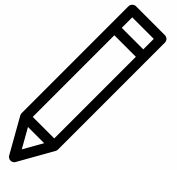


# CUPE 723 Bargaining 2025



**March 18, 2026**

**#5**

Your local bargaining team has met a number of times to continue to work on proposals for our employer and with the expectation there will be money for the local table. We are working hard to provide a package of proposals that best reflect what we heard from members through our bargaining survey.

We met with our employer back in November to go over housekeeping items (grammar, numbering, spacing, etc)

Our CUPE local 723, was assigned a new national representative in January, Patrick Barbosa, who is now our lead in local bargaining. We thank our previous rep, David Scott, for the time and guidance he provided during the first phases of bargaining. Welcome to Patrick!

The BCTF reached an impasse with the employer representative association (BCPSEA) in February and was ready to take a strike vote, if needed to push the employer back to the table with a better deal. This did prompt a new offer and bargaining resumed. The teachers ratified their new contract and put Support Staff Workers back in the queue.

The CUPE K-12 bargaining team rejected the government's offer and asked locals to be ready to open local tables and prepare for a possible strike. Training was provided to Strike Committees and we waited to see if the government was ready to get back to the table. The provincial bargaining team made clear, we would not be willing to take less than what other public sector bargaining unions were offered.

The government told education bargaining teams that "this wasn't their year" (to make improvements for workers. At one of the week long educational at Winter School, put on by the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), premier, David Eby, was asked by a K-12 president on the mainland how he was going to feel next election when the workers who'd volunteered and door knocked for the BC NDP say to him, "sorry premier, it's not your year."

The K-12 provincial bargaining team will be meeting with BCPSEA, on March 25 & 26 to resume bargaining. Additional dates are also available for April 9 & 10 if needed.

Your local bargaining team is hopeful provincial bargaining reaches a deal before the end of April and we're able to get to the local table before summer break. If not, we will be bargaining in the fall.

A reminder that our current collective agreement still stands and any monetary gains in this round will be retroactive to July 1, 2025, when our contract expired, unless the item has been assigned a specific date of implementation.

