



BC unions gearing up to protest Bill 12

October 14, 2005

Sinclair says coordinated job action is being taken to reach a settlement

BC Federation of Labour news release

Vancouver — Officers of unions affiliated to the B.C. Federation of Labour today announced that workers will begin protesting Bill 12 on Monday in Greater Victoria if the government refuses to negotiate a settlement with the BC Teachers Federation.

"There's a window of opportunity today and over the weekend for the government to reach out and finally show the leadership that British Columbians expect," said Sinclair. "The government's move to legislate a contract and take away democratic rights is an attack on all working people and it's time for the government to do the right thing and come to the table."

"We expect shutdowns throughout Greater Victoria as union members, supportive parents and community groups take part in the protest of Bill 12," explained Sinclair. "Officers have unanimously agreed to leave all patient care services intact, so health care facilities will not be affected."

"This is the first stage of action we are announcing in an effort to get a fair deal for teachers," warned Sinclair. "We hope the government reaches out to do the right thing so we don't have to make further announcements, but we have prepared a plan should the need arise and will update the public as necessary."

"Our goal is very clear ... we want a table to negotiate a settlement to this dispute that gives teachers the dignity that everyone knows they deserve," Sinclair said.

"This government promised to end the confrontation they created over the past four years," Sinclair said. "It's unfortunate the government doesn't understand that taking away our rights and abusing legislative power will not solve this dispute. We're off to a very bad start."

"The resolution to this dispute does not belong in the courts ... it belongs at the negotiating table between the government and teachers," stated Sinclair. "Let's get our kids back to school."

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