
From: Jeffrey Piercey [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 3:21 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 75 - Teachers' Professional Agreement and Classroom Improvements (2017)

Hello,

My name is Jeffrey Piercey and I would like to submit a written piece to the law amendments committee in regards to Bill 75. I cannot be there in person. Below is a copy of what I would like presented. Please confirm you have received.

Dear Law Amendments Committee,

It is with a heavy heart that I am writing this letter. As a parent, a father, and a teacher I'm completely ashamed of the current state of Education in Nova Scotia. For 18 months the NSTU has been standing up for what is right and attempting to improve our education system and bill 75 stomps all over our hard work and dedication. This is not acceptable for my children, my students and the teachers of our Province.

Teachers have long been in the shadows, working tirelessly and putting in extra hours to help their students. Many teachers, myself included, leave at the end of the day saddened that we were not able to reach every child. That is wrong. We have been given impossible tasks. The issues in today's classrooms are not seen by the general public. Yet, when it was time to negotiate a new contract, instead of listening to the teachers in the classroom, our Minister of Education and Premier decided to listen to the public and seem only concerned with keeping a budget.

Too long has the education system rode on the backs of teachers volunteering their time and giving their own money. If bill 75 is passed, teachers will have to look long and hard at their current work/life balance. The Premier claims things will go 'back to normal'. Unfortunately our schools were never a normal workplace. Would you ask someone to work overtime... not once, but every day and with little supports while treating them with such little respect time and time again? This is exactly the situation we are currently in. Sadly, teachers have had enough. We need real help in the classrooms. Claiming that students will have their athletic aspirations back, reference letters, extra help and the like, says all teachers need to know about the stance of our current government. The Premier doesn't care about education, he cares about public opinion.

How will he feel when the extras are all gone and teachers are focusing only on the classroom? During work to rule we have been in our classrooms and that's exactly what we've been doing and yet it's not acceptable? Shame on any MLA who votes in favor of bill 75. It's not only a slap in the face to teachers, it perpetuates our broken education system. This is not ok. Bill 75 is not OK.

Sincerely,
Jeff Piercey