

From: Daniel Long [REDACTED]
Sent: March 3, 2025 12:23 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel; Minister Advanced Education; info@claremla.ca
Subject: Lettre de protestation (projet de loi 12) / Letter of Protest (Bill 12)
Attachments: Lettre de l'APPBUSA (projet de loi 12).pdf

Certaines personnes qui ont reçu cet e-mail ne reçoivent pas souvent de e-mail de la part de daniel.long@usainteanne.ca. Pourquoi c'est important

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Mesdames, Messieurs,

Vous trouverez ci-joint une lettre de protestation de l'Association des professeurs, professeures et bibliothécaires de l'Université Sainte-Anne (APPBUSA) par rapport au projet de loi 12. N'hésitez surtout pas à me poser vos questions.

Avec mes meilleures salutations,

Daniel Long
Président
APPBUSA

Dear Madam/Sir,

You will find in the attached document a letter of protest from the Association des professeurs, professeures et bibliothécaires de l'Université Sainte-Anne (APPBUSA) with regard to Bill 12. Please feel free to ask any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Long
President
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Dear Members, Public Bills Committee, Mr. Ryan Robicheau, M.L.A., and the Honourable Brendan Maquire, M.L.A., Minister of Advanced Education,

If you, your family members and/or staff appreciate any Apple products or services, or have ever enjoyed a Pixar movie, we at *L' Association des professeurs, professeures et bibliothécaires de l'Université Sainte-Anne* invite you to reconsider the radical changes, to education and to Nova Scotia, proposed in Bill 12. We educators highlight Bill 12's unprecedented attempt to tie the (declining) investment of public funds into N.S. universities to our fulfilling "social and economic" priorities set by provincial governments.

Consider what co-founder and longtime Apple CEO Steve Jobs might make of your proposal. While many debate whether contemporary North American CEOs deserve their lavish compensation packages, Mr. Jobs arguably did. He has always acknowledged that he was able to keep expanding Apple's success through different products and eras due to his education in, and appreciation for, the Humanities: "It's in Apple's DNA that technology alone is not enough. It's technology married with the liberal arts, married with the humanities, that yields the results that makes our hearts sing." Their hearts, their stock price and their revenue. Other tech gurus launch one product; because of the mental agility he acquired through the Humanities and Arts, Mr. Jobs was integral to launching: the personal computer, then music streaming and the iPod, then smartphones, then tablets, then apps. We could choose the font on this letter in large part because of a calligraphy class Mr. Jobs took at Reed College.

Also consider expertise. Most of our professors would agree that you legislators know more about making legislation, and the lawyers among you about the law, than we do. However, we know education. Most of us spent at least 10 years earning our three or four degrees, longer than many cardiologists. As a degree, Education has always been a specialty here at Université Sainte-Anne. Would you ever think you could design a better engine part than someone with a PhD in mechanical engineering? If not, why are you now assuming you know more about how to design education than someone with a doctorate in education?

Canadian history similarly shows that university researchers are better able to direct university research than politicians. Always remember that the discovery of insulin is an example of Canadian university research. Michael Ondaatje was a professor at York University while working on what became his Booker-Prize-winning novel *The English Patient*. Moncton's economy has enjoyed 25 years of guests arriving for the Frye Festival, a festival devoted to the research, and reach, of a Canadian professor.

How far into the educational and social future can you see? When our association Vice President was Coordinator of the Creative Writing program at Dalhousie, he had a modest budget to pay speakers to address his class The Creative Process. Renowned Dal

microbiologist Dr. Ford Doolittle delighted in telling students how much his work in biology and medicine—work that had him named to the same Royal Society that honoured Newton and Darwin—was empowered by his slowly completing, as a Dal science prof, a Fine Arts BFA across town at NSCAD. Thinkers know the value of seeing and imagination: will successive provincial governments maintain access to seeing courses like the drawing and photography courses that helped Prof. Doolittle bring millions in research into Nova Scotia?

Our literature scholars, historians and sociologists might ask you to consider the Nova Scotian narrative Bill 12 presents to the rest of Canada. With the national CBC Radio show *As It Happens* reporting on 28 February on this proposed educational powergrab, will you make the amendments necessary to wisely disprove respected Nova Scotian professor and Canadian Association of University Teachers president Dr. Peter McInnis's statements to the CBC highlighting what “anti-democratic legislation” Bill 12 is? As Premier Houston embraces fracking, will his government deny funding to the scientists, environmentalists and health professionals who study the side effects of fracking? The proposal in Bill 12 to have provincial governments appointed members to university boards of governors intrudes on university autonomy.

While Canadian hockey legend Wayne Gretzky's recent affiliations are unfortunate, he, too, once impressed Apple's Steve Jobs. Of all the media Apple had of its co-founder, on the one-year anniversary of his death, the 90-second video they released included his reverence for Gretzky's athletic prescience: “There's an old Wayne Gretzky quote that I love. ‘I skate to where the puck is going to be, not to where it has been.’ And we've always tried to do that at Apple.” When AI will soon replace many careers we might not currently anticipate as replaceable with machine intelligence—including in medicine and law—Nova Scotia needs to prepare robust, agile thinkers ready, as Mr. Jobs always was, to anticipate new horizons, and to thrive in them. We professors, not temporary politicians, remain the experts best qualified to design and direct education.

Most respectfully and seriously yours,

*L' Association des professeurs, professeures et bibliothécaires de l'Université
Sainte-Anne*