
From: Amy Macdonald [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 3:35 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: to be read

Dear Mr. Heb,

Could you please see that the following is read during Legislature that tries to pass through Bill 148? Thank you, Amy Dubois

Dear Law Amendments Committee,

It is a tough time to be a teacher, but it is probably also a tough time to be an elected government official and follow your conscience.

I love being a teacher - I care and worry about my students. I spend ages planning and developing lessons that I feel reach and stimulate my students. I organize extra curricular activities. I'm on committees. Teaching goes well beyond when students leave, and most teachers do this happily, voluntarily. This is the first time in my career I have felt absolutely disheartened and am looking at opportunities for work outside of teaching. I don't want to leave teaching - and I finally received a permanent contract two years ago - but I am scared at the way the education system has turned and feel frustrated that the government is not listening to us. Frustrated and helpless.

The province is low on money - ok, I get that. Teachers have brainstormed many logical ideas that could help with low to zero cost. An attendance policy. A system that promotes accountability on the students' end. There are very little consequences for students passing in late assignments - students are savvy. They know this and use this. What does that teach them about the real world? It would be a start if Premier MacNeil at least addressed these issues. I'm on my maternity leave right now, and I'm anxious about the thought of what the education system will be like when my daughter is ready for school. We need to challenge our kids, our students, to be the best they can be, and we need to stop diluting the system so that everything is an easy pass, an easy grade, an easy win. Life isn't like that.

I woke up this morning and my two thoughts were: I live in Canada. This is 2017. How can it be that our premier, an elected official, is ignoring democracy to steam roll measures and conditions in. Furthermore, he is forcing a meeting during the worst blizzard of the year, preventing citizens from being able to attend the meeting and speak their opinions. Some are passionate and outraged enough to risk their lives and go anyway.

I am not risking my life to travel from Cape Breton during the storm, but I hope this letter will be read. I hope that the government will seek more democratic methods of working with teachers. We want to do our jobs and be good at it. We want what is best for the students. We are not your enemy. Please work with us.

Sincerely,
Amy (MacDonald) Dubois