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Provincial bargaining focuses in on key priorities

BURNABY—CUPE’s K-12 Provincial Bargaining Committee met with the BC Public School Employers’ Association (BCPSEA) on November 15 and 16. These were the 11th and 12th days of bargaining at the provincial table, which commenced on June 10. The two parties are set to continue bargaining on December 13 and 14.

These two days of bargaining saw both sides exchange packages and engage in focused discussions. The Bargaining Committee was pleased to see BCPSEA begin to narrow its priorities as both parties identified key issues. CUPE’s Bargaining Committee continued to push for more professional and skills development as well as recognition and respect for Education Assistants (specifically more hours for current EAs).

Both parties also focused on renewing the work of the Support Staff Education and Adjustment Committee (SSEAC) that was created following the 2006 round of collective bargaining. SSEAC is a joint initiative between the employers’ association and CUPE as well as other K-12 support staff unions. The Committee was established to develop specific criteria to allocate skills development funds for members. BCPSEA has shown interest in continuing support for SSEAC and its work. Learn more about the Committee at www.sseac.ca.

The Provincial Bargaining Committee remains committed to securing a provincial settlement that will meet the needs of CUPE’s 26,000 K-12 members and make gains on key priorities without taking concessions.

When both provincial and local bargaining concludes, the provincial settlement and the local settlement will together renew local collective agreements following ratification by CUPE members in each local.

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