



NEGOTIATIONS NEWSLETTER # 11

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Common Table: Is it going anywhere?

Bargaining at the Common Table resumed on Tuesday, March 8. We need to see if there is any change in the employer's position. They last offered a two-year (2004-06) agreement with no money or compensation of any kind and with nothing on any of our non-monetary issues, including job security.

The recent successful strike votes at Malaspina and Capilano have spurred officials at the Ministry of Labour to become involved. We have agreed to commit to continuing talks this week but if they do not result in a satisfactory agreement, instructors at those two locals may take action and there may be more strike votes. It's important to note that only "votes to take strike votes" and actual strike votes have sparked this added interest from government.

Local Table: Is it going to progress?

On the local level, we had five meetings with the College. We signed off some minor housekeeping items, and presented our demands. The College held that many of our key demands belong at the Common Table and will not bargain them locally. We dispute this. We responded to all their proposals, including the concessionary ones, in some detail. We now expect them to do the same for ours. The College has given us an initial response (generally negative) on most of our proposals, but told us they need time to give us a comprehensive response and that bargaining is still in the early stages. However, from our perspective, bargaining with the College began in late September, when we gave the notice to commence.

Although the tone has been respectful, we cannot report any significant progress. Bargaining has been scheduled for three days in the week March 14th and several more days at the end of the month.

Bargaining Crunch

This week, we are attempting to break the stalemate at the Common Table. Next week, we have local bargaining again and will need to know how far management is prepared to move.

If there isn't sufficient progress at the tables, we will have to ask for a strike vote shortly thereafter.

We will keep you informed as events unfold. You'll be hearing from us soon.

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