

Update on Provincial Discussions

Mediation

BCPSEA and BCTF recently engaged in three days of mediation with the assistance of John Hall on the topics of:

- **Data Sharing:** local union access to school-level class composition data relating to implementation of the LOU No. 17 Memorandum of Agreement (MoA), and;
- **Non-Enrolling Ratios:** non-enrolling ratios for SERT and the inclusion of Speech Language Pathologists and School Psychologists within this category.

On June 20, 2017, BCPSEA and the BCTF discussed the issue of data sharing and BCPSEA committed to providing guidance to districts “as needed” regarding certain data sharing issues that may arise through the implementation of the MoA.

On June 26 and 28, BCPSEA and the BCTF discussed the issue of non-enrolling ratios and the types of positions that can be included in the SERT category. The parties exchanged details of their positions and engaged in meaningful discussion but did not reach a resolution. The meeting resulted in a clearer understanding of the BCTF position, which is that speech language pathologists and school psychologists be excluded from the SERT ratio. BCPSEA does not fully agree with the BCTF position and may move this issue forward to arbitration.

Main Table

The provincial parties held a “main table” meeting, which includes representation from the Public Sector Employers’ Council (PSEC) Secretariat and the Ministry of Education (MoE). The meeting provided an opportunity for the parties to comment and share concerns related to the implementation of the MoA. Topics included the following:

- The MoE provided an overview of the Classroom Education Fund (CEF)
- The BCTF raised the matter of unspent Priority Measures funding and there was discussion related to encouraging the parties to use all funds
- BCPSEA raised that there is some urgency to commencing the Class Composition Joint Committee (established per the MoA) and the parties are looking to confirm meeting dates for this committee, including at least one date this summer
- The BCTF raised concerns with employers’ application of “best efforts” within paragraph 22 of the MoA. The discussion led the parties to conclude that they are in dispute with respect to the interpretation and application of paragraph 22 of the MoA, specifically:
 - BCTF interprets 22.A-F as sequential and 22.D does not apply until 22.A-C have been exhausted

- BCPSEA interprets 22.A – F as stand-alone measures and believes that 22.D acts as a “bookend” that districts are not required to exceed
- This item will likely be resolved in arbitration
- Districts should continue to apply 22.D as per BCPSEA advice pending any arbitration decision to the contrary.

The next main table meeting is scheduled as a conference call on August 24. BCPSEA will provide further updates as the process continues.

Questions

If you have any questions, please contact your BCPSEA liaison.