

July 20, 2007

By E-mail: 2 Pages

### **SSEAC Status Update**

As a result of the Framework Letter of Understanding, the Support Staff Education and Adjustment Committee (SSEAC) was tasked with the allocation of the following:

- Trades / Apprentice Sponsor Adjustment
- Labour Market Adjustment requests – review and approvals (#17 and #18)
- Workplace Adjustment issues if they arise
- Apprenticeship Opportunities
- Skills Enhancement and Retraining

Over the past year, the Committee has been gathering considerable information to assist in this process. We greatly appreciate districts and locals taking the time to complete each of the forms and gather all the supporting documentation.

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide a brief status update as to where the Committee is at with each of these funds.

#### **Trades and Apprentice Sponsor Adjustment**

Effective July 1, 2007, trades certified employees should have received a further \$0.60 per hour. When applying these increases, the base rate should increase first by the 2% and then add the trades adjustment where applicable. So, the second year base rate which will include the year one \$0.60 should be increased by the general wage adjustment of 2% and then the second \$0.60 should be added.

The funding for this adjustment will be sent to districts during the week of July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007. The funding received will represent both maintenance of the year one funding as well as the year two funding.

*For further clarification as to how to implement this increase or which Trades positions have qualified for the adjustment, please contact either Renzo Del Negro (604 730 4511) or Joe Badali (604 291 1940).*

#### **Labour Market Adjustments**

The Committee has received and reviewed the Labour Market Adjustment (LMA) applications made under Form #18. Final approval and distribution of the funding is expected in late September.

The Committee has temporarily set aside the LMA applications made under #17 pending the outcome of the Form #18 applications. We will be contacting those districts who made applications under #17 to see if they would still like the Committee to review their application once the form #18 application process is completed.

### **Workplace Adjustment Fund**

The Committee received \$4 million to facilitate and support workforce adjustment issues arising from non-routine and fundamental restructuring within a given school district including shared services and regionalization.

At this point, no issues have arisen that would require application to this fund.

### **Apprenticeship Opportunities Fund**

The Committee is in the process of finalizing an application form for districts and locals to complete to be eligible for funding from the Apprenticeship Opportunities Fund. It should be noted that the Committee has decided that the funding will be used to offset costs for the individual apprentice (e.g. tuition, travel costs, EI top-up, etc...). Costs associated with the employees daily wages and benefits will be the responsibility of the district and will not be funded by the committee.

The form will be sent to districts in mid-September and is required to be completed by October 31, 2007.

### **Skills Enhancement Fund**

The applications for the Skills Enhancement Fund have been received and reviewed by the Committee. Given the amount of commonality of training initiatives between districts, we are exploring the possibility of organizing regional training initiatives. This concept will be explored more fully at the meeting in September. Depending on the approach taken, the committee may be in a position to have recommendations and provide funding to school districts in as early as November 2007.

### **Questions**

Please direct any questions to:

- Joe Badali                      604.291.1940 or [jbadali@cupe.ca](mailto:jbadali@cupe.ca)
- Jacquie Griffiths              604.730.4514 or [jacquieg@bcpsea.bc.ca](mailto:jacquieg@bcpsea.bc.ca)