

Essential Services

UPDATE



2012-02

January 25, 2011

By E-mail: Two pages plus attachment

Important Update on Marking of Provincial Exams

The Labour Relations Board (LRB) issued a decision ([B221/2011](#)) in December 2011 providing, on an interim basis, that:

BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) members will continue to mark the identified Provincial exams as they have in the past, subject to administrators being utilized to the best extent possible. The parties should discuss how to implement this direction at the local level and ensure that marking is done in a timely manner to ensure a student's progress is not impeded.

The specific provincial exams that the Order refers to are the "essay" components of provincial exams that are marked locally in English 10, English 10 First Peoples, Français Langue Première 10, Civics 11, Éducation Civique 11, Social Studies 11, Sciences Humaines 11, BC First Nations Studies 12, and Études des Premières Nations de la CB 12. For additional information, please see *Essential Services Update* [2011-13](#) and [2011-15](#).

The BCTF filed an application with the LRB last week seeking clarification of that decision. The BCTF submitted that teaching experience in the subject matter was not necessary to mark any of the exams. The BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) maintained that this position was unreasonable and unsupported and that current or recent experience teaching the course being examined was necessary. A number of districts had been unable to reach agreement with their local teachers associations on exam marking and a hearing was convened by the LRB yesterday.

Decision Identifies Criteria for Administrators to Mark Exams

The LRB has now issued further directions in this matter which support BCPSEA's position (see attached decision B21//2012). The LRB has found that the appropriate criteria to assess an administrator's ability to mark the essay component of the identified exams is as follows:

- For English 10 – must have taught Grade 10, 11 or 12 English within the last eight years
- For all other identified exams – must have taught the specific subject (i.e. English 10 First Peoples, Français Langue Première 10, Civics 11, Éducation Civique 11, Social Studies 11, Sciences Humaines 11, BC First Nations Studies 12, and Études des Premières Nations de la CB 12) within the last eight years

These criteria should now be utilized in all districts that have not reached agreement with their local teachers' association, although the LRB has recognized that parties are free to, by mutual

agreement, enter into other local agreements or arrangements reflecting local conditions and realities, which have different terms than this decision.

If your district has already reached agreement with your local teachers' association then that agreement should be utilized to assign marking duties, even if you utilized other assessment criteria.

The LRB has also directed that the parties should ensure that marking is done in a timely fashion, as currently scheduled, in order to ensure a student's progress is not unduly impeded.

Questions

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