



September 16, 2014

The Honourable Christy Clark
Premier Province of British Columbia
PO Box 9041, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9H1

Mr. Jim Iker, President
British Columbia Teachers' Federation
100 – 550 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4P2

Re: Settlement between the Province and BCTF

Dear Premier Clark, Minister Fassbender and Mr. Iker:

The Conseil scolaire francophone (CSF) Board of Regional Trustees held a special public meeting on September 4, 2014, and passed a motion instructing me to write a letter expressing our overwhelming concern regarding the ongoing and protracted labour dispute between the British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF) and the British Columbia Public Schools Employers' Association (BCPSEA).

In our previous letter dated current June 26th, the CSF Board of Regional Trustees strongly recommended in favour of a mediator's involvement to reach a settlement between the BCPSEA and the BCTF. We then asked that both parties work together to identify a mediator agreeable to both sides to assist in finding a solution to the settlement impasse. We have now entered into our third week of the new school year and we are relieved to hear that both sides have made a constructive and progressive effort with the mutually agreed mediator and have arrived to a tentative settlement.

The ongoing distrust between the BCTF and the Government, combined with the current labour dispute, is having a negative effect towards the public's perception of our public education system and our province. As the only francophone school district in the province, we fear that we may have lost a percentage of our teaching staff to other provinces, as there is a demand for

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francophone teachers for the francophone programs throughout Canada. As well, it has had a negative impact in attracting new recruits from other provinces to join our school district.

We cannot stress enough that the public education system is suffering tremendously and we hope the new tentative settlement will create a more harmonious and respectful relationship between all involved. Our students are eager to get back to school and learn. Our parents and public need the reassurance that the government believes in and supports the public education system. Our teachers need to believe that their employer and union leaders are there for them; that they return to work to teach our students and feel they are recognised for their contribution, and that we all value the work they do.

Nurturing a student is paramount to a successful life and society.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Hébert', is positioned above the typed name.

Roger Hébert
President

cc: BCSTA for all Boards
Bertrand Dupain, Superintendent
Sylvain Allison, Secretary-Treasurer
Sylvie Liechtele, President, SEPF
Francine Brisson, President, CUPE, local 4227