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## BCPSEA Responses to BCTF and Local Teachers' Association Statements

This *For the Record* addresses statements made by the Langley Teachers' Association in their news release dated December 9, 2011. Please [visit our website](#) for more information, including specific bargaining proposals, other bargaining related materials, and reports arising from each bargaining session.

### “Public School Employers Association admits to highly inflated costing of BCTF bargaining proposal”

Press Release, Langley Teachers' Association, December 9, 2011

Statement	BCPSEA Response
“During the most recent bargaining session between the BCTF and the Public Schools Employer Association [ <i>sic</i> ] (BCPSEA), the Employers Association admitted to highly inflating the costing of a BCTF proposal that had been the subject of media attention during the early months of bargaining.”	This statement is false. BCPSEA made no such admission. We stand by our costing of the BCTF proposals to date, and point out that we have shared the methodology of our costing with the BCTF from the outset. We have repeatedly invited the BCTF to work through our costing of their proposals on a cooperative basis; the BCTF has consistently refused to engage in this exercise.
“At the table on Tuesday, BCPSEA representatives submitted a revised costing estimate on a BCTF proposal concerning Compassionate Care leave that had been in the media as an example of unrealistic proposals put forward by the Union.”	The <a href="#">revised costing estimate</a> put forward by BCPSEA was in response to a substantially revised proposal on compassionate care leave put forward by the BCTF.  The BCTF received negative media and public comment with respect to their <a href="#">original proposal tabled on compassionate care leave</a> , which proposed that all teachers would receive a paid leave of up to 26 weeks to provide compassionate care for “a person.” In response to the negative commentary, the BCTF tabled a revised proposal.  BCPSEA proceeded, of course, to cost the revised proposal; we shared our revised costing with the BCTF at the bargaining session on <a href="#">Monday, December 5</a> .

<p>“The costing initially released by BCPSEA had the province-wide cost of the proposal at \$49 million dollars. The new costing has the province-wide cost at \$154,000. The new costing is very close to the original BCTF costing while the much hyped original costing was a gross exaggeration — multiplying the actual cost of the benefit by 318 times!”</p>	<p>The costing “initially released by BCPSEA” was based on the BCTF’s original proposal. The methodology for the costing of the original proposal was shared with the BCTF. It was not a “gross exaggeration” and did not “multiply the actual cost of the benefit by 318 times!”</p> <p>The <a href="#">revised costing is based on the revised proposal</a> put forward by the BCTF. The statement that the “new” costing is very close to the original BCTF costing” is also highly questionable — despite repeated requests from BCPSEA, the BCTF have never produced any costing of their own proposals. Further, it should be noted that BCTF President Susan Lambert, in an interview with CHNL Radio on December 1, stated that the BCTF “can’t cost out the union contract demands because she doesn’t have access to the Ministry of Education figures.”</p>
<p>“The Langley Teachers’ Association hopes that this first example of honest costing will encourage BCPSEA representatives to do an honest re-costing to correct the obvious overestimations of proposals that have been consistently used in media releases to discredit the BCTF and our bargaining proposals.”</p>	<p>BCPSEA has been forthright and transparent with the BCTF regarding the methodology applied to costing of the BCTF proposals, and revised costing of revised proposals.</p> <p>The BCTF currently have proposed compensation improvements on the bargaining table of approximately \$2 billion. These are not “overestimations of proposals.”</p> <p>The statements in the Langley Teachers’ Association press release are quite remarkable. We have shared with the BCTF our costing methodology, invited them to work through our costing with us, and also asked them to provide any costing of their own. We have reiterated our invitations on a continuing basis to no avail.</p>

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The British Columbia Public School Employers’ Association (BCPSEA) is the employers’ association and accredited bargaining agent for all 60 public boards of education in British Columbia. BCPSEA operates as a co-governance model between the provincial government and the boards of education. Representatives from the 60 boards of education elect nine school trustees to the BCPSEA Board of Directors.