

Nova Scotia Bill 100, the *Universities Accountability and Sustainability Act*, was introduced in the Nova Scotia Legislature on April 22nd, 2015, and given Royal Assent on May 11th, 2015. This legislation permits universities to produce a “revitalization plan” to qualify for funding from the Province, in situations where they declare as little as a one-year operating deficit. CAUT has stated that if adopted, this legislation would “violate constitutional rights, undermine the independence of universities and compromise academic freedom.”

- The “revitalization plan” would give the Minister the power to attach conditions to university grants that will override job security protections and impose government priorities for teaching and research, including “turning research into business opportunities.”
- Academic Autonomy, Integrity, and Freedom would be radically undermined by such actions
- University Boards and Administrations under such a plan would have unilateral powers (including presumably over Senates) to override the rights of faculty and impose changes in working conditions.
- The legislation could also prevent faculty from exercising their academic freedom, especially if they oppose or criticize administration or government actions.
- It suspends the right of unions to enforce aspects of their collective agreement that relate in any way to the “revitalization plan.”
- It suspends the right of faculty and staff to strike in any university with a “revitalization plan”. This section of the Act could be unconstitutional, given a recent Supreme Court decision confirming that the right to strike is constitutionally protected.
- It establishes punitive fines of between \$1,000 and \$100,000 for individuals and unions contravening the Act