

# Essential Services

## UPDATE



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By E-mail: One page

## ***Education Improvement Act* Receives Royal Assent: “Cooling Off” Period Takes Effect March 17**

The *Education Improvement Act* (the Act) was proclaimed this evening and a “cooling-off” period comes into effect on Saturday, March 17 until August 31, 2012.

The cooling-off period will bring an end to the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) legal strike and all BCTF members must resume their full duties and work schedules of employment. The Act also provides that within 72 hours after proclamation, BCPSEA and the BCTF must re-commence bargaining collectively in good faith and make every effort to conclude a new collective agreement. We will be in contact with the BCTF in this regard.

During the cooling-off period commencing March 17, the current collective agreement remains in effect and no strikes or lockouts are permitted — the Essential Services Order regarding Phase 1 of the BCTF strike and the Escalation Order are no longer in effect and teachers must now carry out their full duties.

After any strike action a period of adjustment is necessary for the workplace to return to normal. As we all know, a strike disrupts work routines and can strain relationships. Part of getting back to normal work should deal with these realities. We encourage school districts to work with their local teachers' associations as we move forward through the process of return to full duties.

We will provide further information as events progress. 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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