
From: Frankie Cooke [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 2:48 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: From a concerned father

I'm the father of a very intelligent, polite 11-year-old boy. His comprehension testing has always been high. His math scores are low and his reading skills are not where they should be at his age. He was diagnosed via testing as having a learning disability, and it is suspected that it is specifically dysgraphia. It took years to get that far for help. He was given, with parental agreement, some of the tools we were told he needs to succeed in school. Although it relieves some of the burden my son carries, it certainly has not put him on equal footing with the standards set for grade 5 curriculum. He is unable to bring the tools he needs home because they simply don't exist. He is only on occasion able to get resource help, and even then the school had to be contacted after months of him being left out of the resource system without our knowledge. He and a number of his classmates need much more assistance than they are getting and teachers are already spread too thin to give him more. He's falling through the cracks and I, as a layperson with regard to public education, feel utterly helpless. I don't know how to get him what he needs. I don't even know exactly what he needs. Teachers are on the front lines of battles like the one my son is fighting and they are the ones who should be dictating what it is that happens in the classroom to help every student become academically prepared to step into the world outside of the classroom. Taking away the rights of teachers to stand up for what they believe in is a disgusting abuse of power and only helps to prove that this liberal government doesn't care whether or not the system succeeds or fails, and they only do what they do to purchase votes from those who don't look beyond their rhetoric. This legislation is a direct attack on the rights of all Nova Scotian workers and on all children currently in the school system here. I stand by teachers.