

Bills 27/28: Government/BCTF Consultation Process



3

August 11, 2011

By E-mail: One Page

Government/BCTF Consultation Meeting, August 11, 2011

Representatives of the provincial government and the employers' association held their fourth 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).

The focus of today's meeting was a presentation on the potential impact of a reinstatement of all previous collective agreement language for the current system. The presentation included a case study of these impacts featuring School District 36, Surrey. The presentation was intended to provide the BCTF with the context for government's initial proposal to be tabled at the next meeting.

The BCTF stated their view that the primary issue in education is underfunding. They stated that they felt that any challenges surrounding public education can be solved with increased funding, reinstatement of the previous language and local discussions.

Government responded by reiterating that it has a responsibility to ensure the most efficient allocation of resources towards continuing the best public education system possible and that these principles need to continue to guide the discussions. Government also invited the BCTF to provide them with their principles that will inform the discussions on a go-forward basis. Government hopes to reach an agreement this fall that can meet the needs of both parties.

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