



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2005LCS0016-000902
Oct. 6, 2005

Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services

COMMISSION APPOINTED TO IMPROVE TEACHER BARGAINING

VICTORIA – The provincial government has appointed respected mediator Vince Ready as an Industrial Inquiry Commission to recommend a new collective bargaining structure for teachers and school employers, Labour Minister Michael de Jong announced today.

“Over the past 15 years we’ve seen this bargaining system fail students and teachers time and time again,” de Jong said. “We need a system where the parties can sit down and negotiate an agreement without having to resort to legislative intervention.

Ready will be looking for ways to improve the collective bargaining system for teacher contracts.

“Don Wright gave us a starting point,” de Jong said. “It is now time to take the next steps in developing a bargaining structure that will meet the needs of teachers, employers and everyone who has a stake in the education system.”

During the latest round of bargaining the B.C. Teachers’ Federation and the B.C. Public Sector Employers’ Association met 35 times over the past 15 months and failed to agree on a single item. On Sept. 30, the government appointed fact-finder determined that there was no chance for settlement.

Ready will report back to government by Dec. 31. De Jong said he expected a new bargaining structure to be in place in time for negotiations that will begin early next year.

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1 backgrounder(s) attached.

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