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CUPE K-12 negotiating team “very disappointed” with latest government offer

VANCOUVER—CUPE’s K-12 Presidents’ Council Bargaining Sub-committee met with the employer Wednesday through Sunday, but came away from the table “very disappointed” with the latest offer.

“This latest proposal shows a real lack of respect for the intelligence of education workers and their ability to add and subtract,” said Colin Pawson, chair of the K-12 Presidents’ Council. “We have new bargaining dates next week, but unless the government changes its position significantly, we need to be prepared for job action. We are very disappointed.”

The actual compensation “increase” in the government’s offer is: zero in the first year, 2% in the second, and 2% on the last day of the contract.

The offer is less than other public-sector unions have negotiated in recent months—and despite the government’s spin, the wage offer is only a 4% increase on paper. It is likely to end up as less than zero for CUPE members when factoring in concessions.

The offer also proposes to eliminate accrued sick leave in all local agreements through a 3-tiered contract structure.

Despite the BC Liberal government’s commitment to a “Families First Agenda,” the government’s latest proposal would put students at risk of a reduced quality of service in public schools.

Your CUPE BC K-12 Presidents’ Council Bargaining Sub-committee consists of Colin Pawson (Chair, Metro Vancouver), Wendy Johnson (Thompson-Okanagan), June Kaiser (Metro Vancouver), Leslie Franklin (Fraser Valley), Cheryl MacLeod (Kootenays), Daphne Ross (North Island), Jan Peever (South Island) and Paula Cox (Northern Area). Tim De Vivo of IUOE Local 963 represents non-CUPE unions involved in the negotiations.

The Canadian Union of Public Employees represents more than 27,000 education BC workers in the K-12 system.

For more information, contact your CUPE local or visit www.bcschools.cupe.ca

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