

Bargaining Begins!

April 12, 2011

Vancouver Bargaining Table

- Local Bargaining in Vancouver is between the VTF (K-12) (VESTA and VSTA together) and the Vancouver Board of Education. Each team appoints their own members.
- Our Collective Agreement determines our working conditions in all areas of our work. In Bargaining, we seek improvements and changes that support the working conditions of teachers and the learning conditions of students.
- The Local table (VTF and VBE) opened on March 14, 2011 and has met twice. There are 12 days scheduled for bargaining before the end of the year representing roughly one meeting per week.
- The VTF Bargaining Team is comprised of Chris Harris (VESTA Office), Jody Polukoshko (Dickens), Anna Chudnovsky (Selkirk) and Gerry Kent (Kitchener) representing VESTA and Debbie Pawluk (VSTA office), Shaun van der Hoop (VSTA office), and Susan McIntosh (Gladstone).
- In October, VESTA and VSTA members passed objectives at the VTF General Meeting. We have shared these objectives with the Board in our bargaining sessions and will continue to negotiate on these issues. We have also reached agreement on a list of protocols that frame our procedures at the bargaining table.
- Local tables all across the Province are meeting with their Boards and tabling their own unique objectives. Your VESTA representatives will be communicating with the BCTF and other locals as we proceed through the bargaining process.

Provincial Bargaining Table

- Provincial Bargaining is between the BCTF and BCPSEA (BC Public School Employers' Association - the Provincial Bargaining Agent for the Provincial Government). The BCTF Executive Committee appoints the members of the BCTF team.
- The Provincial table (BCTF and BCPSEA) opened on April 1, 2011 and has met three times. They have 25 dates scheduled for bargaining before the end of the year.
- The BCTF Bargaining Team is comprised of Jim Iker (BCTF Executive), Tara Ehrcke (Victoria), Bill McFarlane (Revelstoke), Gabriel Bureau (Prince Rupert), Chris Stewart (BCTF Executive, Vancouver) and Kathy Couch (Nelson).
- The objectives are set for the BCTF Provincial Team through the BCTF AGM (this March), the Bargaining Conference (last November), the Representative Assemblies (January, June and October each year) by representatives of each local in BC.
- The Provincial Bargaining team will be opening negotiations on the Split of Issues (which items may be negotiated locally and which provincially). At this time, we believe that all issues belong on the Local Bargaining table except: Salary, Benefits, Paid Leave and Hours of Work (including Prep Time).

Important Dates

March 14, 2011— Bargaining Opens

April 12, May 17, June 14—Staff Rep Assemblies & AGM

School Visits—Upcoming TBA

**Local Bargaining Dates—April 15, April 19, April 26,
May 1, May 13, May 18, May 24, June 2, June 10,
June 17, June 24, June 30**

For more information:

www.vesta.ca

- www.bctf.ca (find bargaining portal here under `members only`)
- Watch for VESTA bargaining bulletins, posters, and BCTF Issue Alerts
- Follow BCTF on Twitter and `like` the BCTF Facebook page