

— Support Staff Bargaining — FOR THE RECORD

BRITISH COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYERS'
ASSOCIATION

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BCPSEA Responses to Union Statements

Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) News Release, April 28, 2006	
Union Statement	BCPSEA Response
<p>“The Liberal government’s approach does not allow K-12 agreements to be fully negotiated on a local-by-local basis.”</p>	<p>The Negotiating Framework established by the current provincial government to apply to collective bargaining with unions represented in the public sector does not impact on the structure of bargaining that currently exists.</p> <p>The BC Public School Employers’ Association (BCPSEA) is the accredited bargaining agent for public school boards in the K-12 sector. Through its Bylaws, BCPSEA has delegated the authority to negotiate collective agreements with support staff unions to the individual school boards. The agreement negotiated between a school board and its support staff union must be ratified by the BCPSEA Board of Directors, subject to a single criterion: that the agreement complies with government compensation mandates or guidelines that may be in effect from time to time.</p>
<p>“In fact, Gary Johnson, CUPE’s K-12 bargaining coordinator makes it clear that getting so many agreements approved across the province, before June 30, 2006, could be a serious logistical problem without the government’s full support in bringing employers together to work out the final details.”</p>	<p>As it has in previous rounds of bargaining, BCPSEA continues to coordinate the employers’ approach to collective bargaining with their local support staff union(s).</p>
<p>“Since the provincial government is involved in approving every single contract, we’re asking for a guarantee that employers will work together and meet the government’s own June 30th deadline for achieving a fair and equitable contract for K-12 members across the province.”</p>	<p>School boards and BCPSEA are committed to concluding support staff collective agreements by June 30.</p>