



# SCHOOL DISTRICT 5

## S O U T H E A S T K O O T E N A Y

August 29, 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians:

This letter is to provide you with the latest information on the current provincial labour dispute.

At this time, the BC Public School Employer's Association (BPSEA) and the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) have not yet reached a settlement so, as a result, we are uncertain as to whether schools will be able to open on Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Both sides are currently meeting with Mediator Vince Ready and there is a chance that a settlement may be reached in the next few days. However, we are encouraging parents and guardians to consider alternate arrangements for their children should this not happen.

As many of you are aware, picket lines were reinstated in front of all of our schools and the Board Office this week and it is our current understanding that they will remain in place until there is a resolve to the dispute. This means that only our Principals and Vice-Principals are on-site to respond to any requests from parents and students. We appreciate your patience and understanding as they may be delayed in responding to you. Typically, schools would have been open with a full complement of staff to handle new registrations and welcome new families. As soon as the schools reopen we can resume registrations or you may contact your school by phone. We would also like to remind parents that supporting documents (birth certificate, proof of residency and a latest report card) are required when registering.

A final decision on school opening may not be able to be made until sometime this Labour Day weekend. Because of this, we encourage parents to follow the local media for any changes that may take place and continue to monitor the websites listed at the bottom of this letter. If there is no settlement it is anticipated that schools will remain behind picket lines with only school administrators on site. If this is the case, then parents are asked to make alternate arrangements for their children as it would not be possible to offer an educational program nor can we ensure adequate supervision of students.

Thank you for your understanding during this difficult and uncertain time. It is our hope that the labour impasse is resolved this weekend and that our schools can return to their normal operations.

Sincerely,

Lynn Hauptman  
Superintendent

Parents are encouraged to keep up to date through the news media and review information on the following websites:

- BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA): [www.bcpsea.bc.ca](http://www.bcpsea.bc.ca)
- BC School Trustees' Association (BCSTA): [www.bcsta.org](http://www.bcsta.org)
- BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF): [www.bctf.ca](http://www.bctf.ca)
- Ministry of Education: [www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/ministries/education](http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/ministries/education) and <http://bcparentinfo.ca/>
- School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay): [www.sd5.bc.ca](http://www.sd5.bc.ca)