
From: ceabriel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2015 9:26 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 148

Law Amendments Committee Members:

I am writing to protest the Public Service Sustainability Act. Due to the timing of the introduction of this Bill, I, like many Nova Scotians, cannot attend the Law Amendments meetings to speak in person. I hope that, by sending you my concerns, my voice will be heard.

I am a public school teacher who has taught in this province for more than 20 years. While working with students daily, coaching and involving myself in a variety of extra curricular activities with students, I am also very involved in my professional association and I work hard to promote professional development and the advancement of my fellow teachers.

NSTU members recently voted against our provincial tentative agreement due to their obvious well-placed distrust of this government. Our members refused to ratify a deal which was offered with the guillotine of legislation hanging over our heads.

This government has shown absolute disdain for collective bargaining and has turned a deaf ear to teachers when designing their education reform package. Page 17 of the Education Minister's Action Plan and threats made by the Premier made true collective bargaining an impossibility. Now, Finance Minister Randy Delorey has introduced the Public Service Sustainability Act which, if passed, will remove the rights of Nova Scotians to bargain wages collectively, will end our Long-term Service award, and will limit the role of arbitrators in the future.

This Bill is a small-minded attempt to punish teachers and other unionized workers of Nova Scotia. It is short-sighted and very harmful to the future of our province. By using the workers of Nova Scotia as a means by which to balance budgets, this government is creating a race to the bottom. In order to create economic growth and prosperity for all Nova Scotians, we must create reasonable and fair wage and benefits packages for our workers. In order to encourage workers to remain in our province, we should be creating a climate of hope, not one of worry, unrest and anger. We need to invest in education so that the millions of taxpayer dollars which have been given to corporations such as Irving can at least be used to provide jobs for skilled Nova Scotians. If we are to keep young people in this province, we must educate them so they can create the jobs needed to sustain and grow Nova Scotia.

By introducing this bill on a Monday evening, before a predicted storm, and during the holiday season, this government is trying to limit debate on Bill 148. These tactics are immoral, unconstitutional and undemocratic. Liberals have lost touch with the hard-working people of this province. Teachers helped elect this government on the promise that they were going to listen to our concerns. Instead, this government is trying to silence us. Shame!

How can Nova Scotians trust this government or sit down to negotiate with Liberals in the future? The actions of the Liberal government have broken our trust. The MacNeil movers are indeed moving jobs out of this province.

Cherie Abriel