
From: Colleen McKenna <Colleen.McKenna@Dal.Ca>
Sent: Wednesday, October 01, 2014 4:04 PM
To: Office
Subject: Submission for law amendments bill 1

I believe that this government is corrupt. Are we still in Canada? The liberal government is single handedly trying to destroy our unions. We may as well not have unions at all based on the legislation you have created, I'm sure that is your intention.

If this piece of legislation goes through I am going to quit nursing. It won't be today or tomorrow but as soon as I am able to do this I will. I will go back to school and do whatever it takes to place me in a profession that is actually respected and valued in this lost province. This piece of legislation violates my rights as a Canadian citizen and I do not want to work for a government that does not care about the rights of it's workers. You as a government cannot just simply legislate anything you want into reality, you are paying great disrespect to a political process that has gone on for decades. I'm sure that you're aware that there will be consequences for your decisions as a political party and as an individual.

You do not know what nurses want or need. I personally feel that you don't care about our concerns as a group at all. I have not heard a single nurse remark that we don't care about who represents us or our collective bargain. It is very important to me. Our contracts are not interchangeable. We stand to lose our benefits and sick plan if this bill goes through. Each local has fought hard for their contract and it should not be legislated away. NSGEU is a proud and strong union that has represented us well and I am not about to give that up without a fight. We deserve the right to vote on who represents us. You are not going to legislate away the details of our contract and benefits.

Where is democracy? I have never seen another Canadian political party behave in this manner, you should all be ashamed of yourselves. We deserve the right as Canadians and as union members to hold a vote. I suspect you know that NSGEU would win and so you choose to skip the democratic process altogether. This is union busting. How ironic is it that you are sitting in your position of power because of a vote and now you are taking away the rights of others to vote? This is a blatant abuse of power. I know that next time I vote I won't waste it on you.

A union should be for the people and chosen by the people - not chosen by the government and employer as you propose. This is an obvious conflict of interest and is unethical. The fact that you also continue to target us as nurses who are a predominantly female group is misogynistic. You would never do this to a group of men. We all know where the money goes in our healthcare system and it isn't to the nurses! What do you plan to do about the amount we spend on physician services? Are you going to freeze their wages and take their rights away? This is about sex and social status. Why must savings always come from front line workers who are often the most underpaid?

I could say much more here but I will leave it at this. I ask you to reconsider your stance and consider working with the unions on their association. Or let us vote and see where the chips fall. If you continue like you have proposed you will lose many nurses and other health care professionals. Our system will be crippled. There are very few reasons to remain in Nova Scotia and you continue to make the situation worse. There is nothing that compares to this bill across all of Canada because it is unconstitutional. As a union member I have gradually lost all faith in you as a group, please prove me wrong. I believe that there are other ways to simplify our system without taking away people's rights. If not you will be the ones to lose next time we get to have a vote - and you cannot take that away.

Sincerely,

Colleen McKenna RN BScN CPMHN(c)