



**From:** S. J. Hauer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 16, 2017 4:41 PM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Subject:** Submission regarding Law Amendments Standing Committees for Bill No. 75 - Teachers' Professional Agreement and Classroom Improvements (2017) Act

To the Legislative Counsel's Office, Mr. Gordon Hebb and the Law Amendments Committee members:

As I write, I am glued to the hearings from the Committee as they are taking place. And what I'm hearing gives me *hope*, because I want to believe in democracy and good government. *Am I totally naive?*

Either way, I did not even try to get a spot *to speak* to your Committee in person last evening or today due to serious weather conditions. But I wish to have *a voice* in this current, deplorable situation in which we, as Nova Scotians, find ourselves, *again*. Because where we are today has been building over many years through the negligence, the deplorable attitudes and *distorted priorities* of many past governments including, *and especially*, the current one.

I am writing to share and express my disgust and dismay at Bill 75; at the Government of Nova Scotia's treatment of our province's teachers; the attitude of disrespect for the rights of workers to have unions and be able to negotiate in good faith; of the priorities which this Government expresses in its decisions and choices, day-to-day.

Tell me Government members, if you dare:

- How much has the Government of Nova Scotia spent on the Twinning Survey consultants and public consultations?
- How much is the Government of NS contributing to the new exit off the 101 into New Minas?

As just as one example of government priorities, the Twinning consultants fixated on the most costly method of dealing with road safety—*all around*. **Why?** Just think of the waste of tax payer dollars spent *on medians* of questionable value just in twinning sections of the 101 *alone*. **Let's put these figures out on the table and compare them** to the NSTU's monetary requests, shall we?

I dare you.

What if, instead, we were to have used those monies for **our most precious resource**—*the province's children and youth*—to provide them with an education system and the higher education institutions that would support them to becoming critical thinking, contributing future citizens and leaders?

Until Nova Scotians choose to *wisely invest in education*—(and I am not just talking of teacher salaries, though these are critical as well) on all levels; until we stop *assaulting* our education system; until we look to countries that are having **outstanding results** in public education (e.g. Finland), whose approach to education seems to be diametrically opposed to that of Nova Scotia's—our province and its people will never reach their potential.

When was the last time any of you spent any *quality time* in any school, in any classroom in this province, to *really understand* just what past and present governments have been asking of principals and teachers?

Isn't it time for our elected politicians to be bold and *to lead*?

Otherwise, you reap what you sow.

Aloha,  
s. j. hauer

PS I ask that I receive a response that says that my submission has been received and will be read by Committee members.