



Federation of
Post-Secondary Educators
of BC

Thinking Ahead:

Emerging Issues in Post-Secondary Education

Proposed 2006/2007 ACTION PLAN

Overview

In the next twelve months FPSE needs to mobilize support from our locals, our members, allies in the labour movement and the community at large to advance our priorities in three critical areas. They include:

1. **Collective Bargaining and Workplace Rights:** The 2007 round of bargaining represents a critical opportunity for FPSE locals to improve salaries, protections and benefits in existing collective agreements. This round of bargaining can also provide an important platform for organizing new members into our union. The 2006/07 Action Plan must include efforts to support these critical objectives.
2. **Post-Secondary Education Funding And Access:** Our success at collective bargaining in 2007 will closely track our success at improving funding and access within the public post-secondary system. Our action plan must identify the critical efforts needed to improve both measures.
3. **Outreach:** Our advocacy for post-secondary education must extend well-beyond our existing members and province. Our Action Plan must identify strategies for supporting progressive social and economic development both here in BC and beyond.

At our May 2006 AGM, delegates are being asked to approve an Action Plan that will strengthen our work as advocates for our members, our communities and the public post-secondary education system. Our Action Plan has to not only build capacity, skills and activism within our membership, it must also increase our effectiveness in advocating for progressive change within the public post-secondary system in which we work and the broader community in which we live.

Our Action plan must also concentrate our efforts on essential priorities over the next twelve months. We propose the following as critical elements in the 2006/07 Action Plan:

Collective Bargaining and Workplace Rights

- Work with members to support bargaining priorities and strategies at the local and provincial levels.
- Support bargaining by working with allies, community members, leaders and elected representatives to highlight the importance of stable jobs, fair pay and fair working conditions to the stability of our communities.
- Provide strategic financial and legal support where such support defends or enhances legislative and collective agreement rights.
- Build solidarity and support campaigns with equity-seeking groups on campus and in the community.
- Ensure that at each local all employees delivering education services (for example, community education, extension services, contract training, etc.) are included in bargaining units.
- Strive to expand FPSE through organizing new employee groups.
- Hold fast on *Public Education Flexibility and Choice Act* issues and monitor institutions' willingness to use the contract-busting legislation.
- Grieve use of the *Public Education Flexibility and Choice Act*.
- Protect the governance model (education councils, university councils, and representation on institutions' boards of governors).
- Support unions engaged in job actions.
- Build unity within FPSE.

Post-Secondary Education Funding and Access

- Continue to highlight Bill 28 (*Public Education Flexibility and Choice Act*) as an attack on the fundamental rights of workers in the colleges, university-colleges, institutes and agencies.
- Mobilize support for high quality trades training system and improved safety legislation and regulation in the province.
- 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 allies.
- Engage in strategic public opinion polling, research projects and public awareness campaigns on post-secondary education.
- Support province-wide and local initiatives to be jointly co-ordinated with the BC Federation of Labour.
- Advocate for post-secondary education and training issues at the national level through CAUT, NUCAUT and the CLC.
- Work in concert with the BC Federation of Labour, support other BC unions requiring assistance including but not limited to loans or loan guarantees, staff, technical or legal support, up to and including job action.
- Lobby the provincial government to undertake a strategic planning process for the public post-secondary education system with the involvement of all partners.
- Work with local Labour Councils and bring post-secondary education issues to those tables.
- Meet with local officers of other unions and community groups who are affected by government initiatives and legislation to co-ordinate actions and responses.
- Monitor enrolment and changes in the program and service mix at institutions, as well as the growing cost of institutional administration.
- Monitor public/private partnerships.
- Monitor the accountability and effectiveness of the Industry Training Authority (ITA) and the Degree Quality Assessment Board (DQAB)
- Actively participate in local activities that are part of the BC Federation of Labour and Coalition for Public Education campaigns.
- Continue to work with and support elected representatives at the municipal and school board levels.

Outreach:

- Support the efforts of our provincial and national labour organizations in their efforts to strengthen and expand international solidarity work with unions outside Canada.
- Educate FPSE members and locals on the importance of international solidarity and human rights, especially as it affects the equality of access to post-secondary education.
- Work with locals to identify the resources necessary to establish an International Solidarity Fund within FPSE that provides meaningful and effective support for progressive initiatives outside of Canada.