

December 23, 2010

Regan: Education Review More Political Cover For NDP



(Halifax, NS) Liberal education critic [Kelly Regan](#) says the NDP's announcement of a two month review of the education system is the latest in a long line of disingenuous and politically-driven consultation by the Dexter government.

"Two months is not a substantial amount of time to properly review this province's education system in a meaningful way with meaningful consultation," explains Regan. "[The NDP has already made it clear it intends on slashing 22 per cent from the education budget](#). Given the short timeline, today's announcement is nothing more than political cover for a government that is determined to gut classroom resources."

Regan says it's imperative that Nova Scotians get a detailed look at the terms of reference for Dr. Ben Levin, the consultant hired to conduct the review. Since taking power, the NDP has trotted out consultant after consultant tasked with providing the government distance from unpopular decisions.

"We've seen this script before," Regan states. "First it was the Economic Panel and the HST increase, then Dr. Ross and ER closures, Dr. O'Neill and tuition hikes and now it appears it's education's turn. In fact, Dr. Levin admits in his book 'Governing Education', that sometimes governments use consultation to provide cover for predetermined decisions."

Regan points out that Premier Dexter himself has already declared during a recent Question Period that his goal for Nova Scotia's education system is to balance the books.

"With this review's quick timeline and this government's intention to make massive cuts to education, it's no wonder Nova Scotia's parents, students and educators are worried," says Regan. "Burying this announcement two days before Christmas is just another political ploy by the NDP and only adds to the anxiety around our education system."

