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Bulletin No. 3

## **Provincial discussions to begin in CUPE K-12 bargaining**

BURNABY—The first provincial discussions between CUPE's B.C. K-12 Presidents' Council Provincial Bargaining Committee (PBC) and the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) are scheduled for June 10.

Having sought provincial discussions for some time, the PBC is pleased that they are going forward. The first meeting will focus on progress of bargaining, coordination of data and research support and parameters of a provincial table. In advance of the June 10 meeting with PBC representatives and the BCPSEA, the full Provincial Bargaining Committee will meet on Thursday, June 9.

Members may know that that the BCTF has announced that if there is a lack of progress in bargaining, teachers across the province will take a strike vote between June 24 and 28. Any action flowing from the vote would begin in September and would involve teachers' refusal to undertake administrative tasks or attend unnecessary meetings, while focusing their energies on the classroom.

Following up on the PBC mandate, K-12 Presidents' Council chair Terry Allen and CUPE K-12 coordinator Bill Pegler have met twice with representatives from the BCTF. The meetings allow CUPE and the BCTF to share information about progress at local and provincial tables.

With CUPE's provincial discussions just beginning, local bargaining is well underway and most locals are at the table. At its April meeting, the PBC agreed to encourage all locals to ensure that bargaining is open and proposals are exchanged by the end of June. As of the end of May about one-third of CUPE locals have been able to engage in a substantial canvass of the issues with employers.

A report out from the June meetings will be included in the next bulletin.

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