
From: Lindsay M [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 5:08 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Fwd: Re: Law Amendments

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From: "John H May" [REDACTED]
Date: Feb 16, 2017 1:12 AM
Subject: Re: Law Amendments
To: "Lindsay M" [REDACTED]
Cc:

On 02/16/17 01:02 AM, **Lindsay M** [REDACTED] wrote:

My name is Lindsay May from Dartmouth N.S.

I come from a family of teachers. Both of my grandmothers were teachers, my mother was a teacher for special needs students, my aunt was also a teacher.

My involvement with helping to run a summer program for learning disability students eventually led to me serving on the Dartmouth School Board for 6 years .

Our 3 children attended Bicentennial School and Dartmouth High School and as a family we have been involved in attendance at community meetings and school reviews.

I am here in support of teachers and pupils in the school system.

I have worked as a registered nurse in a residential rehabilitation centre where some of our clients also attended local schools. I know some of the challenges that teachers are currently facing re inclusion.

I have known and worked with many teachers and cannot believe the level of dissatisfaction they are expressing at this time. Their feelings of lack of support at the classroom level and the increased frustration of trying to meet their pupils varied needs is shown in their vote to reject the three contracts presented to them by their union.

I have reviewed the 4 year action plan by the education department, it is a very detailed comprehensive document. My concern re action plans is that they take so long to implement and deadlines are often not met.

Now to talk about the act as presented here

The Teachers Professional Agreement and Classroom Improvement Act establishes the Council to improve classroom conditions investing 20 million dollars over 2 years to address classroom issues.

My concern re the allocation of money is that it will not be used in this fiscal year. I am sure there are many items that have been discussed in the negotiations that could be implemented to help classroom situations starting in September.

There is no directed funding for the Commission on Inclusive Education.

When the Education Minister had her press conference she did not want to commit to any dollar value on future recommendations yet the act states it must return with an interim report by June 30th to allow for initial implementation in the upcoming school year.

I still find it incredulous that the education system is still discussing no fail policies and attendance policies after all these years. This shows that the system is not working and we are failing the pupils and the teachers by not making it clear what our standards are and our expectations as an education system.

Teachers have been teaching, pupils have been attending school when the work to rule has been in place.

Minister Caseys comments re stopping disruption in the classroom does nothing to make the teachers feel she understands or respects what they are trying to achieve each day when they are in the classroom.

I have to finish with a comment re Premier McNeil.

I listened to his interview on CBC Information Morning this Monday.

The weather forecast was very clear blizzard conditions were forecast well in advance, buses, ferries, schools, businesses all had been cancelled. Police were asking people to stay off the road except for essential services.

He was still planning to convene the house to sit that evening expecting support staff to be there at Province House. This shows very poor judgement re the impending situation and does not inspire confidence in his leadership, it was very disappointing for me.

If you have any questions I would be pleased to try and answer them.

Sent from my iPad