

**From:** Mary Beth Wall <mbpotter83@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 01, 2014 12:29 PM  
**To:** Office  
**Subject:** Bill 1

Law Amendments Committee,

My Name is Mary Elizabeth Wall and I am a relatively young nurse 31 years of age who has been a Registered Nurse for the past 4 years. I am a proud member of NSGEU and I think, no, I know this Bill 1 is unconstitutional. The Trade Union Act exists for a reason. You are picking and choosing pieces of the Trade Union Act that work best for you and your ulterior motives which is to say, to disband and significantly decrease the amount of members in NSGEU. Now I'm not naive, I realize this is a huge hit to NSGEU, they will be losing thousands of members and dues if this merger is to take place. However, where is my right to vote for which union represents me? According to the language in Bill 1 only harmonious unions will be chosen to represent the employees, and yes I realize you're talking about NSGEU. But I have news for you. It is not the union who is unruly, every union meeting I've been to, not one time was the union pushing us to fight, it was the members. Our members weren't happy and we wanted to fight. Our union representatives fight for us when we ask them to. We asked them to fight for patient safety during Bill 37 when our negotiations were going no where and that's just what they did.

You may say that NSGEU is the only union asking for a vote on this process, and I think this is crazy. Even if you believe in your union it is the principle of it all. You are taking away our right to vote on what union represents us. This Bill is clearly about diminishing the power of unions and health care workers, and setting the stage for wage restraint and diminished benefits. Not only are you taking away our right to vote but you're doing this FOREVER. Just think about that for a moment. FOREVER. How does that make you feel? You're introducing this with no public discussion, even the fact that I'm sending an email to voice my opinion as I was not given a time to speak in front of you is disgraceful. How democratic of you.

This type of legislation is unconstitutional and is the **first** of its kind in Canada. Are you still a proud Canadian? 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 has worked well without any problems for the 20 years that it has been instituted. I realize that the bargaining association is probably not an option but please give us our rights back. We only want a say in what union represents us.

It may be a coincidence and have nothing to do with this legislation but I find it interesting that you're dictating to health care workers who are predominantly female. Would you be doing this to a sector that is predominately male? Just wondering.

Just in case my friend who is also a Registered Nurse hasn't contacted you on how upset he is about this legislation I feel it is important to tell you how he feels about this. He is a veteran, he did 3 tours in Afghanistan but was unable to continue his military service. As if serving in our proud Canadian Military wasn't enough, he then became a Registered Nurse, was working in Alberta and moved **back** home to be close to his family. He, to put it mildly, is furious. He fought for us, for our freedom, for our right to vote. He told me he was composing a letter to say how upset he was about this. So upset, he told me he almost cried. In case he didn't send his letter I wanted to make his story known. You are taking away workers rights and I think you should be ashamed of yourselves.

Sincerely,

Mary Elizabeth Wall, RN BScN