

SCHOOL DISTRICT #81  
(FORT NELSON)

P.O. BOX 87  
FORT NELSON, B.C.  
VOC-1R0

TELEPHONE (250) 774-2591  
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September 6, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians:

**Re: Teacher Job Action (Strike)**

Teachers will be starting limited job action effective immediately (Tuesday, September 6, 2011). This is considered Phase One of a legal strike by the B.C. Teachers' Federation.

Currently the strike activities will not involve any picketing. During Phase One of the BCTF strike, teachers will continue to teach their classes, prepare lessons, evaluate and mark student work and respond in an emergency where a student's health or safety is at risk. However, teachers will not be providing certain duties including:

- preparation or distribution of report cards
- attending staff meetings
- collecting money from students or participating in fund raising
- participating in meet the teacher activities (like Mug & Muffin or parent/teacher interviews) that are outside of instructional time
- providing any assessment data to Administrative Officers or the school office, except Grade 12 marks required for graduation, post-secondary applications and scholarship purposes
- administering or supervising the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) or any District or Ministry test

Frequently Asked Questions with a more complete list is available from your school's office or the school district website at [www.sd81.bc.ca](http://www.sd81.bc.ca)

We are focused on the education and safety of our students. Schools will remain open during Phase 1 of the BCTF strike. Students will continue to attend classes as they would normally do. During breaks like recess and lunch, bus pick-up and drop-off times and before and after school will continue with support staff, school administration and district office staff. This will continue as long as the school district has enough non BCTF employees for safe supervision coverage.

Our priority remains that of providing the best possible learning environment for children – to the best of our abilities both during the strike and after.

The relationship between teachers and management here in S.D. #81 Fort Nelson is positive and both sides are committed to it remaining so, both during and after this strike.

If you have any questions about the specifics of this job action, please contact your school Principal or the School District Administration Office at 250-774-2591.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diana Samchuck".

Diana Samchuck  
Superintendent of Schools  
SD#81 (FORT NELSON)

BUILDING  
FUTURES  
TOGETHER

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Which activities will continue during Phase 1 of the teacher strike?

Under Phase 1, BCTF members will continue to provide student instruction; prepare and plan lessons; perform assessment, evaluation and marking; and participate in teacher discipline, evaluation, and investigation meetings. They will also continue to communicate with administrators regarding student health and safety and be available in the event of an emergency or disaster situation.

### What duties will no longer be performed during a Phase 1 teacher strike?

Following is a list of **some** of the duties that teachers will not be required to perform. For a complete list, please visit [www.bcpsea.bc.ca](http://www.bcpsea.bc.ca).

- Participate in meetings or interviews with parents/guardians and/or district teaching staff outside of instructional time, or during instructional time unless coverage is provided
- Participate in meet the teacher activities outside of instructional time, or during instructional time unless coverage is provided
- Prepare or distribute report cards
- Provide any student assessment data to administrators or the school office, except Grade 12 marks required for graduation, post-secondary applications and scholarship purposes
- Attend staff meetings
- Attend school-based meetings called by a principal/vice principal, unless the meetings are related to an emergency
- Participate in the preparation or the organization of assemblies outside of instructional time, or during instruction time unless coverage is provided
- Participate in any professional development that is not teacher directed
- Participate in any school photo organization
- Provide coverage for a teacher who is absent, except for a Teacher on Call hired specifically for that purpose
- Administer or supervise Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) or any District or Ministry test
- Collect money from students or participate in fundraising
- Order supplies, textbooks, etc., unless needed immediately to effectively maintain ongoing instruction
- Supervise detentions before, during or after instructional time
- Prepare overviews or previews for the principal/vice principal, except when associated with a teacher evaluation process
- Distribute school district or administrative letters, newsletters, memos or announcements to students, unless they are health and safety related.

### **If there is a strike, how will this affect “beginning of school” planning and preparation?**

Teachers will participate as usual in the planning and formation of class programs and composition for a set amount of time at the beginning of the school year:

- Elementary Schools: beginning of the school year until September 10, 2011
- Secondary Schools: beginning of the school year until September 17, 2011.

This includes communication and meetings with the principal for the purpose of organizing class/program composition and formation, and not for other purposes or general preparation for the upcoming year. The school district can organize meetings of non-BCTF members (for example, principals/vice-principals) to ensure a smooth transition into the school year despite the strike.

### **Will extracurricular activities be affected?**

During Phase 1, a teacher may voluntarily choose to continue or discontinue providing a voluntary extracurricular activity. At this point, we do not know how or if extracurricular activities will be affected.

### **What happens if the BCTF wants to escalate its strike past Phase 1; for example, disrupt instruction and/or picket?**

In this event, the BCTF must inform the Labour Relations Board. The Labour Relations Board will then review the situation and determine what services are essential necessary before the strike can be escalated. Any strike activity that has not been through the essential service designation process should not take place.

### **What if I have further questions?**

If you have a specific question relating to teacher bargaining or the potential teacher strike, please visit the discussion section on the BCPSEA Facebook page. BCPSEA will answer your questions in a timely manner. You can also contact your school principal.