



**ABBOTSFORD DISTRICT  
TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION**

2570 CYRIL STREET  
ABBOTSFORD, B.C. V2S 2G2  
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June 17, 2011

sent by facsimile

Mr. Ray Velestuk  
Secretary-Treasurer  
School District No. 34 (Abbotsford)  
2570 Tims Street  
Abbotsford, BC V2T 4M7

Dear Mr. Velestuk:

The Abbotsford District Teachers' Association was recently made aware that BCPSEA tabled two (2) Estoppel notices on behalf of the Abbotsford School District. I would like to express how disappointed I am in both the manner with which these notices were presented and the topics of the Estoppel notices.

At no time during our bargaining sessions did the District indicate you would be issuing Estoppel notices for Article C.1, Resignation or Article G.33, Educational Leave (With Pay). Had the District done so there would have been room for conversation and options discussed, instead the District has chosen to bypass any interaction with the ADTA on these issues. Considering the cordial relationship the ADTA and the District had developed over the past few years, it is very disappointing that the District did not speak with the ADTA about these issues before issuing the Estoppel notice.

It is most upsetting that the District has chosen to attack their female employees and their families by ending the District's practice of granting partial resignations. As you are aware, teachers who resign part of their FTE predominantly do so to remain at home with their young children and tend to be women. It is reprehensible that the District has decided to force young mothers to choose between their families and their careers, without presenting any other alternatives. Over the course of numerous bargaining sessions and Joint Committee meetings throughout the years, the ADTA has advocated for a change to Article E.28, Filling Vacant Positions that would have allowed those teachers in part-time assignments to achieve full-time status, the District has refused to even consider making a change to this article. Nor has the District been willing to discuss Job Share language which would have provided these young mothers with the opportunity to reduce their assignments and later return to full-time work. Instead the District forced teachers to permanently resign part of their FTE. Had the District been willing to discuss these items with the ADTA these Estoppels would not have been necessary.

Again, these Estoppels are very disappointing and fundamentally wrong and have the potential of destroying any feelings of goodwill between the teachers of Abbotsford and the District.

Yours truly,

Jeff Dunton  
President  
Abbotsford District Teachers' Association

C: Ms. M. Ross, Field Services, BCTF  
Mr. R. Pound, BCPSEA  
Ms. C. Schafer, Board Chair, School District No. 34  
Mr. U. DeJong, Trustee, School District No. 34  
Mr. K. Neufeld, Board Vice-Chair, School District No. 34  
Mr. P. Rai, Trustee, School District No. 34  
Ms. J. Field, Trustee, School District No. 34  
Mr. J. Sutherland, Trustee, School District No. 34  
Ms. S. Wilson, Trustee, School District No. 34  
Mr. K. Godden, Deputy Superintendent, School District No. 34  
Mr. S. Carlton, Assistant Superintendent, School District No. 34  
Mr. A. MacKay, Assistant Superintendent, School District No. 34  
Ms. S. Antak, District Principal – Education Staffing, School District No. 34