

From the Chair



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Collective Bargaining Update

As you know, the BCPSEA bargaining teams have been engaged in both teacher and support staff collective bargaining over the past several months. We are now in the provincial election period and bargaining with the BC Teachers' Federation for a new Provincial Collective Agreement is on hiatus until after the May 14 election date. The provincial parties will meet again on May 28. At the local level, teacher bargaining is well underway in most districts and the parties are canvassing the issues.

The BCPSEA–BCTF negotiations have been taking place under the parameters of the Agreement in Committee as agreed to by both the BCTF and BCPSEA. The AiC features an agreement on data, a facilitator, and a report on June 30 by the facilitator if no agreement is reached. In addition to agreeing to work with facilitator Mark Brown, the parties signed off a new bargaining protocol agreement to “make a concerted effort to keep collective bargaining out of the public realm. For example, neither party will post specific bargaining proposals/bargaining language on the public pages of their respective websites.”

This has been a constructive element, allowing both bargaining teams to focus on the task at hand without the distraction of the media spotlight.

We will continue to keep you updated, when negotiations resume in May, with regular *At the Table* e-mail reports. We would also like to remind those trustees who are their board's BCPSEA Trustee Representative to please ensure that you distribute the *At the Table* to all trustees on your board to keep everyone up to date on progress. Trustees should also feel free to contact BCPSEA Vice Chair [Silas White](#), who is the representative to the bargaining team from the Board of Directors, if you have any questions.

On April 25 we distributed *Support Staff Bargaining Bulletin* No. 2013-01 to provide an update on the provincial framework discussions with representatives of support staff unions in our sector. At a meeting of the BCPSEA bargaining team and representatives of the K-12 Presidents' Council on April 24, we were asked to confirm whether there had been any developments with respect to an employer savings plan as contemplated by the Cooperative Gains Mandate. We advised that there has been no change to the mandate or to the employer approach. Positive strike votes have been taken by several locals in several districts, and the union representatives indicated that there would likely be some job action in those districts before the end of the school year. If that should occur, any contemplated action in locals is guided by the *Labour Relations Code* and the current essential services requirements, and BCPSEA will work closely with districts to manage this process.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact any member of your [Board of Directors](#).

Alan Chell
Chair