



CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
BRITISH COLUMBIA DIVISION

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January 24, 2008

Honourable Shirley Bond  
Minister of Education  
PO Box 9056 STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Bond:

I am writing to you regarding the Satisfaction Survey and the broader issue of meaningful consultation.

In its present form the survey would appear to add little to the ability of trustees, staff, parents or provincial legislators to make informed decisions about improving education. It also fails to address key provincial issues like funding and governance that clearly have an impact on education.

From CUPE's perspective, the survey rings hollow given the lack of ability for school staff to participate in the existing structures. As we have discussed with you in the past, CUPE's 25,000 support staff are legislatively excluded from participating in school planning councils and have not been invited to the your government's major dialogue forum, the Learning Roundtable.

We would be supportive of meaningful consultation that truly informs and seeks the views of all education stakeholders. CUPE would be pleased to work with you to develop a survey that includes all the players and that asks about things like how adequate resources are, where the gaps are and what the real needs are.

I hope that you see this as an opportunity to work with us and other education partners to develop a system-wide survey that would address the real issues facing public schools in the province.

I would be pleased to further discuss these issues with you.

Sincerely,

Barry O'Neill  
President  
CUPE BC Division

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COPE-15