



Statement

For Immediate Release
August 28, 2014

Employers' Association Confirms Agreement With Minister's Proposals

VANCOUVER – Minister of Education Peter Fassbender met yesterday in Victoria with Jim Iker and Peter Cameron, the lead negotiators for the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) and the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) respectively. During the meeting, the Minister asked both parties to consider “three specific steps to reach a settlement and clear the way for students to go back to school on schedule”:

- set aside the matter of potential grievances stemming from Justice Griffin's decision, on a without prejudice basis, until such time as the matter is determined by the courts
- agree to engage in mediation as soon as possible
- suspend strike/lockout activity for two weeks once Mr. Ready commences mediation with the parties.

BCPSEA has confirmed with the Minister and the BCTF that we will continue the suspension of the employers' lockout and further, that we are prepared to enter mediation at the call of Mr. Ready. As the Minister indicated, his proposals are not pre-conditions to mediation but rather, are intended to pave the way to focus on the key matters at issue — compensation, and class size and composition.

The lead negotiators remain in exploratory discussions with Mr. Ready at this time and further updates will be provided as events progress.

BCPSEA and the BCTF were unsuccessful at the bargaining table through 70 sessions, and the activities related to that lack of success have resulted in much stress and strain on students, parents, and everyone involved in the K-12 public education system. The success of the mediation depends on the commitment of the parties to make it work. BCPSEA believes that an agreement reached voluntarily by the parties is always the best resolution and we will continue to work diligently to conclude a negotiated collective agreement so that all stakeholders can focus on providing the best possible public school experience for our students.

– 30 –

BCPSEA is the accredited bargaining agent for the province's 60 public boards of education.

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