



# Facts & Issues

B.C. Universities Coordinated Bargaining Committee

February 9, 2012

Bargaining Update

## February Bargaining Update

The Universities Coordinated Bargaining Committee, made up of representatives from CUPE locals at UBC, UNBC, SFU, UVIC, RRU, and TRU met three times in January to help build momentum towards achieving collective agreements and continued solidarity in our Post Secondary Sector. The meetings took place in Victoria on January 8 and 9 as well as in Richmond on January 30. UCBC remains committed to reaching settlements that work for members and protects services at B.C.'s universities. Representatives continued to share strategies and progress to ensure settlements contain no concessions for CUPE members and focus on job security, inflation protection, and improved benefits.

After the first set of meetings in early January, the three locals at UVic (917, 951, and 4163) jointly filed for voluntary mediation. After several bargaining sessions, CUPE decided that negotiations had reached an impasse and assistance from a third party mediator was needed to address issues around job security, retention of experienced employees to protect services, and inflation protection. The current mediation process is not binding. Further dates have been set to continue with mediation.

The three locals at UBC are also working in solidarity and recently sent out a joint bulletin to their membership renewing their commitment to proceed past the current mandate to secure job security measures, inflationary protections and benefit improvements for all of their members. Locals at RRU, SFU, and TRU are also working to inform their membership about the bargaining process at their individual campuses.

At the January meetings, representatives also discussed and strategized around working with community partners and coalition building. Representatives from all of the post-secondary sector locals, including colleges, met at CUPE's Provincial Bargaining Strategies Conference from February 1 to 3. The post-secondary sector group renewed its commitment to share information and strategies to benefit all members.

Several of the locals will also be promoting and participating in Bottled Water Free Day on March 15. The Coalition for Bottled Water Free Communities promotes access to public faucets and fountains, and ending the sale and distribution of bottled water. Look for more information about the coalition (CUPE, the Canadian Federation of Students, the Council of Canadians, the Polaris Institute, and the Sierra Youth Coalition) and its plans in the coming weeks.

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