



ISSUE ALERT #8

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BCTF Year of Action

April – Class Size and Composition

Since the stripping of all class size and composition language from our Collective Agreement in 2001, Vancouver Secondary Teachers have experienced some of the highest numbers of oversize class sizes in the province.

The rules have changed over the decade to mask the issue but increased workload and the complexity of our students' needs have been the reality. Rather than compare numbers based on shifting regulations (first Bill 33 with its yearly changes, now Bill 22 with its exclusion of particular classes) if we look through the lens of what was in place prior to the contract stripping, the picture is clear. Thousands of classes each year in our secondary schools are too large to meet the needs of students.

While the infusion of LIF funds this past year moderated the numbers slightly, the cumulative impact over the past 12 years remains. Teachers struggle to support students in the most caring and professional manner possible as budgets are cut, learning resources are limited and the district once again faces lay-offs.

It is time to return Class Size and Composition to the bargaining table and have this language once again part of our working conditions as laid out in the Collective Agreement.

Vancouver Secondary Schools 2011-2013 Classes That Exceed Article 9 Language Removed in 2002

School	2011-12	2012-13
Britannia	77	77
Lord Byng	185	207
Churchill	223	181
Gladstone	201	194
Hamber	183	212
John Oliver	179	139
Killarney	286	256
King George	73	60
Kitsilano	218	161
Magee	160	146
Point Grey	155	117
Prince of Wales	191	128
Templeton	136	97
Thompson	308	299
Tupper	150	119
U. Hill	57	52
V.L.N.	TBA	TBA
Van Tech	243	149
Windermere	171	190
TOTAL	3196	2804

Supreme Court Challenge

In April 2011 the BCTF was successful in challenging Bills 27 and 28. Madam Justice Griffin ruled that the stripping of our Collective Agreement and our restriction from bargaining class size and composition were illegal. Despite waiting for two years (and enduring the imposition of Bill 22 last spring) we continue to seek remedy for the loss of thousands of teachers across the province and a decade of deteriorating working and learning conditions in our classrooms. The BCTF will be back in court before Justice Griffin later this fall.