

Subject line: Bill 148

Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Message:

Dear Chair of the Law Amendments Committee:

My name is Shauna Dosman and I am writing to oppose Bill 148. I wanted to come in to speak; however, I was informed that the list was full last evening and the only time available would be when I am teaching.

Teaching has become an incredibly difficult job and the government's Bill 148 is going to worsen these conditions. Not only has the government stripped us of our constitutional right to fair collective bargaining, but this bill also impedes our ability to advocate for funding that would improve our students learning environments which are our working conditions.

**All of the following are concerns we could address through the collective bargaining process:**

- **Class room sizes, diverse classroom composition** (i.e. Students who read at grade one level and students who read at a grade 12 level in the same classroom; some who have severe mental health conditions; some who speak no English at all; some who are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and so much more)
- **lack of human and physical resources** (not enough Resource or EAL teachers, not enough books for the class and so on)
- **little to no consultation with active teachers** on curriculum or assessment (ex. implementing provincial assessments that cost so much money and yet have no impact on learning),
- **increasing demands** for duplicate reporting and other types of redundant virtual paperwork, an expectation that teachers are on-call 24/7 via email
- **never-ending and ever-changing direction** on procedures and policies and protocols.

I have been teaching for twenty one years and it pains me to see my beloved profession be devalued as it also means that my students are being devalued. I teach them the importance of standing up against bullies in many different contexts especially ones where they are in the majority. I urge all Liberals to have the courage to vote against Bill 148; to show Nova Scotia's youth who will build up our economy if we allow them an opportunity, that you support them and their educators. I expect all members of the Conservative and NDP parties to vote against Bill 148 because it is wrong and it violates workers' rights.

The only way for this province to develop to its full potential is for our government to invest in its future; its people. Build people first and everything else will follow.

With hope and respect,

Shauna Dosman