



**BCTF100**  
Celebrating a century

British Columbia Teachers' Federation A Union of Professionals  
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Dear colleague,

Since our landmark win at the Supreme Court of Canada, the BCTF has been working hard to ensure our stripped language is restored as soon as possible, and in accordance with Letter of Understanding #17 (LOU #17) that was negotiated and ratified as part of the current collective agreement. Meetings with the BC Public School Employers' Association and government representatives began in early December and are continuing.

On January 4, 2017, the BCTF and the employer reached a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to address priority measures, as only a first step, while discussions continue regarding full restoration of the 2002 collective agreement language. The agreement in principle was subsequently approved by the BCTF Executive Committee last night.

This MOA does not impact the BCTF's main goal of complete restoration of the 2002 language as soon as possible. The MOA is "without prejudice," meaning it has no bearing on a future finalized agreement. It is **not** a final resolution on implementation. It does not rewrite any local or provincial language, nor does it impact in any way LOU #17 or the process to restore the 2002 language.

What it does do though, is allow the local parties to start posting new jobs now while the discussions on implementation continue.

The MOA is available on the [MyBCTF.ca](http://MyBCTF.ca) portal and you can access a [document](#) outlining the entire process in more detail.

The key points of the MOA are:

- \$50 million in new net funding from the Ministry of Education to create 1,000–1,100 teacher full-time equivalents (FTE) for the balance of the 2016–17 school year. This is in addition to the \$80 million from the existing education fund that was established in the current collective agreement
- The new funding will be used to implement two priority measures: adding enrolling-teacher positions and non-enrolling positions in schools (for example: counsellors, teacher-librarians, special education teachers, and other specialists across all grades).
- Allocation of the new net funding at the school district level needs to be jointly developed and decided through a district committee established by the superintendent and the local union president. Decisions about what jobs will be posted, and where, will be decided by the local parties. There will also be a dispute resolution process if there is no agreement between local parties.

With this MOA complete, the Federation's focus can now shift to discussions with government about fully restoring the 2002 language and ensuring the February provincial budget contains the necessary funding to make that happen. The two sides continue to have meeting dates set, including three days next week.

As we continue with discussions, we must also continue with our advocacy in all communities and around the province. It's important for parents and the public to understand how our contract language made a difference for kids. It guaranteed supports for students with special needs, and manageable class sizes for all. It ensured teacher-librarians, counsellors, English language and other specialist teachers were there to give students the individual attention they need.

It has been almost 15 years to the day since then Education Minister Christy Clark first brought in the unconstitutional legislation. The work to repair the damage to public education has only just begun.

It's going to take a significantly higher investment than \$50 million to undo the damage this government has done to a generation of students. The BCTF will be pushing hard to make sure the February 21 provincial budget contains the significantly higher investment needed to restore the full scope of our 2002 language and the better learning conditions our students need.

Again, please read this [update](#) to get more information on today's development, what's next, and other important questions.

In solidarity,

Glen Hansman  
President

GH:vt:tfu