

I am a current Grade 12 student in Cape Breton, and to put it into words Minister Casey has spoken, "I am disappointed". I am disappointed in how the government is trying to resolve a serious problem, and in effect make the problems worse.

I want to see real change taking place, especially within the mental health resources in our schools. I have experienced it first hand in my Grade 9 years, and even to this day require help. However, our resources are lacking. I was told at one point that my problems with depression and anxiety weren't "that bad", and they were unfixable because the majority of my problems stem from problems within my school. If it weren't for my teachers, I don't think I would be here, about to graduate. They truly stepped out of their way, and helped me through my mental health problems.

During this time, I had many...dark thoughts. At that time, I never thought that I would be alive to see the day that I would be able to walk across the stage and obtain my diploma. If it wasn't for my teachers going out of their way to help me, I would not be here.

And this is why I'm disappointed. Because the government refuses to help our current classroom situations. Until you finally step into the classrooms, and experience it, you will never understand what is needed, even if you'd like to claim you do.

So I ask that the Liberal MLA's realize just how many people they are hurting by trying to push this bill through. I also want them to realize the effect it will have. I want my future children to have a good education, and if it doesn't change soon, I'm afraid they will not.

I also hope they know that the students of Nova Scotia are watching, and I hope they realize that they will see all the mistakes our governments have made, and never make that mistake again.