

Subject: Bill 100 (31894)

Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2015 at 4:29:11 AM Pacific Daylight Time

From: Minister, Labour and Advanced Education

To: Michel Bouchard

CC: Premier

September 2, 2015

Dr. Michel Bouchard, PhD.
Professor and Chair
Department of Anthropology
University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC)

Dear Dr. Bouchard:

Thank you for your recent correspondence to Premier Stephen McNeil, regarding Bill 100, the *Universities Accountability and Sustainability Act*. As I am the Minister of Labour and Advanced Education, the Premier has forwarded your correspondence to me for a response.

Since introducing Bill 100 in the spring of 2015, I have heard from many stakeholders on the topics of accountability and sustainability of Nova Scotia universities. With ten universities in a province of fewer than one million people, Nova Scotians are concerned with how best to maintain and strengthen the quality education experience that our universities are known to provide. We need to ensure that our universities continue to rein in costs and manage budget shortfalls while delivering the quality education that students and their families have come to expect.

The intent of Bill 100 is to ensure that Nova Scotia's universities develop sustainable models that will ensure their long term health. To that end, through legislation, we are requiring universities to submit annual financial reports and projections. We are working with the universities now to develop a common reporting template that will serve as an "early warning system" and trigger serious conversations, if needed, well before a university is in critical financial trouble. We are also providing any university in serious trouble with an opportunity to re-group and to work with its stakeholders to chart a more sustainable course through the revitalization process outlined in Bill 100. The intent behind the revitalization process is to provide a structured environment for a university to consider its options and to develop a plan that will enable continued, long term, operation.

The Government of Nova Scotia values the many contributions of our ten universities. The universities contribute significantly to the economic, cultural and social prosperity of the province. It is my hope that the new legislation will provide universities with the support needed to develop and implement sustainable practices that will be of benefit to all stakeholders.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with me.

Sincerely,

Honourable Kelly Regan
Minister of Labour and Advanced Education

c. Honourable Stephen McNeil, M.L.A. (073115101)

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