

Letter of Understanding (LOU) No. 17 Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) Implementation Meetings with the BCTF

BCPSEA, along with representatives of the Ministry of Education and Public Sector Employers' Council (PSEC) Secretariat, met with the BCTF on May 15 and 18 to discuss the ongoing implementation of the LOU No. 17 MoA and issues that have arisen out of this process. A number of matters were raised for discussion by the BCTF and BCPSEA, including the following:

1. The LOU No. 17 MoA Dispute Resolution Process

The parties formally confirmed the process for resolving disputes that arise as a result of the implementation of the LOU No. 17 MoA and districts' local restored language. This process involves four distinct steps that allow issues to proceed from the local to the provincial level as follows:

- Step #1: The local parties will try to resolve any issues that arise
- Step #2: If the local parties are not able to resolve the issue, the BCTF Field Services Representative and BCPSEA Liaison for the district will try to resolve the issue
- Step #3: If the Field Services Representative and Liaison are not able to resolve the issue, identified senior staff members with BCPSEA (Graeme Norton) and the BCTF (Ritchie Kendrick) will try to resolve the issue
- Step #4: If the identified BCPSEA and BCTF staff are not able to resolve the issue, the "Main Table" MoA implementation group (i.e., the Union and Employer bargaining committees that negotiated the MoA) will try to resolve the issue. If a resolution is not possible at this level, the issue can be pursued through the regular grievance and arbitration process.

The purpose of this dispute resolution process is to try to avoid using the grievance/arbitration process, including litigation, to resolve disputes.

2. Non-Enrolling Teacher Staffing Ratios

The parties discussed the issue of which non-enrolling teachers can be "counted" for the purposes of meeting non-enrolling teacher ratios and, in particular, whether itinerant teachers, such as SLPs, school psychologists, and other similar professionals, should be counted. The parties are not currently in agreement about how to approach this issue and have committed to meet further to discuss how the teachers in question were treated historically in the late 1990s

and early 2000s, as well as potential differences in past practice at the local level and how such practice should be treated.

3. Disclosure of School-Level Class Composition Data

BCPSEA and the BCTF are in the process of developing an Information Sharing Agreement that will identify the purposes for which school-level class composition data may be disclosed to local unions and ensure that the data are only used in a manner that is consistent with applicable privacy laws. This issue continues to be the subject of ongoing discussions between the parties. Once an Information Sharing Agreement has been finalized, it will be shared with districts. BCPSEA's advice continues to be that school-level class composition data should not be shared with local unions until an Information Sharing Agreement is in place.

4. Class Composition Joint Committee

The parties discussed the need to move forward with creating the Class Composition Joint Committee that is established in paragraph 20 of the LOU No. 17 MoA. It was agreed that each party would identify its representatives on the Committee and that regular meeting dates would be confirmed during the 2017/2018 school year.

Questions

If you have any questions, please contact your BCPSEA liaison.