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**From:** Lindsay [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 16, 2017 11:40 AM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Subject:** Bill 75 - attention chair of the law amendments committee

Afternoon,

I can't even say "good evening" because it's not. It's a far far cry from a good afternoon. I sit here today proudly as a teacher and shamefully as a Nova Scotian.

I have never felt so devalued in my career.

The comments that both the Premier and the Minister for education have made regarding Nova Scotia's teachers have knocked me down to the point of no return. To the point of reconsidering the career that I chose, the one I love and the one to which I give everything I've got. Every. Single. Day. I am very strongly considering both leaving my profession and this province due to the absolute disregard and disrespect shown to not only teachers, but to parents, students and Nova Scotians in general by the Liberal government.

I've got nothing left. No more fight. I personally have given thousands of extra hours to my students. I have planned and travelled on 8 grade 9 trips. No more. I have coached over 50 teams. No more. I have attended and chaperoned dozens of dances. No more. I have planned countless field trips, spirit days and special presentations. No more. I have planned and executed graduations, proms, Remembrance Day ceremonies, musicals, talent shows, year books, ski trips, Tim Horton's camp, We Day food drives and fundraisers and various clubs. No more. I am heartbroken for my students who will not have these experiences. I can't bring myself to give any more and continue to get knocked back. And yet, I know in my heart that I can't do this job, the job that I love, and not be that person. But I can't do it anymore. I am furious at this government for putting me in this position. And I am furious and heartbroken for my own babies who aren't going to get to experience field trips and teams and clubs and all the extra fun stuff that the wonderful teachers in Nova Scotia do every day for our students. And it's the Liberal government's fault.

Our kids are struggling. School is not like it was when I was a kid. The game has changed. The needs have amplified. We need resources. We don't need committees and focus groups. We need bodies, we need more staff. We need help. We need class caps and specialists and EAs. We share our psychologists, speech pathologists and occupational therapists with many other schools. I teach French. My kids have zero extra support when they struggle. We have no EAs who speak French, we have no position for French resource teachers, although we have qualified teachers to fill them. We have no French "kits" to test reading levels. We are lacking the same supports we offer to our English stream students. We need more teachers.

I have 18 years left before I retire. 18 years means about 2000-2500 young Nova Scotians, who will be voters in this province, will come through my doors. I will, as always, do my extreme best to try and meet their learning needs. But with some kids in my room who need 58/60 minutes, what do the other 27 get? We can't do it any longer. This government has repeatedly said that they have invested in the classrooms. They feel this act of legislation and imposed contract will address all of our concerns. They've grossly overestimated themselves and are completely deluded.

I call on the members who may still have some hope for education and for the future of this province to not accept this bill. Please do what is right. We live in Canada. Where democracy is our foundation. These steps that the Premier is taking are not democratic. They're no different than a dictatorship that we, as Canadians, frown upon. Please take a stand so that the students in this province get what they deserve. They are not only our future but our present. We owe it to them.

If the premier thinks this will end this dispute, he is sadly mistaken. I am one of 9000. We won't forget this. Maybe I was wrong. Maybe there's a little fight left.

Lindsay MacLellan  
Teacher, Elizabeth Sutherland school

Sent from my iPad