



Strike Bulletin #5

2014 May 29

Freedom of Expression Rights

At the end of our last withdrawal of service in March 2012, a number of freedom of expression grievances arose in Cranbrook, Nanaimo, Vancouver, and Prince Rupert which were settled in our favour and with prejudice.

At that time, members were told to remove buttons, t-shirts, or signs bearing “political” and other messages and the school districts involved admitted their administrative officers overstepped the bounds of their authority in issuing such orders.

In those cases both written and verbal directions were withdrawn. This clarified our members’ rights to display messages, including “political” or “union” messages, on buttons, t-shirts, and signs in schools and on school grounds.

Here is a list of some of the messages that were the subject of directions from AOs and grievances from locals:

- “EVERYONE is a SOMEONE in a Small Class”
- “Kids deserve more, Bill 22 gives less”
- “Negotiate, don’t legislate”
- “Bill 22, Attacking Workers One Bill at a Time”
- “Kids Matter, Teachers Care”
- “Teachers Want a Fair Deal”
- “End a Decade of Cuts to Public Education”
- “If provoked we will strike”
- “Our Charter Rights, 2.b or not 2.b”
- “28-01-02 A Decade of Cuts”
- “Standing up for BC Students”
- “Stronger Together”
- “It is not about a raise, it is about your child’s education”
- “I commit to a Bully-Free Life”
- “Bullying Stops Here”
- “I am the BCTF”
- “Proud to be a teacher”

Members are free to wear and display buttons, t-shirts, and signs in their classrooms and on school grounds without interference or direction from administrative officers. However, members are advised that they should not discuss political or union messaging with students during class.