

Education will suffer

No doubt the B.C. government hopes to realize, through the introduction of Bill 28, which deals with class sizes from kindergarten through college, immediate cost reductions for the province's taxpayers. This is laudable.

However, it is predicted in the 10-year economic plan for New Brunswick that in less than five years more than 80 per cent of all new jobs created worldwide will require at least two years of post-secondary education or training. Furthermore, this forecast reflects almost exactly the findings of an in-depth study of the correlation of education level and employability, "At The Doorstep of The 21st Century", published in 1998 by Human Resources Development Canada.

It must be emphasized that these statistics are of universal application, and were independently determined by governments and not by organizations motivated by self-interest.

Surely it is not in the best economic interests of any province to put itself in a position where, while four-fifths of its population face imminent demand for higher levels of education to be employable, it is discouraging faculty from working there by renegeing on its collective agreements. This is particularly so when there is a growing faculty shortage – more than half will retire during the next decade.

Therefore, as a concerned outsider troubled by its harmful potential, I respectfully suggest that the B.C. government would be wise to abandon Bill 28 immediately.

Sincerely,
Claude Dionne
President
Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations