

Update on Provincial Discussions Between BCPSEA and CUPE

BCPSEA, along with school district representatives, met with representatives of the CUPE K-12 Presidents' Council Provincial Bargaining Committee (PBC) on Friday, June 10, 2011 to consider the possibility of provincial discussions. The process was intended to be complementary and not a replacement for the current bargaining structure (delegated authority model).

This first meeting was both positive and productive. The parties were able to agree to principles regarding approach and structure which would guide this process (attached). The parties also easily came to consensus regarding the scope of issues to be discussed.

The parties agreed that at our next meeting (July 8, 2011), we would both exchange a complete set of items for discussion. BCPSEA and CUPE agreed to recommend to its members that these items be held in abeyance pending the outcome of the provincial discussions. Over the next few weeks, BCPSEA will do a further review of school district bargaining plans and will put together a draft of the employer items for discussion. This will be provided to school districts for review and feedback.

With respect to the process, the parties agreed that the intent is to come up with an agreement in principle that could then form part of any Memorandum of Settlement at the district level. The process would be similar to the Framework Letter of Understanding from the 2006 round of negotiations.

In addition to the procedural matters, the parties also discussed issues related to the Public Education Benefits Trust and labour market adjustments (LMA). While the parties were not able to reach an agreement on the issue of LMA, the discussions will continue over the next few weeks. We recognize the urgency given the June 30 deadline and will provide more information as soon as we are able to.

We have scheduled the following meeting dates: July 8, August 16 and 17.

We will be scheduling brief conference calls to provide a more complete update and to review the implications for your current support staff negotiations.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact:

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Attachment