



# NEGOTIATIONS NEWSLETTER #5

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**Date:** May 5, 2004  
**To:** VCCFA Members  
**From:** VCCFA Negotiating Committee  
**Re:** BARGAINING UPDATE

## ***Who will be at the bargaining table?***

### **The unions: The Provincial Bargaining Council**

At the March 11th VCCFA meeting, members unanimously endorsed the demands recommended by our Negotiating Committee. There was also a unanimous vote to join the Provincial Bargaining Council. Thanks for your support. Thirteen other CIEA locals and seven BCGEU locals also voted to join the Council, making for a membership of twenty-one and demonstrating strong support for provincial bargaining. The Council will bargain a set of common demands, such as salary, benefits and job security, at a single, or common, table.

### **The employers: The Post-Secondary Employers' Association**

The Post-Secondary Employers' Association (PSEA) is the new bargaining agent for all public colleges in B.C. This means our next collective agreement will be signed and ratified by the PSEA, not by the VCC Board and administration. It also means that the PSEA, with direction from the provincial government, will set the salary and benefits mandate for all college employers.

## ***What's happening now?***

Representatives from the unions and employers are having protocol discussions about common table bargaining. Nine college employers, including VCC, have indicated support for bargaining at a common table. The union Council wants the other colleges to come to this table as well. We are also still negotiating the issues that are to be bargained at the common table. The Council is interested in bargaining a broader set of issues than the PSEA.

Our guess is that these protocol discussions will continue for some time. Until they are resolved, and we know who is at the common table and which issues are to be negotiated provincially, it is unlikely that actual bargaining will begin. Meanwhile, your Negotiating Committee is working on the details of local demands – demands that are specific to VCCFA members. Regardless of the outcome of the protocol discussions, these demands will be bargained at VCC.

If you have any questions or comments, contact a member of the Negotiating Committee (listed below).

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