

BCPSEA Responses to BCTF and Local Teachers' Association Statements

BCTF School Staff Alert #79, May 31, 2006

BCTF Statement	BCPSEA Response																														
<p>According to the Minister of Education, there is no teacher shortage now or on the horizon because enrolment is declining. In the "Education Report" of May 24, 2006, Bond states, "That means there is no general shortage of teachers—and we don't anticipate that changing." The minister claims that "We currently have about 1,200 teacher retirements a year."</p> <p>The following is the number of retirements that have taken place since 1991.</p> <p>The number of new pensions granted in the Teachers' Pension Plan in each of the past 15 years is:</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>1991</td><td>421</td></tr> <tr><td>1992</td><td>506</td></tr> <tr><td>1993</td><td>503</td></tr> <tr><td>1994</td><td>668</td></tr> <tr><td>1995</td><td>1,050</td></tr> <tr><td>1996</td><td>970</td></tr> <tr><td>1997</td><td>1,048</td></tr> <tr><td>1998</td><td>*1,370</td></tr> <tr><td>1999</td><td>*1,673</td></tr> <tr><td>2000</td><td>*831</td></tr> <tr><td>2001</td><td>1,230</td></tr> <tr><td>2002</td><td>1,542</td></tr> <tr><td>2003</td><td>1,490</td></tr> <tr><td>2004</td><td>1,598</td></tr> <tr><td>2005</td><td>1,805</td></tr> </table> <p>2006 The number of retirees is expected to remain at the 2005 level.</p> <p>*—indicates two years with Early Retirement Incentive Plans, and the subsequent drop the following year. (Source: updated information from the Teachers' Pension Plan 2004 Annual Report, 1999 Annual Report)</p>	1991	421	1992	506	1993	503	1994	668	1995	1,050	1996	970	1997	1,048	1998	*1,370	1999	*1,673	2000	*831	2001	1,230	2002	1,542	2003	1,490	2004	1,598	2005	1,805	<p>The figures at left provided by the Teachers' Pension Plan and utilized by the BCTF include all educators, not just teachers. These figures include retirements of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ principals and vice-principals ▪ teachers-on call ▪ superintendents ▪ assistant superintendents ▪ associated professionals, and ▪ professionals who are appointed by a board of school trustees in the British Columbia public school system. <p>The student-aged population is projected to continue to decline generally across the province for the next several years.</p> <p>According to the Teachers' Pension Plan, the average retirement age of educators in the BC public school system is 58. Commencing with the 2005-2006 school year, the average age of educators is declining and is projected to continue to decline, which will result in fewer retirements.</p> <p>When student enrolment projections are considered along with educator retirement projections, it becomes evident that there is no projected general teacher shortage.</p> <p>For more information, see the BCPSEA Backgrounder, <i>Teacher Supply and Demand</i>, on the BCPSEA public website at:</p> <p>http://www.bcpsea.bc.ca/public/emplgroups/teacher/teach erintro.html</p>
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