
From: Megan Moriarty <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2015 8:10 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 148

To the members of the Nova Scotia Law Amendments Committee:

I am a new teacher in Nova Scotia. I count myself extremely lucky to have a job and a permanent contract. Most people in my graduating class (2009) are looking at an average of 5 more years of substitute teaching before they can have this status. As a result, too many of these talented young teachers have given up and left the province or changed professions.

During my first three years of teaching, I stayed at school every afternoon until 6 and did another 3-4 hours of work at home every school night. I did not feel I had the time for physical exercise or social activities. Despite this, I remained passionate about my profession and I have continued to devote most of my time and energy to the students in my care. Instead of feeling supported in my work with Nova Scotia students, however, at professional development sessions and in the media I have repeatedly heard that my classroom challenges are a direct result of my failings as an educator. They have nothing to do with larger classes, more special needs students, more children living in poverty, poor mental health treatment access and the pressure on educators to collect "data" instead of educating our children.

Recently, NSTU members voted to reject a tentative agreement that the government threatened to legislate if we did not accept. We rejected, not because of the money, but because we are tired of being bullied and blamed for the flaws in a system over which we are given very little control. The teachers of Nova Scotia did nothing wrong. We have the right to say no. This is our democratic right as Canadian citizens and members of a union. This legislation deprives us of these rights. This is not what government is supposed to be!