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More CUPE education workers vote to ratify agreements with BC school districts

BURNABY- Five CUPE BC K-12 Presidents' Council Locals have now ratified agreements with BC school districts: Local 379 with SD 41 (Burnaby), Local 476 with SD 47 (Powell River), Local 1260 with SD 35 (Langley), Local 2098 with SD 51 (Boundary), and Local 4991 with SD 57 (Prince George).

CUPE Local 379 education workers in Burnaby were the latest to vote to ratify an agreement over the long weekend.

"The support that members of Local 379 gave to its bargaining committee, as always, was overwhelming and appreciated," said CUPE Local 379 President Paul Simpson in a message to members today. "A 96 percent support vote proves the strong position of solidarity within CUPE 379. It shows that CUPE 379 members understand the challenges facing the K-12 sector today and support the achievements their bargaining committee fought for on their behalf."

Many ratification votes are expected in the near future. Local bargaining has concluded with the following 23 settlements:

CUPE Local	School District
15	39 (Vancouver)
173	74 (Gold Trail)
382	61 (Greater Victoria)
407	39 (Vancouver)
409	40 (New Westminster)
411	33 (Chilliwack)
593	75 (Mission)
606	68 (Nanaimo/Ladysmith)
606	79 (Cowichan Valley)
703	42 (Maple Ridge)
716	38 (Richmond)
728	36 (Surrey)
788	64 (Gulf Islands)
1851	35 (Langley)
2020	50 (Haida Gwaii)
2052	82 (Coast Mountains)
2450	10 (Arrow Lakes)
3523	23 (Central Okanagan)
3570	69 (Qualicum)
3742	57 (Prince George)
4653	60 (Peace River North)
4992	59 (Peace River South)
5150	19 (Revelstoke)

On September 18th, the CUPE K-12 Bargaining Subcommittee signed a tentative Provincial Framework Agreement. The key details of the agreement include:

- The agreement's term is July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014.
- It provides a wage increase of 3.5 percent.
- The introduction of a pay direct card for up-front drug expenses.
- There are no concessions for CUPE members.

57 CUPE Locals represent 27,000 education workers across BC in 53 school districts. CUPE education workers include education assistants, clerical staff, trades, aboriginal workers, youth and family workers, custodians, and bus drivers.

For more information, contact your CUPE local or visit www.bcschools.cupe.ca. Twitter & Instagram: CUPEbcschools.