



August 3, 2015

The Honourable Stephen McNeil
Premier of Nova Scotia
Office of the Premier
7th Floor, One Government Place
1700 Granville Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 1X5
CANADA

Dear Premier McNeil,

We are writing in support of our colleagues at the Canadian Anthropology Society/Société Canadienne d'Anthropologie (CASCA) in their request that the Provincial Government repeal Bill 100 or prepare implementing regulations that address serious concerns raised about the legislation's impact on collective bargaining rights, threats to academic freedom, and university governance.

The American Anthropological Association, whose 10,000 members include more than 500 anthropologists living in Canada, recognizes the vital role of universities in society. Indeed, university-based teaching, learning, and research have never been more relevant for achieving a more just and sustainable society. And in particular, because of the work of anthropologists, heritage and languages are preserved, school systems are improved, lives are saved through public health interventions, environmental resources are managed more effectively, and a culture of innovation is better understood.

These important contributions are only possible when professors and students are able to pursue open-ended inquiry, held accountable for rigorous consideration of ideas through the self-correcting mechanisms of scholarly exchange, peer review, and the like. We stand with our CASCA colleagues in supporting the strongest and most enduring possible institutions of higher learning in your province and across North America. We also support CASCA's view that modifications are needed in Bill 100 to protect the collective bargaining rights of university faculty and staff, eliminate the legislation's threats to academic freedom, and to university governance.

Thank you for your consideration.

AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Monica Heller, President

cc: Dr. Michel Bouchard