

BCTF Newsletter

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Victoria teachers lead budget protests

Victoria teachers rallied, about 1,000-strong, recently to denounce their school board's plans to cut 132 teachers from district staff.

It was easily the most dramatic of a series of teacher protests around the province against school board budget cuts.

And it marked perhaps only the beginning of much broader protest as the current cuts — totalling at last count \$4.7 million and 261 teaching positions — now seem minor compared to the savage chops that will be necessary unless the provincial government backs off its massive spending controls program.

On February 10 more than 1,200 people, most of them teachers, packed the auditorium at the University of Victoria in a Greater Victoria Teachers' Association-organized public meeting on the school finance crisis. Together with Victoria NDP-MLAs Charles Barber and Gordon Hansen and school trustees Carol Pickup and Vicky Kuhn, they heard GVTA President Bruce Ridley tear into the Victoria School Board's decision to cut \$500,000 from its budget and its teaching staff by 10 per cent. The other seven trustees failed to show, as did the other Victoria-area MLAs, Education Minister Brian Smith, Finance Minister Hugh Curtis and Frank Mitchell.

Bruce Ridley took particular exception to a statement made earlier by Victoria board chairman Peter Yorke that the cuts would have no detrimental effect on education in the district. Pointing out that there had been no consultation with teachers — most of the budget-chopping meetings being conducted in secret — the GVTA leader condemned the blanket

See "Grim" page 3



Surrounded by reporters, President Larry Kuehn (centre) warns that Premier Bennett's controls program will "gut" the education system.

"Meat-cleaver approach"

Bennett's controls program means 2,000 teacher layoffs

Teachers will suffer, kids will suffer — the entire school system will suffer.

That, in a nutshell, will be the inevitable result of the provincial government's tough new spending control program on education.

"Bennett's meat-cleaver approach to economic salvation will gut the school system of this province," said BCTF President Larry Kuehn, following announcement of the government control program. "Hard-won gains by teachers and school boards in providing desperately needed special services for the children in our schools will be wiped out."

Imposition of the government's school board budget and salary restraints will have these dramatic effects:

- From 1,500 to 2,000 teaching jobs will be lost;
- Class sizes will become larger at every level of the school system;
- School support systems — from learning assistance to health — will be drastically cut back;
- Teachers' working conditions will deteriorate, many losing newly-won preparation time and duty-free lunch periods;
- Secondary school students will have fewer options in their choice of courses;
- Physical conditions in schools and classrooms will worsen, as maintenance programs face serious reduction.

The school system was one of the main targets in the two-year public sector restraint scheme announced by Premier Bill

Bennett on February 18. Education Minister Brian Smith elaborated on the program in a news conference the following morning. He pointed out that the controls, imposed both on school board budgets and on salaries, would be phased in beginning September 30.

The first phase, he said, would involve re-calculation of the 1982 school board final budgets to restrict increases in the last quarter of 1982 to 12 per cent above 1981 levels. The 1983 budgets will be held to an increase of 12 percent over the total 1982 budgets. In 1984, school board budgets will be restrained to the 1983 level of expenditures plus — if provincial revenues allow — an increase equivalent to the cost of living for 1983.

As for salary controls, Smith pointed out that existing teacher salary contracts will be honoured but following their expiry teachers will come under the announced public sector compensation guidelines. The guidelines have been set at 10 per cent for 1982-83, plus or minus two percent to take account of past experience, skill shortages and historical relationships, and an additional two per cent for increases in productivity. The permissible range for teacher increases will thus be between eight and 14 per cent.

Speaking of the impact of the restraints, Smith told the news media that "it will be the policy of the ministry to endeavour to keep in place programs for special needs students, particularly those that are funded provincially, and that we would urge boards to do the same thing for those programs that are shareable."

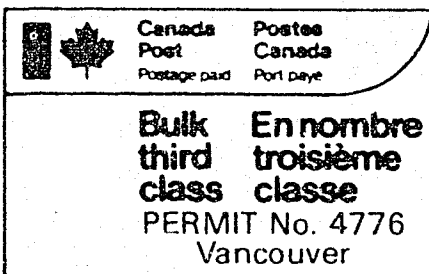
See "Some" page 2

Restraint program highlights

Premier Bill Bennett's draconian controls program will:

- Restrict school board budget increases in the last quarter of 1982 to 12 percent;
- Restrict board budget increases in 1983 to 12 percent and restrain 1984 budgets to the 1983 level of expenditures;
- Restrict 1982-83 teacher salary increases to 10 percent, but allow variations to cut them to 8 percent or boost them to 14 percent;
- Result in projected layoffs of 1,500 to 2,000 teachers.

An emergency Representative Assembly will be held in Vancouver on February 27 and 28 to determine the BCTF's response to the crisis.



IF UNDELIVERED, return to 2235 Burrard St., Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3H9

Editorial

A medieval bloodletting

In medieval times, when people got sick a common "cure" was a bloodletting. This, we now know, accomplished nothing in curing the patient, and often itself contributed to death. But it met a need of the ignorant to "do something" — even if it was the wrong thing.

Premier Bennett, facing sick government revenues and unwilling to have a deficit budget, has decided to adopt a medieval solution: a bloodletting of the public service through a control program.

What will this bloodletting mean to you? It could mean your job. If there are 15 teachers in your staffroom today, there may be only 14 in September.

This Social Credit control program is wrong, unfair and will be ineffective in addressing the problems it is supposed to solve.

It is wrong in targeting public service workers, destroying their collective bargaining rights and imposing limits on them alone. Accompanying this are no controls on other aspects of the economy such as prices of commodities, interest rates or even the cost of services provided by crown corporations such as B.C. Hydro or ICBC.

Only this year have public service workers, including teachers, been on the brink of regaining the standard of living enjoyed prior to the imposition of wage controls in the mid-70s. With our salary increase this year, we will have almost — but not completely — caught up with the real income (in constant value dollars) we earned in 1976. And this time our incomes will be ravaged by controls that don't even pretend to regulate the prices we have to pay.

The controls are unfair in the impact they will have on the school system. The nature of the attack on school board budgets this year could mean the loss of 1,500 to 2,000 teacher jobs in September. Each one of those teachers represents service and programs for kids.

The minister of education and his advisors either don't understand the school system or are intentionally misleading when they claim that this program is "fair" and will "treat all groups the same."

The impact of the 12 per cent limit on board budgets in the fourth quarter of 1982 will have very different effects in different districts. Districts with growing enrolments will face even more severe problems than those with declining enrolments.

When asked by the news media to identify where in the system 1,500 teachers could be chopped, the minister casually responded that junior and senior secondary classes could be substantially increased in size without any problem. This is a man who obviously has never taught a junior secondary class and who has already demonstrated with his consumer education decisions that he cares not a bit about student program options at the junior and senior secondary levels.

He cynically made the claim in his press release that "the restraints will be implemented so that programs for special-needs children, for which there are already unique funding arrangements, will be maintained at the level required." Those programs are not at the level required now, and can never withstand the pressure of removing at least 1,500 teachers from the system.

The impact on the school system will be massive. Children with special needs will be short-changed on vital services. Kids in regular classes will receive less individualized attention, as class sizes will grow. Support services will be cut back. The improvements in working conditions we only started to gain in last fall's bargaining will be legislated away. And all of this is being done to carry out a program which will not and cannot be effective in meeting the objectives the premier has laid out: controlling inflation, reducing interest rates and creating jobs.

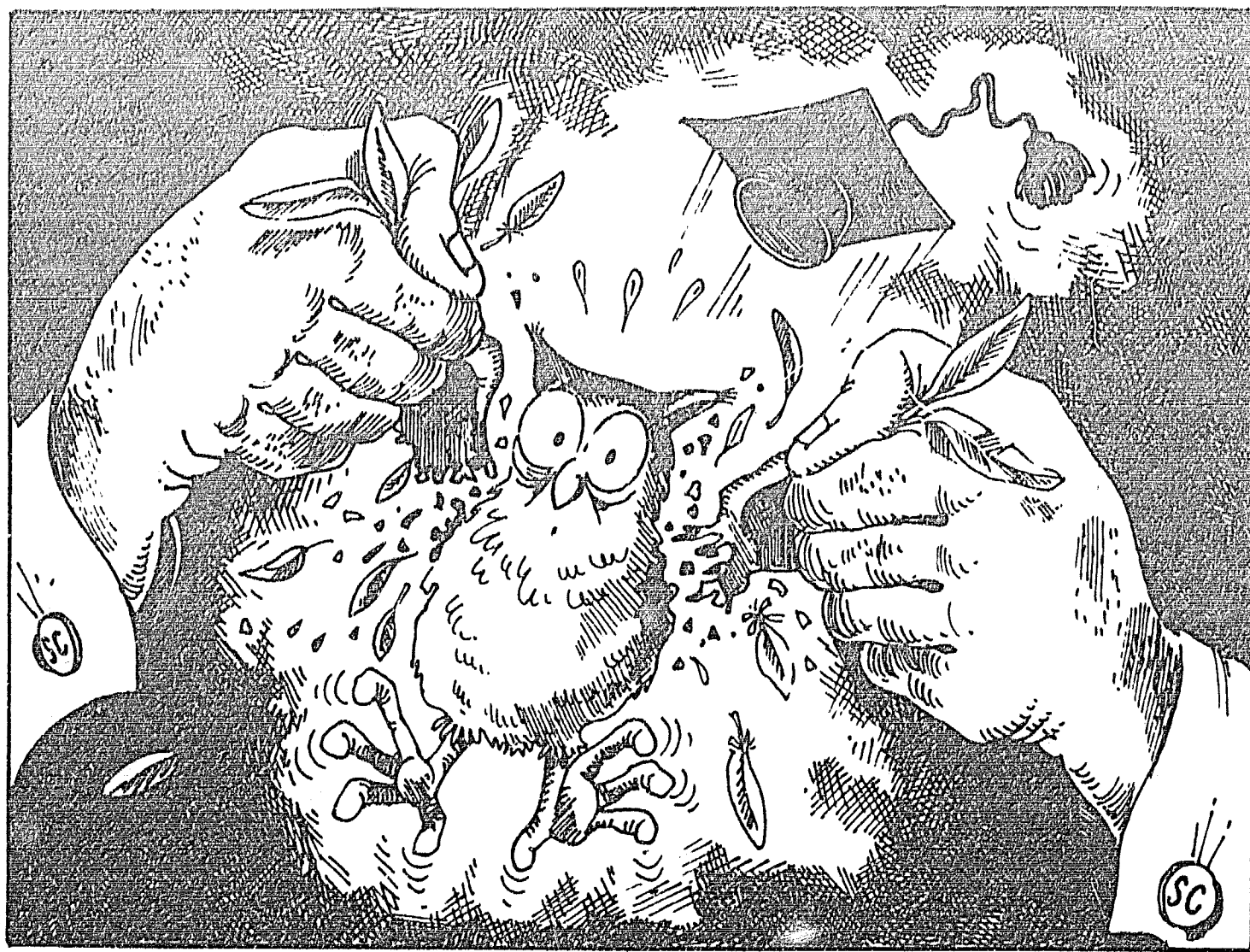
Inflation is not created by wages — we and other public sector workers have not even kept up with inflation, let alone created it. The causes of inflation are elsewhere in the economy.

Unless the premier has some secret fund through which he is going to offer lower mortgage rates to public sector workers (our pension fund, perhaps), we are going to have to pay the bank interest rates ever driven up by Reaganomics, not by our wages.

And perhaps the greatest irrationality in the entire scheme is the chopping of 1,500 to 2,000 teaching jobs in the name of job creation.

Teachers must refuse to be willing patients in this modern-day bloodletting.

Larry Kuehn
President



Bob Bierman

"Some secondary classes can increase without difficulty"

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Under questioning, the minister admitted that the program would lead to teacher layoffs, but he downplayed the extent. "By good planning and management," he said, "most of them will be from the ranks of people due to retire not being replaced and with temporaries."

While also admitting that class sizes would increase, Smith similarly minimized the adverse effect. "There are some classes at the junior-senior secondary level where

increases in class size can occur without difficulty," he told reporters. "There are also some classes that have to remain small. But the result of this program will be that that ratio will move back upwards — but I don't think it will be a marked movement."

BCTF President Larry Kuehn, who sat in on the news conference following a meeting with the education minister, took issue with Smith's downplaying of the impact of the program.

For one thing, Kuehn said, it was hypocritical of the minister to claim in his news release that special education programs would be maintained as required. "The reality is that right now there aren't adequate special education programs."

Kuehn also was critical of the minister for suggesting secondary class sizes could easily be increased, noting that this has serious implications for classroom discipline and for program options. "At the senior secondary level, and to some degree at the junior secondary, what consumer ed will have wiped out in electives, this is likely to finish off."

He also warned that one of the most likely targets for cuts will be school support systems and that this will affect educational quality and teacher workload. "If you cut off the support programs that now take off the kids who are having the most difficulty and put even two or three of these kids into a regular classroom," Kuehn said, "it isn't just increasing your class size by two or three, the work load is increased much more than that and your ability to meet the needs of other kids in the class and those kids with special needs is dramatically reduced."

Kuehn maintained that the provincial government's restraint policy has nothing to do with the crisis in education finance, noting that the government has taken no action to revise the education finance formula. He argued that it had more to do with the government's determination to have a balanced budget in a time of recession and the resultant unwillingness to spend money on social services.

"They claim that they're trying to create jobs and yet they're introducing a program that will reduce jobs in teaching by 1,500 to 2,000," he said. "It's absurd."

BCTF Newsletter

CLIVE COCKING
Editor

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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. Letters to the editor and signed articles contained herein reflect the views of the authors and do not necessarily express official policy of the BCTF. Unsigned articles are the responsibility of the editor.

MEMBER: EDPRESS

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CTF joins fight against wage controls

The Canadian Teachers' Federation has thrown its support behind BCTF opposition to the provincial government's imposition of unrealistic budget ceilings on school boards and salary controls on teachers.

At a meeting on February 20, the CTF board of directors unanimously adopted a motion to this effect proposed by Maureen MacDonald and Joan Robb, BCTF members of the board. The CTF board will make its opposition known to the B.C. government and will urge member teacher organizations to support the BCTF.

At the same time, the CTF directors came out against any government that imposes wage controls and adopted a contingency plan involving an informational campaign and political action should wage controls be re-imposed nationally or in other provinces.

Administrators' PSA withdraws brief

The B.C. Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association has officially withdrawn from the minister of education its brief on consumer education.

BCPVPA President Gordon Moffat informed the *Newsletter* that a resolution was passed at the recent zone council meeting of his association "directing me to request through the executive of the BCTF that the minister return the brief on consumer education because we had erred in procedure in sending the brief."

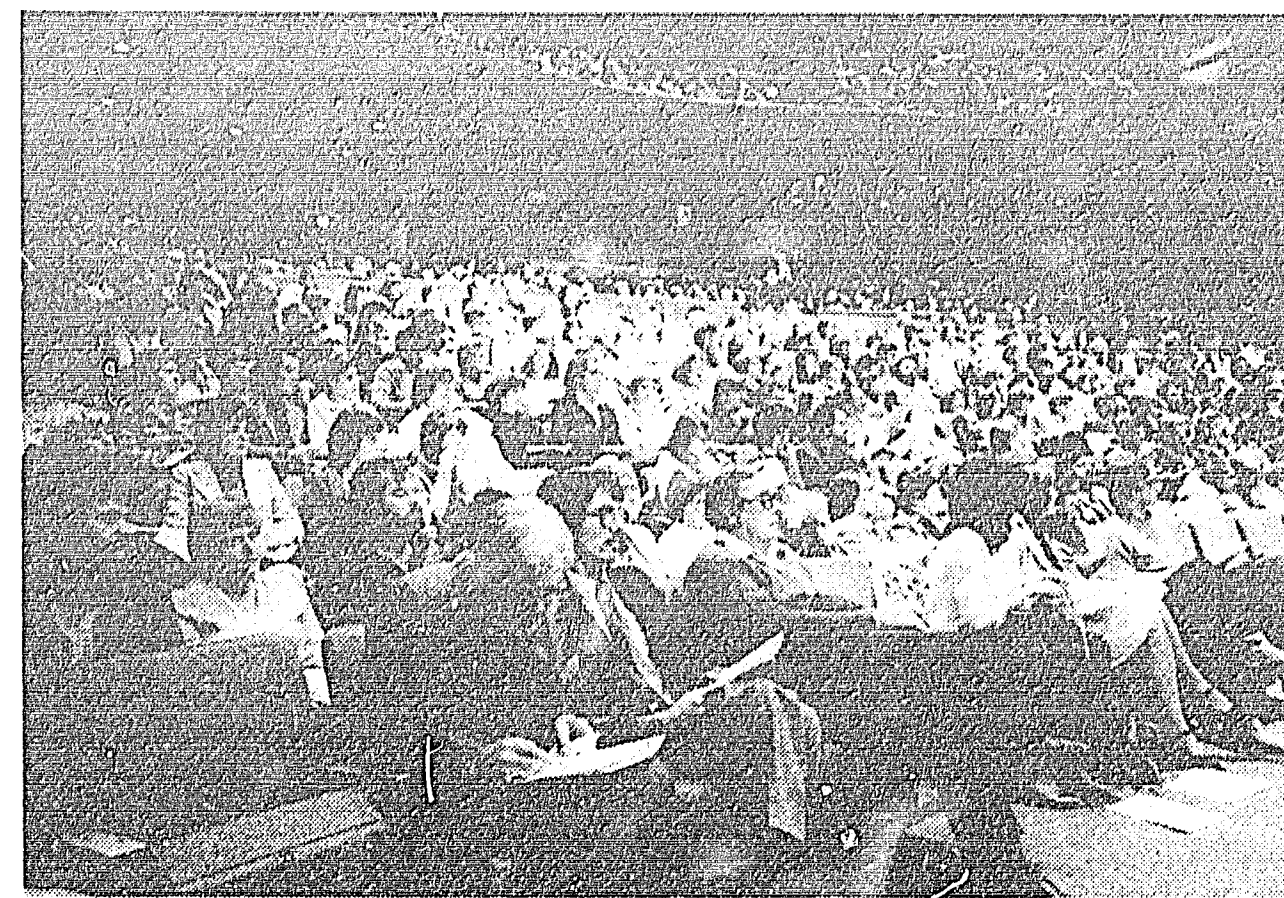
The decision followed a reprimand from the February Representative Assembly for breaching policy in making direct representation to the minister and an RA directive that the brief be withdrawn.

On the same issue, the Executive Committee at its February 12-13 meeting adopted a series of statements elaborating guidelines on how PSAs may conduct their activities and make representations to outside agencies through the BCTF.

Make sure you're on the provincial voters' list

Are you on the provincial voters' list?

A provincial enumeration begins on Monday, March 1. The processing of the results into a new voters list will take several months. If a provincial election were called before the process is complete it would be run on the old list. Check your local constituency office to see if you are indeed registered to vote provincially. Remember that the provincial voters' list runs on different principles than the federal list. If you are *not* on the provincial voters' list *you can't vote*. You can't swear an affidavit at the poll as you can federally.



Before an overflow crowd of teachers and parents, GVTA President Bruce Ridley (right) attacks the Victoria cutbacks.

Grim effects of budget-slashing also felt in other districts

From page 1

cuts for being made without evaluation of programs or the revealing of details of where the cuts were to be made.

"If you don't know where the cuts are coming from, how can you determine that there will be no detrimental effects?" Ridley asked.

The savings, he noted, would amount to only about \$12 a year for each taxpayer and this in a district which should have high expectations, "although it has never been an education showpiece."

"We rose briefly to mediocrity a year ago," Ridley said sardonically, "but we are going backwards at breakneck speed."

He was referring to statistics which place Victoria among the worst districts in the province with respect to class sizes and personnel practices violations. Finance, he said, appears to dominate the board's thinking, despite the fact that the Gillies Commission public hearings about district education received "not one letter, not one brief" complaining that schools were costing too much.

Ridley was followed by a series of other speakers, mostly teachers and principals who outlined what the cuts would do to programs in their schools. A few parents spoke against the teachers' position. There were some poignant moments as other parents with children with learning disabilities wondered out loud how the cuts might affect their children.

The provincial government — which has reduced its share of the Victoria school budget from 62 per cent in 1972 to 30 per cent in 1981 — came in for some choice words from teachers, as well as from trustee Carol Pickup. She was also critical of the superintendent's role in the budget cuts. Trustee Vicky Kuhn, who noted she had supported some of the cuts because of fiscal concerns, praised the

assembled teachers for their "sincere and reasonable attitude." She had been concerned, she confessed, that she was in for a "roasting."

Following the speeches and discussion, the Victoria teachers went on to pass a motion to establish, in cooperation with parents, a coalition to oppose the anti-education stance of the present school board.

In addition, the teachers unanimously adopted an action plan to put into practice throughout February and March pending a satisfactory resolution of the crisis. The plan involves:

- a continuing school and district PR campaign to build support for the coalition for education;
- withdrawal from all board and district committees;
- mass attendance at school board meetings;
- and the development of demonstrative action plans.

If the matter is still not resolved in April, a general meeting will be called to consider working to rule and in May a special meeting to consider withdrawal of services.

In other districts around the province, the grim details of the impact of budget-slashing are becoming clearer. In addition to increases in class sizes, they range from elimination of fine arts and music programs, to the termination of needs assessment and career programs, to reduction in maintenance and a likely end to preparation time at the elementary level.

Here's the picture as it has recently unfolded:

Alberni. The board is planning to cut \$207,000 from its provisional budget. This will result in a loss of 12 teaching positions.



Cowichan. A cut of \$296,000 is planned, which will lead to a loss of 3.4 positions designed to give teachers preparation time.

Kamloops. The \$1 million planned chop in the provisional budget will result in the elimination of 26 proposed teaching positions and the likely loss of elementary prep time.

Nanaimo. The planned \$450,000 cut will mean the loss of 6.8 positions in enrichment, resource and music fields.

West Vancouver. With a \$849,000 cut coming, maintenance will be slashed, fine arts and enrichment programs will be eliminated and nine proposed teaching positions and seven non-teaching positions will be lost.

Penticton. The planned trimming of \$454,900 from the provisional budget will eliminate an elementary music program and elementary prep time.

Saanich. With a \$378,000 cut looming, the district faces the loss of 28 teaching positions, a turning back of the clock to the 1976 PTR and a threatened substitution of aides and interns for teachers.

Vancouver. The board's planned cut of \$552,000 means the loss of 44 proposed positions in junior secondary to reduce core class sizes.

In all of these districts, teachers have underway various levels of action plans to fight the cuts.

WUSC wants teachers for posts in Africa

Would you like to teach in Africa for the next two years?

The World University Service of Canada is looking for 200 Canadian teachers to teach in various countries in Africa beginning next September.

Information from WUSC on the types of postings, qualifications, salaries, and school systems is available from the government division, BCTF office.

Curriculum study seeks pilot projects

The BCTF curriculum study, which originated in a Professional Development Advisory Committee recommendation to the Executive Committee, is moving into the pilot project stage.

A recently published *PD Action* calls for interested local associations, school staffs and PSAs to volunteer for pilot projects to start in September.

Teachers can be involved in curriculum study in four major ways. The first is through a community-based local project which will include staffs of several schools, parents and other community groups. The theme of the project, B.C. Studies, will integrate resources and people from a wide range of interests, including: literature, social studies, arts, labor history, multiculturalism and women's studies. It will focus on curriculum planning implementation that builds on the strengths and skills of teachers and promotes alternative models of curriculum development. Involvement in this aspect of the project will have implications for the use of non-instructional

days for the next year. Plans for funding, organization and focus will be tailored to meet the needs of the local that is selected.

The second type of pilot is designed for a school staff that has an interest in curriculum. Several schools will be selected to provide a range of size, grade level and geographic location. The project will use some of the school's non-instructional days in the initial stages, therefore it is important that schools indicate their interest in the project as soon as possible.

Another area of the study is directed at PSAs and local or federation committees. This section will concentrate on resources and personnel; funding and support will be available.

The three types of pilots will be integrated in a comprehensive model of curriculum planning and implementation.

Schools that have in operation a unique locally-developed project will also be eligible for support to extend their projects.

Locals, schools and PSAs that are interested in participating in this exciting and challenging project should contact the PD division. Further details are available related to funds, substitute time, resources and organization.

Perspective

Bennett should put our money where his mouth is

Jim Bowman

Government Division

We had planned this editorial to be a layperson's guide to the idiosyncrasies of financing education. A look at the old shell game with the shells manipulated by the head villain — the provincial government.

That editorial will have to wait, but not for too long because the "plans" the minister keeps mooting for a change in the education finance formula would effectively put the government's financial position back to the 1950s. Although that would, as we have noted previously, bring the Soereds' financial stance into harmony with their philosophical one, it would ultimately have a deleterious effect on the education system far beyond anything at present in the works.

Premier Bill Bennett's recent pronouncements about spending controls have immediate consequences for the financing of education — and for the political future of his government.

The government was elected in May 1979 and thus it could prolong its tenure until May 1984. Governments

in this province have traditionally not served the full term. But with the economy in trouble this observer had been betting that there would be no election until the economy had started to recover, there had been another redistribution of electoral boundaries and the price of BCRIC shares had risen, or been manipulated upward. The only caveat to that forecast would be the possible confrontation that looms between the government and the B.C. Government Employees Union. That union will be at the end of a three-year, 8 per-cent per-year wage settlement in July 1982 and is looking for a substantial increase to catch up with inflation.

So the controls, whatever their other motivations and implications have these political ones. It could be the trigger for confrontation with the public-sector unions to provide an issue for an election this year.

If that doesn't occur, because the unions won't play that game or the pollsters tell the premier that he couldn't win it, then the controls still have implications for an election in 1983/84. The controls would

effectively curb expenditures in the government's largest spending areas of health, education and municipal services for the next two years. Then when the economy starts to pick up and government revenues increase accordingly, the money will be rolling into, but not out of, the provincial treasury. There will be lots of "new" money, a Sacred invention, to sweeten the electoral pot.

If that sounds like a cynical assessment, so be it. Less than three months ago the premier received a standing ovation from the government benches for this statement:

"I have been concerned with trying to employ our people since we became government, because the very philosophy of our party is work and wages not waste and welfare." (*Hansard*, December 1, 1981).

The 1,500 or so teachers, who could have had jobs in September were it not for the premier's controls, might well suggest that they too prefer "work and wages" to "waste and welfare" and that the Social Credit government should put our money where its mouth is.

Letters

All members should vote for president

The Professional Development Bulletin of 4 December 1981 posed the following question in its first paragraph:

"Why is it that a system so dependent on the co-operation and goodwill of all its members to function successfully seems so incapable of extending its trust to those very same people?"

It seems to me that this question implies that opportunities should and must be provided for all members of the BCTF to exercise their democratic and professional rights. If this assumption is correct then it seems that there can be almost no strong ethical or moral reasons for not allowing all BCTF members the opportunity to have a *direct* vote in the election of our president.

Many colleagues in my district feel that since the president of the BCTF is such an important representative of all teachers, and our main spokesperson on many important issues, that a very strong argument can be made for the claim voiced by a colleague: "Because of my fees, I think I have the right to have a direct vote for the person who is to represent me to the general public."

This issue has been debated more than once in our district and arguments against the proposal have ranged from the weak to the probably serious one of logistics. Supporters of the idea feel, however, that the means can be found to conduct such a ballot within each district by a certain date, after candidates have had their statements and curriculum vitae published in your bulletin.

I think I should emphasize that those of my colleagues who support this idea do not do so on the basis of any hostility or objection to the policies of any president.

Charles Ellman
Maple Ridge Secondary School
Maple Ridge, B.C.

Restructuring will decentralize BCTF

Roger Gosselin is incorrect in nearly every statement made in his letter (*Newsletter*, February 15) attacking the creation of a BCTF Bargaining Division to replace the existing Agreements and Learning Conditions divisions.

These two divisions providing service to locals overlapped in activities producing communication problems, inefficiencies and unnecessary extra costs.

The single Bargaining Division will continue to provide service to locals on working and learning conditions (including those not in contract) as well as salary bargaining and school board budgets.

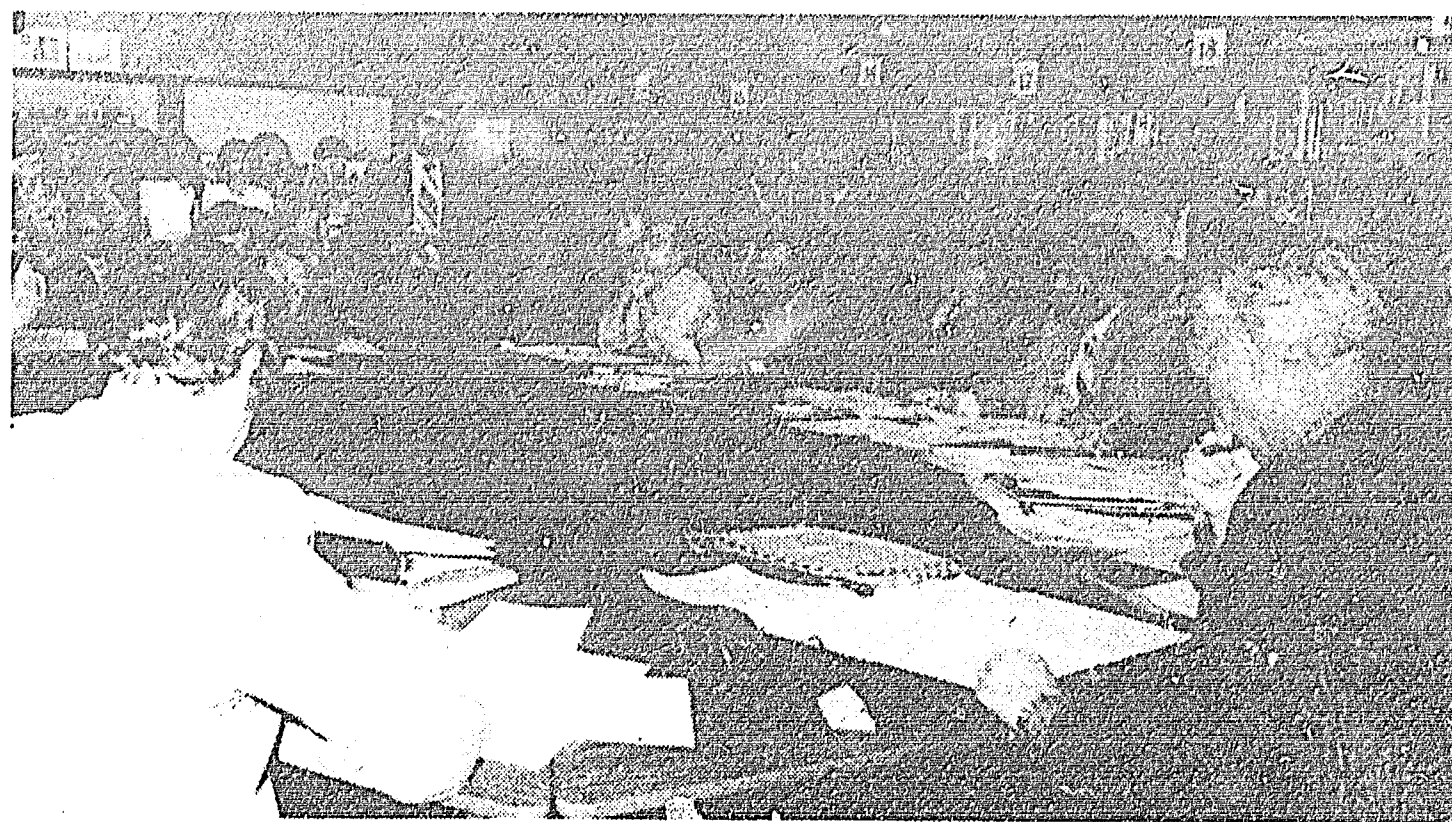
The effect of the restructuring will be to provide more BCTF staff service to locals. The effect will be decentralizing, getting the BCTF out more to the local level.

The process has included broad participation in developing changes:

- The 1981 AGM approved the principle of a change in structure to reflect the broader bargaining thrust;
- Various committees (including agreement and learning conditions) were involved in developing and approving the new structure;
- The staff unions have been represented at meetings where recommendations have been formulated and discussed, and negotiations have taken place on related issues;
- The February Representative Assembly examined the proposal, then defeated a Gosselin motion to put off proceeding with the changes.

Most of us are anxious to get on with adjustments which will improve the BCTF's ability to serve its members, by responding quickly and effectively to needs identified by local associations.

Larry Kuehn
President



Shuswap teachers pack board meeting to press for working and learning conditions contract. Photo: Marg Shand, Salmon Arm Observer

Shuswap teachers press for contract

Linda Shuto
Professional Development

Shuswap teachers are committed to achieving a contract to address adverse conditions in the district. Issues of concern include personnel practices and grievance procedure, class size, preparation time, libraries and noon-hour supervision.

Initially, the board was adamantly opposed to discussing a contract. The teachers adopted a three-phase action plan that has brought the board to the negotiating table.

November 26 — Phase I: informational media campaign; refusal to attend joint policy meetings; mass attendance at board meeting; letters to newspapers.

January 18 — Phase II: no new voluntary activities; district wide lunch hour; "post-in" totalling preparation hours at board office; withdraw from noon-hour supervision.

February 15 — Phase III: withdraw from all voluntary activities; request the BCTF executive to put district "in-dispute".

Before teachers initiated phase II, the board agreed to negotiate but made no commitment to sign a contract.

Teachers postponed the action plan to facilitate negotiations.

The first negotiating meeting on February 2 brought no immediate results. "The second meeting will tell the real story," said local president Dave Williams. "If no progress is made we will be forced to resume implementation of our action plan."

Shuswap Board chairperson Cliff Michael indicated publicly that the board is willing to sign a contract and that the board committee would be meeting before February 24 with the STA bargaining committee to respond to the contract proposals.

Sixteen BCTF members join Project Overseas

Sixteen BCTF members will spend this summer assisting teachers in various developing countries.

They will be the BCTF's contribution to Project Overseas 1982.

The project, administered by the Canadian Teachers' Federation, and financed by the provincial teachers' organizations, sends 50-60 Canadian teachers each summer to conduct training courses for their colleagues in developing countries.

The BCTF pays for 15 of its members to join the project each summer at a cost of \$52,500. The sixteenth B.C. teacher this year will be supported by a grant from the

Canadian International Development Agency.

Four BCTF members will be team leaders this year: Joy Littler (Victoria), going to Anquilla; June Streigler (Williams Lake), to Ghana; Delbert Joe (Vancouver), to Kenya; and Henry Krohman (Vancouver), to St. Lucia.

The other BCTF participants are: Don Currie (Kamloops), to Ghana; Leo Gervais (Cowichan), to Haiti; Nora Greenway (Salmon Arm), to Cameroon; Christina Haight (Saanich), to Ghana; Brian Lynch (West Vancouver), to Grenada; Colin McCaffrey (Prince George), to Grenada; Rod MacLachlan (Abbotsford), to Uganda; Oksana Macura (North Vancouver), to Thailand; Larry Melnyk (Burnaby), to Uganda; Ruth Midzain (North Vancouver), to Sierra Leone; and Ron Morrice (Vancouver), to Jamaica.

Fraser Valley socials teachers propose new social studies course

John S. Church
Professional Development

The Fraser Valley East Social Studies Teachers' Association's recent report, *Reflections on the Proposed B.C. Social Studies Curriculum*, is not only pleasing in appearance, but also significant and critically reflective in its message. It includes a BCTF critique of the proposed elementary social studies program as well as a major paper prepared by George Major which reviews the revision process and the proposed content of the revised program, grades 7 to 11.

The major article is the keynote address delivered at a Fraser Valley East Social Studies teachers-sponsored conference in October 1981. John Patton, an Ottawa social studies teacher, was able to bring to his keynote speech a wealth of experience obtained from working on Canada Studies Foundation-sponsored projects with scores of both anglophone and francophone teachers in all parts of Canada. Speaking, as Patton said, as "an unabashed Canadian nationalist," he characterized the philosophy of the proposed revision as "the most frustrating area," the goals as "inadequate and too heavily cognitive."

Patton reserves his most powerful observations to his conclusion — "unsatisfactory for Canadian schools . . . conceptually flawed . . . philosophically far too narrow and prescriptive . . . inadequate in both its cognitive and affective components." He adds that it "militates against any coherent, consistent development of understanding of Canada or the world." It fails to equip students to become "informed, competent and engaged citizens."

Editors Al Berry, George Major and Doug Steinson, who teach secondary social studies in Chilliwack, are to be congratulated. The report they have edited provides a comprehensive critique by teachers of a public document, the proposed social studies curriculum, a document they have judged to be flawed, unsatisfactory and inadequate.

Students to protest post-secondary cuts in Week of Action

The recently-formed Canadian Federation of Students, Pacific region, is undertaking a province-wide campaign to fight cutbacks in B.C.'s post-secondary education system.

Representing over 90,000 students in B.C. colleges, institutes and universities, CFS Pacific will stage a Week of Action, March 8-12, part of a nationwide program organized in conjunction with the national CFS body. "The campaign is aimed at building up mass public support for education," explained CFS organizer Mike Miller. "First and foremost this involves countering the myths and stereotypes which surround students and post-secondary education."

The CFS campaign message will emphasize that:

- post-secondary education is already under-funded and further cutbacks will jeopardize the quality of and access to education;
- cutbacks are short-sighted as a fully-operational post-secondary education system is vital to B.C.'s economic and cultural development;
- post-secondary education is no longer the domain solely of the 18-24 age group as more and more adults return to education for upgrading and retraining.

The Week of Action will see post-secondary students employ a variety of tactics — Vancouver students will stage a large demonstration at Robson Square; Victoria students will march on the legislature — and will be followed by an awareness campaign leading up to the provincial budget in April.

Interested teachers are urged to contact the student society at their local post-secondary institution, or the CFS Pacific provincial office at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby. Telephone: 291-4677.

Shuswap fills senior administrative posts

With the appointment of two assistant superintendents, Shuswap school board appears to have completed restructuring its senior district administration.

Geoff Johnson, currently a supervisor of instruction in New Westminster, will be responsible for "educational programs," K-12, starting April 1. S. Lal Mattu will be assigned responsibility for "personnel." Mattu is leaving the superintendency in Jasper, Alberta.

Shuswap Teachers' Association President Dave Williams and Principal Eric Walters participated in shortlisting and interviewing candidates from among the 74 applicants.

Mattu will administer special programs and co-ordinate personnel practices related to hiring, promotion, transfer and evaluation of professional staff. Johnson's tasks will relate mainly to curriculum improvement and professional development.

Earlier, Ron Smith, formerly an Alberta administrator, was appointed superintendent and designated chief executive officer. Under the new arrangement the secretary-treasurer will answer to the superintendent.

Volunteers sought for WCOTP meeting

Interested in attending a meeting of teaching's world organization this summer?

The BCTF will pay registration fees for up to four people to attend the assembly of the World Conference of Organizations of the Teaching Profession (WCOTP), to be held this year in Montreux, Switzerland.

Applicants must have had recent BCTF experience at the provincial level, and will be required to bear travel, accommodation and meal expenses themselves. The theme of this year's WCOTP assembly will be teacher education.

Applications should be addressed to the Executive Committee by March 22.