

A Message From Your Teacher

Dear Families,

We are teachers. Our purpose and our passion is teaching. We bring the best of our training and our experience into our classrooms to support and nurture every child in the best way we know how. We are proud of our contribution to our community and value the relationships we have built with families. However, the BC Government's lack of funding has severely compromised our ability to continue to provide the same level of service as we have in the past.

We can no longer cover up for the profound lack of services in schools. The courts have shown we have the right to negotiate our working conditions. Our working conditions are your children's learning conditions. In 2002, there were agreements in place to provide for specialist teachers. Currently, there are no guarantees in the teachers' contract for these specialist teachers and service levels are determined by underfunded school districts. This is but one factor that has caused students to be shortchanged in BC's public schools.

The Government says that spending more on public education is unreasonable and unaffordable. Yet, the BC government spends \$1000 less than the Canadian national average on public education every year – a shocking number for such a rich province. Ask yourself what seems reasonable and affordable for our province and what learning conditions you value for your child, your grandchildren and the children to who are yet to come. In the coming days you will see us outside the school on the picket line. It is the only way we have to show the Government that we will stand together and say, "No More". We are fighting not just for ourselves, but for our students, your children and for the future of public education.

Please join us by letting the Government know the importance you place on education and the ability of teachers and schools to do the best for each child where and when they need it most. You can find your MLA's contact information here: www.leg.bc.ca/mla/3-1-1.htm.

Phone, email or write your MLA and tell them about the public education system we need in BC.

Thank you.

ADPATED FROM THE COLLINGWOOD SCHOOL TEACHERS' LETTER