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**From:** Danica Laking [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 10:40 PM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Subject:** Law Amendments Committee

Warm regards to the Law Amendments Committee,

I used to love teaching and know that I am a great educator. I can say that the past 4 years teaching lower elementary in Chignecto, have been the most difficult of my career. I fear for the safety of my students, as violence is a very real concern in all levels of school. I do not have adequate support for my special needs students, and this is a daily challenge which I face. Each year I participate in the EDI, and each year I am shocked to truly see how many of our youngest learners are coming to school vulnerable in 2 or more categories. At the start of this school year, I had 22 students in my Primary class. This included 2 twins directly from Syria, 1 student who qualified for partial EA support, a handful of students who are virtually feral, and your usual mix of kids demonstrating various degrees of preparedness. It is absurd to presume that I can meet the needs of all these learners, and even with the best of intentions their schooling comes up short.

I am very much a humanist, and struggle with the fact that our current system can not possibly meet the needs of our learners. We have the ability to be progressive and truly emulate the "creativity and innovation" that are so proudly listed in the 3Rs document. Instead the province has publicly devalued education, and has stripped passionate educators of their ability to work with students in a meaningful way. I know that my students and I deserve much more than we endure each day, but we need the government's help to fix our system.

Please take deep consideration of the impact on our province, as you make decisions this week.

Kind regards,  
Danica Laking