

BCPSEA Responses to BCTF and Local Teachers' Association Statements

BCTF Bargaining Bulletin #16 Volume 8, June 6, 2006	
BCTF Statement	BCPSEA Response
<p>"Once again BCPSEA has refused to acknowledge the rights teachers have won in court. On June 6, the BCTF filed an application to the Labour Relations Board asserting that BCPSEA has refused to bargain in good faith, contrary to Section 11 of the <i>Labour Code</i>.</p> <p>The Supreme Court determined that the BCTF has the right to bargain the "manner and consequences" of how a board establishes working conditions issues such as case loads, class composition, average class sizes, teaching loads, etc. BCPSEA simply refuses to acknowledge this win. The Federation has asked for this application to be heard on an urgent basis and made it clear to BCPSEA that this should not interfere with bargaining."</p>	<p>As suggested in our <i>Report from the Chair No. 5</i>, dated June 5, 2006 it would appear that this Labour Relations Board application is primarily a negotiations tactic on the part of the BCTF.</p> <p>We have attempted to engage the BCTF fully on issues surrounding teacher workload. We have explained clearly to the BCTF our position regarding the <i>School Act</i> amendments which were enacted specifically to reverse the court decision relied on by the BCTF. We have pointed out to the BCTF that many of their proposals in this area are illegal even within their own interpretation of the legislation.</p> <p>It was clearly understood at the bargaining table that the parties simply have differing views of the proper interpretation of the <i>School Act</i>. Notwithstanding these differences, we have indicated our willingness to find solutions for the concerns identified by the BCTF in this area.</p> <p>It is unfortunate that the BCTF has chosen to pursue this application rather than engage in meaningful dialogue in pursuit of a negotiated settlement.</p>