



Speaking Notes for Member Calls to MLAs

Concerning Bill No. 148

The following is a script that can be used as a guide when speaking to MLAs about Bill No. 148. Members should not feel they must use it in its entirety; but rather, to highlight points that are deemed to be important to the conversation.

Good Morning / Afternoon, MLA / Minister _____,

My name is _____. I am a member of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union and a constituent in the riding of _____.

I am calling to voice my opposition to Bill No. 148, which I feel impacts dramatically and negatively on the collective bargaining rights of all workers in Nova Scotia. Bill No. 148 interferes with free collective bargaining and is contrary to fundamental Canadian values. As well, it disrespects teachers by imposing a tentative agreement that was rejected.

As an educator, I strive every day to help my students realize that they have a voice and how it is important to use their voice in a responsible and constructive way to ensure that Nova Scotia is a good place to live and grow. Bill No. 148 silences teachers' voices, especially those early in their careers, the very people we want to stay in our province in order for it to prosper. Bill No. 148 is not democratic, not respectful and is certainly does not represent free collective bargaining, which is a right that workers in this province have fought for historically through struggle, protest and sacrifice.

I accept and understand that the public finances are very tight and that will impact on wage increases. I know however; that as an NSTU member, all Nova Scotians will be better off if we function in a system of fair collective bargaining. Teachers are responsible citizens and we want to make Nova Scotia a better place to live, work and raise a family. I am simply asking for fairness and your respect.

The reason many of us voted against the contract was that we felt unfairly pressured with the threat of legislation. We are now looking at legislation that dictates our wages and cuts our service awards. As a Nova Scotian, who lives in your constituency and works very hard to educate its children, I will do my part to help our province. I do not

accept being treated disrespectfully by the very government Nova Scotians have entrusted to run our province.

I would like to remind you that in May 2013, Premier McNeil, then in Opposition, addressed an open letter to Nova Scotia Union Members. It stated that the Liberal Caucus believes in the collective bargaining process, the right to strike and protecting both unionized and non-unionized workers' rights. Premier McNeil has refuted his beliefs in the signed letter with his government's introduction of Bill No. 148.

I think Bill No. 148 is incredibly unfair and short sighted. It is an attack on basic rights and freedoms. I hope you will speak on my behalf, as my duly elected Member of the Legislature to express my concerns and do what is right for all Nova Scotians by voting down or repealing Bill No. 148.

Thank you very much. I wish you a good day / evening.