
From: Vanessa Turner [REDACTED]
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To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 75

To the Law Amendments Committee~

I am disappointed to hear that you are not taking any further submissions. I have been on the wait list to appear since the moment the bill was announced. This is not how the democracy that I teach my children about and that I am proud to live in should be run. This is unfortunately more bullying by a Government which appears to only want to hear their opinion and nothing more.

This Bill against teachers, because it is not for teachers, and against students, again not helping them, is such an outrage and not at all how a democratic society with free and collective bargaining rights should be managed. This Bill does nothing to support clearly defined changes to a public education which is crumbling in around itself. There is a giant elephant in the room and it is now education. Children in our schools are suffering, they are not being supported academically, socially, or emotionally. The few and limited resources this government has deigned to provide have done nothing but scratched the surface of a very very broken system. Further the majority of funds this government have provided have been soaked up in bureaucratic red tape, over head costs, and a variety of highly over paid and underfunded consultants. This is not where money and supports is needed.

This government seems to rely on creating committee after committee, survey after survey, and data collections system after data collection system all in the name of doing something about education. Tell me what the last few committees, surveys, and data collection provided- oh that's right an Action PLAN with NO PLAN!! This government claims to have heard from all stakeholders on what is wrong but can't seem to make heads or tails on how to actually DO something. The government now makes yet another TWO committees paid for by taxpayers to claim to research what is wrong and then write a report. But wiat a minute both Minister Casey and Premier MacNeil have said they have heard and they know what is wrong, But then they made a bill showing that they don't as they need more research.

Well I can tell you what is wrong, as can all 9300 teachers in the provinces and a larger majority of the parents of the students in schools. Education needs to be a priority for ACTION not RESEARCH and consultation. Education needs clear directives and policies which will drastically improve both the learning conditions in the classroom as well as not increasing the working loads of teachers. Teachers are already giving of themselves to hold together the patchwork system of education with the resources they provide.

So what can we do -- Attendance Policy, a Student Accountability Policy that address their roles and responsibilities (doing work in and out of class, meeting deadlines, behaviour, etc), Classroom caps at all levels that recognise best situations for learning based on age as well as classroom composition, Hiring more support staff (EPAs, School Psychologists, Guidance Counsellors). Then there is remuneration - fine you don't want to provide a service award - then return indexing. You don't want to give a raise then switch the percentages around to at least make the compound earnings a bit higher.

As a parent of two children who are 10 years apart in age I have seen changes in this system. My eldest daughter has a writing LD - she has dysgraphia and struggled with writing. She was able to be put on academic supports without an official diagnosis as the wait times for a School psych ed were so long and the cost as a single parent were so preventative. School admin adn teachers were allowed to make the best choices to

support her academics throughout her time in school. My youngest who is now in grade 3 has an unofficial (but working to official) diagnosis of ASD - but high functioning on the Asperger's side. She can not get supports from school until this is official due to the changes in TIENet. As a result she is treated as a behaviour problem instead of addressing her social issues appropriately.

As a high school teacher I see this everyday. We the classroom teacher can no longer support our students the way we should. If there is no diagnosis we can't provide the academic supports if needed. If there is social or emotional issues - well there is just such an overwhelming number it is near impossible to manage this. Academically I teach high school sciences. Cognitively I teach age 6 months to beyond University level. Yet the government sees fit to not provide curriculum documents for some of my courses, no curriculum resources at any level for others, outdated curriculum resources (did you know we are just building the ISS - that's what SciencePower9 says!), and no supports for students at multiple levels ever. We are given a canned resource and asked to make it fit.

These are all the things this Bill does not address. Any member of the Legislative Assembly who stands for this obviously has not heard their constituents and has certainly not stepped foot into a classroom in the last 10 years. I urge you the Law Amendments Committee to seriously consider what this Bill is missing - the clear changes, the clear PLAN, and the just treatments of teachers.

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