

Submission to
Nova Scotia Law Amendments Committee
Regarding
Teachers' Professional Agreement and Classroom Improvements (2017) Act
Bill No. 75
Thursday, February 16, 2017

Submitted by:
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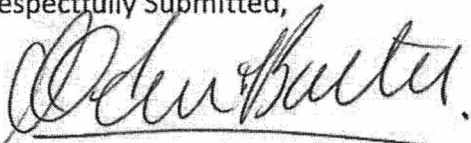
I am writing as a concerned parent of two children currently enrolled in the Nova Scotia public school system. My wife and I have significant concerns with respect to the direction that Inclusive Education has taken. Our children have been assaulted on more than one occasion by classmates. Our children's classes have had to be evacuated from the classroom for their safety due to violent outbursts. It may come as a surprise to many to learn that our school has padded rooms that some of these special needs children are placed in regularly for their own safety and the safety of other students and staff.

These are serious issues that would not be tolerated in the context of most work environments. Yet teachers are faced with this dynamic and the ongoing and daunting task of preparing lesson plans for such a cognitively diverse group within the same class. This mixture can often be disruptive to the learning opportunities for others in the class and potentially dangerous to a teacher. In my opinion, teachers are not trained or equipped to deal with the plethora of special needs and behavioral issues in their respective classrooms.

While I agree with the intent of Sections 4 – 12 of Bill 75 as they relate to the formation and operation of an Inclusive Education Commission. There does not appear to be a specific mechanism to give force and effect to any recommendation(s) that the Commission may bring forward at the conclusion of their tenure.

I would recommend that a framework for the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission be set forth in the proposed Act. Otherwise, this will likely result in yet another analysis of the issues relating to Inclusive Education without any path forward to resolving them.

Respectfully Submitted,



Daniel T. Bartie