
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2015 9:53 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 148

Dear Chair of the Law Amendments Committee,

I am writing to ask you to consider stopping Bill 148 or at least to remove certain items.

With collective bargaining we teachers get to negotiate with the government things we feel are essential to teaching students. This bill removes this option with the "hope" that the government will continue to work with us on important issues. Without these issues resolved and agreed upon inside a negotiated contract what is to ensure that the government will actually work with teachers? Unfortunately, sometimes it seems that teachers are the last people consulted on how to improve the situation inside the classroom.

I would also ask that you please remove the provision in the bill regarding "service awards" for teachers. It seems that the current government has forgotten that these service awards were negotiated with the teachers union over many, many years in LIEU of salary increases. We agreed to lower salaries in the short, medium, and long term in exchange for a service award upon retirement. Many teachers have factored this arrangement into their financial planning and to take them away now will significantly impact them upon retirement. It's one thing to tell new teachers moving forward that they will not get an award and to plan accordingly, and quite another to tell teachers who have been planning on receiving a certain award at retirement that they are now "out of luck". Teachers with 15-25 years experience cannot go back in time to re-do their retirement planning. This is a horrible injustice to teachers who, for many years, have said they did not need extravagant raises (unlike MLA's), and instead would wait for their service awards.

I don't have a problem with wage freezes, and petty 1% increases if they are the norm across the public sector but for goodness sakes, please don't take away what teachers have already negotiated in good faith with previous governments. That is simply not fair..

Thank you very much,

David Burt