



Prof. Scott Stewart  
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Montreal, March 18, 2025

**Objet :** FQPPU's Support for ANSUT in Opposing Bill 12

Prof. Stewart,

On behalf of the Fédération québécoise des professeures et professeurs d'université (FQPPU), we express our strong support for the Association of Nova Scotia University Teachers (ANSUT) in its opposition to Bill 12. This legislation constitutes an unacceptable political interference in university governance. It poses a threat to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, institutional autonomy, and shared governance, which are essential for a thriving and independent higher education system.

Universities are the cornerstone of democratic societies, promoting critical inquiry, independent research, and the free exchange of ideas. However, Bill 12, as it is currently proposed, threatens these principles by allowing excessive government control over university boards. This enables political interests to dictate the operations and strategic decisions of post-secondary institutions. Such an approach fundamentally contradicts the established norms of governance that protect academic integrity and excellence.

The experiences of higher education institutions in Canada and around the world have shown that political interference undermines universities rather than strengthening them. When decision-making is controlled by the government instead of relying on the expertise of academic leaders and faculty representatives, the quality of education, research, and public trust in universities decline. Additionally, proposals like those in Bill 12 harm faculty morale and weaken universities' ability to attract and retain top scholars and students.



FQPPU stands in solidarity with ANSUT in its defense of the principles that enable universities to fulfill their essential role in society. We urge the Nova Scotia government to reconsider Bill 12 and to engage in meaningful dialogue with faculty associations, students, and university leaders to find solutions that do not compromise academic independence. The best way forward is to respect the fundamental values of higher education while addressing concerns through collaboration rather than coercion.

We commend ANSUT for its unwavering advocacy and remain dedicated to supporting our colleagues in Nova Scotia in this crucial fight. Please feel free to reach out if we can provide any further assistance in this matter.

In solidarity,

Madeleine Pastinelli  
*Présidente de la FQPPU*