

Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada Local 464

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NEWS RELEASE

BCTF administrative staff go on strike

One of the most powerful unions in the province is about to find out what it's like to be on the other side of a picket line.

The BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) will be behind pickets as of **6:00 a.m. Thursday, April 26, 2007** when its administrative staff launch job action to fight BCTF demands for contract stripping and concessions.

“A strike is a last resort,” says Anita Chapman, President of local 464 of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers' Union (CEP), which represents the administrative staff the BCTF, “but we have no other option. It is baffling to us that the BCTF is adopting Liberal government tactics, the same ones they opposed when they led teachers out on strike.”

The job action threatens the BCTF annual general meeting, which is scheduled to begin May 4 in Vancouver. At the AGM, the federation will elect a new president, as Jinny Sims will not be seeking re-election after three years as leader of the BCTF. Chapman says, “It's a shame that the woman who made political and labour history by leading BC's 41,000 teachers to an unprecedented strike in 2005, will not leave a legacy of the wisdom and determination that were the hallmarks of that dispute, but rather, a legacy of the breakdown of fundamental union principles at the BCTF.”

The strike will mark the first time the administrative staff have launched a full withdrawal of services – another “first” for Jinny Sims, who was responsible for settling the first ever negotiated agreement between teachers and the BC Public School Employers' Association.

The CEP 464 members represent lawyers, accountants, labour specialists, professional development experts, and communications specialists.

CEP 464 President Anita Chapman will be available for interviews in front of the BCTF building at 550 W. 6th Avenue at Ash St., beginning at 6:00 a.m. Thursday, April 26th.

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