

2019-02

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By E-mail: One Page

BCPSEA Responses to BCTF and Local Teachers' Association Statements

In an online Twitter campaign launched in late May, the BCTF is targeting individual MLAs: "Hi [MLA name], Here's how BCPSEA's concessions will affect classrooms in your riding of [name of riding]." These statements require correction.

BCTF Statement	BCPSEA Response
<p>"MLA [name], BCPSEA has tabled concessions that would see class sizes increased in your riding...Do you support these concessions?"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ "Concession" in the labour relations context means that one party is seeking to reduce or eliminate the other party's previously gained improvement, such as wage gains or benefits improvements. ▪ BCPSEA has not tabled "concessions," we have tabled "changes" to reflect today's classrooms and to better serve students' diverse learning needs. ▪ BCPSEA's proposals also maintain existing resources in the system — they do not remove any resources from the system. ▪ Both parties are looking to discuss changes to the restored language that dates back to the 1980s and isn't reflective of today's public education system. This is what happens in the normal course of collective bargaining — both parties table desired changes to the collective agreement for discussion. ▪ Both parties have tabled proposed changes: the BCTF characterizes their changes as "improvements" but labels the employers' proposals as "concessions." ▪ We want to engage in productive discussion to find solutions that address the needs of both parties to the agreement — public boards of education and public school teachers. ▪ That includes talking about how the parties can work together to approach some issues differently so we can meet the needs of students, teachers, and boards of education as we head into the 2019-2020 school year and beyond. ▪ The province's public boards of education and their senior educators have asked us to discuss how we can protect teacher workload differently while maintaining the existing resources in the system — all the new money that went into the system to address the restored language and hire more teachers will remain in the system. ▪ BCPSEA also wants to ensure that students would have more equal access to the services they need no matter where they live in the province.