

The topic of this security bill being discussed here today has occupied much of my adult life and it is of great importance to me personally to finally see the commencement of a long overdue training opportunity. Security is the responsibility of all citizens. The direct care of others has for too long been left up to an unregulated industry comprised of a collection of those who are involved solely for profit alongside many whom have little to none of the training that is fully expected by the majority of citizens.

It is not my intent to point fault but those that have in many cases been allowed to operate businesses, including liquor establishments have far too often, in my estimation, been negligent in their duties by not training staff or hiring trained staff. The reality is the owners themselves have often no experience to draw on and have left the liability of their business in the hands of lowest paid members of their operation. The security companies that are hired have carte blanche attitude in many operations and when they use excessive force as an example it is almost always because they have not been shown another approach through responsible training.

I personally have trained several thousand people in how to predict, manage and control unwanted behaviours in people who act out. It makes no difference if it is in a hospital waiting room; a school yard; a court room; a bar room; Atlantic Super Store or even here in the Red Room. Behaviour is predictable and training is available to manage disruptive and aggressive persons. The lone night watchman, the guard taking parking dollars, and the ushers at theatres all have a common thread of responsibility and they require training to do the job effectively.

If the predecessors of this house had chosen the route of this bill when it was presented to them, NS would have been 27 years ahead of the rest of the country instead of playing catch-up now to the same training that had been available but was not received with any true sense of urgency. This appears as about to change. I applaud each and every member of this house for showing the wisdom, fortitude and leadership to make this security bill into law.

It is vital to the success of this piece of legislation that the training does not fall into the hands of those who are in a direct conflict of interest, operating as security companies. A third party to oversee this training is a must and the responsibility to assure compliance should be only with an organization that is not directly involved in operating as a security business. This could have government oversight but I believe both the training and overseeing of compliance will be more cost effective if run by a business.

To whom the training is deemed relevant is also of concern to me as is how the training unfolds. I have witnessed the careless interference by owners who themselves had zero interest or experience in providing proper security in their establishments. The opportunity to educate business operators is also relevant so they can truly manage and not be in an inferior position to those they hire as security providers. In other words they know what is expected and do not needlessly interfere by refusing to follow the expected norms under a legislated bill.

The regulations will hammer out the details. The main difference will become a new sense of expected behaviours and approaches that apply to a broad spectrum of security persons. I don't expect to see commissionaires manning barroom doors nor do I expect universities, industrial guards and those for hire to rush and offer to assist everyone with their best practice expertise. But I know that all people

involved in security owe it to the citizens of this province to be properly trained and to practice techniques and review information that allows them to be current and diligent as they carry out their assigned duties. I also know this responsibility cannot be left up to them alone.

A graduated program that ensures basic minimal standards must serve as an introduction to more relevant training that will target specific skill requirements. Companies have hired trained people with a high skill set but have not compensated them for such training and relied on pensions from early jobs to support the poor wages offered in the security position. It is also my concern that trained security personnel will eventually look at these positions as a career that can support an individual and not be seen as moonlighting with no true intention of being a real life supporting job. The only people who have truly benefited in this industry to date have been a very select few in each organization and most of those would be owners or top level managers. The university football player working the bar door for minimum wage with little training isn't there as a career choice and this is a big part of the current problem.

Nurses have been off duty because of assault far too often, teachers suffer daily from being attacked. We live in a much more violent society as made evident while entering this House. Airline staff, taxi and bus drivers, corner store clerks all have serious need to be effectively prepared. There are many others to whom training can apply and those that take such precautions will eventually work their way through the systems. The complaint from business will often be one of who pays. Well who does pay for all the pain and suffering caused by those that go unchecked? Who pays as the housing prices increase because of theft from new construction? WE ALL PAY.

I look forward to the inauguration of this important piece of legislation and I will commit to offer all or any experience that I have gained to assist in seeing a true model of success come to fruition. The antecedents and precursors are always there for those who know them, which can more often predict and control unwanted behaviour. A skilled mental attitude as well as the physical presence and evolving technology are great assets but eventually useless if they never leave the individual. Anything worth knowing is worth teaching. Education is the key to success. There are many to whom this education will benefit. You are about to do a great service to your province.

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