

March 5, 2018

Law Amendments Committee

It is my responsibility as a parent to ensure that my children are educated. This is a responsibility that I take very seriously. In the present system, elected school boards are the venue through which parents can impact decision making. Eliminating the elected school boards and replacing them with an appointed advisory council will diminish the role of parents in the education system.

I agree with Minister Churchill that the status quo is not good enough for our children. However, I believe that it is parents, not governments and not even teachers, who are in the best position to make decisions concerning the education of our children. So, I cannot support all the changes proposed in the Education Reform (2018) Act because they infringe upon my right as a parent to be involved as more than a mere advisor in decisions about the education of my children.

I suggest making the following changes to Bill 72, The Education Reform (2018) Act:

- Under Schedule A: An Act Respecting Education, change subsection 11(2)(d) to read "**7 elected representatives from the regional centres.**" At present, until the next municipal elections, I suggest that these individuals be the former chairs of the 7 regional school boards.
- Add a Section 11(2)(e) that would read "up to 5 individuals chosen after taking into consideration: (i) regional, cultural and gender representation, (ii) the individual's knowledge and experience, and (iii) the desirability of achieving an equitable representation of the diversity of educational and community interests served by public education in the Province."
- Other amendments that may flow from these proposed changes.

I think that these changes represent a reasonable compromise that would be in keeping with the spirit and intent of Dr. Glaze's recommendations, while maintaining the essential role of parents and caregivers within our education system.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns.

Yours truly,

Cheryl Crocker

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