
From: Michelle Talbot [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 10:39 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: LAC Request 2

Law Amendments Committee

I'm a teacher living in the South Shore (TCRSB). I am unable to attend the Law Amendments committee in person due to weather conditions, but I want to make sure that my voice is heard.

First, many people are giving thanks to the Liberal government, and I will join those ranks. Thanks to you, not just teachers from all across this province are engaged politically than ever before, our students are as well. Thanks to the Liberals, we have made history as a teacher's union. Thanks especially to Mr. McNeil, who has given me a voice as a young teacher in both the political realm and the professional realm. This voice has been and will be used to speak out against the actions of this government and their blatant disrespect for teachers.

Next, Bill 75 is unconstitutional. There is no way around it. Mr. McNeil stated he respects the collective bargaining process and a teacher's right to strike; however his actions (and collectively, the actions of the Liberal MLAs) clearly state the exact opposite. Mr. McNeil only respects the rights of teachers when it is convenient for him; but like a child, when he has had enough, he throws his hands up and declares he is done. Imposing a contract that teachers clearly do not want is undemocratic. It is the Liberal government shoving it's weight around to fit it's own agenda.

Third of all, our classrooms are in too deep. There aren't enough resources, supports, EPAs, mental health councillors, and just time to do everything we are asked to do by this government (without consult from teachers themselves and no test-runs before new initiatives). Teachers are so unhappy with these three tentative agreements because there is not enough real change inside them! We have had enough with committees and studies, we know what the problems are and we have been saying it for months! You are refusing to make real compromises and change!

I am extremely sad to now turn my back on a political party that I have believed in my whole adult life. Since I was 18 I have been a Liberal supporter, but no more. The blame solely lies in this government, in Mr. McNeil, and the MLAs who vote for this unconstitutional bill. As a student who went through Nova Scotia universities, and stayed in province to start my career, I am insulted at how we teachers have been treated, in the media and at the table.

I hope when it comes time, Liberal MLAs can find it in themselves to vote down this bill.