



Nova Scotia Teachers Union

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MEMORANDUM

TO: NSTU Members

FROM: Staff

DATE: February 14, 2017

RE: **An Act Respecting a Teachers' Professional Agreement and Classroom Improvements**

Today, the Nova Scotia Government provided a bill briefing on *An Act Respecting a Teachers' Professional Agreement and Classroom Improvements*. This Act, if passed as introduced, will impose a collective agreement on the members of the NSTU's public school bargaining unit.

The proposed *Act Respecting a Teachers' Professional Agreement and Classroom Improvements* is complex and requires further study to determine its full impact on public school members of the NSTU. While the proposed Act contains elements from tentative agreements rejected by the public school bargaining unit of the NSTU, there are also noticeable omissions. A detailed analysis of the proposed Act will be forwarded to NSTU public school members as soon as possible.

This Bill will be introduced this evening. It is our understanding that the House will sit at 12:01 AM on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 so that the Bill may receive second reading. It is our expectation that the Bill will be referred to the Law Amendments Committee as early as Wednesday afternoon.

For a bill to become law, it must pass through the following stages:

- First Reading
 - Will occur on Tuesday, February 14, 2017
- Second Reading
 - Must occur on a "future day" from First Reading
 - Will begin at 12:01 AM on Wednesday, February 15, 2017

- Law Amendments Committee
 - Begins the bill passes Second Reading
 - Allows for public input into the bill
 - Followed by the Committee reporting back to the House
- Committee of the Whole House on Bills
 - Maximum of 20 hours of debate allowed in Committee of the Whole House on Bills
- Third Reading
 - Must occur no earlier than the day after Committee of the Whole House on Bills unless there is consent.
- Royal Assent

Anyone can request to appear before the Law Amendments Committee to provide input to the Committee. **The NSTU strongly encourages all members who are available to request to appear before the Law Amendments Committee.** Members are also encouraged to share this memo with retired teachers. Please note that photo-identification is required to enter Province House. Requests to appear are made through the Legislative Counsel Office. This office can be contacted by phone at:

(902) 424-8941

Any members of the NSTU wishing to appear before the Law Amendments Committee can only do so outside of the school/work day and should advise the Legislative Counsel Office that they are appearing as an individual. Anyone, who is unable to make a personal appearance, may also make a written submission by email to the Legislative Counsel office. The Legislative Counsel's email address is:

Legc.office@novascotia.ca

This Bill is a gross interference with free collective bargaining, is contrary to fundamental Canadian values, and effectively removes the right to strike from members of the NSTU's Public School Bargaining Unit.