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Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 6:16 PM
To: Office
Subject: Healthcare Bill

- My name is Steven Williams. I am a Biomedical Technologist who has worked for 20 years.
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- I do not support any legislation that will result in health care workers being forced into a union without having the opportunity to vote.
- All four unions worked together and developed a plan to create Bargaining Associations, similar to the associations that exist in B.C. The plan would have addressed government concerns about too many bargaining units and contracts.
- But this Bill isn't really about streamlining health care or improving access to needed services. It's clearly about diminishing the power of unions and health care workers, and setting the stage for wage restraint and diminished benefits.
- Just like the Harper government, this legislation is being introduced with no public discussion or consultation with the affected workers.
- Health care workers deserve our appreciation for the work they do, and should definitely have a say in which union will represent them in the future.
- This legislation will drive health care workers out of Nova Scotia at a time when we're facing "alarming" shortages.
- This type of legislation is unconstitutional and is the first of its kind in the country.
- There is no instance in Canadian history where workers have had their union imposed on them. Health restructuring in BC allowed members to stay with their union by allowing for bargaining associations similar to what the NS unions have purposed. And it's worked well without any problems for the 20 years that it has been instituted.
- In Saskatchewan, members were allowed to vote in run off votes. The only caveat was that unions with less than 15% of the new total combined membership were not allowed on the ballot. The same in Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and PEI. In each of these provinces, workers were still given the right to choose.
- For all these reasons, I strongly urge the McNeil government to withdraw this Bill, and accept the bargaining association proposal. Barring that, they should absolutely allow all health care workers to vote. It's their democratic right.
- I appreciate this opportunity in sending my point of view