



December 5, 2016

Honourable Karen Lynn Casey
Minister Education & Early Childhood Development
30 Duke Street, Suite 10
Truro, Nova Scotia B2N 2A1

Dear Honourable Karen Lynn Casey:

On behalf of Ontario's 45,000 Catholic teachers, I am writing to express my dismay at your government's recent attempts to subvert collective bargaining with the Nova Scotia Teachers' Union.

Your communication to teachers, which was meant to cast doubt on the legality of their work-to-rule job action, followed by your government's decision to close schools to students and introduce legislation that would impose a new contract, indicate a shocking disregard for teachers, the public, and the collective bargaining process.

As you well know, the work-to-rule job action that teachers planned to undertake is entirely legal. Furthermore, although they were only required to give 48 hours' notice, the teachers announced their intentions a full week in advance, so that students, parents, and the government could prepare. It is your government that has chosen to lock students out of your schools, putting Nova Scotia's families in the difficult position of having to hastily arrange adequate care. In this light, it appears incredibly disingenuous and hypocritical for you to accuse teachers of putting student safety and well-being at risk.

Nova Scotia's teachers are trained professionals who have dedicated their lives to the betterment of students and your province. The concerns they have raised deserve to be fairly heard at the bargaining table. Instead, your government has launched costly public relations campaigns seeking to undermine teachers and their union, and your recent actions indicate that you are no longer willing to bargain in good faith. This is unacceptable. For the good of all involved, I urge your government to reconsider your position, re-open your schools, and recommit to negotiating a fair deal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann Hawkins".

Ann Hawkins
President, OECTA

c. /Liette Doucet, President, Nova Scotia Teachers Union
Joan Ling, Executive Director, Nova Scotia Teachers Union

AH/psn