Central Okanagan placed in dispute

Central Okanagan School District has been placed in dispute by the B.C. Teachers' Federation.

The BCTF Executive Committee voted to take this action on November 28 in response to a request from the Central Okanagan Teachers' Association.

The decision means, essentially, that the Central Okanagan School District is now considered to be beyond the pale to the profession. Until the issue is satisfactorily resolved, any BCTF member who applies for, or who accepts a position, in that school district would, pursuant to policy 2.D.04, be automatically in breach of the BCTF Code of Ethics.

The fact that the district has been declared in dispute is being widely advertised throughout the Okanagan and B.C.

Executive member Pat Clarke, who is

immediate past president of COTA, explained that the issue stems from the Central Okanagan School Board's firing of a teacher without benefit of due process—the teacher was not presented with any evidence tending to justify dismissal before the action was taken.

Clarke said that, in addition to achieving a just resolution to the current personnel matter, COTA is fighting to have the right of teachers to due process in disciplinary cases to be entrenched in a contract with the board.

But in recent meetings the board has given teachers "the run-around" on this issue, he said.

"We need this [in dispute declaration] to give them a message on this," said Clarke.

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DECEMBER 3, 1981

BCTF to challenge ministry

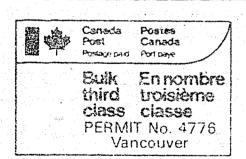
The BCTF Executive Committee has decided to demonstrate to the Ministry of Education how teachers can play an effective role in developing new curriculum.

At its November 28 meeting, the executive agreed to take the first step in pointing the ministry in a new direction by approving a feasibility study and two pilot projects in teacher involvement in curriculum design.

The decision is a response to dissatisfaction with the ministry's continued failure to involve the teaching profession in any major way in creating new course programs. The move followed presentation of a background paper and recommendations by the Professional Development Advisory Committee.

Discussion of the PDAC recommendations tapped seething pockets of frustration with the ministry's lack of concern for the contributions teachers can make

See "Challenging" page 2





Executive member Terry Eastman vents frustration at recalcitrant ministry in discussion over teachers' role in curriculum.

Executive condemns UVic independent school program

A proposed University of Victoria program for Catholic school teachers has been strongly rejected by the BCTF executive as opening an "easy back door way" for independent school teachers to gain full provincial certification without meeting the same qualifications as public school teachers.

The executive reacted with instant opposition at its November meeting when executive member Elsie McMurphy, in reviewing the minutes of a Teacher Education Committee meeting, pointed out the implications of the planned program, which had been given general approval by that committee.

School Act rewrite demanded to guarantee fair hearings

The School Act and Regulations must be changed to guarantee teachers the right to a fair hearing in disciplinary matters, the BCTF Executive Committee has decided.

At its November 28 meeting the executive approved a recommendation to this effect presented by the Teacher Personnel Advisory Committee which arose directly from the personnel case that has put the Central Okanagan School District in dispute.

The motion which the executive approved for recommendation to the 1982 AGM urges that the School Act and Regulations concerning teacher suspension be amended to:

remove the requirement that a teacher *must* be suspended before being called to meet the school board concerning alleged misconduct;

provide that particulars of charges and supporting evidence will be given when the disciplinary process is begun;

• provide that the board shall name a date within seven days when the teacher shall have the opportunity of meeting with the superintendent of schools and the board, or the superintendent and a committee of the board, with provision that the teacher may delay the meeting for up to 14 days to provide more time for preparation.

This was one of a series of recommendations from TPAC which the executive accepted for presentation to the spring AGM. Another key related recommendation aimed at improving BCTF policy on probationary appointments. It called for amendments to the School Act and/or See "BCTF" page 2

She noted that, under the proposed UVic program, Catholic school teachers would qualify for a public school certificate following the successful completion of only three summers of academic work, including a four-week practicum in public schools.

"This could be an easy back door way for private school teachers to get provincial certification without having to meet the qualifications of public school teachers," McMurphy said.

She said the federation is constantly faced with people trying to find an easy back door way to obtain public school certification and that the profession needs to be on its guard.

"There is an independent school certificate," she said. "There is no advantage in these people having public school certification — unless they want to teach in public schools."

McMurphy urged the executive to inform UVic that the suggested program was contrary to BCTF policy 15.01: "That teachers in all provincially-funded schools should be subject to the same certification standards as teachers in the public school system."

Past president Al Blakey characterized the UVic proposal as "a plan devised to give a special dispensation to the private schools." It's another example, he said, of independent schools being favoured at

See "Borrowed" page 2

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

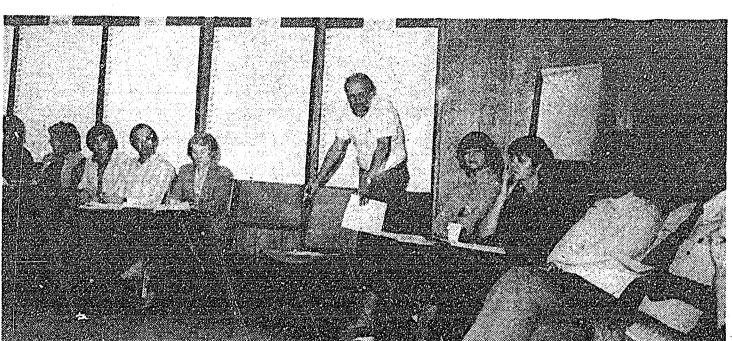
the expense of the public system

President Larry Kuehn noted that independent schools apparently want the program and they have a reason for wanting their staff, who are generally less qualified than public school teachers, to have an easy route to public certification.

"Quite obviously," he said, "the people running private schools want their people to have public school certification so that they can go out and advertise that their staff have the same qualifications as public school teachers.'

Executive member Pat Clarke emphasized the importance of the federation maintaining the standards of teacher qualifications.

"They've pulled this from Gonzaga U.



BCTF seeks new deal on teacher discipline

Regulations to provide that:

- notice to place a teacher on probationary appointment be issued only after consultation with the superintendent of schools and consideration of a report issued by the superintendent (or director of instruction) and a report issued by the principal, where the school is one to which Regulation 95 applies;
- before the school board:
- tionary appointment, the superintendent shall provide the teacher with a statement specifying the areas of concern, specific suggestions for improvement and systematic means whereby the teacher may be given aid by personnel and by supplying additional material:
- tively evaluated throughout the probationary period by the superintendent;
- a probationary appointment only after considering a report by the superintendent (or director of instruction) which was issued during the period of probationary appointment and, if the probation continues into the succeeding school year, after considering also a report issued by the principal during the probationary period;

Farmworkers ESL crusade backed

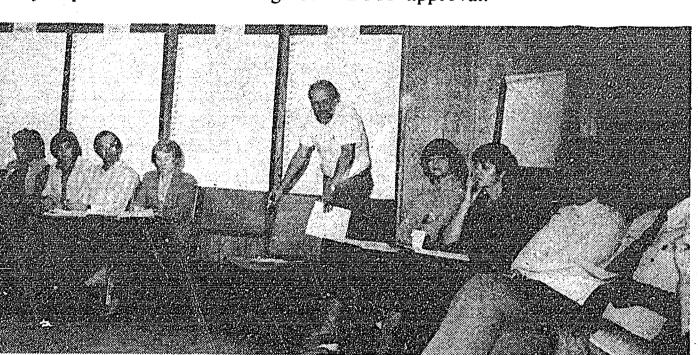
The BCTF has endorsed a program to assist immigrant farmworkers to acquire proficiency in the English language as a means of ending their exploitation by employers and integrating them into Canadian society.

The executive committee decided at its November 28 meeting to support the principle behind the "Farmworkers ESL Crusade", a joint program of the Canadian Farmworkers Union and Frontier College. The executive also agreed to appoint representatives to a planning committee developing the project.

2/DECEMBER 3, 1981

or someplace — it's just awful," he said. Clarke argued that the proposed UVic program was inappropriate because it offered a narrow highly-technical approach to education without considering broader, philosophical aspects of education. "It's simply a lock-step approach as to how you can pull some tricks in the

Following further discussion, the executive approved a motion proposed by Elsie McMurphy that the BCTF advise the University of Victoria that its proposed program for certification of independent school teachers "is not consistent with BCTF policy on certification of teachers and therefore does not have BCTF approval."



BCTF personnel director Art Broomhall (standing) coordinates discussion during executive meeting review of bargaining.

- terminated because the learning situation is considered less than satisfactory, the termination shall take effect at the end of a school term: within ten days of receiving notice of the board's intention to terminate his/her probationary appointment, the teacher may request a meeting with the board, or a committee of the board, and that the
- the teacher receive at least seven days notice of an intention to be placed on probationary appointment in order that the teacher may prepare for a hearing
- pointment has been terminated may • where a teacher is placed on probawithin ten days of receiving notice of termination request the minister to direct that a review committee consider the termination; • and that the review committee shall investigate the matters referred to it and
- the teacher's progress shall be objec-
- a board may give notice to terminate In an apparent response to concerns over how some groups within the federation had made representations to external organizations in the recent past, the executive approved another TPAC recommendation for submission to the spring AGM. It called on the AGM to amend clause 9 of the Code of Ethics to read: "The teacher does not make unauthor-

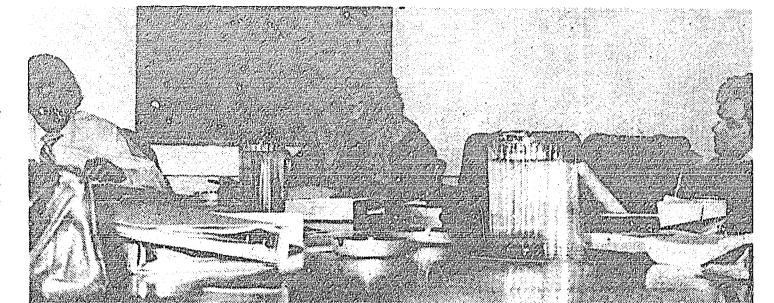
associations." **Directors of instruction** disqualification sought

Directors of instruction will soon be ineligible for BCTF membership if the spring AGM accepts the advice of the Executive Committee.

ized representations to outside bodies in

the name of the federation or its local

The executive, at its November 27 meeting, adopted a recommendation to the AGM calling for deletion of the clause in statement 22.A.04 which entitles directors to hold voluntary active membership and for an appropriate BCTF bylaw amendment.



PDAC co-chairperson Noreen O'Haire (centre) explains curriculum development proposal at November executive meeting.

Challenging the ministry on curriculum development

to the curriculum development process. Executive member Terry Eastman expressed irritation that the federation should have to be going to such lengths to make its point

"I really feel it frustrating," he said, "that we have to re-invent the wheel to prove to the ministry that it does in fact work — that it does go around and around."

Eastman said his only reservation to the federation embarking on an independent curriculum development project was that teachers had almost done enough of that sort of thing in past decades and perhaps other strategies should be developed

Past president Al Blakey said he would be opposed to the initiative if the object was a "takeover of curriculum development", particularly from the financial aspect, since the ministry would likely cheerfully abandon its responsibilities and let the BCTF shoulder the financial burden.

From page 1

• if the probationary appointment is

board shall not proceed with the termina-

a teacher whose probationary ap-

confirm or reverse the decision of the

board; and the review committee's deci-

sion shall be final and binding on the

teacher and the board.

tion until after the meeting:

"The kind of thrust we should be putting forward," he said, "is to set a challenge for the ministry, with the ministry picking up the tab."

Gale Tyler, professional development, emphasized the importance that the proposed pilot curriculum projects should clearly reflect how the BCTF would want

to be involved in the process in future.

Following further discussion of the implications, the executive gave its approval to a curriculum demonstration plan. Specifically, the executive authorized:

1) the development of a feasibility study and two pilot projects in the period December, 1981 to June, 1982;

2) that the criteria for selection of the two pilots should include:

- the existence of a network (e.g., an existing committee, a PSA);
- the opportunity to test differing prèmises: • the utilization of resources that
- are readily available; • the opportunity to test and assess
- alternative structures and processes to those currently used by the ministry;
- the unmet needs of classroom teachers:
- and the prognosis for successful implementation:

3) and that at the first stage of the feasibility study a report on the implications the BCTF undertaking curriculum development be prepared.

A further recommendation that Women's Studies and Multiculturalism be selected for the pilot projects was postponed for further discussion at the executive's January meeting.

Few local associations heading into arbitration-

Only 11 local associations will be going to arbitration this year to resolve contract disputes with their school boards.

The deadline for submission of disputes to arbitration — November 16 passed with 16 disputes still unsettled.

However, Abbotsford teachers and trustees came to a settlement after the deadline but before the conciliator in

Strike funds available

Local associations who have to resort to strike action this fall will not be denied financial support from the federation's reserve fund, the Representative Assembly decided.

Geographical representatives voted to reject a motion from the West Vancouver Teachers' Association calling on the RA to "instruct the Executive Committee to refrain from authorizing the use of the reserve fund to support strike action by local associations until an affirmative vote on the referendum, scheduled for February 1982, has been attained."

their case had reported out. In four other districts — Delta, Hope, Terrace and Trail — teachers and school boards have arrived at post-deadline agreements and will make joint submissions to their arbitration boards. Boards normally accept such submissions.

The 11 districts now heading into arbitration are Agassiz/Harrison, Courtenay, Golden, Grand Forks, Lillooet, Merritt, Nechako, Nisgha, North Thompson, Qualicum and Victoria. Negotiations are continuing and could yet result in pre-arbitration settlements in Grand Forks and North Thompson.

No job actions were under way at press time. Agassiz/Harrison had suspended its work-to-rule campaign; Grand Forks and Merritt were considering reinstating theirs. Agassiz/Harrison has asked the BCTF to establish a commission to investigate conditions in the district.

The average increase on teachers' salary schedules, for those districts that have settled, has now been calculated to be 17.05 per cent.

BCTF News efter

BRITISH COLUMBIA TEACHERS FEDERATION 2235 Burrard Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6J3H9

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

ISSN 0709-9800

CLIVE COCKING

Facts about "soaring" school costs

Mavis Lowry Learning Conditions

It's that time of year again! That time when the unfortunate coincidence of municipal and school board elections with teacher contract bargaining produces a ritualistic round of teacher-bashing over school costs.

This year politicians have once again made a lot of mileage in the news media with their cries that education spending is "going out of sight" and teacher salary settlements are driving it there. And their simplistic demands for cutbacks have gained them applause, if not votes, from many members of the public who are understandably — ill-informed about education

Well, what is the truth about education spending? Let's look at the facts.

Fact 1: School districts devote virtually the same proportion of their total expenditures to teachers' salaries today as they did 20 years ago.

Yet during this time, the professional qualifications of teachers improved dramatically. In 1960, only 11 percent of elementary teachers had university degrees: this proportion had risen to 69 percent by 1980. And during this same period, college costs were removed from local school board budgets.

Consider the following table: Teachers' salaries as percent of total school district expenditures

Teachers' salaries	Total expenditures	Salaries as percent of total expend.
\$68,141,000		57.6%
\$105,991,000	, ,	57.1%
\$213,495,000		56.9%
		57.7%
\$906,032,000	\$1,513,640,000	59.9%
	\$68,141,000 \$105,991,000 \$213,495,000 \$458,839,000	salaries expenditures \$68,141,000 \$118,270,000 \$105,991,000 \$185,566,000 \$213,495,000 \$375,435,000 \$458,839,000 \$795,058,000

Teachers are not the villains of the B.C. education finance mess. If ratepayers are justified in being angry with anyone — it's the provincial government which is playing a shell game in education finance.

Fact 2: The provincial government is steadily reducing the percentage of its expenditures devoted to public school education each year.

School districts spend the same proportion of their budgets on teachers' salaries today as they did 20

The government stands indicted by figures in its own estimates. Consider the following table which shows the declining proportion of its budget which the provincial government is allotting to financing public schools.

Fiscal year	Total Provincial Expenditures	Total public school costs	Public school costs as percent of total B.C. budget
1977/78	\$3,829,900,000	\$563,700,000	14.7%
1978/79	\$4,280,350,000	592,032,605	13.8%
1979/80	\$4,567,450,000	\$616,015,542	13.5%
1980/81	\$5,549,629,000	\$710,441,658	12.8%
1981/82 (est.)	\$6,610,300,000	\$772,622,740	11.7%

In the Background Papers to the 1981 Provincial Government Budget, a projection of education costs as a percentage of total provincial expenditures indicates that the government's total education spending will continue to decline as a percentage of total provincial expenditures. The government expects the proportion to drop from 18.3 percent in 1980-81 to 17.4 percent by 1985-86. At the same time, the Ministry of Education is projecting student enrolment to rise — from 492,053 in 1980 to a projected enrolment of 508,401 in 1985.

So much for the argument that education spending must be cut due to declining enrolment.

If any province in Canada (besides Alberta) can afford to provide high quality public education — it's British Columbia. But you would never know it from the way the provincial government plays the education finance game.

Fact 3: Less effort is being made to support education in B.C. today than in previous years.

One way of calculating effort in supporting education costs is to measure the school operating cost per pupil as a percentage of personal income per person in B.C. The following table, drawn from Statistics Canada and Ministry of Education figures, does this.

	Personal Income		
	Operating cost	per person —	
ar	per pupil	(Ability to pay)	Effort
60	\$ 365.20	\$ 1,909	19.1%
55	440.45	2,377	18.5%
70	681.51	3,405	20.0%
75	1,421.86	6,489	21.9%
78	1,969.78	8,861	22.2%
79	2,026,00	9,821	20.6%
80	2,282.00	10,423	21.9%
81	2,729.00	15,677	17.4%

Other data from Statistics Canada indicates that when the educational burden is compared with ability to pay, then B.C. ranks among the lowest in Canada in effort devoted to supporting education. We are, in other words, not over-burdened by education costs in this province. If we lived in any other Canadian province a greater portion of our income would be spent on education.

Fact 4: the provincial government is shifting a greater proportion of school costs onto local property owners.

Although expenditures on education have been cut in relative terms at the provincial level, there has been an increase in costs felt by the local taxpayer due to a shift in tax burden onto local property owners. In recent years the provincial government has consistently raised the provincial uniform mill rate which has steadily increased the costs of education at the local level. The following table shows that since 1976 an additional burden of \$256 million dollars have been imposed on local ratepayers.

Transferring Financial Responsibility

Year	Basic Levy	S Value of Mills shifted to local
1976	32.5	\$64,849,230
1977	37.5	56,203,860
1978	39.75	27,642,652
1979	41.0	16,986,713
1980	41.25	3,665,454
1981	41.8	9,232,128
1976-81	15.3 addit. mills	\$256;821,007 (total)

The cost of education is not unrealistic when you look at the actual dollars spent. In 1981, the total operating cost per pupil was \$13.65 per school day. Could you obtain babysitting services for this with a qualified experienced teacher?

When you consider the facts, the sharing of education costs in B.C. may be unfair but the total financial burden is not

Letters

Terrace teachers back majority strike rule

In June I exercised my democratic right to withdraw my services in the first major teacher strike in B.C. in 60 years. Terrace teachers did not exercise this right lightly. They never will.

What were the issues?

1) lack of mutually agreeable and enforceable personnel practices which resulted in, among many other things

2) the demotion of two principals without justification.

We tried everything we could think of to get the board to establish an agreement. We attended board meetings en masse. We held a one-day study session. We went on a work-to-rule campaign. We threatened rotating strikes. We wrote newspaper articles, paid advertisements and even went on an open-line show. Finally, in total frustration and with a majority vote we struck.

What were the results? The two principals were reinstated. The reports of the Ministerial Transfer Review Committees were extremely critical of the superintendent and the board. Furthermore the board and the TDTA now have a clear enforceable agreement covering: evaluation criteria for teachers; transfer procedures; maximum class size; supervision-free lunch; and a grievance procedure with real teeth.

This was a local action. However, when we finally did ask for federation help, it was there in the form of a responsible executive and staff acting on their democratically-derived spring RA mandate to grant strike pay.

We got a lot out of this action. What did you get in your local? Well, at the risk of taking too much credit for radical locals like Courtenay, Vancouver Island North and Terrace, I suggest you got a lot

• a precedent for a fairer ministerial appeal process:

• a meeting called "Patterns of Participation" that resulted in your board being told to deal with you more reasonably;

 big money offers succeeding in buying you off your bigger money goals of reductions to instructional time, class size and supervision;

contracts with grievance procedures evaluative criteria, transfer proce-

-\$1,000 per teacher and lots of agonizing decisions. What did they cost you? — Strike pay of \$36.000. That's \$1.25 each!

What did these gains cost us in Terrace?

We feel very strongly about the right to strike in Terrace. We feel very strongly about the concepts of unity and democracy. A number of teachers in Terrace

disagree with the decision to strike. They did not write letters to other schools or other districts. They did not continue to attempt to get their way by making thinly disguised divisive motions at further meetings. They didn't cry about abuses of local autonomy. Rather they exercised their democratic responsibility by pulling with the majority and together we won rights that we should have taken for granted long ago.

> Glen Grieve, President Terrace District Teachers' Association gaining methods.

False assumptions, misleading statements

Many false assumptions and misleading statements have appeared recently concerning two separate but related

One classic red herring is that, "giving strike pay to the Terrace teachers anticipated the referendum result." The referendum concerns our position on a more desirable bargaining system. The support for the Terrace strikers is an obvious step; its refusal would have been totally unthinkable and would have negated the entire federation as a viable teachers' organization. If we can't support our locals when they are forced to the wall, then we don't have an organization.

A second boundoggle currently retailed is that, "a 'yes' vote on the referendum represents a drift toward a fullfledged union organization." That's not true. A 'yes' vote means we wish to have the option, at the local level, of arbitration or strike/lockout, depending on the issue. We can't go for strike/lockout, and nothing else — we don't have any economic pressure on boards when we strike. But we can use the optional procedure to ensure that boards bargain, and that our needs in the expanded scope area are met. Check out what happens in Saskatchewan, and in B.C.; it works for groups like us and it's a reasonable request. But don't, because of ignorance and fear, read into the referendum more than is there. It's not a headlong plunge into hard-line unionism; it's an attempt to improve bar-

It's a sad comment on some of our members, who would not only deny their colleagues effective input, but obviously can't understand the labor-management scene at all.

R. Harvey Kelowna

Teachers should control education

A few days ago a big advertisement placed by the BCTF, "Teachers have a soft touch," appeared in the Sun. I read it carefully and found myself in complete agreement with every word. But, on November 13, 1981, another advertisement appeared: "They say: 'Teachers want to control the school system'." I am sorry to say that I disagreed with nearly all of it. For well over one-third of a century I have maintained that teachers should (dear reader, please note the subjunctive) control the school system which should be the educational system, by the

How do I see the role of the teacher? Plainly and simply: as an architect of a new society. all around the world, in which production is for use and not profit, in which we have no advertising, no war, no discrimination on any grounds, in which industry is harmonized with nature and all its creatures. But in order to do this all candidates for teaching had better know the lives of the true martyrs, have nerves of steel, an irrepressible sense of humor. contempt for promotion in this system and a fierce determination to build the new Jerusalem.

Morris Carrell Vancouver **DECEMBER 3, 1981/3**

NVTA strike position may harm bargaining

I am writing on behalf of 14 staff members at Queen Mary Community School in North Vancouver to express our opposition to the position taken by the NVTA in regard to withdrawal of services as a strategy in the campaign to expand the scope of bargaining. We believe that the right to withdraw one's services is fundamental to any democratic society.

Although strike may not be an appropriate activity in the North Vancouver context at the present time, we do not presume to infringe upon the options open to other local associations in this or future rounds of bargaining.

In contrast to the NVTA position we believe that gains made by other locals in expanding the scope of bargaining will reflect well on the opportunities available to all locals within the federation. For this reason we would be more than willing to support monetarily our colleagues in other districts in their endeavors to gain full bargaining rights.

We are disappointed that the NVTA, through its executive and president has chosen this time, in the midst of salary bargaining, to enter into an internal political confrontation. We believe that such an action can bring nothing but joy to the hearts of trustee bargainers throughout the province. It is our concern that the publicity afforded the NVTA position in the media may well prove harmful to the possibility of successful negotiations in other districts.

In conclusion we would like to thank Larry Kuehn for attending our association meeting on September 23 and presenting such thoughtful and reasoned arguments in favour of expanding the scope of bargaining. Without his attendance these arguments might not have been heard.

Norm Nichols
Queen Mary Community School
North Vancouver

BCTF no mandate to speak on abortion

I was interested to note that the BCTF at the AGM meeting this spring, passed a motion which would send a resolution to the federal government, indicating support for the principle of "abortion on demand".

It may be irrelevant that I, as an individual, happen to believe that the right to life is a first principle, preceding all others; or that I believe abortion to be

the destruction of human life, which has led and will continue to lead to grave moral and social repercussions.

However, it is extremely relevant that the BCTF, or any association, should presume to speak on behalf of its members in matters which violate the moral, spiritual or social values of many, or any, of those members, without their individually expressed consent. Such consent cannot be delegated, nor may it be assumed to have been delegated.

It is unseemly that any man pose as the voice or custodian of another's conscience. Public positions by those who purport to speak for others in such matters, are unacceptable. A majority vote will never alter or create a moral value.

It seems to me that the BCTF has no brief or mandate to speak collectively in such matters. Would it not be more appropriate for the federation to bend all its efforts towards the reasons for which it was founded — namely the challenging and vital purpose of improving the education of children and the quality of its custodians?

James Elman Langley

Closure invoked on abortion policy letters

The editor considers the 1981 AGM decision on abortion to have now been fully discussed in the letters page and, as empowered by policy 38.289, has decided to immediately invoke closure on further letters on this topic. This decision is particularly important at this time due to the need for space to accommodate letters concerning the referendum.

Districts thanked for T4 slip response

Jo Ramsay, member records and fees, extends her thanks to all school districts for responding to a BCTF request to include federation and local association fees on T4 slips.

These are the results that were so gratifying: 48 districts, involving over 15,000 members, have agreed to include the fees on T4 slips for 1981 and eight districts, involving over 7,000 members, will include the information on T4 slips for 1982.

Nineteen districts, involving 7,000 members, explained that they were unable to comply with the request at the present time, citing computer difficulties, for the most part, as the main problem.

CUSO worker Rick Craig presents BCTF president Larry Kuehn with a wooden oxcart lamp, hand-made in an El Salvador refugee camp, a gift from the El Salvador National Teachers' Association in gratitude for BCTF's support of a literacy program in that troubled country.

Telegram calls for freedom of abortion in Charter of Rights

BCTF President Larry Kuehn has fired off a telegram to the federal minister of justice and opposition party leaders demanding that the right to choice in abortion be recognized in the new Canadian constitution.

The telegram declared: "The Charter of Rights must recognize freedom of choice in abortion. Last minute amendments to the Charter that would result in a denial of these rights are unacceptable."

The decision to send the wire, which was sent to Justice Minister Jean Chretien, Progressive Conservative leader Joe Clark, New Democratic Party leader Ed Broadbent and B.C. MPs, was made by the executive committee at its November meeting.

Free — a surplus computer from BCTF

Any school or member who needs a computer but does not require state-of-the-art equipment now has an extraordinary opportunity to pick one up free.

The BCTF is offering a surplus 10year-old computer free to anyone who will take the equipment off its hands.

It is an IBM System 3, Model 10 with 12K memory. These are the features: language: RPG II; components: two 5444 disk drives with three disks, 14.7 megabyte capacity; card reader/punch with two input and four output hoppers to handle 96-column cards; 5203 model 2 line printer (200 lines per minute); 55 disk cartridges (IBM, CFI 5440, CDC), 249.9 megabyte capacity; two 5496 keypunch machines; maintenance: contract available from IBM; optional to cover breakdown of any or all parts.

For more information, or to arrange pick-up of the equipment, contact Art Penny or Audrey Zaharichuk, at the BCTF: 731-8121.

Camera offered to members for sale

BCTF members are being given first crack at buying a used Hasselblad camera and accessories that the BCTF Newsletter no longer needs.

The camera, a Hasselblad 500 CM with f2.8 lens, is seven years old and is in excellent condition. A Vancouver camera shop has appraised its current market value at \$1,750.

The total package being offered for sale includes: camera body and lens, a Lunasix III light meter, a pistol grip and camera case.

Members interested in buying this equipment are invited to submit sealed bids by 5 p.m. Wednesday, December 16, 1981, to: Audrey Zaharichuk, Facilities Planning, Purchasing Coordinator, B.C. Teachers' Federation, #105 - 2235 Burrard Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6J 3H9.

The bids will be opened on December 17 and the equipment will be sold to the highest bidder at that time.

Persons interested in further information, or in viewing the equipment, are urged to contact, Clive Cocking, editor, *BCTF Newsletter*, at 731-8121.

Christmas office hours

The BCTF office will continue the tradition again this year of closing for a half day on Christmas Eve and on New Year's Eve. Therefore the schedule of office hours over the holiday period will be:

December 24 Closed at 12:30 p.m. December 25 Closed all day

December 25 Closed all day December 28 Closed all day

December 31 Closed at 12:30 p.m. January 1 Closed all day

Enjoy the holiday festivities — but if you drink, don't drive!

AGM '82 resolutions deadline: Dec. 15

All would-be molders of federation policy are advised to take note of this highly pertinent fact: the deadline for submission of resolutions to the 1982 Annual General Meeting is *December 15*. Resolutions should be forwarded to Ken Aitchison, government division, at the BCTF office.

Retired teachers deduction increase

If retired teachers are wondering why, as of September 30, 1981, deductions for their extended health benefits plan had gone up from \$2.70 to \$2.80, the B.C. Retired Teachers' Association has recently got an explanation out of Victoria. The superannuation branch has belatedly informed the association that the increase was due to increased use of the plan. The association did not have this information in time for its December News Bulletin. The association also would like to advise that the correct group number for retired teachers for EHB is 20099.

Vacancies

LC co-ordinators*

Learning conditions co-ordinators are sought for the Central Mainland and South Coast zones. Application deadline is January 15. Applicants must be nominated by a local association within the zone or by the district council. For more information, contact Jacquie Boyer at the BCTF building.

*Second posting

Policies and procedures*

There is a vacancy on the Policies and Procedures Committee. For more information or curriculum vitae forms, contact Jacquie Boyer at the BCTF building. Application deadline is January 8. This position is for applicants from the Lower Mainland only.

*Second posting.

Administrative Handbook Revision Committee

Two BCTF representatives are sought to attend monthly meetings of the Administrative Handbook Revision Committee. The ministry has asked the BCTF to nominate two teachers — one elementary and one secondary. (This is a ministerial policy committee and the representatives nominated by the BCTF executive will be named to the committee.) Application deadline is January 8, 1982. For more information contact Jacquie Boyer at the BCTF office.

Income Security Committee

There is a vacancy on the BCTF Income Security Committee. For more information, or curriculum vitae forms, contact Jacquie Boyer at the BCTF office. Application deadline is January 8, 1982.

Referendum address check

A one-page brochure on the referendum is being mailed to all members' homes in December. It is designed to serve two functions: to give further information about the February referendum and to check the accuracy of the current members' address file.

If you do not receive this brochure, or if it comes to you with your address wrong, please fill out the address form below and send it in *pronto* to the BCTF office.

If you prefer, you may phone in address corrections to the BCTF office at 731-8121.

The deadline for submitting address corrections is January 27, 1982.

Do we have your correct home address?

Li you have moved recently, or if for some other reason we don't have your proper address, please fill out this coupon and return it to the BCTF, 2235

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