
From: Therese Boudreau [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 8:53 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: My voice on the teacher's strike

Dear people of the Legislature;

My name is Therese Boudreau and I am a teacher in Nova Scotia. I am writing in hopes that someone with power will read my concerns/suggestions regarding the recent teacher's strike in NS.

We all want this to end. We love our students and we will not give up until the situation for students and teachers change. I feel as a teacher it is my responsibility to share my concerns and possible solutions to some of the issues in schools.

- 1.) Teachers have been overwhelmed with class size and the volume of needs in classes for many years. We have voiced this so many times to so many people we are getting tired! I would to recommend class caps across all grades that reflect class makeup. (That means decreasing the number of students when the number of needs increase or provide in class support.) There should be a formula developed. (which takes into consideration level of needs, and the number of students needing support in one room.)**
- 2.) Decrease some of the workload for teachers and begin monitoring demands. We need to stop piling new initiatives on teachers without adjusting existing demands. Future changes that require substantial time should be negotiated.**
- 3.). Money saved on terminating the above programs. (board and Dept. standardized testing, excessive in-servicing, continual changes in reporting which requires more in-servicing etc) should be spent on hiring teachers, Ea's and specialists that work directly with teachers and students. How many EA's could we hire using the money we pay for power school? Kids need people not computer programs. Remember the days when you just trusted a teacher to share with a parent how their child was doing instead of being.**
- 4.). Indexing back OR service award to stay that was already bargained for in another contract and should be honoured.**

These are my thoughts. Collect as much information from teachers as you can. It may help inform you of the needs in our schools. We see them every day and our opinions should be valued. Why do we have no voice in the committees mrs. Casey has proposed in our latest contract? What are they afraid of? We are suppose to be working together.

Sincerely,

Therese Boudreau