



# NEGOTIATIONS NEWSLETTER #9

vccfa@telus.net

(604) 688-6210

www.vccfa.ca

January 17, 2005

---

## SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, January 27, 2005

2:30 pm

Location: Croatian Cultural Centre  
Room C

Interpreters will be available

The following motion is on the agenda for this meeting:

***"The VCCFA supports holding a strike vote in the event of an impasse in bargaining."***

This motion is unanimously supported by members of the Negotiating Committee and Executive.

Other FPSE (formerly CIEA) faculty associations are also seeking such support from their members at this time.

### **VCC "not available" for local bargaining; Special Meeting to Discuss Strike Vote and Bargaining Strategy**

In our last newsletter we reported on the lack of progress at the common table. Bargaining there will recommence on February 1. We said that we would use the time until then to bargain locally.

Shortly before the Christmas break VCC's spokesperson notified us that the College would not be able to meet with our committee on the days we had both set aside in January and early February. **These were the dates the College proposed after rejecting all 31 dates the VCCFA suggested in the fall.** The College said they were not available to meet with us until common table bargaining was completed.

Our protocol agreement provides that the parties meet locally after the common table commences.

The College's refusal to meet with us or even set dates for meetings demonstrates a real lack of respect for the VCCFA and its members.

## Why is it important to start local negotiations?

Members understand that we are getting the runaround. But you may wonder why the timing and sequence of talks matters. At the common table we are bargaining major issues such as salary, benefits, job security, early retirement, IRA release and professional development. But we have important local issues as well: preparation days, initial salary placement, renewal and retirement preparation leaves, curriculum development, adequate physical facilities and support services, to name a few. Common and local items are to be discussed separately and concurrently, as they were in the last round. However, the collective agreement that members finally ratify will be based on what happens at **both** the common and local tables. It has been a year since members ratified our bargaining demands, almost ten months since our last agreement expired, and four months since we gave the College notice to commence bargaining locally. It's time to get on with it.

## How has the VCCFA responded so far?

- ▶ We have asked the College's spokesperson to review VCC's stance.
- ▶ We have raised the issue with the College President, Dale Dorn.

The College continues to refuse to meet with us. We consider this to be bargaining in bad faith and a violation of the common table protocol agreement, which states:

*"The Parties agree that, subject to the availability of personnel to conduct the local bargaining, it is in the interest of employers and bargaining units to resolve as many local matters as possible prior to conclusion of the Tentative Agreement on MID (Multi-Institutional Discussions, also called common table) issues."*

## What more can be done?

We are asking for your support in applying more pressure: pressure to get agreement at the common table, and pressure to get VCC just to begin talking to us at the local table. Please come to the Special Meeting on January 27th.

## Drop-in Information Sessions

If you would like to speak to members of the Negotiating Committee or Executive before the Special Meeting, come to one of the following information sessions:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ▪ <b>City Centre<br/>Room 237</b>            | <b>Thursday, January 20<br/>11:30 am – 1:30 pm</b> |
| ▪ <b>KEC<br/>Union office</b>                | <b>Thursday, January 20<br/>11:30 am – 1:30 pm</b> |
| ▪ <b>International Ed<br/>Faculty lounge</b> | <b>Tuesday, January 25<br/>12:45 – 2:45 pm</b>     |

If you have any questions or comments, contact a member of the negotiating committee.

	<b>local</b>	<b>e-mail address</b>
Mark Goertz	871-7183	mgoertz@telus.net
Karen Griffiths	443-8331	bustergee@hotmail.com
Vinit Khosla (Chair)	871-7255	vkhosla@shaw.ca
Ingrid Kolsteren	688-6210	ikolsteren@telus.net
Maggi Trebble	871-7254	trebbles@hotmail.com
Rose Marie Watson	443-8495	ebwatson@shaw.ca
Linda Sperling (Federation of Post-Secondary Educators – spokesperson)		