



Department of Education and Early Childhood Development  
4th Floor, Brunswick Place  
2021 Brunswick Street  
P.O. Box 578  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 2S9

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Minister Karen Casey,

On behalf of the King's Students' Union, I write today in support of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union who have been in contract negotiations with the Nova Scotia Liberal government. The King's Students' Union stands in solidarity with the Teachers Union, supports their right to obtain a fair contract and echoes their call to invest in the public education system.

We write to express our dissatisfaction in the Liberal government's approach to collective bargaining, which has shown complete disregard for all those involved. Further, by choosing to close schools on December 5th, you left families scrambling last minute to find childcare and alternative arrangements. That decision disproportionately impacted families from marginalized backgrounds and low-income families who had to skip work or take sick days because they lack childcare access. We condemn the government's false concerns over "student safety" as a reason to lockout students from their schools.

Our students' union believes that education is a right and recognizes the importance of fully funded, quality, public education in this province. We have members who are graduates of the Nova Scotia public school system who saw the decline in resources and education quality during their time in school. The decisions of your government also impact our graduates, who are parents and teachers, and lack of investment in public education will go on to affect our students who hope one day to become teachers in this province. We urge the Nova Scotia Liberals not to legislate teachers back to work. Instead we call on you to you return to the bargaining table and support the NSTU in their call for fair wages, better teaching conditions and an investment in the public education system.

Sincerely,

Aidan McNally  
President, King's Students' Union

cc. Nova Scotia Teachers Union  
cc. The Honorable Kelly Regan, Minister of Labour and Advanced Education