
From: [REDACTED] on behalf of C.C. <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2015 8:03 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Fwd: Bill #148 Nova Scotia: please vote no.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: C.C. <[REDACTED]>
Date: 15 December 2015 at 19:55
Subject: Bill #148 Nova Scotia: please vote no.
To: legc.offic@novascotia.ca
Cc: dianawhalen@gmail.com, geoff@geoffregan.ca

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a new nurse. I graduated in October, 2014, with a BScN, and I am a Registered Nurse currently practising in Acute care in Halifax.

Basically, I am a floor nurse, a new graduate, and a professional: all of these designations being a needed part of Nova Scotia (regarding retention) and the future of the care of *your* family members, or you, should you need nursing care.

I have a large student loan, because I have two degrees and am a single parent. I am being actively recruited by the US and the Canadian North to do the work that I do at significantly larger reimbursement.

Pray tell, why do I stay?

If bill #148 goes through, I can tell you that my interest in staying in Nova Scotia to be the caring and dedicated nurse that I am becomes an interest in me going elsewhere to practise my craft, provide for my family, and to pay off my enormous student loans.

The unit where I work is chronically understaffed as we speak. If I leave, if others leave, then the nurses left will become even more over-stressed and over-worked, leaving patients in less-safe conditions.

We are already understaffed 9 out of every 10 shifts that I work.

Read that sentence again: 9 shifts of every 10, we are understaffed. And people's lives are on the line.

Do you understand what that is like? To show up every day at work and pray that your finite mortal self can meet the emotional, physical, and medical needs of 4-6 very ill patients? Patients who cannot remember to eat; Who need bathing; constant assessments; blood transfusions; changes in medications; a hand to hold; a listening ear; an hour to explain to family members what is happening; physicians and residents to be contacted (sometimes several times per shift per patient); blood-work to be followed up upon; emergency ECG's to be called; to be held up when they suddenly lose consciousness; code blues to be called; ... the list goes on. This is not an easy career.

There is never a shift that I leave exactly on time. There is never a shift that I do not give everything I have in terms of caring about this person, this patient, their life, their comfort, their safety, their pain control, their family's fears and grief.

Please understand that I am responsible every shift for many people's safety and lives, and that the compensation (monetarily) that I receive for this responsibility does not even come close to what my nursing attention, education, professionalism, and caring provides for your loved ones.

Bill #148 feels like an insult to my profession. It reminds me of the tenuous decision that I make *every month* about whether to accept more lucrative offers 'from away.'

Consider how many new registered nurses will be tempted to leave the province should this bill be passed.

I love living here in Nova Scotia. But not so much that I will stay to become burnt out. I cannot watch my precious patients suffer due to under-staffing. I cannot let my profession be so undervalued.

Vote carefully. Consider what your own income is in compared to mine. Consider what my responsibilities are compared to yours. Consider carefully. Because this is important.

Vote no to bill #148.

Thank-you for your time and attention to this matter,
Sincerely,

C. Campbell

BScMathematics, BScNursing, Registered Nurse