



## SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53 (OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN)

Box 1770, 35061 – 101 Street  
Oliver BC V0H 1T0  
Phone: 250-498-3481  
Fax: 250-498-4070  
Website: [www.sd53.bc.ca](http://www.sd53.bc.ca)

September 6, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians:

### **Re: Teacher Strike Action**

This is to advise you that the British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF) has served notice that they will begin Phase 1 strike action effective Tuesday, September 6, 2011. Public education in BC is considered an essential service. This means that the BCTF is able to go on strike; however, the employer and the union are required to maintain certain essential services during that time. The Labour Relations Board orders which services are essential.

Currently, the strike activities will not involve any picketing. However, under Phase 1 of the BCTF strike, teachers will continue to prepare, teach their classes, assess student progress, and take attendance. Teachers will not be performing some duties and activities including:

- Participating in certain meetings with principals/Vice-principals and management
- Preparing or distributing report cards
- Collecting money from students or participating in fund raising
- Attending staff meetings
- Administering or supervising the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) or any District or Ministry test
- Participating in meet the teacher activities that are outside of instructional time
- Provide morning/after school supervision subject to the employer utilizing management and excluded staff to the best extent possible to replace teachers for these activities.

Extra-curricular activities are expected to continue provided that the teacher continues to volunteer to sponsor the activity. In addition, teachers will respond in an emergency where a student's health or safety is at risk. The school District is asking parents' cooperation with the following in order to assist with effective morning and after school supervision.

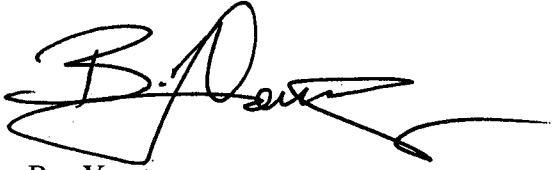
**If your child does not ride a bus, please arrange, whenever possible, to have your child arrive at the school close to the school starting time and to leave immediately after dismissal, since there may be limited supervised areas (e.g. playground/bus pick-up) open to students during these times.**

Students will continue to attend classes as they would normally do. During before and after school bus pick-up, students will be supervised by the Principal, Vice-Principal, or by district staff. The District regrets any inconvenience that these changes may cause and will be doing everything possible to minimize the impact on your child's positive start to the new school year and to their educational program, while providing the highest level of student safety possible. Our priority remains providing the best possible learning environment for children to the best of our abilities both during job action and after.



If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact your school principal or the district office at 250-498-3481. We will also update our website at [www.sd53.bc.ca](http://www.sd53.bc.ca)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Young', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bev Young  
Superintendent of Schools  
School District No. 53 (Okanagan-Similkamen)