

BCTF Year of Action

February: Bargaining Rights



IN 1987, teachers across BC voted to unionize and locals gained full rights to bargain on behalf of teachers at the local level. The scope of bargaining included salary and benefits as well as the working and learning conditions in their schools and classrooms.

Since then a series of legislative changes have altered the bargaining landscape. The following is a partial list:

- Public Education Labour Relations Act (PELRA) (1996)
- Education as an Essential Service Act (2000)
- Bill 27- Ed. Services Collective Agreement Act (2001)
Bill 28 - Public Education Flexibility & Choice Act (2001)
- Bill 12 - Education Improvement Act (2005)
- Bill 33 - Education (Learning Enhancement) Statutes Amendment Act (2006)
- Bill 22 - Education Improvement Act (2012)

In April 2011, Justice Griffin ruled that Bills 27 and 28 were unconstitutional and that teachers have the right to bargain class size and composition. Although Bill 22 referred to a return of these rights, the government has yet to meaningfully address remedy for the impact of this legislation over the past 13 years.

On a positive note, the BCTF and BCPSEA have now ratified a Framework for Provincial Bargaining and negotiations begin on February 4th.

Framework on BCTF website: <https://bctf.ca/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=28801&libID=28790>

Teachers have been frustrated with:

- Government restrictions on funding for teacher compensation
- Legislation moving working and learning conditions out of our collective agreement
- Education funding that does not keep up with, and is eroded by, a myriad of down-loaded costs.

Additional resources

Numbers Tell the Story

<https://www.bctf.ca/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=28513&libID=28502>

Stripped Contract Provisions

<http://vsta.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Stripped-article-Booklet2.pdf>

BCTF Financial Brief to Select Finance Committee

<http://www.bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Public/Publications/Briefs/2012EdFundingBrief.pdf>

