



Federation of  
Post-Secondary Educators  
of BC

November 4, 2011

Hon. Naomi Yamamoto  
Minister of Advanced Education  
PO Box 9056, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2  
naomi.yamamoto.mla@leg.bc.ca

**VIA EMAIL**

Dear Minister Yamamoto:

I am writing to express our Federation's opposition to provisions in Bill 18, the Advanced Education Statutes Amendment Act. Under this legislation, anyone who is involved as a member of a local faculty association executive would not be eligible to also stand for election as the Faculty Representative on their institution's Board of Governors. This proposed legislation is offensive and effectively undermines our right as faculty not only to participate in the governance of our institutions, but also participate in the governance of our local faculty association.

Given all the problems that exist in the post-secondary education sector, it's baffling, to say the least, that your government would choose to make these amendments a legislative priority. In excluding faculty representatives from standing for election to the Board of Governors, your legislation also raises serious questions about restrictions on our freedom of association rights under the Charter, rights that the Supreme Court of Canada has already criticized your government for ignoring.

I am also deeply frustrated that when we met with you on October 26th to talk about challenges facing your Ministry and your vision for the Ministry in the years ahead, you gave no indication that this legislation was pending. Regardless of your partisan views, I would have expected, on a professional level, that you or your Deputy would have shown some measure of respect by at least indicating your intentions to move ahead with amendments that would impact collegial governance. The fact that you choose not to disclose that information is a disquieting comment on how you approach your portfolio, an approach that is out of step with what citizens across this province look to government to adopt.

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Given the urgency of this matter and the time remaining in the Fall Legislative session, we need to schedule a meeting with you as soon as possible to discuss the implications of your proposed amendments. Please have your officials contact my office with dates and times when that meeting can take place.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Cindy Oliver', written over a horizontal line.

Cindy Oliver  
President