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January 31, 2020

Minister Zach Churchill
Department of Education and
Early Childhood Development
2021 Brunswick Street
Halifax NS B3J 2S9

Minister Churchill:

You owe all Stock employees who provide bussing to students of the Halifax Regional Centre of Education an apology for your irresponsible and thoughtless comments in today's Chronicle Herald.

Since your sudden announcement to terminate the Stock contract, employees at Stock have continued to provide this important services to families and students even though they had no assurances they would still have a job as of September 2020 or who the employer might be at that time. Members have not been adequately kept up to date on their own future employment. They were anxiously awaiting an update today, January 31, 2020, as part of a briefing they were invited to attend. This meeting was cancelled without explanation yesterday. This caused heightened stress and uncertainty to already anxious workforce. They deserve better.

To make matters worse, NSGEU members awoke to media reports of you telling Nova Scotians that there are three companies, including Stock, competing for the contract. Mr. Churchill, my members have been walking on egg shells since your June announcement. They are rightly concerned about their future and none of us are receiving any information on what the future may hold for them - nothing. Talking about this in the way you did without any briefing to stakeholders, employees or their representatives, is completely irresponsible. Sadly, this is exactly what Nova Scotians have come to expect from your government regardless of the issue – no consultation until a decision is already made and a complete lack of consideration for the people working to provide a necessary service.

I am hopeful that you are able to take my letter very seriously. I am more than willing to meet with you to discuss the affect your words are having on my members who currently work for Stock Transportation. My members deserve more respect from you as Minister than to have their lives shaken by reading the newspaper instead of proper communication on your part.

Yours truly,



Jason MacLean
President

JM/lb

- c. Minister Mark Furey, Minister of Labour Relations – JUSTMIN@novascotia.ca
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