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BCPSEA Responses to BCTF Statements

Little headway on new teachers contract – Revelstoke Times Review Dated May 17, 2011

BCTF Statement	BCPSEA Response
<p>“Right now, she said, there is not even an agreement on what items will be negotiated provincially and what will be negotiated at the local level. The BCTF prefers most items to be negotiated locally, leaving only salaries, benefits, hours of work and paid leave at the provincial level.”</p>	<p>This statement is not correct. There is currently an agreement on what items will be negotiated provincially and what will be negotiated at the local level. The BCTF is seeking to re-negotiate the agreement that is currently in place. Unless the parties mutually agree to change the current agreement, the current agreement will remain in place.</p>
<p>“Basically bargaining has stalled. It has stalled provincially on the issue of the split of issues...”</p>	<p>The discussions continue as it relates to the split of issues. BCPSEA has tabled a counter proposal which establishes a clear process for determining which items should be dealt with provincially and locally. The BCTF have not provided a counter proposal and have now set the issue aside. The BCTF and BCPSEA will now table broad bargaining objectives next week.</p> <p>It is up to the BCTF to table a response to BCPSEA’s split of issues proposal should they wish to continue to pursue the matter.</p>
<p>“...and it has stalled locally because BCPSEA is advising boards to stall on protocol issues.”</p>	<p>This statement is not correct. BCPSEA is not advising boards to stall on protocol issues. Every District has demonstrated a willingness to bargain in good faith all issues within the legal local mandate (i.e. all items currently designated 'local' as listed in Appendix 2). They will not, however, engage in bargaining of items that are designated as Provincial (i.e. items listed in Appendix 1) within the split of issues.</p>

<p>“Now we’re at the end of May and we haven’t talked about substantive issues at the local and provincial level.”</p>	<p>Neither the BCTF, nor BCPSEA have tabled their package of proposals. The parties have approximately 16 dates scheduled between now and the end of June. The parties have agreed to exchange broad bargaining objectives next week.</p>
<p>“If we go into the next school year without a signed agreement then we have to look at ways to persuade boards and BCPSEA to really become serious about bargaining.”</p>	<p>BCPSEA remains serious about bargaining and is committed to achieving a collective agreement. BCPSEA remains hopeful that the BCTF will also show the same commitment by respecting the structure in place and bargaining in good faith at the provincial table.</p>