



September 13, 2011

Urgent: Important Update on Field Trips

To all VSTA Staff Reps:

As you are aware, the VSTA has been forwarding the information that it has received from the BCTF regarding *Phase 1 Job Actions*. Up to this point, teachers were advised not to cover for teachers who are absent unless they are a TTOC hired specifically for that purpose.

A previous ruling from the Labour Relations Board has been found to have precedence in the case of teachers who leave the school for field trips and leave some students behind. Our first information was that teachers would not cover those classes or cover for a few students left behind. Please note the following update:

The LRB ruling from 2001 has ruled that the teachers are not to be considered absent. The school administrator can then reconfigure the students left behind and assign teachers to cover those classes. These teachers are still working during their instructional time but with different students. They should not lose their prep time in any way. "While the teacher may not be in his/her normal classroom, the teacher is with a class of students during instructional time."

As always, if you need additional clarification on this issue or other aspect of Phase 1, please contact the VSTA office.

Thanks,

VSTA In-House Table Officers