

Please disseminate the following information to teachers.

Bargaining Update

In a letter dated April 30th, BCPSEA served notice to the BCTF that the employer intends to force the Federation to pay the cost of benefit premiums for the month of June. In the same letter, the employer threatened to lock out all teachers on June 27th (the year-end administrative day) if a deal is not reached by then. The full text of the BCPSEA letter and additional information is available on the BCTF website through the Members' Portal under Bargaining.

The BCTF's position is that this is contrary to the Labour Relations Board Essential Services Order that we are currently subject to. Our advice is to exercise patience while we await further information on the implications of the letter. The parties met at the bargaining table on April 29th and 30th and have dates to meet in May.



JOB ACTION



Field Trips

Although field trips can continue during Stage 1 of our current job action, members must be aware that should we escalate to Stage 2, participation in those trips will be problematic and may result in financial loss in addition to supervision and transportation issues.

Teachers are advised:

- to not plan any new field trips
- to consider cancelling any planned trips unless they are able to cancel or reschedule the trip on very short notice.

In addition, should the trip fall on a rotating strike day, CUPE members will not be able to provide a replacement for teachers.



Freedom of Expression

The Freedom of Expression Protocol Agreement that was signed by BCPSEA and BCTF in October 2013 gives teachers the right to convey political or union messages through:

- wearing buttons, T-shirts
- posting signs

Locals and the BCTF are free to provide buttons, t-shirts, and signs to members with such messages. Teachers may wear and display them in their classrooms and on school grounds without interference or direction from administrative officers. **However, teachers are advised that they should not discuss political or union messaging with students.**



VSB Support Staff Directive Regarding the BCTF Job Action April, 2014

Monday, April 28, 2014

Please be advised that CUPE Local 15 support staff should not be performing any work normally done by teachers. While support staff will attend work as normal during any stage of the BCTF job action, they should only perform their own work during that time (i.e. catch up on outstanding work, do maintenance activities or ongoing clerical work, update files, etc.) or other meaningful work (professional development, team meetings, personal study, etc.). Support staff should not do any work that is not within the parameters of their normal work.

To be clear, CUPE considers supervision of students during a teachers' withdrawal of services to be struck work to be assigned if necessary to administrators and other excluded staff but not to CUPE staff.

CUPE 15 School and Student Support Workers should maintain their regular support duties (ie: supervision of their assigned students and before and after school assigned supervision prior to teachers' job action).

Parent/student satisfaction surveys are also struck work and not to be done by CUPE members.

If you have further questions please contact the union office and leave a message on VSB stewards line.