



**Reaching Out, Speaking Up:
Making a Difference
in Post-Secondary Education**

2007-08 Action Plan

Reaching Out, Speaking Up: Making a Difference in Post-Secondary Education

Post-secondary educators play a critical role in the future of post-secondary education in British Columbia. As educators, we build the link between knowledge, skill and the needs of our students. However, our members are also important advocates for post-secondary education. Through our direct experience, we are able to show how chronic under-funding is limiting access and opportunities for existing and potential post-secondary students.

Over the next twelve months, FPSE will target three priorities for ensuring that our voice and input is reflected in futures changes of post-secondary education. Those priorities include:

- 1. Capacity and skills building for locals and activists:**
FPSE will sponsor a series of workshops for activists to ensure that activists will have the skills and information to become more effective advocates for post-secondary education in their communities. As well, FPSE will provide locals with regular research and background material on labour relations, arbitrations and collective agreement administration.
- 2. Advocacy on emerging issues in post-secondary education, particularly in ABE, ESL, trades training and university transfer:** In the 2007 round of bargaining, we were successful in establishing a policy table that would include senior administrators as well as government to discuss important system issues. This policy table, along with our on-going advocacy and lobbying efforts, will enable FPSE to mobilize support for more progressive system-wide changes in post-secondary education.
- 3. International outreach:** Our advocacy for post-secondary education must extend beyond our existing members and the province of British Columbia. Our HRISC has drafted an initial proposal for funding an international solidarity initiative. Over the next twelve months, we hope to move the proposal from concept to action.

At our May 2007 AGM, delegates approved the following priorities:

Capacity and skills building for locals and activists:

- Develop materials and research on emerging issues that will help build capacity at both the provincial and local levels of FPSE.
- Organize a series of workshops for members and activists on topics important to skills building within our activist ranks. Those workshop topics include but are not limited to: Facing Management, Advanced Shop Steward Training, Running an Effective Meeting, Occupational Health and Safety Programs, Copyright Issues, Women's Rights, and Organizing.
- Work with locals to strengthen internal organizing efforts that increase our capacity to mobilize members to become more active on post-secondary education issues.
- Concentrate efforts on organizing private sector post-secondary faculty.
- Work with allies, community members, leaders and elected representatives to highlight the importance of post-secondary education in sustaining communities and building a modern economy.
- Collaborate with the BC Federation of Labour, the Canadian Association of University Teachers, the Canadian Labour Congress and the National Union of CAUT on issues related to workplace rights, human rights, and post-secondary education.
- Support and encourage the work of FPSE activists who are prepared to mobilize their locals and communities around issues critical to post-secondary education.
- Provide regular information updates to our locals on issues related to labour relations, post-secondary education, and the broader labour movement.
- Provide a critical analysis of bargaining, both provincial and local.
- Develop and improve our strategic planning process.

Advocacy on emerging issues in post-secondary education, particularly in ABE, ESL, trades training and university transfer:

- Lobby MLAs and MPs for adequate funding for the public post-secondary education system, and for policies that protect the professional integrity and working conditions of post-secondary educators and the quality of public post-secondary education.
- Enhance the ability of FPSE to advocate on behalf of member locals by staying actively involved in political action and social justice campaigns sponsored by the BC Federation of Labour, the Canadian Labour Congress, CAUT, and other progressive allies.
- Continue to collaborate with the Canadian Federation of Students on public campaigns and research that builds greater public awareness of post-secondary education issues and mobilizes public support for progressive changes in post-secondary education policy.
- Make effective and strategic use of the policy table commitment secured through the 2007 round of provincial bargaining to generate research on post-secondary issues and to lobby the provincial government for progressive solutions to emerging problems in post-secondary education.
- Work with member locals as well as the BC Federation of Labour to press for high quality trades training and apprenticeship programs delivered through our public post-secondary education system.
- Continue to pressure the provincial and federal governments to provide better funding support for Adult Basic Education, Adult Literacy and ESL programs. As well, work to ensure that better funding supports the delivery of these programs through the public post-secondary education system.
- Pressure the provincial government to improve the quality and accountability of private post-secondary institutions by providing strong regulatory measures for private institutions.
- Work with local community organizations and with local labour councils to build support for progressive changes in post-secondary education.

International outreach:

- Work with other unions who have established international solidarity funds to develop a comprehensive work plan for an FPSE-sponsored international solidarity initiative.
- Collaborate with progressive international solidarity organizations to determine how to effectively maximize our resources in ways that meet the stated objectives of our initiative.
- Educate FPSE members on the options available for international solidarity work to ensure that the priorities established by our initiative make effective use of our members' skills and interests.