

## A MESSAGE FROM THE TEACHERS OF VANCOUVER

December 5, 2011

Dear Premier Christy Clark and Minister of Education, George Abbott,

At the provincial bargaining table, the BC Public School Employers' Association has tabled a package of proposals which would eliminate working conditions standards for teachers across the province. These proposals take away rights that teachers have bargained over many years. Additionally, the BC government has now cancelled talks with the BCTF in providing a remedy for the illegal stripping of our collective agreements in 2002. This is completely unacceptable.

Teachers in Vancouver want a fair deal. We want the provincial parties to be given a reasonable chance to bargain a new collective agreement; one that respects the work that teachers do and affords school boards the opportunity to bargain some critical issues directly with their local teacher associations. We need guarantees of class size limits and support for students with special needs. Unfortunately, your government is not allowing this to happen. This is having a negative effect on teacher morale and your government's actions are jeopardizing one of the best public education systems in the world.

A net-zero mandate does not work for teachers, students, or the public education system. Provincial governments across the country are currently putting more dollars into K-12 education and are working with their teachers because they recognize it is integral to their future. BC needs to do the same.

We are asking for the government to come to the bargaining table with the funds necessary for a negotiated settlement. Teachers in Vancouver are asking for a fair deal.

Sincerely,



Chris Harris  
VESTA President



Debbie Pawluk  
VSTA President