



May 5, 2011

Bulletin No. 2

Stage set for CUPE K-12 bargaining *Bargaining committee talks strategy and timelines*

RICHMOND - CUPE's BC K-12 Presidents' Council Provincial Bargaining Committee (PBC) met on Wednesday, April 27 and identified steps to move bargaining forward locally and provincially.

The committee agreed to encourage all locals to ensure that bargaining is open and proposals are exchanged by the end of June. As of the beginning of May bargaining is underway at 48 of 56 local tables.

Moving on the encouraging agreement of the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) to pursue a provincial approach for CUPE K-12 locals, the committee identified tentative dates and a process for engaging in provincial discussions.

The PBC discussed issues flowing from the recent BCTF and CUPE BC conventions. In particular, the committee identified the need to build greater solidarity with teachers and CUPE workers in post-secondary education who are currently in bargaining. The committee agreed to monitor the Labour Relations Board review of teacher essential service levels and to pursue a minimal approach for CUPE members in the event of a labour dispute.

CUPE research representative John Malcolmson made a presentation on the bargaining environment, including a review of public sector settlements and sectors still in bargaining.

CUPE communications representative Roseanne Moran walked the committee through the new Presidents' Council twitter account @cupebcschools and encouraged locals to promote the new BC K-12 Presidents' Council website, found at www.bcschools.cupe.ca.

Committee representatives will report out to Presidents' Council locals in May through regional conference calls and regional meetings.