
From: sdrigby [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 19, 2017 10:52 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel; sdrigby@nstu.ca
Subject: Attention Law Amendments Committee Re: Bill 75

To Whom It May Concern:

I have placed my name on the list to speak to the Law Amendments Committee, but I have been told that I, along with many others may not get the chance to be heard. First and foremost, that in itself is terrible! The people of Nova Scotia deserve to have a voice, especially when it comes to speaking with those individuals that are elected to represent us in government.

I am a mother of 2 school aged children as well as an elementary school teacher. My own children are entering Junior High School and High School next year. I implore you to consider carefully before you vote on February 21st.

Bill 75 does not contain anything that will immediately benefit students (specifically those in grades 7-12).

- any student in Nova Scotia should not be in a class of greater than 20 students in elementary and 25 students in grades 7-12. As we try to meet the needs of all our students, including those with IPP programming and adaptations, it is evident that teachers are struggling to meet the needs of all their students.
- the increasing mental health demands in classrooms is staggering - we all should know that we need a healthy mind and body before we can learn! It is increasingly difficult to serve the needs of all 27 or more students.
- students who require an EPA, should have access to one - and not just those students who require one for medical, toiletry issues and extreme behavior needs. Many students who require an EPA for less severe reasons are not given access to one.
- prep times for teachers need to be used for teacher prep time of lessons and not for the continuous entry of data
- the numerous meetings after school only take away from teacher preparation time (these include School Planning Meetings and those involving

countless other committees teachers are asked to be a part of). Since Work to Rule (WTR), I have had more time to plan for my students' needs, NOT less. Although WTR had us as teachers leave the building 20 min after student dismissal, it did not prevent us from planning at home.

- the new way of training teachers in new initiatives has got to go! - having one or 2 teachers attend a PD session and then ask those teachers to train the rest of the staff is an unsuccessful way in which to train teachers.
- the constant changes in education are a strain on our education system. This includes outcomes, report cards, TIENET, school goals, etc.).
- with regards to the Teacher Service Award, you, the government needs a history lesson. This is not a bonus, it is not additional funds! It is monies that were negotiated in lieu of salary increases. To take this away is a ROLL BACK, and I have been told this by a lawyer, who knows the history.
- when it comes to an attendance policy, it should not fall back on the teachers to monitor this. We need a return to a truancy office, or someone at the school who can monitor student absenteeism. Parents need to be held accountable for the education of their child in many cases. It is the parent who ensures the child wakes up to catch the bus, or it is the parent who drives the child to school.

What this government is doing is unconstitutional! It is a sad day for Nova Scotians, to have government in power that has pushed democracy aside and turned into a dictatorship. I have never felt so betrayed by a government and by a leader, especially one that has family members in the education system and should know first hand what our education system is lacking.

I truly wish all of us were able to present to the Law Amendments Committee,
Shelley

Rigby