

**BCPSEA Responses to BCTF and Local Teachers' Association Statements**

<b>BCTF President Jinny Sims joins Mike Chisholm to discuss BCTF strike vote – BCTV Morning News, 8:30 am, June 7, 2006</b>	
<b>BCTF Statement</b>	<b>BCPSEA Response</b>
Sims: "Well, their serious settlement offer was 8% over four years, and hardly anything else."	<p>The employers' offer of May 15 includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ a salary increase of 8% over four years (1.5%, 2%, 2%, 2.5%)</li> <li>▪ recruitment/retention allowances for teachers in remote school districts, including allowances for teachers in difficult to fill specialty areas</li> <li>▪ an early settlement incentive of \$129 million if an agreement is reached by June 30</li> <li>▪ an increase to the lifetime maximum for extended health benefits coverage to \$100,000</li> <li>▪ standardized improvements to elementary preparation time to provide a base of 90 minutes per week.</li> </ul>
Sims: "So, when you look at that, that was 2% a year, not even keeping up with inflation, and we know that according to Carole Taylor's own research, our teachers are well over 20% behind other provinces. We're eighth in the country right now...."	<p>The BCTF included the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut in the comparator group – areas which have recruitment challenges due to their remote locations and therefore are typically not included in cross-Canada comparisons.</p> <p>When comparing BC teachers' salaries — the average starting salary and average maximum salary — BC ranks third among the comparator provinces: Ontario, Alberta, BC, Manitoba, Saskatchewan.</p>
Sims: "(24%) is an opening position based on her (Carole Taylor's) figures. So come on, let's get to the table and let's negotiate. This is not a cookie-cutter approach. Teachers have a compelling case. And we know that we have fallen behind when you look at inflation, other provinces, and other professionals in this province."	<p>A 24% (26% compounded) wage demand is the same position held by the BCTF since bargaining commenced April 11. They did not alter their 24% wage demand in their June 5 offer, aside from staggering implementation dates of the increases. As we are now at June 7, with an agreement needing to be concluded by June 30 if teachers are to receive the one-time early settlement incentive, the BCTF's wage demand can no longer be characterized as an "opening position."</p> <p>The employers' salary offer of 8% over 4 years is consistent with the vast majority of other settlements in the public sector. For example, after three days of</p>

	<p>round the clock bargaining, three support staff unions in the K-12 sector reached a Framework Agreement with BCPSEA which provides a salary increase of 8% over 4 years.</p> <p>The BCTF needs to come to the table with realistic expectations and proposals. They need to focus their agenda and they need to do it quickly. The total cost of their proposals, at \$3 billion over 3 years, is not in the zone of settlement and far exceeds any other public sector settlement to date, including doctors and nurses.</p>
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