



Bargaining 2010

NEGOTIATIONS NEWSLETTER # 12

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Thanks, now back to Bargaining

The Negotiating Committee and Executive appreciate the solid support the membership has shown through the positive strike vote last week. In the labour relations system of British Columbia and throughout Canada, this is what is required of unions when bargaining is not progressing. It shows the other side that the union is really not content to continue to hear “no”. It brings pressure on the other side to consider the potential consequences and pressure to move toward the deal that will always eventually come.

What happens after a strike vote?

As we discussed at the Special meeting last Wednesday, a positive strike vote legally allows a union to first give notice of job action (72 hours is required) and then to take job action if necessary at any point up to three months after that. It is important to note very clearly that under the BC Labour Code that job action can mean a very wide variety of coordinated action. It is not just an “all out and stay out” fully-picketed strike. It can mean a “work to rule,” a “study session,” a refusal to meet administrators, an information picket, a partial strike, a very short strike, long coffee breaks, many things.

The last VCCFA job action is illustrative. It was over twelve years ago in November of 1998. For various technical reasons, we chose to take a ninety-minute action pulling our own members out from only Broadway, from only 6 pm to 7:30 pm and only for one evening. We thought it would have the least possible impact on our members, on staff, and on students as it was essentially a supper-hour strike. We made little effort to ensure that all our members were out and we made no effort to ensure that CUPE members who were still working went out. We leafleted students to ask them to go inside for their classes and to tell them that their classes would start a few minutes late at 7:30.

Is the VCCFA planning job action soon?

Not at this time. We haven't yet given notice. We said at the meeting and we have repeated it to the students' union and to the staff union and to administration that our focus is returning to bargaining. However, it cannot be the sterile form of bargaining we have endured over the last 10 months. There has to be a renewed energy and focus on finding solutions to the issues we have been bringing forward.

Is Bargaining going on?

Yes, there are two meetings scheduled this week and we are hopeful last week's vote will have the desired effect.

**We will continue to update our Website with timely information.
We may have to call Special General Meetings at short notice.**

What else is happening?

Very Positive Strike Votes at Langara and Vancouver Island University

On Friday the LFA announced that they had a 94% 'yes' vote with a large turnout over two days. They are returning to bargaining this week.

Two weeks ago the VIUFA announced an 84% 'yes' vote. Stymied at their attempt to return to bargaining they announced a strike deadline of March 4th, which has now been delayed as their management has referred their bargaining to a Labour Board mediator.

Rally Across B.C. on Wednesday, March 9th

Our provincial federation of faculty unions, the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators, is coordinating rallies at every college and university on the ninth to bring attention to the fruitless year of bargaining every local has been experiencing and to call for an end to the stonewalling at every table. It is amazing how little progress has been made anywhere over the past year. FPSE president Cindy Oliver states, "Victoria needs to hear that their stranglehold on local bargaining tables is undermining our ability to find local solutions to local problems."

Help organizing the rally is needed

If you can help out please attend either of two initial organizing sessions. Drop in on either:

**Thursday, March 3rd, 3:00 pm – Broadway Union Office, Room 2654
or
Friday, March 4th, 1:30 pm – Downtown Union Office
401-402 West Pender Street**

Contact the office at (604) 688-6210 or email at info@vccfa.ca for further information

*Thanks,
VCCFA Executive and VCCFA Negotiating Committee*

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