



# ISSUE ALERT #9

June 5, 2013

Government has re-introduced the proposal for a 10 year agreement with teachers. It has the potential to disrupt the current round of negotiations and lead to greater instability in the system as opposed to the professed “labour peace” espoused by Premier Christy Clark.

The Proposal	Analysis
<p><b>Creation of a Priority Education Investment Fund (PEIF)</b> A spending envelope would be identified each year to address education priorities but would be consistent with the government’s fiscal plan, and perhaps tied to the economic performance of the province and education enrollment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No guaranteed levels of funding</li> <li>• Proposal for the first 3 year PEIF is for \$0, \$0 and \$100 million</li> <li>• Not much more than a LIF-like proposal that will not begin to address chronic underfunding of public education</li> </ul>
<p><b>Establishment of an Education Policy Council (EPC)</b> The Education Policy Council would be established to allow teachers, along with other stakeholder groups, to advise government on the allocation of monies and make recommendation on education policy matters.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers would <i>relinquish the right</i> to have class size, class composition and staffing ratios for non-enrolling teachers embedded in their collective agreement</li> <li>• It ignores the Supreme Court ruling that upheld teachers right to bargain CS and CC and teacher ratios and ignores Bill 22 which allowed for these issues to be negotiated in the current round of bargaining.</li> <li>• Teachers would be one voice amongst many at a policy table. Past experience with the government Round Table does not inspire confidence.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Compensation</b> The plan would remove the right to negotiate our own salary and benefits package. Salaries and benefits would be tied to an index of other major public sector labour groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers would <i>relinquish the right</i> to bargain salary and benefits. Salary and benefits would be left entirely in the hands of government.</li> <li>• Indexing would be based on negotiated (or imposed) increases of a select group of <i>other</i> government employees.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Collective Bargaining</b> The collective agreement would have a term of 10 years. A structured set of rules are proposed that would require agreement by June 30th with a very limited set of options for resolution.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freezes collective agreements—no bargaining for 10 years—no ability to address benefits, prep time or respond to emergent issues for a decade</li> <li>• Interferes with our fundamental right to strike by redefining what is in the Labour Code and unilaterally shifting the playing field in negotiations</li> <li>• Strike notice can only be issued August 31 and would allow for full strike only, no low-level job action</li> <li>• Another example of legislative interference in free collective bargaining</li> </ul>

To access the full white paper and other related documents, go the BCTF members only portal and access the second star “★ Bargaining 2013 documents” on the “a Fair Deal for teachers” page.