
From: Laura MacMillan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2015 2:29 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Submission: Bill 148 Law Amendments Committee

Importance: High

Dear Honorable Members of the Law Amendments Committee,

It was with great disappointment that I read Bill 148. I have always prided myself as a Canadian and especially a Nova Scotian but this Bill and the last few introduced by the McNeil Government has made me question what has happened to the province my ancestors settled in and fought so hard to establish. I find myself wondering if I have been transported to an alternate universe where we no longer condemn countries like China for their violations of basic freedoms and rights but have instead embraced their policies as our own, bill by bill. Do we consider the consequences of our actions and the long terms effects of them or do we simply hope to make our finances look good so we can win the next election without a care to the ethics or violations that are necessary to do it? Where do we draw the line between a dictatorship and democracy? We preach at others countries about rights and freedoms yet our very own government has proven over and over that it does not honour or respect those same freedoms. Can we next expect Tiananmen Square when we protest all you have taken away from us? What further rights will we tolerate this Government violating?

I ask that members of the Committee vote down Bill 148 for all the Public Sector workers like myself who work hard every day just to bring in enough money to keep my household afloat. I am not rich, I am not rolling in the money, I am lucky with the rate the cost of living is rising to be able to pay my bills on time. I commute almost 3 hours a day to work in Halifax at my healthcare specialty in a job I love. I drive in snow storms and ice because it is an expectation that I will be there no matter what. There are no back ups or replacements if I don't come to work. I have ended up the ditch more than once because the roads were impossible to safely drive. Luckily I have yet to be one of the many serious accidents I drive past on the highway almost daily in the winter. Could I move to Halifax? No, not with what I make and still be able to provide a decent place to live in a good area for my two girls. My local hospital doesn't have positions in my specialty, in fact there is no one trained or qualified to even hire as a casual in this province. Bill 148 is asking me to accept not even the fair negotiation of my wages with not thought to how my family will suffer. The province will save money but who will save my family when I can't pay the heating bill or pay for my car to get back and forth to work?

So I ask again what message to do want to be known for, upholding rights and freedoms and fair treatment of workers or further blurring the lines between democracy and a dictatorship?

Thank you for your time and attention,
Laura MacMillan
Orthopaedic Technologist
And hopefully once more proud Nova Scotian.