



**Health and Wellness
Office of the Minister**

PO Box 488, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2R8 • Telephone 902 424-3377 Fax 902 424-0559 • www.gov.ns.ca

September 30, 2014

Mr. Rick Clarke, President, Nova Scotia Federation of Labour
Ms. Joan Jessome, President, NSGEU
Mr. Janet Hazelton, President, NSNU
Mr. Danny Cavanagh, President, CUPE Atlantic
Ms. Lana Payne, President, UNIFOR

Dear Mr. Clarke, Ms. Jessome, Ms. Hazelton, Mr. Cavanagh, Ms. Payne:

I am writing in response to your letter of today regarding Bill 1. This letter will serve to clarify my comments on the legislation that was introduced last night.

As you are aware, I met with the unions in December and again in June. Departmental staff met with the unions throughout the summer. I have previously outlined our reservations in regard to the Bargaining Association, and those reservations are as relevant today as when I first expressed them.

That said, we have introduced the bill now, and it lays out a process for mediation in another effort to find a negotiated resolution to the structural issues that currently exist. All parties are free to bring forward proposals for discussion and consideration in mediation. I remain hopeful that the mediator will be successful in helping the parties to find creative solutions.

As Minister, I will not be a party at that table. It's not my suggestions that are important. The ones that matter are the unions' and the employers'.

I will not be in a position to meet with you to discuss further at this time.

Sincerely,

Leo Glavine

Minister of Health and Wellness