

2012-02 February 16, 2012

By E-mail: Two pages

BCPSEA Board Ratifies Support Staff Collective Agreements

Further to the provincial [Framework Agreement](#) achieved by BCPSEA and representatives of K-12 support staff unions in December 2011, the BCPSEA Board of Directors has today ratified collective agreements concluded under the framework through local school district-local support staff union bargaining:

- 19 (Revelstoke) –and– Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)
- 22 (Vernon) –and– CUPE
- 45 (West Vancouver) –and– West Vancouver Municipal Employees' Association
- 46 (Sunshine Coast) –and– CUPE
- 47 (Powell River) –and– CUPE
- 48 (Sea to Sky) –and– CUPE
- 53 (Okanagan Similkameen) –and– CUPE
- 67 (Okanagan Skaha) –and– CUPE
- 74 (Gold Trail) –and– CUPE
- 81 (Fort Nelson) –and– BC Government and Service Employees' Union
- 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap) –and– CUPE.

These collective agreements are the result of collaborative and positive discussions between the parties at both the provincial and local school district levels.

BCPSEA ratification of collective agreements concluded under the framework agreement is in accordance with [BCPSEA policies and procedures](#). After the local parties have ratified the agreement, BCPSEA presents the agreement to the BCPSEA Board of Directors for ratification. BCPSEA will ratify based on adherence to the current net zero compensation mandate.

Background

BCPSEA is the accredited bargaining agent for the province's 60 public boards of education and has adopted collective bargaining practices and procedures unique to the K-12 public education sector. With respect to support staff bargaining, when the BCPSEA constitution and bylaws were drafted, they sought, to the extent possible, to replicate the bargaining structure that had existed prior to the creation of the association. At the time it was generally believed that the existing system of collective bargaining for support staff was functional and effective.

The BCPSEA constitution and bylaws establish a “delegated authority” model for support staff bargaining. The bargaining agent, BCPSEA, delegates its bargaining authority through its bylaws to individual boards or groups of boards. The employers bargain directly with their respective union locals. The reference to groups of boards was designed to permit regional groupings of boards for bargaining purposes (such as the Okanagan Labour Relations Council and the Vancouver Island Labour Relations Council).

The role of BCPSEA under the delegated authority model is to provide assistance to boards of education in concluding collective agreements. This includes providing research, legal advice, coordination and, where requested, becoming involved directly in negotiations or dispute resolution.

Questions

If you have any questions, please contact:

Renzo Del Negro 604 730 4511 renzod@bcpsea.bc.ca
Jacquie Griffiths 604 730 4514 jacquieg@bcpsea.bc.ca

Please direct any media inquiries to:

Deborah Stewart 604 730 4506 deborahs@bcpsea.bc.ca