



July 20, 2018

Ref: 371220

Glen Hansman, President
BC Teachers' Federation
100-550 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 4P2

Dear Mr. Hansman,

Thank you for your letter sent on June 7 2018, to the Honourable Carole James, Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier, regarding your request to commence negotiations on December 1, 2018. Minister James has requested that the Public Sector Employers' Council Secretariat (PSEC Secretariat) provide you with a response on her behalf. Apologies for the delay in sending this reply.

As you know, the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA), as the bargaining agent, outlined several factors affecting an early start date for negotiations in their November 8, 2017 letter. That response is consistent with the discussions you had with the Minister at the Public Sector Employers' Council meeting and in a subsequent meeting with both you and your team on that same day, May 11th. The timing of the trustee elections in October and the reinstatement of the BCPSEA Board of Directors whose purpose it is to provide bargaining direction to the negotiating team, in addition to Government's direction, will occur in January. Further, the arbitration on special needs designations is to be concluded by January 31, 2019 and is sure to provide important insights that will assist in bargaining.

We appreciate your participation and engagement at the Council meetings where the conversation highlighted the idea of give and take at the bargaining table towards the modernization of collective agreement language. It's important that it reflect the current context in public education, support working conditions for teachers, and strengthen the quality education system people rely on.

I appreciate that the union has had to wait through the lengthy litigation process to negotiate the return of this language. Like you, we look forward to embarking on this process that will respectfully balance the move to modernization and support the needs of today's union members, as well as the needs of the province's school district employers so that all learners and their parents can continue to depend on our comprehensive education system.

We look forward to a collaborative outcome that is envisioned under the Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate – which we've already experienced with the early tentative agreements reached to date. We will continue to be in touch regularly to discuss these and other matters in the lead up to when negotiations begin in earnest.

Ministry of Finance	Public Sector Employers' Council Secretariat	Mailing Address: PO Box 9400 Stn Prov Govt Victoria BC V8W 9V1	Location Address: 210 – 880 Douglas St Victoria BC V8W 2B7 778.698.8549
----------------------------	--	--	--

Thank you for your many suggestions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.A. Zacharuk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "A".

Christina Zacharuk
President & CEO
Public Sector Employers' Council Secretariat

cc: Honourable John Horgan, Premier
Don Wright, Deputy Minister to the Premier
Honourable Carole James, Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier
Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Education
Scott MacDonald, Deputy Minister of Education
Honourable Harry Bains, Minister of Labour
Renzo Del Negro, Chief Executive Officer, BCPSEA