
From: Stefanie Conway <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2015 7:48 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 148

I am not sure if I am wasting my time or not, sadly, when it comes to politics and our province, a lot of the time that I spend on politics feels like I am wasting my time. I want this letter read at the meeting. I want those who vote, To understand what they are voting against.

I am writing this letter as a mother and a teacher... but what may make my voice more heard, is if I say that I am writing this as your typical voter.

I am a mother of two children in our school system. I am a teacher not only as a profession. but a passion. I leave my 2 children in the morning, kiss them good bye, send them of to their school, and head to my other 29 grade five children, at my school.

I "teach" these children. I am their teacher, I am the woman that stands in front of them, and tries her best to foster a love of learning. I assess these children, even when I don't agree on some of these methods. I listen to them, I play referee for them. I feed some of them. I arrange Christmas gifts for some. I counsel some of their parents. I give them band-aids for their broken skin. I give them hugs for their broken hearts, I watch them succeed. I watch them fail. I watch them get excited. I watch them get bored. I see the pain in hurt in their eyes, of what may have happened on their way to school. I cry for these kids. I don't sleep many nights out of worry. I do not hang my hat up at 3:00 and be "done."

I am teaching a curriculum that is failing most of these children. There is absolutely no way for me to get to all children, everyday, to help them through their struggles. Children get left behind. Children get lost. Children lose.

I have so many special needs in my class, that even if I worked 24 hours a day. I would never get to half. I am failing these kids.. the government is failing me!

I spend more than time, love and commitment teaching my children. I spend money. I buy many things to teach them their science outcomes. I buy cooking ingredients to see that spark of learning for real life situations. I buy up to date books for my children to read. I buy sticky notes to have my children excited about reading. I buy snacks to feed ,many of my children who come wit nothing. I buy fun art supplies to engage even the "crankiest" of artist. I buy fun paper to convince those that "math is boring," changing things up aren't. I buy things to make our classroom more appealing, and inviting. I buy things for those children on I.P.P's because they are not properly funded... for help, time and supplies.

The government is failing my children. And in return, we are failing our future. It's as simple as that. The government does not put enough money in education. the government is making poor decisions when it comes to our future, So we as teachers, try to make up for that. We are the bodies in front on these classes, We are the ones that open our hearts, our life, our wallets. We get our appreciation from our parents, from the spark that we can see when the kids "get it." We are not appreciated by our government. To enforce this Bill, you are taking away our right to negotiate a fair salary increase. you are taking away our voice. The voice we are using to help mold our future,

Stefanie Conway
Grade Five teacher
Voter.