

BCPSEA Responses to BCTF and Local Teachers' Association Statements

BCTF questions employers' numbers CKNW 6:30 pm, June 2, 2006	
BCTF Statement	BCPSEA Response
<p>There are some shocking numbers out today about just how much the teachers' salary demands will cost but those numbers are being strongly disputed. A report out today says an internal employers' document has the cost of the teachers' proposals at \$3 billion, that would amount to over 2/3rds of the five billion for employees in the entire public sector but BC Teachers' Federation President Jinny Sims says she seriously questions how the employers come up with their figures.</p>	<p>We have costed the proposals the BCTF has on the table at \$3 billion over 3 years. While the BCTF continues to question the costing that has been made public, the employers' association has been asking at the bargaining table for the BCTF costing. However, the BCTF has not been able to provide their costing figures, and has only responded with public statements of skepticism.</p>
<p>Jinny Sims: "During the last round when they were costing the cost of maternity leave benefits, they were doing the benefits as if every female teacher in the public school system was going to get pregnant during the term of that collective agreement."</p>	<p>The BCTF made this same statement in a news release September 2005, which was addressed in BCPSEA <i>For the Record</i> No. 2005-05, dated September 16, 2005.</p> <p>BCPSEA's methodology for calculating the cost of maternity leave in the 2001 round of bargaining was shared with the BCTF at that time.</p> <p>The BCPSEA costing calculations were based on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We received actual maternity leave usage from six districts throughout the province representing approximately 25% of the teaching population. 2. We determined that 4.04% of female teachers in the sample districts accessed maternity leave. 3. We applied the 4.04% to the total number of female teachers to determine the number of teachers likely to access maternity leave across the province 4. We costed the BCTF proposal based on that level of access.