

Bills 27/28: Government/BCTF Consultation Process



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September 9, 2011

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Government/BCTF Consultation Meeting, September 9, 2011

Representatives of the provincial government and the employers' association held their fifth meeting with representatives of the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) to engage in the consultation arising from the April 2011 BC Supreme Court [decision](#) on the *Education Services Collective Agreement Act* (Bill 27) and the *Public Education Flexibility and Choice Act* (Bill 28).

At today's meeting, the government representatives tabled a framework proposal based on their policy objectives as previously presented to the BCTF. The focus of discussions and the presentation of the framework were made as part of the good faith consultation process and were intended to receive feedback from the BCTF before the approach can be finalized.

The framework proposal is based on the themes identified as being fundamental to this process:

- additional resources to classrooms (distinct from the operating grant) to address class composition issues
- the involvement of classroom teachers and union representatives in the organization of classes and the distribution of resources
- the need for school districts to have flexibility to efficiently allocate resources to enhance students' educational outcomes.

The proposed process would be an alternative to the return of class size, composition and teacher ratio provisions to the collective agreement (provincially or locally).

The government representatives ended today's session by reiterating that they are seeking input and perspectives from the BCTF on how they might jointly design the process in a manner that addresses the interests of the union and the teachers they represent, keeping in mind the principles that guide government interests in the discussions.

No date has been set for the next meeting between the parties to continue the consultation process.

BCPSEA will continue to monitor and keep districts informed; however, government remains responsible for this process.