

Labour Relations Board Order Issued Today for BCTF Members

Background

On Friday, June 6, 2014, BCPSEA filed an application with the Labour Relations Board (LRB) to vary the current Essential Services Order to include the designation of additional essential services required to enable secondary students to complete their school year and receive final grades for courses in which they are enrolled. The BCTF has now provided notice that there will be a one-day rotating strike in all school districts on Monday, June 16 and that there will be a full withdrawal strike starting on Tuesday, June 17.

The LRB has issued a further Essential Services Order (attached) today regarding BCTF members. BCPSEA expects another Essential Services Order for support staff union members will be issued later today.

Today's Order for BCTF Members

Today's Order provides that BCTF members are essential for:

1. Invigilation of Grade 10-12 Provincial Examinations;
2. Compilation and submission of final grades for grade 12 students in a form ready for entry into BCESIS no later than June 20, 2014;
3. All psychometric or other testing scheduled as of the date of the Order conducted for the purpose of determining whether a student should receive a special needs designation; and
4. Providing all information necessary to confirm or discontinue the designation for students in Ministry category H (Intensive Behaviour/Serious Mental Illness) for the 2014/2015 school year.

The LRB has ordered that effective immediately, school districts will consult with their local teachers' association (the "Local Union") regarding the number of teaching staff who will be required to invigilate Grade 10 – 12 Provincial Exams occurring between June 16 and June 24, 2014 following the deployment of all excluded and management personnel to the best extent possible.

Districts should also make arrangements to reduce the number of invigilators as much as possible through efforts such as combining classes or issuing the exams in larger group settings, if possible. In the event of a dispute regarding invigilation, the matter will be referred to the LRB for resolution on Monday, June 16, 2014 and will be adjudicated by the LRB that day.

Today's Order also provides that the Local Union will provide unrestricted access and egress for persons covered by this Order or any other essential services order (e.g., the support staff order) and that they will not picket entrances designated by the Local Union for students to attend school to write examinations covered by this Order. Districts should address which entrances will be free of pickets with their Local Union.

This Order reflects the current determination of the LRB, and the LRB will address the remaining issue concerning the submission of marks for grades 10 and 11 students upon application.

As noted above, BCPSEA expects a further essential services order for support staff union members will be issued later today.

Questions

If you have any questions regarding essential services or strike activity, please contact your BCPSEA liaison.