



# Surrey Teachers' Association

Providing Educational Leadership

August 2011

Dear Colleague:

I hope this letter finds you relaxed and rejuvenated after summer vacation.

As you are aware, the parties have been bargaining since March 1st and have been unable to reach an agreement. Unless there is significant progress at the table over the next few days, we will be returning to school this year under the Phase One job action plan.

Over the summer, there has been much discussion in the media about our bargaining objectives and those of BCPSEA. I want to remind you of the objectives that we collectively set for this round of bargaining:

- 1) Improved teaching and learning conditions;
- 2) Improvements to salary and benefits, and
- 3) the ability to negotiate local solutions to local problems.

Unfortunately, BCPSEA has brought to the table a “sub-zero” mandate. Their mandate is not only cost neutral, but also seeks concessions in many areas of our current collective agreement, including seniority rights, professional autonomy, and teacher evaluation.

Our very successful strike vote in June was an important part of our strategy for putting pressure on the table and moving bargaining forward. Our Phase One job action is the next step. In this letter, you will find a copy of the Phase One plan approved by the Labour Relations Board and by the BCTF Representative Assembly. To be successful, the plan must have an impact on the system and that means we will not be doing some of the administrative tasks that have increasingly become a part of our work. We will focus on teaching, rather than these administrative tasks that take time away from our students.

To support bargaining and the restoration of funding to public education, the STA and the BCTF will also be engaging in a media campaign. You may have already seen the BCTF television ads and the website [inspiringfutures.ca](http://inspiringfutures.ca). This campaign will also include print and earned media. The STA will be running print ads in local Surrey papers. We will also run radio ads in Punjabi.

You also play a part in our success at the bargaining table. By following the Phase One plan, you put pressure on your school administration. Your staff rep can assist you with implementing the plan. By speaking with your friends and neighbours about education issues, you help to shape public opinion, which is a critical component of our success. Your voice as a teacher is trusted and respected.

You may still have questions about the Phase One plan, or bargaining in general. In order to provide you with the most up-to-date information, we will be holding a special general meeting for all members on September 14th, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. We hope to see you there. Together we can succeed.

In solidarity,

Denise Moffatt  
President  
Encl.

**Special General Meeting - September 14, 2011 at Eaglequest Golf Course**

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