

# University of Northern British Columbia Faculty Association

## *Bargaining Bulletin #2019-28*

November 29, 2019

### **Message from the Chief Negotiator:**

Dear Colleagues,

Several weeks ago, the Employer's Chief Negotiator announced that she will no longer be bound by two of the articles that the parties signed off on 28 May and 10 June. You can probably understand that this is an extraordinary development. It is especially important because the financial implications of the articles are very significant. You are also aware of the persistent unlawful demand that the Employer has made, which the FA has repeatedly and clearly rejected.

We hoped that the presence of special mediator Trevor Sones and the legal counsel for both parties would lead to a quick resolution of these issues during yesterday's negotiating session. Unfortunately, the Employer would not budge. As a consequence, earlier today, the UNBC FA Executive decided that it has no choice but to file a complaint before the Labour Relations Board (LRB), asking for a ruling that the Employer has been guilty of bargaining in bad faith. Although we indicated that we were willing to continue negotiations while the LRB process unfolds, the mediator decided to call for an adjournment of negotiations.

It might take a considerable time for the LRB to consider our application and allow us to return to collective bargaining. Considering that fact along with the reality that our students' semester hangs in the balance, the UNBC FA has decided to suspend picketing at 4:30 this afternoon so that the semester can continue while the LRB is hearing our bad-faith bargaining complaint.

UNBC FA members will therefore be returning to their teaching duties immediately after 4:30 pm. Job action, however, will continue. At this time, the UNBC FA will limit job action to the withdrawal of internal university service work, except for service to the UNBC Senate and UNBC Board of Governors.

The UNBC FA will update the membership further at an in-person meeting at 10:00 am on Saturday 30 November, at the UNBC FA Headquarters, and a phone-in meeting at 1:00 pm.

Ted Binnema, Chief Negotiator, UNBC FA, and the rest of the team: Jacqueline Holler, Umesh Parshotam, Matt Reid, Donna Sindaco, and Stephen Rader (*ex officio*).



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