

Our Side of the Table

Provincial Report

May 24, 2011

BCTF and BCPSEA met for their 10th bargaining session on May 24, 2011.

James Gorman, Deputy Minister of Education, was in attendance. He had a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Collective Bargaining to sustain a strong Public Education System." Through his presentation, it became evident that our collective agreement's provisions are inconsistent with the government's vision of 21st Century learning. Their intention is to strip our collective agreement so that it will be aligned to the government vision.

Today, bargaining entered a new phase as parties began exchanging their list of objectives. Not surprisingly, several of BCPSEA's objectives were aligned with the government's vision. Their objectives are based on six themes, and they clearly aim to strengthen management rights. Among other things they would:

- strip seniority, layoff, and recall
- reduce our professional autonomy
- restrict leaves
- evaluate all teachers annually
- remove protections on discipline and dismissal
- link professional development to ministry goals
- maintain flexibility and financial efficiency in class size/class composition

Before presenting our list, Jim Iker stated that any negotiated agreement must include improvements to each of these objectives and that we will not agree to any stripping of our collective agreement. Our list of provincial objectives, consistent with PELRA, including our proposal on the new split of issues, seeks improvements to:

- salary
- paid leaves
- hours of work including prep time
- benefits

For a more detailed list of our provincial objectives, sign in to the BCTF portal at mybctf.ca.

Our next *local* meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 2nd. You can send feedback and comments to: vtanegotiatingteam@gmail.com You can also stay informed and post your comments to the new Facebook group: "**VTA Bargaining Page.**"