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**From:** Liane Bradbury <[lianebradbury@hotmail.com](mailto:lianebradbury@hotmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 16, 2015 11:45 AM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Subject:** Fwd: Teacher concerns to address at next ammendment meeting Wed Dec 16, 2015 for Bill 148

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Liane Bradbury <[lianebradbury@hotmail.com](mailto:lianebradbury@hotmail.com)>  
**Date:** December 16, 2015 at 2:05:52 AM AST  
**To:** "[legc.office@novascotiawrittenout.ca](mailto:legc.office@novascotiawrittenout.ca)" <[legc.office@novascotiawrittenout.ca](mailto:legc.office@novascotiawrittenout.ca)>  
**Subject:** **Teacher concerns to address at next ammendment meeting Wed Dec 16, 2015 for Bill 148**

In response to Bill 148, the concerns I have as an educator in our public school system are as follows:

1. Not enough Educational Program Assistants (EPA) in the classroom to offer support to students who have high needs behaviourally. EPAs are spread thin amongst other teachers, or not provided at all. Lack of EPA support allows the challenged student's learning to be difficult and other student's learning difficult. It is very difficult for a teacher to conduct a lesson, take care of the rest of the needs of the classroom and watch to make sure a child who is a physical threat to the students and staff doesn't cause issues. There needs to be more money put towards EPA hires and enough EPAs allotted to classroom teachers to ensure these particular students are handled accordingly throughout their day, not for an hr or half a day... all day.
2. There should be adequate training or courses taken to be an EPA and their salary should be much higher for what they do. This will promote more employment in this field and helps teachers greatly.
3. There needs to be guidance counselors in lower elementary to help students cope and talk about emotional and mental issues that they themselves cannot handle. Teachers alone are not equipped to handle what kids are dealing with these days, it doesn't just start in Junior High. There could even be floating guidance counselors that focus on schools in certain districts and served the needs of those school families at the elementary level and up. It is necessary for these positions!!!!

4. Class sizes should be reduced past grade 2. Caps should be put on all grades, especially lower elementary and Jr. high. Too many kids in a classroom is not manageable and learning suffers.

5. Service Award should not be taken away or freezes put on our salaries. Our job is tough with limited resources, and yet we are expected to make great gains with the future generations. Strip us of everything to support ourselves and you will see unhappy teachers who will quit, not care about their work as an educator or there will be people who will not even bother entering the profession. We need motivation financially like any other type of employee, that's just how business works.

6. We need resources in our classrooms. We need class sets in books, manipulatives, funds for extracurricular activities and various classroom needs. Not enough money is going into this. In other professions, employees do not go out to buy their own supplies to do their job right, why are we?

We are looking at education all wrong in this province and country. If you want innovators, successors, great minds to lead us, our money needs to be spent on our education system, not stripped from it. Teachers jobs are difficult and we try our best. I do not believe this is a job that little can be done or done poorly, it's impossible. The public has a terrible perception of a much needed profession. If education and teachers are not supported by the government and have some of these needs mentioned addressed, we are setting our future society up to to fail.