



School Team Bulletin

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CUPE UPDATE

CUPE is currently involved in Provincial-level bargaining for their members in the education sector. It has been more than four years since these members have received a wage increase and virtually all of the 57 CUPE Locals representing over 27,000 education workers have had positive strike votes. Bargaining continues with the government appointed representative and the CUPE bargaining team is working hard to avoiding a disruption in classes this fall.

For the latest update attend the VTF General Meeting on Thursday, September 12, 2013, where Jim Iker will provide a report.

At the recent special BCTF Special Summer Representative Assembly in Kamloops, delegates from around the province carried the following motions without dissent:

- “That the Federation call upon the provincial government to negotiate in good faith with CUPE and to fully fund any negotiated settlement.”
- “That the Federation express solidarity with CUPE and support for its efforts to conclude a negotiated collective agreement.”

VANCOUVER TEACHERS’ FEDERATION

GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, September 12th
Tupper Auditorium • 4:00 pm

The following issues will be addressed at this meeting:

- **Bargaining Update**
 - Provincial Bargaining – Jim Iker, BCTF
 - Local Bargaining – Jody Polukoshko, VTF
- **CUPE Update** – Jim Iker, BCTF

Critical background:

2005 CUPE stood with us

CUPE members stood beside teachers on our picket lines during our two-week illegal strike in 2005. They formed a major component of the broad public support the BCTF received at that time. CUPE has consistently honoured our actions in the past and have often led the charge in support of teachers and education issues at the BC Federation of Labour.

2012 Why CUPE members were required to report to work

Our three-day withdrawal in 2012 was an escalation from our Phase 1 strike. With the essential services order in place and the impending imposition of Bill 22, the BCTF applied to the Labour Relations Board which issued an interim essential services order on February 28, 2012, approving a three-day BCTF withdrawal of services that included restrictions on picketing. The order specifically required that

“during any job action, BCTF members will not picket, block access or egress or otherwise restrict or cause to be restricted in any way, the full and complete access to schools by members of all support unions or impede the operation of other employers who occupy the same premises as schools or school districts.”

It is this order that teachers worked under during our three days of “stickets” in March, 2012 and that CUPE members honoured by continuing to report to work. CUPE would rather have seen us put up picket lines so that they could stand beside us, but the LRB order prevented that.