

**Provincial Framework Agreement (“Framework”)**

**between**

**BC Public School Employers' Association ("BCPSEA")**

**and**

**The K-12 Presidents' Council and Support Staff Unions ("the Unions")**

BCPSEA and the Unions ("the Parties") agree to recommend the following framework for inclusion in the collective agreements between local Support Staff Unions who are members of the K-12 Presidents' Council and Boards of Education.

**1. Term**

July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022

**2. Wages Increases**

General wage increases as follows:

Year one: 2.0% - July 1, 2019

Year two: 2.0% - July 1, 2020

Year three: 2.0% - July 1, 2021

**3. Local Bargaining**

Provide funding to the local support staff tables for service enhancements that are beneficial to students and as otherwise consistent with the 2019 Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate in the amount of:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>2019/2020</b>	<b>\$2,500,000</b>
<b>2020/2021</b>	<b>\$6,500,000</b>
<b>2021/2022</b>	<b>\$9,000,000</b>

The \$9 million is an ongoing annual amount.

This money will be prorated according to student FTE providing that each district receives a minimum of \$15,000 annually.

#### **4. Benefits**

Provide \$1 million in annual ongoing funding to explore and implement enhancements to the Standardized Extended Health Plan including consideration of an addiction treatment support program.

A one-time joint committee of up to four (4) representatives appointed by BCPSEA and up to four (4) representatives appointed by the support staff unions.

Any residual from the 2019-2022 \$1 million for benefits standardization will be allocated to training initiatives under the Support Staff Education Committee.

Further, the Parties agree that the existing funds held in the Support Staff Education and Adjustment Committee as set out below will be transferred to the PEPT and utilized for addiction treatment support programs. The PEPT will determine appropriate terms of use for accessing the funds.

- a. 2010-2012 FLOU – remaining balance of \$477,379
- b. Work Force Adjustment – remaining balance of \$646,724

#### **5. Safety in the Workplace**

The Parties agree that safety of support staff is paramount. In accordance with WorkSafe BC regulations, the Parties commit to providing a healthy and safe working environment which includes procedures to eliminate or minimize the risk of workplace violence. The Parties will work collaboratively to support local districts and unions to comply with all WorkSafe BC requirements.

The Parties will establish a Joint Health and Safety Taskforce of not more than five (5) members appointed by CUPE and five (5) members appointed by BCPSEA. Each Party will consider the appointment of subject matter experts in occupational health and safety, and special education.

Either Party may bring resource people as required, with advanced notice to the other party. These resource people will be non-voting and at no added cost to the committee.

The work of this joint taskforce will be completed by June 30, 2020 and will include:

- Developing a joint communication to school districts and local unions on the obligation to report and investigate incidents including incidents of workplace violence.

- Reviewing and developing a Joint Health and Safety Evaluation Tool for the K-12 sector to ensure compliance with WorkSafe BC regulations.
- Identifying and developing appropriate training. This may include use of the evaluation tool, non-violent crisis intervention, ABA, incident reporting and investigations, and employee rights and responsibilities under WorkSafe BC regulations including the right to refuse unsafe work. Training implementation will fall under the mandate of the SSEC.

Utilizing the developed Health and Safety Evaluation Tool for K-12 sector, a joint evaluation shall be performed by a union member appointed by the local union and a representative appointed by the employer. This evaluation shall be on paid time (up to a maximum of three and a half (3.5) hours) and to be completed by June 30, 2021. The union agrees to cover any other costs incurred for the union member.

Copies of completed evaluations shall be provided to local presidents and employers as outlined on the evaluation tool.

The parties agree to commence the work of this taskforce prior to the commencement of this PFA. Costs associated with this committee will be provided from existing SSEAC funds. These funds will be reimbursed with the funds provided under Section 9 Committee Funding.

## **6. Support Staff Education Committee (SSEC)**

### Structure:

The committee shall comprise of not more than five (5) members appointed by CUPE and five (5) members appointed by BCPSEA. One of the CUPE appointees will be from the Non-CUPE Unions.

Either Party may bring resource people as required, with advanced notice to the other party. These resource people will be non-voting and at no added cost to the committee.

### Mandate:

The mandate of the committee is to manage the distribution of education funds for the following:

- a. Implementation of best practices to integrate skill development for support staff employees with district goals and student needs;
- b. Developing and delivering education opportunities to enhance service delivery to students;

- c. Identifying, developing and delivering education opportunities to enhance and support employee health and safety, including non-violent crisis intervention;
- d. Skills enhancement for support staff
- e. EA curriculum module development and delivery
- f. These funds shall not be used to pay for education that Districts are required to provide under Occupational Health and Safety Regulations

Terms of Reference:

The SSEC shall develop, not later than December 31, 2019, terms of reference for the committee. If no such agreement can be reached the SSEC shall make recommendations to the Provincial Parties.

Funding:

There will be a total of \$1 million of annual funding allocated for the purposes set out above commencing July 1, 2019 for the term of this agreement.

**7. Job Evaluation (JE) Committee**

The Parties will continue the work of the provincial job evaluation steering committee (the JE Committee) for the term of this Framework Agreement. The objectives of the JE Committee for phase two are as follows:

- Review the results of the phase one pilot and outcomes of the committee work. Address any anomalies identified with the JE tool, process, or benchmarks.
- Expand the pilot to an additional ten (10) districts including at least two (2) non-CUPE locals to confirm the validity of the tool and the benchmarks.
- Rate the provincial benchmarks and create a job hierarchy for the provincial benchmarks.
- Identify the job hierarchy for local job descriptions for all school districts.
- Compare the local job hierarchy to the benchmark-matched hierarchy.
- Identify training requirements to support implementation of the JE plan and develop training resources as required.

It is recognized that the work of the committee is potentially lengthy and onerous. To accomplish the objectives expeditiously the Parties agree that existing JE funds can be accessed by the JE committee to engage consultant(s) to complete this work.

It is further recognized that this process does not impact the established management right of employers to determine local job requirements and job descriptions nor does this process alter any existing collective agreement rights or established practices.

Once the objectives outlined above are completed, the JE Committee will mutually determine whether a local, regional or provincial approach to the steps outlined below is appropriate.

The committee, together with consultant(s) if required, will develop a method to convert points into pay bands. The confirmed method must be supported by current compensation best practices.

The committee will utilize available funds to provide 50% of the wage differential for the positions falling the furthest below the wage rate established by the provincial JE process. The committee will follow compensation best practices to avoid problems such as inversion.

The committee will report out to the Parties at key milestones during the term of the Framework Agreement. Should any concerns arise during the work of the committee they will be discussed and resolved by the Parties at that time.

The parties confirm that the \$900,000 of ongoing annual funds established under the 2014-2019 Provincial Framework Agreement will be used to implement the work of the committee. An additional \$3 million of ongoing annual funds will commence on July 1, 2021.

## **8. Provincial Labour Management Committee (PLMC)**

The Parties agree to establish a PLMC to discuss and problem solve issues of mutual provincial interest. The purpose of the committee is to promote the cooperative resolution of workplace issues, to respond and adapt to changes in the economy, to foster the development of work related skills and to promote workplace productivity.

The PLMC shall not discuss specific grievances or have the power to bind either Party to any decision or conclusion. This committee will not replace the existing local grievance/arbitration processes.

The parties agree that the PLMC will consist of up to four (4) representatives appointed by BCPSEA and up to four (4) representatives appointed by the Support Staff Unions. Either Party may bring resource people as required, with advanced notice to the other party and at no added cost to the committee.

The PLMC will meet quarterly or as mutually agreed to for the life of the agreement and agree to include Workplace Health and Safety as a standing agenda item.

## **9. Committee Funding**

There will be a total of \$100,000 of annual funding allocated for the purposes of the Support Staff Education Committee and the Provincial Labour Management Committee. There will be a one-time \$50,000 allocation for the purposes of the Joint Health and Safety Taskforce.

## **10. Support Staff Initiative for Recruitment & Retention Enhancement (SSIRRE)**

The Parties commit to a Support Staff Initiative for Recruitment & Retention Enhancement (SSIRRE) with the following objectives:

- a. Gathering data of existing support staff recruitment and retention challenges and projected demand in the sector
- b. Gathering data of existing offerings for applicable post-secondary programs, vocational programs and identify potential gaps in program offerings to meet projected demands
- c. Partnering with post-secondary schools and vocational training providers to promote support staff positions in school districts
- d. Marketing the support staff opportunities within the sector (eg. Make a Future)
- e. Targeted support for hard to fill positions

The representatives of the PLMC will mutually select a consultant to perform the work of the initiative. The consultant will report to the PLMC on key milestones and as otherwise requested. During the term of the agreement \$300,000 will be allocated for the purposes set out above.

## **11. Early Care and Learning Plan**

In support of the Province's Early Care and Learning (ECL) Plan, the parties will pursue collaborative opportunities for the K-12 sector to support effective transitions for care and learning from the early years to kindergarten e.g. before and after school care.

## **12. Unpaid Work**

In accordance with the *Employment Standards Act*, no employee shall be required or permitted to perform unpaid hours of work.

### **13. Employee Family Assistance Program (EFAP) services and the PEBT**

The Parties request that the PEBT Board undertake a review to assess the administering of all support staff Employee Family Assistance Program (EFAP) plans.

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

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.

### **15. Public Education Benefits Trust**

- a. PEBT Annual Funding Date: The established ongoing annual funding payment of \$19,428,240 provided by the Ministry of Education will continue to be made each April 1. This payment shall be made each April 1 of the calendar year to provide LTD and JEIS benefits in accordance with the Settlers Statement On Accepted and Policy Practices of the PEBT.
- b. 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.
- c. Sick leave and JEIS eligibility for sick leave or indemnity payments requires participation in the Joint Early Intervention Service (JEIS) according to the JEIS policies of the PEBT.

### **16. Employee Support Grant (ESG)**

The Parties agree to the principle that Support Staff union members who have lost wages as a result of not crossing lawful picket lines during full days of a BCTF strike/BCPSEA lockout will be compensated in accordance with the letter of agreement in Appendix A.

**17. Adoption of Provincial Framework Agreement (PFA)**

The rights and obligation of the local parties under this Provincial Framework Agreement (PFA) are of no force or effect unless the collective agreement has been ratified by both parties no later than:

- a) June 30, 2019 for the PFA with the Employee Support Grant; or
- b) November 30, 2019 for the PFA without the Employee Support Grant.

**18. Funding**

Funding for the Provincial Framework Agreement will be included in operating grants to Boards of Education.

**19. Provincial Bargaining**

The parties agree to amend and renew the December 14, 2011 Letter of Understanding for dedicated funding to the K-12 Presidents' Council to facilitate the next round of provincial bargaining. \$200,000 will be allocated as of July 1, 2020.

Dated this 14th day of June, 2018.

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

**K-12 Presidents' Council and  
Support Staff Unions**

**BC Public School Employers'  
Association & Boards of Education**

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Letter of Agreement (“Letter”)

Between:

BC Public School Employers Association (“BCPSEA”)

And:

The CUPE K - 12 Presidents’ Council and Support Staff Unions (“the Unions”)

**Re: Employee Support Grant (ESG) after June 30, 2019**

This Employee Support Grant (ESG) establishes a process under which employees covered by collective agreements between Boards of Education and the Unions may be entitled to recover wages lost as a result of legal strike activity by the BC Teachers’ Federation (“BCTF”) or lockout by BCPSEA after June 30, 2019.

The ESG will be available where a board and a union have a collective agreement which has been ratified by both parties no later than June 30, 2019.

1. Employees are expected to attend their worksite if there is no lawful picket line and to return to their worksite where a picket line has been removed.
2. Employees who have lost wages as a result of not crossing lawful picket lines during full days of a BCTF strike/BCPSEA lockout shall be compensated. This compensation shall be in accordance with the following:
  - a. In the event that employees are prevented from attending work due to a lawful picket line, employees will be paid for all scheduled hours that the employee would have otherwise worked but for the labour dispute. Their pay will be 75% of their base wage rate.
  - b. The residual 25% of the employees’ base wage rate will be placed in a district fund to provide professional development to support staff employees. Funds will be dispersed by the district in consultation with the local union.
3. Within forty-five (45) days of the conclusion of the labour dispute between BCPSEA and the BCTF, boards will reimburse each employee for all scheduled hours for which the employee has not otherwise been paid as a result of strike or lockout.

4. If the employee disputes a payment received from the board, the union may submit the dispute with particulars on the employee's behalf to a committee comprised of an equal number of representatives appointed by BCPSEA and the Unions.
5. If the joint committee is unable to resolve the employee's claim it will submit the dispute to a mutually agreed upon arbitrator who must resolve the dispute within ten (10) days of hearing the differences between the board and the union.

Original signed on 14<sup>th</sup> of June, 2018 by:

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BCPSEA  
Leanne Bowes

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K-12 Presidents' Council  
Warren Williams

This information is provided for reference only and is current as of the date of drafting. Please visit [www.worksafebc.com](http://www.worksafebc.com) for current information.



## Refusing unsafe work

Workers have the right to refuse unsafe work. If you have reasonable cause to believe that performing a job or task puts you or someone else at risk, you must not perform the job or task. You must immediately notify your supervisor or employer, who will then take the appropriate steps to determine if the work is unsafe and remedy the situation.

As an employer, workers are your eyes and ears on the front line of workplace health and safety. When workers refuse work because they believe it's unsafe, consider it an opportunity to investigate and correct a situation that could have caused harm.

If a worker refuses work because it's unsafe, workplace procedures will allow the issue to be properly understood and corrected. As a worker, you have the right to refuse to perform a specific job or task you believe is unsafe without being disciplined by your employer. Your employer or supervisor may temporarily assign a new task to you, at no loss in pay.

### Steps to follow when work might be unsafe:

#### 1. Report the unsafe condition or procedure

As a worker, you must immediately report the unsafe condition to a supervisor or employer.

As a supervisor or employer, you must investigate the matter and fix it if possible. If you decide the worker's concern is not valid, report back to the worker.

#### 2. If a worker still views work as unsafe after a supervisor or employer has said it is safe to perform a job or task

As a supervisor or employer, you must investigate the problem and ensure any unsafe condition is fixed. This investigation must take place in the presence of the worker and a worker representative of the joint health and safety committee or a worker chosen by the worker's trade union. If there is no safety committee or representing trade union at the workplace, the worker who first reported the unsafe condition can choose to have another worker present at the investigation.

#### 3. If a worker still views work as unsafe, notify WorkSafeBC

If the matter is not resolved, the worker and the supervisor or employer must [contact WorkSafeBC](#). A prevention officer will then investigate and take steps to find a workable solution.

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/health-safety/create-manage/rights-responsibilities/refusing-unsafe-work?origin=s&returnurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.worksafebc.com%2Fen%2Fsearch%23q%3Dunsafe%2520work%26sort%3Drelevancy%26f%3Alanguage-facet%3D%5Benglish%5D>