

Nova Scotia Teachers Union

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

DR. TOM PARKER BUILDING

June 16, 2022

Honourable Tim Houston
Premier, Nova Scotia
One Government Place,
1713 Barrington St
Halifax, NS B3J 2A4

Dear Premier Houston,

On June 13, 2022, the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, through the decision of Justice John Keith, found that Bill 75, the “Teachers Professional Agreement and Classroom Improvements (2017) Act” violated section 2(d) of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, was unconstitutional and of no force or effect.

Justice Keith made various references in his decision describing the Bill as punitive and vengeful. I fully understand that Bill 75 was a result of a lack of good faith bargaining by the previous government, and very much appreciated your opposition to the Bill at the time when it was presented in the Legislature. The direct impact of Justice Keith’s decision is that teachers were without a current collective agreement from 2017 to 2020 and denied the opportunity to conclude bargaining in a good faith manner with the government of the day. This wrong will need to be corrected.

While Justice Keith did not prescribe a remedy to this situation, it would appear clear that the expectation now rests upon us to make things right. I believe this decision provides us with a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate to the teachers of Nova Scotia the respect your government has for them and your commitment to improve the public educational system by focused attention on the needs of those delivering high quality educational services. This has become even more urgent as Nova Scotia is experiencing a looming teacher recruitment crisis. As such, I would like to request a meeting with you and your officials at the earliest opportunity to discuss how we remedy the unconstitutional actions of the previous government.

Sincerely,



Paul Wozney (he/him),
President, Nova Scotia Teachers Union
president@nstu.ca