
From: Roy Francis [REDACTED] on behalf of Roy Francis [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 7:39 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 75

Good evening,

I have listened all day to my many passionate colleagues speak about the impacts of bill 75. I would like to add my voice and opposition to this bill. Not only does this Bill restrict teachers rights and strip members of negotiated benefits (the Long Service Award) it does nothing to address the problems in todays classes. As you have heard from teachers we don't need people to study and report back on an issue in 6-9 months then run a pilot program. We need action today.

I have taught primarily at the Junior High and High School Level. I have students who have suffered from abuse, who have anxiety disorders, are questioning their gender and sexuality identity. I struggle to build relationships with students who have few positive role models in their lives or who aren't able to establish a relationship of trust I have been verbally abused by students, physically threatened by students only to have that student back in the class the next day. As much as they need to have a shoulder to cry on they need access to mental health professionals who are available when they are needed, not in 1-2 years.

We have also expressed the need for clear guidelines regarding student behaviour, retention, attendance and student completion of school work. We have been asking for these issues to be addressed for years. The reason we want in a contract is that we no longer have faith in a government to follow through later on. After years of promises we are tired of waiting.

Finally, I am disappointed with they way this government has portrayed teachers in the media. They have painted students as being greedy and not caring. By choosing to impose this legislation during teacher appreciation week they continue to demonstrate a lack of appreciation and respect to teachers in this province. Those actions have eroded the trust between the government and teachers. I hope the government can find a way to begin repairing the damage that has been caused.

regards,

Roy Francis