
From: P. Michael Hagenbuch [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 8:57 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Cc: Tim Houston; Karla MacFarlane
Subject: Comments on Bill 75

Premier MacNeil and the Legislature of Nova Scotia,

"I object to three things - intelligence without discipline, power without benevolent purpose, and indifference. The perception is that we have arrived at the 11th hour in the struggle for control and power by both the government and union. As is always the case within a power struggle there are real victims who are the students, parents, and teachers. These are the ones usually treated as championed pawns and catered to with platitudes. Little regard has been given to their needs, expectations, and desires for a system that listens and responds in kind. They have become the helpless, powerless, forgotten part of the equation. Because of neglect, indifference, and disconnection from communication and consultation with those affected most, the possibility for an amicable settlement has been greatly reduced by design to a single choice. Imposition of a contract is now the only way to salvage the remainder of the school year while earning political points aimed at recovering some sense of public trust (I do sense an election coming soon). That said, an imposed contract does nothing to improve the condition of education in the province. The public perception of contempt and skepticism created by the disfunction of both sides in the negotiation process, now coupled with an imposed settlement does nothing to remove discontent, disconnection, dissatisfaction, disillusionment, or help improve the quality of education. The educational system is in disarray, fragmented, political, and distanced from its designed purpose. It will take a long time, deep commitment, and a tremendous amount of openness toward honest work to change what has become convoluted in order that children, parents, and teachers can believe and trust in the ability of government and unions to help produce results better than the existing mediocrity. Education of intelligent, highly skilled, and knowledgeable citizens will guarantee our province a future with a better quality of life, thriving economy, and secure future. So in this eleventh hour go ahead and impose a contract. Because of your struggle for control and power, indifference to those most greatly affected, and undisciplined regard for the value of productive education you have created only one option. To find out what students, parents, teachers want it helps to ask of them, collaborate with them, trust in them, and believe in our collective ability to work together for a better education system. The result will be one in which we can all claim ownership and of which have confidence and pride. With these thoughts and concerns, I object to the implementation of Bill 75 and recommend it be withdrawn in order to afford continued negotiations of substance for a better educational system.

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