
From: Brent Adams [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 1:05 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 75

I am very disappointed in the decisions that have recently been taken by our government here in Nova Scotia. Taking away a union's legal right to collective bargaining is setting a precedent that does not coincide with my Canadian and Nova Scotian values.

I understand we are in tough times. I am living it. I got a raise last year of \$500, that's it. How much have the politicians received as a raise this year? My debt-load grows every year. I am being taxed at all angles and I can't get ahead. My wife and I are currently talking about the following: Do we want to have a second child? Can we afford it? Is the education system in Nova Scotia good enough for our children? Where can we move that has better values and education for our children? We have been making sacrifices upon sacrifices, and trying to make better decisions within our budget to get ahead.

This brings me to the contract negotiations. Not once has the NSTU asked for more than fair wages. What they are asking is not to be stepped on anymore. They are burning out. You are asking too much. It's gone on for so long that they have decided that they need to add their workload to their contract. In most occupations the employee would be paid overtime for the extra work that they are doing. And we both know Nova Scotia can't afford to pay them that.

*** Let Teachers Teach ***

You are paying a professional who has studied to become a skilled worker for the better part of a decade. Trust that they know what they are doing. Trust that the union will ensure that the members that are not strong enough will be managed accordingly.

Stop forcing a teacher to do anything else but teach. They are not administrators. They are not security guards. They are not mental health professionals.

*** Let Teachers Teach ***

Do you honestly think that a class of 36 students is getting the same education as a class of 25? Your class caps are ridiculous. So not only is hard for a student to grasp the topics and information provided by the one facilitator, but then you are putting the burden of marking and correcting an additional 44% test, exams, assignments, etc on your educator.

*** Let Teachers Teach ***

How many additional tasks are you going to ask of your strained school system? How many more initiatives? How much more work do you want to add to their daily workload? Now that I understand some of these initiatives, I ask myself, who is it really for? And I find the answer is often: my government's scorecard. Don't you hire teachers over the summer to mark those board assessments?

Regards,

Brent Adams
Dartmouth, NS