

Submission to
The Law Amendments Committee
By
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About
Bill 37 – Essential Health and Community Services Act
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Introduction

- Have been a NSGEU staff person for 18 years
- But I am very upset with this legislation as a long-time union and community activist
- Also, want to raise concerns from a health policy perspective

Terrible Legislation

- In my experience, Bill 37 is the worst piece of labour legislation I have in the last 20 years in this province
- It builds on Bill 30 –Essential Home-support Services (2104) Act from a month again and extended to several other groups of workers in health and community services

Done Without Consultation

- Once again, this Bill introduced without any advance consultation
- Mediation process not completed when Bill was introduced

Unworkable & Ineffective

- As with Bill 30, it is practically unworkable that will make it impossible to implement
- Its various requirements will make it almost impossible for agreements to be reached and a lengthy dispute resolution process will be needed
- It could lead to more job action and disruptions than less as has been the case in Alberta.

Fundamental Violation

- This Bill represents a fundamental violation of basic rights for working people
- Sets labour relations back a long time giving a much stronger hand to employers

From a Health Policy Perspective

- Bill 37 will be very negative for health human resources policy
- This is especially the case for recruitment and retention
- It exacerbates the patient safety issues which our members have raised
- This significant issue will remain unsolved if this Bill is passed in its present form
- Once again, it assumes health services can be run by themselves without any serious consideration of the impact on the very dedicated and hard-working people who deliver these services day in and day out.

Conclusion

- Bill 37 is a major disaster which should never have come forward in the first place
- It is a major step backward for the hard-earned rights of working people everywhere and not just for NSGEU members
- It will be a significant barrier to the government's health reform plans , not the least of which would usually involve the cooperation of front-line workers
- Finally, it represents a betrayal by the McNeill government of its election commitments to Nova Scotians not to undermine or disrespect collective bargaining and the right to strike
- Bill 37 must not be allowed to proceed, and should be repealed as soon as possible.