

June 6, 2014

Jim Iker
President
British Columbia Teachers' Federation
100-500 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver, ON V5Z 4P2

Dear Jim,

On behalf of the Ontario Teachers' Federation, I congratulate your members for their courage in standing up to the Government of British Columbia, yet again, in order to protect teachers' bargaining rights. Your members are to be commended for their strength and solidarity and we want to assure them, through you, that they have the full support of OTF and its members.

We recognize that attacks on teacher unions and education in one province, are an attack on all of us. In Ontario, teachers endured many years of endless attacks during the era of the Harris government and, last year we went through turmoil as legislation was passed imposing Bill 155 that changed the direction of bargaining for the education sector in Ontario. For British Columbia's teachers, unfortunately, the challenges have gone on for many years and the government is relentless. Besides this, the BC Government's disregard for recent court decisions is indefensible.

Public education needs champions who will stand up for quality education for students. Teacher federations will continue to defend bargaining rights, negotiate fair contracts and ensure the best possible learning environment for students. We applaud BC's teachers for being champions for public education and for defending collective bargaining rights.

Yours in solidarity,



Julie Pauletig
President

JP/lg