure is it alright to punish these deemed 'essential services' by taking away this basic right?
4. In the example of correctional services, by deeming them an essential services and restricting their strength in times of strike, the government also limited their voice in lobbying against potentially unsafe working conditions. This is certainly a concern for health workers as well as health care consumers if our voice was stilled.

Our hope is that moving forward, we can work in a transparent manner with government to find solutions to ensure that our rights are protected while being cognizant of the financial pressure on the current government. This partnership, while being maybe utopian, would be moot by grievously ignoring 30,000 union members who would undoubtedly be affected by this legislation. Please do NOT support this detrimental legislation.

Sincerely,

Addiction Services Community Based Office (Amherst)

Ashley Brown, Clerical *Ashley Brown*

Sandra Cluett, Clinical Therapist *Sandra Cluett*

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