

From: Garry Wilson <garryandkevin@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 5:56 PM
To: Office
Subject: Bill #1 Law Amendments

Hello,

Please accept this e-mail submission to the Law Amendments Committee regarding the Bill #1 Health Authorities Act.

My name is Garry Wilson. I am an employee of 26 years with the Capital District Health Authority, Addictions and Mental Health Recovery and Integration Services where I am employed as a Therapeutic Recreation Specialist. I have worked as a Recreation Therapist and Psychiatric Nurse in acute care mental health, community mental health, geriatric and psychogeriatric medicine for over 35 years.

It saddens me to have to write at a time when health care is in crisis and morale is at an all-time low in our places of practice. Massive upheaval of services and administrative restructuring does not lend itself well to healthy and happy work places. Young people are not fully invested in career life in Nova Scotia and us "older" employees on the verge of retirement after a lengthy and dedicated life of serving those in need. It is common knowledge that Nova Scotians are among the most ill people in our country. Health care professionals are at a premium. The youth are leaving to other parts of Canada where they feel are better paid and will have better quality of life and superior benefits from potential employers. Us elders are retiring at an alarming rate and find we are in a position where we have little or no dedication to our professions and certainly no commitment to our employers. I think I speak for many when I say with confidence, we no longer feel appreciated or seen as being important to improving the lives of the many people we serve. Our provincial government of the moment certainly promotes that feeling given the first reading of Bill #1.

The bill undermines us as a collective. I believe it is unprecedented and is blatantly unconstitutional and can be argued in a federal court of law. It is discriminatory not only to general health care workers, but more specifically to women who are the foundation of the health care system. It seems to take away our inherent rights we as a society have fought for over the past century. The bill speaks to what I strongly feel is an underhanded and deceitful way in which to do business with people whom the majority have voted in the government of the day. Bill #1 takes away my right as an employee of this province to be represented by a union that has for decades negotiated my needs in fairness and good faith. This Liberal government has not given me a voice in this matter except to present to the Law Amendment Committee. My MLA Lena Diab, has ignored my correspondence and the Honorable Minister of Health does not speak to my inherent interest in maintaining a strong and effective health care system.

As a citizen of this province for which I have such admiration, I cannot help but feel I am under-rated, unappreciated, ignored and devalued by this Liberal government. As a result I cannot support any legislation that will result in health care workers being forced into a union without having an opportunity to come to the table for discussion. I believe I am correct when I say this legislation will further repel new and existing health care staff away from Nova Scotia thereby increasing the numbers of already alarming shortages of qualified workers.

I so appreciate having this opportunity to express my thoughts and feelings about this legislation. That being said, I plead with the Liberal government to withdraw this bill and find an amicable solution that will not

eliminate my right to be represented by a union of my choice. It seems to be a simple and democratic right we should all be afforded.

Thank you.