



Ref: 43678

January 30, 2006

Mr. Vincent L. Ready
Labour Arbitration and Mediation Services Ltd.
202 - 856 Homer Street
Vancouver BC V6B 2W5

Dear Mr. Ready:

I am writing to thank you for providing me with your interim report on labour relations matters between the British Columbia Public School Employers' Association and the British Columbia Teachers' Federation, and to provide you with my response to your recommendation for extending your term. I appreciate the work you have done to date with the parties including the call for submissions and meetings held with the BC Teachers' Federation and the BC Public School Employers' Association.

This is a challenging task and one that will have significant implications for teachers, schools, and students for some time to come. With the expansion of your mandate to include consideration of local bargaining system, I appreciate the complexity of developing viable options for a bargaining structure and processes that will promote settlement between the parties and foster effective and productive union/management relations.

However, I am mindful of the timelines for collective bargaining under the current collective agreement, which is set to expire on June 30, 2006. I am advised that the parties are preparing to go to the bargaining table in a timely fashion, and certainly by April 1, 2006.

I therefore concur with your recommendation for extending your term to allow a more fulsome review of alternative bargaining structures and request that you provide me a report with options by March 31, 2006.

Thank you again for your continuing work.

Yours truly,

Michael de Jong
Minister