

BCTF to Hold Vote Regarding Potential Escalation of Teachers' Strike

We have received reports from a number of school districts that their local teachers' associations are now preparing to take a vote of their members next Tuesday and/or Wednesday to determine if BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) members are in favour of escalating their strike to a complete withdrawal of teaching duties.

Further, the BCTF has now asked the Labour Relations Board (LRB) to engage in the process set out in paragraph 3.3 of LRB decision B132/2011. That paragraph provides as follows:

Should BCTF contemplate initiating any strike activity beyond what is contemplated in Phase 1:

- (a) BCTF shall notify the Board;
- (b) Any strike activity beyond what is contemplated in Phase 1 shall not take place until the essential services designation process in (c) below is complete;
- (c) The Board shall designate essential services for the BCTF bargaining unit and all support Unions pursuant to the process set out in Sections 72(3), (4) and (5) (*note that BCTF has specifically advised the LRB it is not asking for designation of support staff unions at this time*); and
- (d) Every effort will be made to complete these designations expeditiously.

The BCTF has not provided BCPSEA with any information regarding the details of any potential escalation of strike activity and it is important to remember that the BCTF must obtain a new Essential Services Order from the LRB prior to escalating their strike.

We will provide updates to districts as information becomes available. Please contact your BCPSEA labour relations liaison if you have any questions.

Questions

School districts with questions regarding essential services should contact:

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Please direct media and public requests to:

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