

**BCTF NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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A dark day for public education in BC: Teachers mark the 10th anniversary of bills that illegally ripped up contracts

Friday, teachers across BC are wearing black to mark the 10th anniversary of the passage of Bills 27 and 28 which ripped up teachers' collective agreements and eliminated provisions protecting class size, class composition, and services to students with special needs.

"Over a single weekend in January 2002, the BC Liberals wiped out decades of advocacy and sacrifice by teachers and launched a decade of cutbacks, school closures, and untold damage to teaching and learning conditions," said BCTF President Susan Lambert. "In declaring today a 'Dark Day for Public Education in BC' teachers are sending a message to government that it's time to respect bargaining rights and come to the table to reach a fair and reasonable agreement with teachers."

The 2002 legislation enabled the BC Liberals to cut \$336 million annually from public education and so severely curtailed free collective bargaining rights that it could not sustain a challenge under the *Charter of Rights*. In April 2011, the BC Supreme Court found the bills to be unconstitutional and invalid.

On Saturday, teachers in the Lower Mainland will take action to commemorate the massive rallies that took place the day after the passage of Bills 27 and 28.

Between 12:15 p.m. and 1:15 p.m. Saturday, January 28, 2012, look for teachers demonstrating and waving signs on the following bridges:

- Cambie Bridge
- Dinsmore Bridge
- Moray (Airport connector) Bridge
- No. 2 Road Bridge
- Oak Street Bridge