



December 15, 2011

Bargaining Update

December 2011 Bargaining Update

On Dec 5, 2011, representatives from the CUPE locals at UBC, UNBC, SFU, UVIC, RRU, and TRU met as part of the Universities Coordinated Bargaining Committee (UCBC) to discuss the progress of bargaining. At this meeting, the 10 locals that are part of UCBC provided each other with detailed reports on the bargaining process and shared information, strategies, and tactics from the employer. Michelle Waite, chair of the CUPE Colleges Bargaining Committee was also able to provide the committee with important updates on the status of bargaining in the colleges sector.

UCBC's priorities remain issues like improvements to job security, contracting out, cost of living, wages, and provincial benefits. UCBC has already set dates in 2012 to continue these important conversations. The committee will meet early in January with more meetings set for February and March.

As part of UCBC's action plan developed in October, CUPE staff met with the Deputy Minister of Advanced Education and other senior staff on December 10. CUPE representatives left the meeting feeling that it was a good introductory session on a number of issues. Both parties are looking forward to meeting early in the New Year. At this meeting, CUPE discussed concerns around Bill 18 (legislation that would prevent our members from sitting on university and college Boards of Governors) as well as our proposal to research and develop a Post-Secondary Education Benefits Trust, similar to what exists in other sectors.

Please also note that registration for the upcoming CUPE Provincial Bargaining Strategies Conference is open. The conference will be held at the Vancouver Airport Sheraton Hotel starting the evening of January 31, 2012 and continuing through February 3, 2012. It has been three years since a provincial bargaining conference has been held in B.C. and considering the current state of the economy and the ongoing potential for restrictive provincial government bargaining mandates, it is timely to meet to develop strategies to restore free collective bargaining in British Columbia. These strategies will include building a common front approach to bargaining with sister unions. Interested members should contact their local. Also, each local must complete the online survey prior to December 31, 2011.

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