

# Report *from the Chair*

BRITISH COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION

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By E-mail: Two Pages

## BCPSEA Meetings This Week

As you know, several important BCPSEA events are taking place this week with considerable activity planned:

- January 27 — Professional development sessions
- January 28 — Representative Council *Focus on Bargaining*
- January 28-29 — 17th Annual General Meeting

Our bylaws state:

5.1 During years when collective bargaining is scheduled with teachers, at least one Representative Council meeting shall be held to discuss bargaining objectives.

To facilitate our discussions on the 28<sup>th</sup>, we have engaged in a series of initiatives from the initial identification of themes, to regional meetings, and finally our most recent survey. This, as in past years, is truly an iterative process as we develop *a general agreement on what needs to be done* as the foundation for bargaining objectives and, later, proposals that will be exchanged at the table. I am heartened by the nature of the input as boards find their own unique ways through these and other vehicles to participate in the agenda setting.

As I have said many times, the role of an employers' association is complex. We are balancing the interests of boards of education as employers with those of government as policy makers, to the degree that a particular education policy has employment implications. The changes at the senior levels of government make the policy integration more difficult but, with a statutory requirement to commence bargaining as early as March, we are prepared to manage the situation.

You have by now received an e-mail including an online link to a discussion paper, *Getting to Objectives: Teacher–Public School Employer Bargaining 2011*, which is a resource to our discussions on the 27/28<sup>th</sup>. It is a compilation of our work with you to date. At the Representative Council there will be three working sessions:

- Working Session A: Employee Growth, Development and Professional Engagement
- Working Session B: Compensation Currency
- Working Session C: Employment and Sectoral Change

Supporting resource materials have been compiled for each of the three working sessions, which participants may find helpful. Ideally, participants will review the information in advance of the sessions and, as I mentioned, an online link was provided to access the documents.

Your BCPSEA Board of Directors looks forward to the discussions later this week. In the meantime, if you have any questions, comments or concerns please contact any member of the board or BCPSEA staff.



Ron Christensen  
Chair