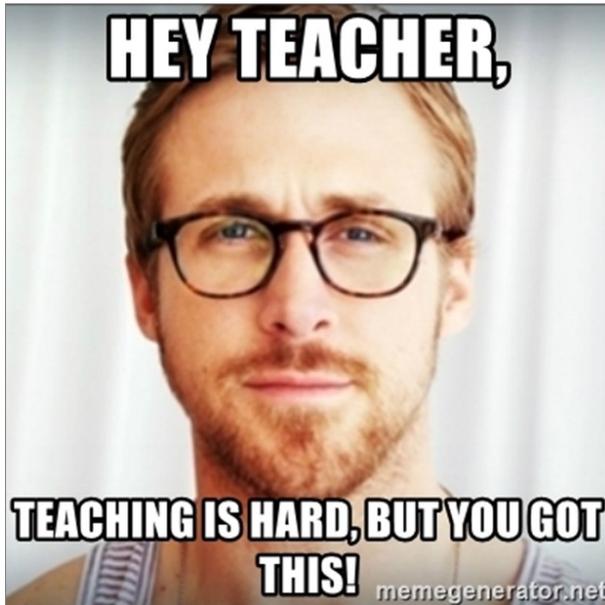




# Bargaining Bulletin #2



MAY 30, 2019

## When bargaining began in

**January**, the BCTF and the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) expressed the desire to arrive at a deal before the expiration of our current Collective Agreement on June 30th.

At this point, that hope is somewhat dimmed as BCPSEA has recently tabled more concessions.

Getting a good deal by June 30<sup>th</sup> requires teachers to turn their mind to bargaining, and seek ways to build pressure at the table.

Getting informed and signing into the BCTF Members' Portal is the first step. The recently tabled E.34 is arguably more egregious than the first group of tabled concessions.

The next step to build pressure at the bargaining table is to reach out to our NDP MLAs and Premier John Horgan.

BCTF has created a weekly or biweekly updated form-email to help build this pressure. Participating in this simple action will direct attention of your NDP MLA or Premier John Horgan to BCPSEA's efforts to bargain away supports restored to students through the Supreme Court of Canada decision. We urge VSTA members to send an email every time we get the notification from the BCTF. This action is simple and only takes a moment.

Minister of Finance Carole James has publicly stated that "no one around the table is looking for concessions," and that negotiators were looking for "positive change for kids" and teachers. We have to ask, what table is Honorable Carole James talking about? There is no question that at our bargaining table, BCPSEA is looking to reduce class-size and remove composition language and to reduce non-enrolling ratios.

We want a signed deal by June 30th, and to achieve this goal we must do the political work now. VSTA is also working with VESTA on a campaign to lobby our NDP MLAs directly. Further, our PAC reps will also be informed and will be asked to relay our concerns to parents regarding the concessions and how these proposals will affect their children's learning conditions.

Getting a good deal for teachers is the goal of our BCTF Bargaining Team. Our team is strong, and they are stronger with our support. Teachers must get informed and take actions to increase the pressure at the table.