

MOTION

No. 101

Calling on government to end the culture of silence in the PEI public sector

Peter Bevan-Baker gives notice that he will move, seconded by Hannah Bell, the following motion:

WHEREAS healthcare and school staff are among the most critical frontline workers on PEI;

AND WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed cracks in both the healthcare, long term care and school systems on PEI which must be addressed;

AND WHEREAS the pandemic provides an opportunity to improve these systems for the wellbeing of our children, our seniors and all Islanders;

AND WHEREAS the Official Opposition have received a number of emails from nursing staff, teaching staff and paramedics who disguised their identity for fear of reprimand;

AND WHEREAS frontline experts should be allowed and encouraged to speak out when conditions are unsafe or toxic;

AND WHEREAS it is apparent, from emails and videos where identities are disguised, and from listening to our frontline workers, that speaking out often results in reprimand;

AND WHEREAS Government has tools it can use to end this culture;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge Government to work towards ending the culture of silence in the PEI public sector;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge Government to launch, following consultation with the relevant unions, a comprehensive education campaign to inform civil servants of their legal rights and protections, including as they relate to communications by civil servants that disclose wrongdoing, poor working conditions, and other work-related concerns;

AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge Government to provide public sector workers safe pathways to raise their concerns, including and particularly where no legal rights and protections exist.

Signed by: Peter Bevan-Baker

Signed by: Hannah Bell

Date: March 10, 2022