
From: Trevor Dimoff [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 6:49 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel; strike@nstu.ca
Subject: Trevor Dimoff - Comments for Law Amendments of Bill 75

To the Members of the Nova Scotia Legislature,

I was on the list to present, but I understand that the voices of many that wished to speak were not heard, thank you for accepting my presentation my comments for Law Amendment to Bill 75.

My name is Trevor Dimoff, B.Mus, M.Mus, B.Ed, member of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, Canadian Federation of Musicians, and SOCAN. I have taught music at Dalhousie University for 5 years and in Nova Scotia Public Schools for the past 10 years. I currently teach music and band at Bedford South School (HRSB).

In reference to Bill 75:

Setting aside the manner in which Bill 75 has moved through the House, the issues of Charter Rights violations, the lack of fair and collective bargaining, Bill 178:

Bill 75 does not provide for a sustainable education system.

I am uncertain how investigating the problems further will improve Nova Scotia classrooms. Teachers have presented on the challenges of teaching in Nova Scotia. The Freeman Report, was created in October 2014 but not implemented. http://www.ednet.ns.ca/files/reports/report_minister_panel_on_education.pdf

In a profession, where a high number of educated professionals would prefer to continue until retirement, I am uncertain how any wage increase below the cost of living can be considered sustainable.

I question the timing of this legislation. There is no educational emergency under Work to Rule, except in the press.

I intended to present my song "I Just Want to Teach" that reflects my experience as a Nova Scotia educator inside the Legislature. Fortunately, I had the opportunity to sing it to NSTU members outside Province House on Feb 17th.

A recording is available: <http://epicsongwriting.com/ijustwanttoteach/>

Below is a brief explanation and the complete lyrics.

Thank you for listening to my views on Bill 78.

**Trevor Dimoff
Music and Band Teacher
Bedford South School, HRSB**

"I Just Want to Teach" begins with the chorus, my personal expectations for a settlement: sustainable education and respectful dialogue. As a career where many teachers continue to retirement, it is troubling when the value of my annual salary is eroding every year until I retire. A "cost of living raise" is the minimum starting point for a sustainable education system.

The first verse is my response to the negative popular culture stereotype of “lazy teacher who gets paid plenty enough.” The second verse includes what I teach, besides curriculum, for successful students... and why teachers aren’t fooled. In the bridge I discuss the rights of both teachers and students that have been set aside and December 5th, 2016, the day all public schools were closed by the Nova Scotia government.

I Just Want to Teach

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<http://epicsongwriting.com/ijustwanttoteach/>

Chorus

It isn't much to ask, as a teacher I expect:
Cost of living raise, treat me with respect.
Can't improve my classroom with PR campaigns.
In my professional opinion: you haven't made the grade!
Education minister, your attention please:
I Just Want to Teach!
I Just Want to Teach!

Verse 1:

Dear education minister, where do I begin?
I'm a teacher, I've watched the system break down from within.
I get homework every day, I give it to myself.
Some call it teacher's guilt, but I call it overwork.
Education minister, a little help please:
I Just Want to Teach!
I Just Want to Teach!

Chorus

Verse 2:

I stand up to bullies, protect the weak.
Arbitrate disputes and then take the heat.
I teach Community, Inclusion, Diversity;
Higher order thinking, and how to know the truth!
Miss Education Minister, if you please:
I Just Want to Teach!
I Just Want to Teach!

Chorus

Bridge

I have the right to assemble, the right to unionize,
The right to strike to protect my charter rights.
The right to an education, the right to open schools.
Legislate my contract... and I'll work to the rules....

Chorus out