

## Joint Communication: Foundation Skills Assessment

On February 7, 2009, BCPSEA and the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) agreed to a joint communication intended to provide clarification on the implementation of the Labour Relations Board (LRB) Order issued on February 2, 2009. The BCTF issued a *School Staff Alert* on February 9, 2009 describing its position with respect to the joint communication.

As a result of the BCTF *School Staff Alert* and the advice provided by some local teachers' unions, we believe it is necessary to provide comment on several issues. First, the joint communication is just that — a joint communication. It was intended to clarify elements of the original LRB Order. The joint statement does not represent an amendment of the original Order provided by the LRB. The parties do not have the legal authority to amend the Order.

Second, the issue of preparation, including practice tests, is captured by the "status quo" comments of the original Order and by items 2 and 3 of the joint communication describing the "Obligations of the BCTF/Associations/Teachers." If practice tests were conducted by teachers in a school district in the past, then it is reasonable to expect teachers to conduct such tests if a district chooses to do so again this year.

We do not believe that the joint communication has been shared with all teachers in its entirety. Some locals are quoting select phrases from the document, which changes the intent of the communication. Please distribute the document to all teachers in your district for their information. Attached please find a copy of the joint BCPSEA-BCTF communication for easy reference.

### Questions

Please contact your district labour relations liaison if you have any questions or are experiencing continuing challenges in your district regarding FSA.

Attachment:  
BCPSEA-BCTF Joint Communication