

Good afternoon colleagues,

On April 30 the VTA and the Employer met for our 4th day of bargaining. Both sides tabled our remaining proposals – articles related to Post and Fill, Layoff and Recall, Transfers, Unpaid leaves for TTOCs and Health and Safety.

While there were obvious points of difference (but also some places where we brought forward similar ideas independently!), there was general agreement that how jobs are assigned and to whom, matters to the Union and the Employer, and we need to ensure that we get this right. We recognized that both sides have legitimate interests and objectives in this area, and we are both motivated to find solutions that will improve how we deal with this critical process.

At the end of the afternoon we returned to two fairly straightforward proposals which were tabled the last time we met. We signed off on Article A.34 Copy of Agreement and have agreed in principle to some renumbering in the current Article D.20 Mainstreaming/Integration. While these changes will not directly affect the working lives of teachers, it is good for the bargaining relationship to have a couple of check marks on the yes side of the ledger.

As always your bargaining team is open to connecting with you about any of your questions or comments. The VTA bargaining committee continues to meet regularly between bargaining sessions to debate and discuss proposals, counter-proposals and strategy. We will be back to the table on May 9th and 10th and will provide another update at that time.

In support and solidarity,  
Lisa LaBoucane  
President, Vernon Teachers' Association