



**B.C.
FEDERATION
OF LABOUR
(CLC)**

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September 9, 2014

The Honourable Christy Clark
Premier of British Columbia
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier Clark:

RE: DISPUTE WITH BC TEACHERS

Last week the BC Teachers' Federation proposed a solution to get our children back in the classroom and put an end to this dispute. They have called for binding arbitration, excluding those matters before the courts. By rejecting this proposal outright, you are effectively choosing to keep schools across the province closed.

On behalf of our combined 350,000 members in the broad public sector, we fully support this fair and reasonable solution to this current dispute. We urge you to reconsider your position, accept binding arbitration and get our kids back to school. On Tuesday, you told British Columbians that both sides needed to find a "thoughtful, reasonable solution" in this dispute.

We agree.

But a thoughtful and reasonable solution requires compromise in negotiations, and respect for teachers' efforts to improve classroom learning conditions. We have not seen either of these from you or your government.

This set of negotiations – like every other table in the public sector – has unique challenges and opportunities. Each union goes to the bargaining table to address their own specific needs; we strongly support the BCTF in determining their own path and negotiating for a fair collective agreement that ensures quality education for all of the children in BC.

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We have each negotiated our own collective agreements. For those who have settled, wage increases and benefit improvements varied from sector to sector. They all have unique features and each path to settlement was different.

We urge you to immediately stop attributing your refusal to bargain critical issues with teachers because you want to be “fair to other public sector workers.”

If you want to be fair to all public sector workers, send the outstanding issues to binding arbitration as proposed by the BCTF and remove E80 from the bargaining table.

Our unions stand in solidarity with BC teachers in their efforts to win a fair collective agreement and improve educational resources for BC’s children.

Sincerely,

*Stephanie Smith, President, **BC Government & Service Employees’ Union***

*Mark Hancock, President, **Canadian Union of Public Employees***

*Ivan Limpricht, President, **United Food & Commercial Workers International Union***

*Victor Elkins, President, **Hospital Employees’ Union***

*Gavin McGarrigle, BC Area Director, **Unifor***

*David Black, President, **Canadian Office of Professional Employees’ Union***

*Bob Jackson, Regional Executive Vice-President, **Public Service Alliance of Canada***

*Val Avery, President, **Health Sciences Association***

*Cindy Oliver, President, **Federation of Post-Secondary Educators***

*Lynn Bueckert, Director, **BC Government & Service Employees’ Union***

*Karen Ranalletta, President, **Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 2950***

*Bonnie Pearson, Secretary-Business Manager, **Hospital Employees’ Union***

*Joie Warnock, Western Director, **Unifor***