

BCPSEA Responses to BCTF and Local Teachers' Association Statements

Media Report: Broadcast News, 6:49 am, May 8, 2006

BCTF Statement

"The BC Teachers' Federation says negotiators for B.C. public school employers didn't appear shocked when wage demands were tabled.

First vice-president Irene Lanzinger believes there's a good reason for that response, even though the union reportedly wants a 24-percent wage increase over three years.

She says B.C. is well down the list in salary in Canada, and the employers know this."

BCPSEA Response

Negotiators for the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) didn't "appear shocked" because the BCTF has, in previous rounds of bargaining, also tabled double-digit salary proposals. During the period of net zero compensation increases established by the provincial government, and where the settlement pattern for the public sector was in single digits, the BCTF tabled a double-digit salary increase proposal.

The tabling of proposals, and the development and tabling of counterproposals, is part of the normal dynamic of bargaining a collective agreement.

The lack of "shock" as perceived by the BCTF should not be construed as agreement with their position. In the current round of public sector bargaining, no salary settlement has approached the BCTF salary proposal as articulated in the media report.

As referenced in his *Report from the Chair* distributed to school districts on Friday, May 5, Ron Christensen, Chair of the BCPSEA Board of Directors, stated, "With respect to the 24% over 3 years, it's important to keep in mind that many of the other proposals in the package that the BCTF has tabled have significant cost implications."

These include increases to:

- Benefits
- Preparation time
- Professional development
- Teacher on Call pay and benefits

The parties have bargaining sessions scheduled for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week.