

I am a clerk who has worked for 40 years. I work currently at Dalhousie University.

I do NOT support this Bill or any other form of essential services legislation for Nova Scotia.

This Bill isn't really about patient safety.

Why is this Liberal Gov't acting just like the Conservative Harper government with this legislation being introduced with no public discussion.

Registered Nurses deserve our thanks for the work they do, and they also deserve better working

conditions. They are only asking for what we all want “better patient care”.

Healthcare workers care about their patients. In the acute care sector NSGEU has always worked with the employer to put in place an emergency services plan. We know their clients' and patients' needs better than anyone else.

Even the government acknowledges that 97% of cases are resolved without a strike. So why are they doing this?

Healthcare workers need to fight for their patients and for safe health care. This silences their voices.

This creates a poisoned environment for health care workers.

This will drive health care workers out of Nova Scotia at a time when we're facing "alarming" shortages.

Other provinces have tried versions of this kind of law, and it's led to worsening labour relations.

In 2010 while in opposition, Stephen McNeil said emergency service plans should be hammered out in times of labour peace, not days before a possible strike, and essential services legislation in other provinces hasn't stopped labour unrest and strikes.

This proposed legislation is unworkable considering the very broad definition of “essential service” and the complicated process to be followed to reach an essential services agreement.

It would be much more cost-effective to have the parties negotiating to reach a fair and reasonable collective agreement.

The Bill could be a template for taking away the right to strike for any group of workers deemed to be essential to the government of the day.

For all these reasons, I strongly urge the McNeil government to withdraw

this Bill, and instead, put pressure on our Capital Health to return to the bargaining table to reach an agreement.

Good faith, good faith what does that mean to you? Well to me it means that we, all NSGEU members have given our word to bargain in good faith and we expect all Employers will do the same. For the Gov't to remove the basic right to strike is moving towards a nondemocratic society.

In the middle of an already complex bargaining round this LEGISLATION would make resolution more difficult

to resolve the outstanding contract issues. The Nurses are showing the deep concern for the daily safety of patients. How else can they be taken seriously and make the Public aware of this serious issue? When a teacher calls in sick they are replaced but when a nurse calls in sick they are not replaced. Would you want to be in that hospital bed with a shortage of nurses?

This LEGISLATION shows that the Gov't is not concerned for the daily safety of patients. But only wants to ensure the Employer does not have to bargain in good faith.

I appreciate this opportunity to speak to the Law Amendments Committee at this time.

Judie Pepper