

BCTF Framework for Settlement Through Binding Arbitration

September 7, 2014

Introduction:

Below is the framework for settlement that BCTF President Jim Iker outlined clearly to mediator Vince Ready and BCPSEA negotiator Peter Cameron during several hours of meetings on Friday September 5 and Saturday September 6, 2014.

As discussed in those meetings, the teachers are calling for binding arbitration as the quickest and most effective way to bring an end to this long dispute and get teachers back to teaching and students back to learning as soon as possible.

If government would agree to this framework, the BCTF would quickly hold a province-wide vote of members and our public schools could be opened promptly.

BC Teachers' Federation Framework for Settlement

The BCTF proposes the following as a framework for settlement of the current round of bargaining:

- The parties agree to refer the unresolved items including salary, signing bonus, EHB/dental, TTOC issues, pregnancy leave top-up, and preparation time to binding arbitration.
- The BCPSEA agrees to withdraw proposal E80.
- Items currently before the Court of Appeal and/or those items related to class size, class composition and staffing ratios are removed from the bargaining table and remain before the courts.
- The parties will enter into side negotiations regarding a new fund to address learning needs now.
- If the parties are unable to come to agreement on the new fund, that matter will also be referred to the binding interest arbitration process.

The proposed framework provides a fair resolution to the unresolved items and a process to direct new resources to our students. It leaves the issues of class size, composition and staffing ratios for the court to resolve. Both parties will present their best arguments, and the arbitrator will decide what is fair.

This is an opportunity for the government to end the dispute and send teachers and students back to their classroom. It deserves careful consideration.