

CHARTER RIGHTS ARE FOR EVERYONE

Open letter to the people of Ontario

Teachers, education workers, support staff, and education professionals work with students every day to prepare them to be active participants in our democratic society. We teach children to be respectful and we work to ensure that each one reaches his or her potential, understanding what it means to be a good citizen.

In September, the Ontario Liberal government, supported by the Progressive Conservative Party, passed Bill 115. This legislation is an unprecedented attack on free collective bargaining rights. Collective bargaining gives employees a voice in determining their wages and working conditions, and has, historically, set the stage for the benefits we all now enjoy, such as health care and CPP.

Bill 115 undermines the guarantees made to all Canadians under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. And even though it affects the education sector today, it sets a dangerous precedent for all Ontarians in the future. In fact, the government is already threatening other public sector workers.

Those of us who have signed this letter understand that the most important lesson we can teach our children is that standing up for what is right is important; defending our democratic rights is critical. We the undersigned are opposed to this legislation and any that denies people their fundamental rights.

Sam Hammond, President, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario

Fred Hahn, President, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Ontario

Warren (Smokey) Thomas, President, Ontario Public Services Employees' Union

Ken Coran, President, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation

ACTRA National

Constance Adamson, President, Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations

Gilles Arsenault, President, Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation

Chris Aylward, National Executive Vice-President, Public Service Alliance of Canada

Judy Bates, Geography Dept., Sir Wilfrid Laurier University

Robyn Benson, President, Public Service Alliance of Canada

Suzanne Bourgeois, President, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick

Ed Broadbent, Founder, Broadbent Institute

Brian E. Brown, President, University of Windsor Faculty Association

John Cartwright, President, Toronto & York Region Labour Council

James Clancy, President, National Union of Public and General Employees

Lily Cole, President, Newfoundland & Labrador Teachers' Association

James Compton, Faculty of Information & Media Studies, Western University

Sharon de Sousa, Regional Executive Vice-President, Public Service Alliance of Canada

Nathalie Des Rosiers, Canadian Civil Liberties Association

Johanne Drolet, Canadian Association of Labour Lawyers

Wayne Fraser, President, United Steelworkers, District 6

Ken Georgetti, President, Canadian Labour Congress

Richard Goldfinch, President, Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers

Alan Hall, Labour Studies Dept., University of Windsor

Linda Haslam-Stroud, President, Ontario Nurses' Association

Carol Henderson, President, Alberta Teachers' Association

Todd Horton, Schulich School of Education, Nipissing University

Leslie Jermyn, Anthropology Dept., York University

Colin Keess, President, Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation

Sarah Jayne King, Ontario Chairperson, Canadian Federation of Students

Naomi Klein, Author

Glenna Knutson, President, Lakehead University Faculty Association

Kirsten Kozolanka, School of Journalism & Communication, Carleton University

Susan Lambert, President, British Columbia Teachers' Federation

Robin Langill, President, Nunavut Teachers' Association

Kate Lawson, English Dept. University of Waterloo

Ken Lewenza, President, Canadian Auto Workers

Hugh Mackenzie, Economist

Katherine Mackwood, President, Yukon Teachers' Association

Mark McKinnon, President, Ontario Professional Firefighters Association

Linda McQuaig, Author

Natalie Mehra, Executive Director, Ontario Health Coalition

Gayla Meredith, President, Northwest Territories Teachers' Association

Shelley Morse, President, Nova Scotia Teachers Union

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Sheila Olan-MacLean, Chair, Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care

Paul Olson, President, Manitoba Teachers' Society

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Rodney Sheppard, President, Society of Energy Professionals

Myer Siemiatycki, Jack Layton Chair, Ryerson University

Heather Smith, President, New Brunswick Teachers' Association

Penni Stewart, Sociology Dept., York University

Sharleen Stewart, President, Service Employees International Union

Paul Taillefer, President, Canadian Teachers' Federation

James L. Turk, Executive Director, Canadian Association of University Teachers

Joel Westheimer, Faculty of Education, University of Ottawa

Sue Wurtele, Geography Dept., Trent University

Paul G. Young, Biology Dept., Queen's University

JOIN US.

TELL THE GOVERNMENT TO REPEAL BILL 115.

To download the petition to repeal Bill 115 go to: tiny.cc/RepealBill115

