

## Wage controls confuse teacher bargaining

Teachers' salary bargaining again faces a season of uncertainty as bargaining begins for 1977-78.

Major cause of the uncertainty is again the anti-inflation board.

BCTF president Pat Brady said at a news conference Thursday September 8, that

teachers will be seeking improvements in contracts that will permit retention of purchasing power and a share of the productivity of the country.

'Wage controls have confused the picture of what should be appropriate wage settlements,' he said.

The permissible limits of

wage increases under the anti-inflation wage control program for B.C. teachers who are in their third program year is currently calculated at 8.4 percent.

The exact amount cannot be determined until either mid-October or mid-November, depending on whether the AIB

uses the September or October Consumer Price Index figures as the base in applying its guidelines formula for the third program year.

Brady said that teachers could not agree with any practice of using arbitrary data which would restrict increases to a limit lower than actual increases in the cost of living.

And teachers are concerned about the effect on their 1978 salary increases if the wage control program is terminated early.

Brady said 'Teachers were discriminated against by being placed retroactively under the wage control program in 1976, and were held to the arithmetic guidelines in the first two program years. We consider the de-control process should provide additional compensation.'

Brady was concerned that agreements made before the de-control process is known may not make adequate provisions for the transition period.

In addition, the BCTF has launched a Supreme Court action and the judgment is not expected until local associations are well into negotiations.

Brady said that local associations will also be rationalizing relationships within the administrative allowance structures that were distorted through the AIB program, as well as a restoration of the clauses, such as professional development leave of absence, etc. that were removed or altered through the program.

Other areas include: improvement in sick leave provisions, leaves of absence, especially those involving parenthood, and funds for adequate in-service programs.

Also included in negotiations this year will be a clause to protect teachers from punitive actions by school boards during strikes or lock-outs of non-teacher employees.

First negotiating meetings with school boards are expected to take place in the period September 20 to October 1.

## Do BC schools deny God?

B.C. public schools have been accused of teaching 'secular humanism,' a religion that rejects moral and ethical laws of the Bible and denies the existence of God.

The charge that B.C. schools follow secular humanism was made by Gerry Ensing, Executive Director of FISA (Federation of Independent Schools Association) at a Vancouver Board of Trade public meeting June 30 during a debate on Bill 33, the legislation to fund independent schools.

Members participating in the debate were Gerry Ensing, FISA, Bill Broadley, then president of the BCTF and Jim Carter, Ministry of Education.

Broadley immediately took the microphone to demand that the Minister of Education launch an investigation. He held up a booklet titled *Secular Humanism and the Schools: The Issue Whose Time Has Come* by Onalee McGraw which said that children are being taught in schools that moral and social beliefs and behavior are not necessarily based upon Judeo-Christian principles, but should be fashioned instead to suit the wishes and convenience of the majority or society as a whole.

'Humanists believe that

traditional theism, especially faith in the prayer-hearing God, assumed to love and understand their prayers, and to be able to do something about them, is an unproved and outmoded faith,' says the pamphlet.

'In humanism, self-fulfillment, happiness, love and justice are found by each man individually, without reference to any divine source.'

Broadley also challenged the power of what he called 'the omnipotent inspector' in the new legislation, who will have 'total authority' in determining which schools qualify for group one or group two classification for funding.

'This inspector may constitute one or more external evaluation committees, name the persons to be members of the committee and prescribe the duties of those committees.' further, the minister may, in fact, delegate powers and duties vested in the minister to the inspector.'

And the omnipotent inspector, Broadley continued, may grant certification to a

teacher on the recommendation of an independent schools teachers' certification committee.

'I doubt if in the entire history of public school education in B.C. that a single individual has been granted the power that Bill 33 gives to the inspector of independent schools,' he said.

Jim Carter, in explaining the legislation, also gave information on the amount of funding that may be available to these schools in the group two classification which he says will fall 20% short of full funding so these schools could teach religious instruction as distinct from the public school system.

Gerry Ensing argued that independent schools were every bit as public as public schools. Asking if independent schools were denied public funds because they were anti-social or because they held unsuitable values, Ensing suggested that if this were the case, 'then close them.' But if not, he said, people should support diversity not conformity and the independent school movement.

## Fired St. Patrick's group charge discrimination

Students of St. Patrick's High School in Vancouver will be looking at a sea of new faces this fall.

During the summer months the Catholic school has undergone a complete changeover in teaching staff and none of the teachers on last year's staff will return this September.

Seven members of the 1976-77 teaching staff have filed grievances against St. Patrick's school board for religious discrimination.

Daniel Murphy, the first of the school's teachers to receive notice that his services would not be required for the '77-78 teaching year, was told last April that he was being 'laid off' because of 'a decrease in student population' and 'severe financial difficulties.'

Murphy was later informed that arrangements had already been made to acquire two new staff members from a religious community in eastern Canada for the next school term.

'What it amounts to,' said Murphy, 'is that I was fired because of my "religious philosophy".'

'At no time during my interview for a teaching position the previous year was religion even mentioned,' he added.

The other six teachers protesting the circumstances of their dismissals from St. Patrick's were informed near the end of June this year that 'for the 1977-1978 school term at St. Patrick's Secondary your services will not be required,' with no other explanation.

All six teachers had been asked during the previous month to sign contracts with the school's board of trustees for the coming school term.

David Malaka, spokesman for the latter group of teachers, said that they were informed during recent talks with school board officials, that the

Continued on Page 4

## At the summer conference

### Local presidents help each other

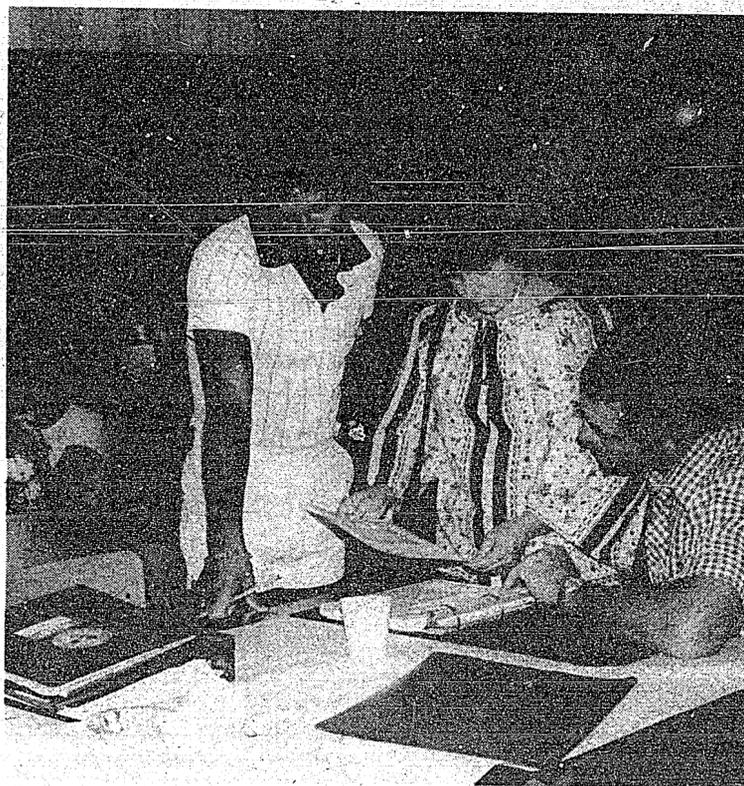
The Summer Conference this year was rated 'very good' by local association presidents. Balmy weather at the Naramata location served to enhance people's overall opinion of the conference.

Sessions rated 'excellent' included parliamentary procedure, led by Bob Buzza; combating racism, led by the racism task force members and learning conditions, led by the learning conditions committee members.

Some 150 people attended the annual conference for newly-elected local association presidents.

Due to 30 to 32 degree weather, delegates and their families were able to enjoy free time by heading for the beach, or participating in soccer and baseball matches.

Many delegates expressed disappointment at the possibility that the summer conference may no longer be held. The Naramata site, used for the last several years, is no longer available and a new site has not yet been located.



What problems await now that you've been elected president? Three veterans from last year, left to right, Mike Lombardi, Coquitlam, Elaine Jacobson, Smithers, and Mick McGarry, Kelowna gave two sessions to their colleagues on running a local association.

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# CTF approves three BCTF resolutions

Three BCTF resolutions received approval at the Canadian Teachers' Federation Annual General Meeting in Ottawa last July.

CTF members passed the following BCTF resolutions during their four-day conference.

That the CTF call upon the federal government and through its members, the provincial governments, to enter as soon as possible into negotiations with native peoples to achieve just land settlements.

That CTF indicate to the federal government its strong support for amendment to the pensions legislation that permits benefits for those who temporarily leave the work force to raise children.

That CTF recognize the value of national subject associations and seek to maintain liaison with those that exist.

Delegates to the conference elected Len Williams of St. John's Nfld., to succeed Michael Heron as president of the federation for the coming year.

In his parting address to federation members, Heron urged teacher organizations to see beyond the crises within education and to stress more vigorously 'those factors which are stable, constant, and are of more relevant concern to our colleagues in the classrooms.'

He also praised the inroads CTF has made this year with the federal government.

'Politicians and civil servants have indicated often this year the high regard with which they view CTF and the high visibility which it possesses as a national organization,' said Heron.

'This recognition is of such extreme importance when one considers the extent and involvement of the federal

government in the educational affairs of Canada . . . and that there are few teachers not affected by its actions,' he added.

He also dealt with the subject of CTF's weaknesses inherent in language policy and stressed the need for all members to be aware of the underlying principle of the policy and do their best to reconcile their differences.

In closing, Heron told his audience that he sees finding 'ways of dealing with declining school enrolments and all the concomitant problems which accompany these declines' as CTF's top priorities for the future.

In his first address to the membership, incoming president Williams backed Heron's statements by saying that 'the current pattern of declining school enrolments presents both a problem and a challenge.'

He added that teachers must fight the simplistic reaction to this type of situation which is to readjust the system by diminishing the supply of qualified teachers.

He urged educational authorities to take advantage of the enrolment picture so that it might have 'a powerful, positive impact on the goals of education in this country' and advocated that teachers attack some of the specific difficulties facing the Canadian education system.

According to Williams, the four major areas where improvement, not retrenchment, is needed are education for the socially disadvantaged, education for the artistically talented, education for the handicapped and the problem of regional inequalities in education.

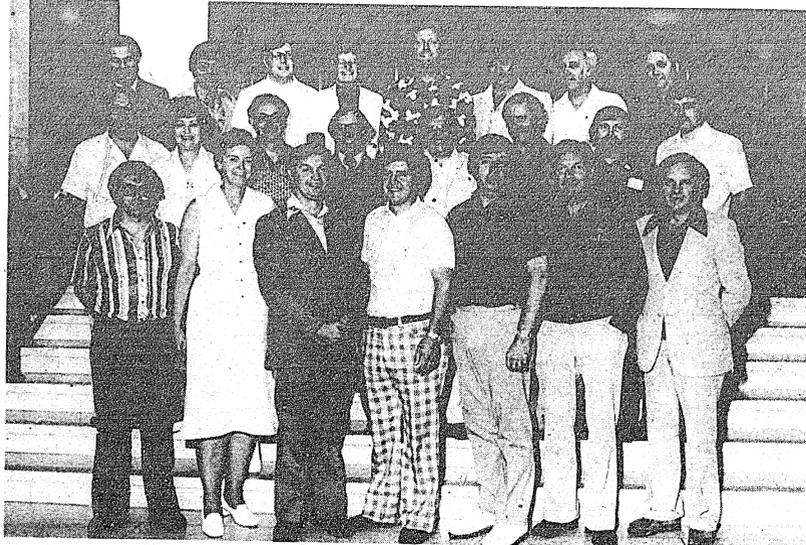
'We now have a choice of futures for education in Canada. Economic forces and financial restraints could dominate and prohibit access to educational opportunities

for many Canadians, or governments, educational authorities and the public will recognize the need to seize the opportunity of assessing the resources freed by declining

enrolments and develop educational models which improve on the educational services now offered.'

As well as appointing a new president for the 1977-78 year,

delegates elected Pat English, from Alberta, as Second Vice-President and Leo Duguay, from Manitoba, as First Vice-President. Duguay was elected by acclamation.



Pictured above, during a break in their deliberations, are the members of the 1977-78 Canadian Teachers' Federation Board of Directors. Left to right, front row: Roger Doiron (N.B.), Pat English (Second Vice-President), Len Williams (President), Leo Duguay (First Vice-President), Michael Heron (Past President), Norman Goble (Secretary General), Alan Murray (Ont.). Second row: Bill Davenport (Sask.), Margaret Beckingham (Ont.), Georges Gauthier (Ont.), Joseph Maidment (N.S.), Steve Kirby (Que.), Tom LaFosse (N.B.), Al Wolitski (N.W.T.), Fred Smith (Y). Third row: Raif Kyritz (Man.), Jean-Marie Long (French Language Commission), Paschal Chisholm (N.B.), Roberta Hubley (P.E.I.), Jim Carrey (Ont.), Mac Kryzanowski (Alta.), Ross Andrew (Ont.), Peter Minshull (B.C.).

## Extensions approved

### Parents challenge Victoria

A group of North Vancouver parents has proved that you can fight city hall — or in their case, the provincial government.

Parents of children attending Boundary Elementary, a North Vancouver community school, have successfully won a battle with the Ministry of Education for an expansion of their school building.

The expansion plans, the result of three years of school and community planning, had been given preliminary ap-

proval by the North Van School Board and the provincial government, but were refused final approval after going to tender last June.

The plans called for an additional six classrooms, a new library facility and an addition to the school's existing gymnasium.

Preliminary construction was to have started at the beginning of July.

After receiving news of the government's refusal to approve the plans, an ad hoc

committee was struck at a meeting of some 125 parents in the area.

The committee, chaired by Nolah Embley, enlisted the help of the school board, mayors of both the City and District of North Van and MLA Jack Davis and proceeded to bombard Victoria with telephone calls, telegrams and letters.

The Minister of Education reversed his decision in mid-August and construction was able to begin almost immediately, only about six weeks behind schedule.

'We are very pleased that the extension is going ahead,' said Embley. 'The addition of the new classrooms will enable us to move students now housed in portables quite a distance from the rest of the school.'

'This was really an example of total community involvement,' she added.

She also feels that Mayor Tom Reed's presentation of North Van's projected development plan for the area bordering the school grounds had much to do with changing the Minister of Education's decision.

## See the world next year

Would you like to spend next summer in the Caribbean, South Pacific, Africa or Asia — all expenses paid?

If you are a member of the BCTF, have a university degree, have at least five years' teaching experience in Canada, are a Canadian citizen in excellent health and have flexible and mature judgment, you may qualify for the Canadian Teachers' Federation's Project Overseas.

Each year about 60 Canadian teachers are chosen by CTF's National Selection Committee to spend their summer working with teachers in overseas countries, helping them improve their teaching skills and strengthening professional teacher organizations.

The BCTF finances 15 of its members each summer.

Teachers participating in Project Overseas draw no salaries during their working-summer, but administrative,

travel and living expenses are paid by the CTF, the provincial and territorial teacher organizations that are members of CTF, and the Canadian International Development Agency.

Deadline for application for the 1978 summer program is November 15, 1977.

Further information and application forms are available from the BCTF office, 105-2235 Burrard Street, Vancouver, V6J 3H9.

BRITISH COLUMBIA TEACHERS' FEDERATION  
105 - 2235 Burrard Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3H9

newsletter

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EDPRESS

Letters to the editor must be signed by and bear the address of the writer. The Newsletter may edit letters for brevity, clarity, legality or taste. Articles contained herein reflect the views of the authors and do not necessarily express official policy of the BCTF.

# Learning Conditions — a decade of progress

Learning conditions has had a decade of impressive growth. It was ten years ago this September that a province-wide class size campaign was mounted. The issue? B.C. had the largest classes in the country.

Ten years ago, the concern was classes over 40; today, class sizes are improved, but not yet where they could be. Limits for this year include 20 for kindergarten, 25 for grades 1 to 3, 30 for grades 4 to 12, and 10 for special classes.

Learning Conditions today is a major course in the federation, well staffed and well funded.

Attendance at this year's LC short course was higher than in 1976 with 108 participants, but the number of locals was down slightly, 62 this year and 65 last year.

Esther Lee, Cassiar, said she got a lot out of the equality of opportunity section of the short course. 'Most of our school population are native children,' she said.

She said the course was all very practical. 'We need more people working in LC.'

Gwyn Reilly, Comox, praised the audio/visual material for help in verbal skills and presentations.

Kathy Bedard, Queen Charlottes, said she got a 'real insight' into the way finances work during the budget presentation. 'It's good to know stuff like that.'

She said the equality of opportunity presentation was

useful because the Charlottes are in a special need area. Social and economic conditions are going to affect a student in the school, she said, therefore teachers must be involved in community activities.

'I've got lots of ideas from

here to translate into action.' Jim Collar, Nisgha, said the simulation exercise was 'not too hot' but overall that he got more from this short course than from any other he had attended. Nisgha would be negotiating an LC contract this year, he said.

From the West Kootenays, Terry Burnett and Virginia Clover both felt the course was an excellent but overwhelming experience.

'I came two years ago,' Terry Burnett said, 'but now it's a lot better.'

Ann Milliken, also from the Kootenays, agreed and said that her aim now is to promote staff committees.

George Sutton, Summerland, said budget was an important part of LC. 'You have to know where the dollars are spent.' The material was heavy, he said, 'It will take me a while to sort it out.'

Art Heine and David Stigant, West Van, both agreed the budget presentation was helpful. They see a positive program for this year.

Ken Robson, one of eight delegates at the course from Vernon, said 'all of it was helpful.'

Tom Crocker, Kelowna, called the workshops excellent,

but the politicizing in 'poor taste.'

Dave Dennis and Jack Hannam, Victoria, said the content was superb and the organization very professional.

What happens now? The participants in the course will need colleagues to help, according to the organizers of the program.

Ahead lie many activities, including budget presentations to boards, contract negotiations, improving school management, eliminating discriminatory practices, and yes, grievances to help resolve unsatisfactory and unacceptable learning and teaching situations.

## Workshop to explore inequalities

A conference to explore social and economic inequalities in the schools.

October 20 and 21, 1977, Vancouver area; \$12.00.

Sponsored by Public Schools Legal Education Project. Phone 689-0741 for more information.

Workshops will deal with classroom alternatives, curriculum reforms, and federal and provincial human rights legislation.

A training session for local association contacts for the BCTF Task Force on Racism October 7 and 8, 1977, Vancouver Teacher Center, 123 E. 6th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. Contact Wes Knapp, BCTF (731-8121 or 731-0474; Intertel).

# Brady emphasizes BCTF decentralization

A BCTF president, taking office in July, will use the president's address at the summer conference to give first public indications where the emphasis will be in the year ahead.

For Pat Brady, emphasis will be on decentralizing the BCTF.

'I strongly believe that the Federation's activities and the determination of its policies should be moved from the provincial authority to those closer to the school and classroom wherever and whenever possible,' he said. 'The provincial body should, in large part, play a supporting role to the efforts of the local associations.'

Directions the federation will take have already been determined by an annual general meeting, he said.

Brady said many teachers believe that the BCTF has frittered away too many of its resources by trying to do too many different things. 'We can't be all things to all people. Our resources are limited. We should concentrate on doing some things very well, rather than on skimming the surface of a great many issues.'

'If teaching is to become the major profession we all want it to become, the professional development work of our provincial organization is an absolute must. As with other

aspects of BCTF work, the local level is where much of the emphasis should be.

'The federation belongs to 29,000 teachers, not to the executive committee or representative assembly. It is essential, therefore, that our members let their SR know what they want the federation to do and what they want the federation not to do. It is the job of the executive committee to see that what the members want done is carried out as effectively and efficiently as possible.'

On political action, Brady said the emphasis should be on problem-solving, not on the polemics of confrontation. And he wants to see an integration of our present political activities to avoid what he called 'a scatter-gun approach.' BCTF activities should support local decision-making processes and desires, not be a substitute for them.

Brady singled out a few issues, one of them collective bargaining, reminding delegates that the spring RA reiterated that it wants to retain the bargaining system outlined in the Public Schools Act, although it also authorized the agreements committee to explore alternative arrangements.

Officers of the federation will be meeting with the minister early in September to discuss the economic welfare of teachers, particularly the extension of the scope of bargaining and negotiations in the post-control period.

Declining enrolments offer both problems and opportunities, Brady said, 'And we should be well aware of both.'

He reminded delegates that all school districts are not equally affected, in fact his own school district, Prince George, has rapidly growing enrolments.

'The problem is essentially a local one, and we must therefore find local solutions to it.'

## Ghana teacher gains from BCTF visit

Stephen Manu, former teacher and headmaster and Ministry of Education official, in Ghana, and now a staff member of the Ghana National Association of Teachers (GNAT), is in British Columbia for the period, June 20 to October 30, 1977.

He has been sponsored to B.C. by the Canadian Teachers' Federation to study curriculum development with Dr. Ted Aoki and Dr. Harry Cannon, Faculty of Education, UBC, and to examine the work

of the federation's Professional Development Division.

On return to Accra, Ghana, he will become responsible for establishing a PD division in his own teachers' organization.

Commenting on his visit to B.C. Stephen Manu said that he was gaining 'tremendously' as he was learning much from talking to teachers, university professors, ministry officials and to BCTF staff members. 'Certainly, my expectations are being met,' he added.



BCTF president Pat Brady

## Ontario teachers fired on religious grounds

The Ontario Supreme Court has upheld a Roman Catholic church ruling to fire two separate-school teachers who were married outside their church.

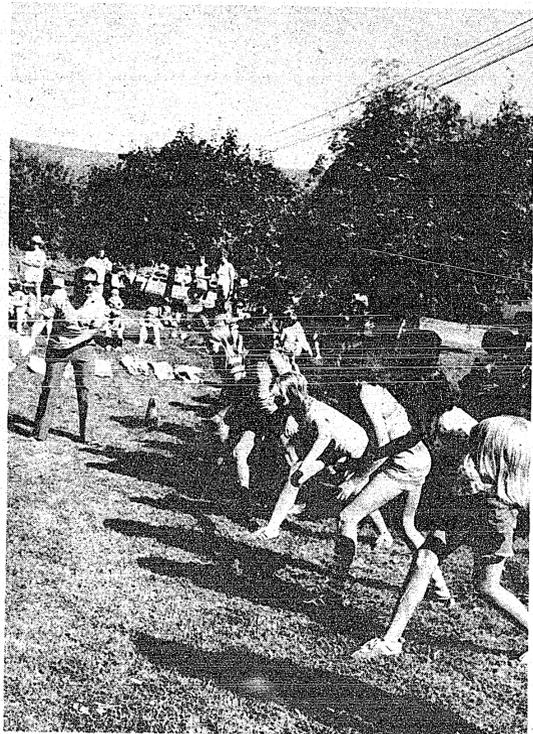
The two women teachers were dismissed in November, 1974 by the Essex County Roman Catholic school board after they had both married in civil ceremonies.

School board trustees passed a resolution stating that they had 'the right under the British North America Act to select, employ or dismiss otherwise qualified teachers in accordance with the denomination requirements' of their schools.

A tribunal appointed by the Ontario education minister ordered the teachers reinstated, but the Supreme Court ruled in a 2-to-1 decision that the tribunal's order was 'an infringement on a right preserved' in the British North America Act.



Steven Manu attended the learning conditions short course Vernon. When he returns to Accra, he will be establishing a professional development division for Ghana teachers.



Always where the sports action is, well known B.C. athlete Ted Hunt organized evening softball and soccer games and started the races for delegate's children.

# Executive rescinds appointments

An Executive Committee changes at the Annual General Meeting by way of elections. But the actual constitutional authority changes three months later on July 1.

This means an incumbent executive committee can and does make appointments while newly elected executive members have to watch.

At the June executive meeting when most of the appointments were made there was a strong division of opinion over procedures. In fact, there were a number of procedural motions put forward asking that the Executive postpone appointments until all the ground rules were understood.

Motions to follow policy were tabled. The incumbent executive made its appointments.

After authority shifted July 1, another executive rescinded some of the appointments.

First, an agreements coordinator appointment was rescinded because the June executive had not followed the majority opinion of the affected locals. (This accords with statement 29.D.30, that appointments be made on the basis of recommendations from locals or district councils.)

Second, a finance committee appointment was rescinded because there had been a foul up in posting the vacancy.

Third, appointments to the Pensions and to the investigations committees were rescinded because policy was not followed, screening had not been done, and letters had been received from locals and com-

mittee members asking for action.

Fourth, appointments of the learning conditions committee co-chairpersons were rescinded. The July 2 executive argued that the chairpersons were not members of the committee and no policy exists that allows committees to choose chairpeople who are not first members of the committee.

One of the chairpersons had completed his three year term; the other had been on the committee because he had been first vice-president.

In August, the executive decided that the chairperson of the LC committee should coordinate a zone. This is already the practice in two other major federation committees, agreements and PDAC.

The executive requested the learning conditions committee to recommend a chairperson from the group of co-ordinators.

Peter Minshall, as a first vice-president with full time off for federation affairs, has followed the route of other vice-presidents before him in joining the LC committee. His appointment was unanimous.

He will chair the LC committee on an interim basis until the members recommend a chairperson consistent with the executive's decision.

Al Garneau, second vice-president, served notice that he will seek a complete review of procedures related to executive committee responsibilities on appointments of members and chairpersons to committees.

## St. Patrick's

(Continued from page 1)

religious philosophy of the teachers 'did not fit that of the school' and were 'not in keeping with Catholic philosophy.'

Four of the six teachers are members of the Catholic faith.

Murphy has taken his case to the Human Rights Commission, who have investigated the situation at St. Patrick's but have not yet come to a formal

decision on his claim. He has so far been unable to find a teaching position for this term.

The other teachers have collectively hired a lawyer and are contemplating legal action against the school.

Of the six, only one has been successful in obtaining a job for the 1977-78 school year.

All of the teachers dismissed from St. Patrick's were members of a group involved in a wage dispute with the school board last fall.

## Education estimates approved

The ministry of education spending estimates of \$948 million for April 1, 1977 - March 31, 1978, were finally approved by the legislature on July 27, following 22 hours of debate on education and ICBC matters.

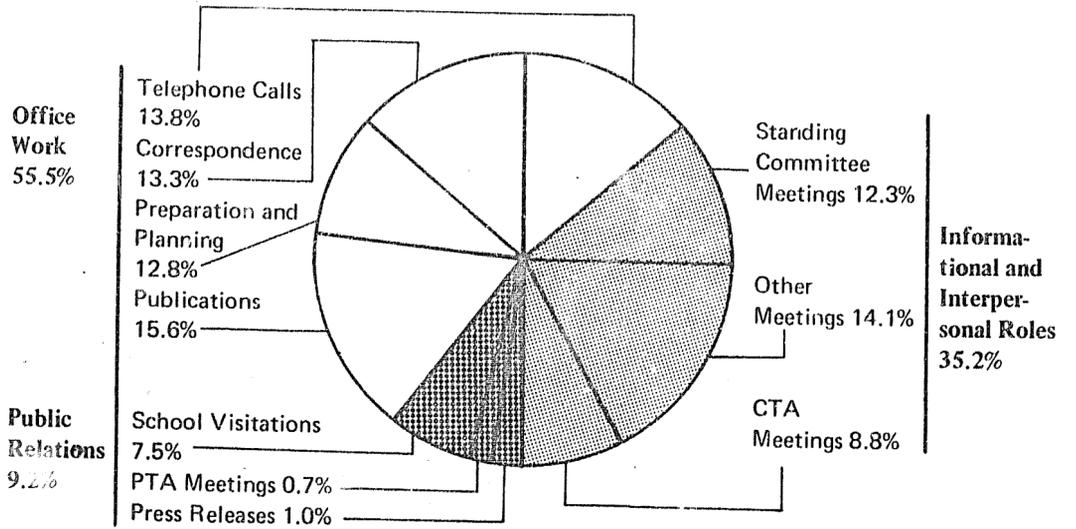
Following are the details of the respective votes of the legislature, with last year's approvals bracketed for comparison:

Minister of education's office	\$ 133,168	(\$ 126,940)
Administration and support services	5,064,827	( 4,922,992)
Basic education K-XII program	563,700,000	( 523,492,978)
Post-secondary education		
- universities	191,866,037	( 171,973,112)
- colleges & others	118,633,963	( 106,623,567)
Student aid programs	11,179,254	( 10,584,747)
Teachers' pension fund	38,300,000	( 29,200,000)
Metric conversion	195,630	( 119,972)
Advances re rural school taxes - net	10	( 10)
Building occupancy charges	19,209,874	( - )
Computer and consulting charges	232,000	( - )
	\$948,514,763	\$847,044,318

With regard to the two new items, vote 167 provides for payments to the B.C. Buildings Corporation for rental and maintenance of building accommodation occupied by the ministry of education, BCIF and the vocational schools.

Vote 168 is for payments to the computer and consulting services branch of the ministry of finance or to the B.C. Systems Corporation for data processing and management consulting services.

% OF TOTAL ACTIVITY TIME THE PRESIDENT SPENT ON SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES



## What does a local president do?

To determine how a full-time local president spends his time was the objective of a study recently done on Coquitlam Teachers Association President Mike Lombardi.

Doug Wilson, a teacher at Coquitlam's Montgomery Jr. Secondary School, did the study as one of his major papers.

Using a six month time period, the study examined two main areas - public relations and office work.

Public relations covered school visitations, parent-teacher association meetings and press releases.

Office work covered preparation and planning of meetings, CTA general meet-

ings, CTA executive meetings and CTA representative assembly.

Another category looked at was publications. The CTA president puts out a newsletter and two bulletins.

Telephone calls and correspondence were also studied.

The diagram describes the results of the study.

## Independent Schools Act

# Debate delays final reading

Bill 33, the Independent Schools Support Act, has still not passed third reading in the legislature after intensive debate during the middle of August.

For two days, members of the opposition debated against the bill, raising a number of questions, most unanswered by the education minister.

Debate was suspended when Pat McGeer, the minister, left the legislature for a conference.

Members from various organizations who formed an ad hoc committee to oppose the bill held a press conference during the third reading phase and flatly denied McGeer's claim that he has received about 10,000 letters in favor and only 'a couple hundred' opposed, as reported in the Sun, August 13.

'Our committee would be responsible for thousands,' said Eunice Parker, a Coquitlam trustee.

Harry Rankin, a Vancouver alderman, said at the news conference that for a rare time he found himself in agreement with W. A. C. Bennett in principle against Bill 33.

Rankin said that children should grow up, live and learn together. Supporting independent schools, he said, is spreading people apart when schools should be drawing people together.

Pat Brady, BCTF president is urging teachers to keep writing letters to MLAs.

The BCTF, he says, will give financial assistance to locals wishing to fight the bill by providing funding on a 75 percent provincial and 25 percent local basis.

Organizations opposed to Bill 33 include the B.C. School Trustees Association, the BCTF, and the Home and School Association.

In a survey of public opinion conducted in June, the BCTF found that there was only 27 percent support for independent schools receiving financial support as the minister has proposed.

Once people have information about what is intended in Bill 33, support drops off sharply.

The BCTF is opposed to Bill 33 because:

- Under Bill 33 the inspector in charge of independent schools will have a total and complete authority unprecedented in the history of B.C. education.

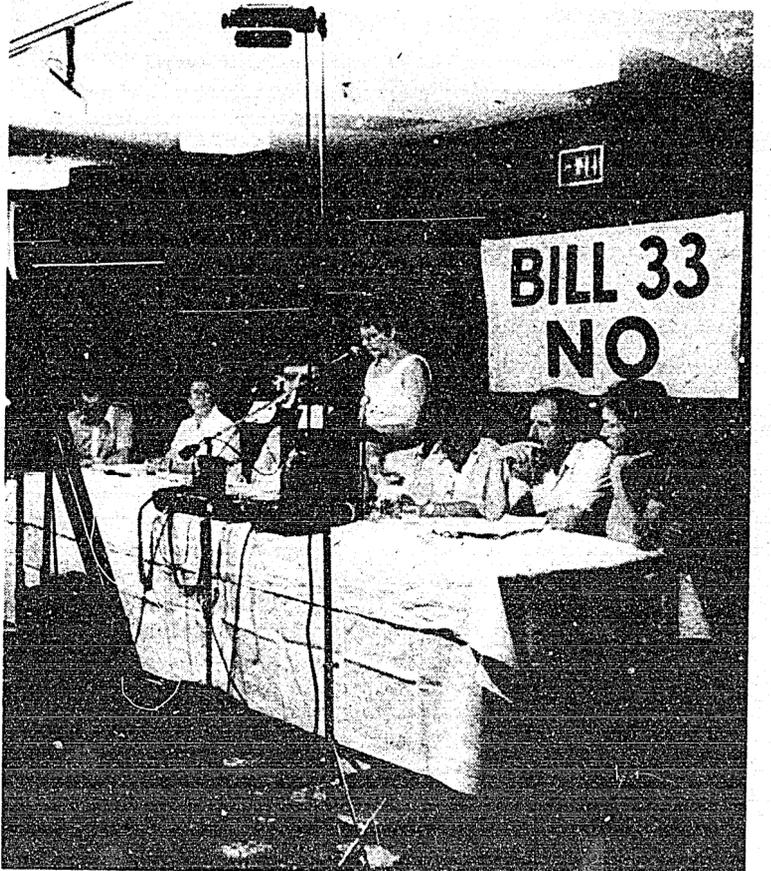
- Bill 33 would provide money to schools in group 1 that do not follow a core curriculum.

- Bill 33 would provide money to independent schools that do not need to use certified teachers.

- Bill 33 would provide funds to schools that can reject a student on the basis of grades, sex, behavior or religion.

- Bill 33 would allow representatives from independent schools serving on local school boards - a situation which could lead to valuable time being spent arguing over independent school matters and leaving public schools short-changed.

- Bill 33 has no precedent in Canada. Nowhere else are public funds provided with such minimum control provisions.



Members of the ad hoc committee opposing bill 33 held a press conference during the legislative debate.