

## **Letter of Understanding (LOU)**

**Between**

**BC Public School Employers' Association**

**And**

**School Boards who are Signatories to this LOU**

**And**

**Support Staff Unions who are Signatories to this LOU**

The following items will form the basis of a framework for settlement between Support Staff Unions and Boards of Education in the K-12 Public Education Sector. This framework in its entirety will be incorporated into memorandum of agreement achieved between Support Staff Unions and Boards of Education no later than February 29, 2012.

### **Term**

July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2012

### **Wage Re-opener**

This memorandum of agreement is being negotiated in accordance with the PSEC Mandate established by Government for the current round of collective bargaining.

The employer agrees that in the event that Government decides to modify the PSEC Mandate, as it applies to the entire Public Service and Public Sector, during the term of the collective agreement, the school district and the local support staff union will have the opportunity to renegotiate the total compensation for the balance of the term of the collective agreement.

This opportunity to renegotiate will relate to total compensation only and such negotiations will be governed by the revised PSEC Mandate. This renegotiation will not result in the early termination of the collective agreement.

### **The Support Staff Education and Adjustment Committee**

1. The parties agree to continue and expand the scope of the Support Staff Education and Adjustment Committee (SSEAC) to include the following.
  - a) an examination and discussion of any impediments arising from and the options to facilitate the introduction of shared services

- b) a focus on best practices to integrate skill development for support staff employees with district goals and student needs
- c) a study of the potential for regionalization of wages and benefits
- d) an investigation of benefit standardization for the purpose of additional efficiencies during the life of the collective agreement
- e) recommendations to address issues associated with hours of work and service delivery
- f) a review of practices in districts having modified school calendars and the resulting impact on support staff
- g) skills enhancement for support staff

There will be a total of \$550,000 allocated for the purposes set out above. The parties agree that work plans to address the above and any resulting recommendations will require mutual agreement.

2. The funds stipulated in Item 1 of the LOA – Class Organization Fund will be allocated in accordance with the following principles:

- a) The SSEAC will provide advice to the Ministry of Education regarding the allocations of the above funds to Boards of Education.
- b) This advice will include recommendations that be directed to expanding services for students. Examples of initiatives include enhancing incremental EA hours for initiatives such as consultations, collaborative planning meetings, student coverage and innovative practices for existing EA positions working more than 10 hours per week and less than 35 hours per week.
- c) Support staff local unions and Boards of Education will formulate a plan for the above funds.
- d) SSEAC will review such plans and provide input to the Ministry of Education.

### **Demographic, Classification and Wage Information**

The employer will, subject to the availability of the data, provide the following information.

Every October 1<sup>st</sup>, the union will be provided with detailed bargaining unit demographic, earnings and job classification information for all reported

bargaining unit members from the previous school year in Microsoft Excel spreadsheet format. This information will comprise the following data elements.

- School District employer
- Years of age (at the time of data submission)
- Gender
- Position code
- Current wage level
- Status (Permanent/Temporary/Casual)
- Annual hours of work
- Years of work experience with the current employer

BCPSEA will provide a Letter of Commitment regarding data as found in Attachment 1.

## **PEBT**

The employer agrees to append the letter found in Attachment 2 to support staff collective agreements re: Public Education Benefits Trust for information purposes.

The parties agree that decisions of the Public Education Benefits Trust medical appeal panel are final and binding. The parties further agree that administrative review processes and the medical appeal panel will not be subject to the grievance procedure in each collective agreement.

## **Provincial Bargaining**

At least six (6) months prior to the expiry of collective agreements between K-12 employers and support staff unions, representatives of employers and support staff unions shall meet to discuss the process of provincial bargaining for the next round of collective bargaining.

There will be a total of \$200,000 allocated for the costs associated with provincial discussions related to bargaining.

Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2011.

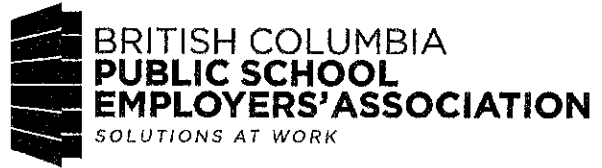
The undersigned bargaining representatives agree to recommend this letter of understanding to their respective principals.

CUPE & Support Staff Unions

*M. [Signature]*  
*[Signature]*  
*Lakayl MacLeod*  
*V.A. [Signature]*  
*Daphne Ross*  
*Stinda Joop*  
*Lorraine Prouse*  
*[Signature]*  
*Colin J. Pawson*

BC Public School Employers' Association & Boards of Education

*Renzo del Negro*  
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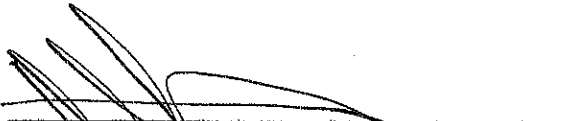


Bill Pegler  
K-12 Coordinator  
Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)

### Letter of Commitment

BCPSEA agrees to coordinate the accumulation and distribution of demographic, classification and wage data, as specified in the Letter of Understanding dated December 14, 2011, to CUPE on behalf of Boards of Education. The data currently housed in the Employment Data and Analysis Systems (EDAS) will be the source of the requested information.

Original signed on December 14, 2011 by:



Jacquie Griffiths

Associate Executive Director

BCPSEA

**Memorandum: To All Member School Districts and Support Staff Unions**

**Settlors Statement on Accepted Policy and Practices of the PEBT**

The Public Education Benefits Trust Fund (PEBT) was created in June 2002 and is sponsored by both the British Columbia Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE). The program is governed by a Board of Trustees representing both School Districts and Support Staff workers in the K -12 sector. Currently, there are 59 school districts, 67 union locals, and over 20,000 plan members participating in the trust.

The Settlers to the PEBT are BCPSEA and CUPE. The PEBT holds a Settlers meeting annually where the Settlers are provided with an annual report and update from the Board. The Settlers also have an opportunity to raise issues and give input to the Board.

The PEBT sponsors a confidential Joint Early Intervention Service (JEIS) as an integral part of the disability program to assist plan members in their return to work. The program is supported by Unions, School Districts and the PEBT and is provided through funding from the provincial government for the "Core" LTD.

The PEBT is now entering its eighth year and members are more familiar with the plan and its operations. However, the PEBT Board has asked the Settlers to remind their respective constituents of the importance of following the policies and practices applied by the PEBT in providing the various benefits.

The Settlers recognize the value and importance of the PEBT in the K-12 Public Education Sector. The Settlers also recognize and support following the policies and procedures of the PEBT (outlined at [www.PEBT.ca](http://www.PEBT.ca)). The Settlers agree to work with and encourage their respective parties to adhere to the policies and procedures of the PEBT.

For further clarification please contact your BCPSEA or CUPE representative.