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**From:** dartmouthlocal <dartmouthlocal@nstu.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 16, 2015 3:27 PM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Cc:** margaretmillermmla@bellaliant.net  
**Subject:** Concerns regarding bill 148

To whom it may concern,

I may be a teacher and a union leader, but I am also a father and a husband. I care a lot about the future of our province, however, based on what I am seeing right now I am deeply concerned. The current Liberal government's introduction of bill 148 is just the latest in a series of moves that seem to target public sector employees in an attempt to strip us of our benefits and collective bargaining rights. It is a shameful abuse of power!

I know there has been a lot of chatter in the media, about how teachers were saying that it wasn't about the money when we rejected the recent tentative agreement. I believe there is a lot of truth to that, however, I do not think that means teachers should be happy with bill 148. While it's possible that some teachers would have been willing to accept a contract with a wage freeze, I think most teachers would like to believe that we could have traded this (through a fair bargaining process) for an improvement in working conditions, like class caps across all grades or increased marking and prep time. If this legislation goes through, then what bargaining power do teachers have? The two things the government wanted most will have been achieved already.

Back in 2013, when Stephen MacNeil was running for Premier, I decided to print out a hard copy of his election platform. Under the heading "EDUCATION", one of the first lines says, "Education isn't a line in a budget, it's our future". Well this certainly doesn't seem to be the tune that Mr. MacNeil is playing now. He is adamant that education costs are essentially frozen and there is no money for improvements. Teachers in this province are frustrated by this and they have had enough. I hope and pray that bill 148 is defeated for the sake of all public employees in this province.

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