



BC CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS

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Ms. Lambert (BCTF)
100 - 550 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver, BC, Canada
V5Z 4P2

Ms. Joy (BCPSEA)
400-1333 West Broadway
Vancouver BC V6H 4C1

Dear Ms. Lambert & Ms. Joy

As you know, the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC) is the recognized Provincial Parent Education partner group representing hundreds of School and District Parent Advisory Councils (PACs and DPACs) throughout the province and is the "voice of parents" in BC's Public Education system. While our mandate is to represent our members and present their views, we are cognizant of our place within the Public Education system as a whole and do our best to respect the roles and perspectives of all partners, including the BCTF and BCPSEA.

BCCPAC understands that the current labour dispute between the BCTF and BCPSEA is legitimate and that we must allow the negotiation process to run its course. Notably, we are appreciative of the generally respectful manner in which the current "phase one job action" has been dealt with by all sides over the past three months. We acknowledge, respect and admire the efforts of the many teachers, administrators and staff that we see doing their best to try and minimize any possible negative effects the dispute is having on everyone--especially our children.

However, our members also recognize that in spite of everyone's best efforts, the present situation cannot continue indefinitely and in fact is not in the best interest of our children. With relevant and reliable information from the talks now at a premium, a subtle yet undeniable mood of uneasiness is beginning to set in. Our members are expressing concerns regarding the quality of education being received by their children during this time. Parents' patience is wearing thin as a resolution continues to be out of sight.

Because of these concerns, the amount of time that has passed, and the apparent continual lack of progress being made, BCCPAC respectfully urges both the BCPSEA and BCTF to work together to "reinvigorate" the negotiations in order to make progress on bargaining issues. Hopefully an agreement that is in the best interest of the Education system and our children will be reached soon.

Respectfully and in partnership,

Ann Whiteaker
BCCPAC President