



## BURNABY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

#115 - 3993 HENNING DRIVE, BURNABY, B.C. V5C 6P7

Telephone: (604) 294-8141

Fax: (604) 294-9846

September 5, 2017

Jan Grude  
CEO Pacific Blue Cross

Dear Mr. Grude,

I am writing this correspondence on behalf of the over 2000 public school teachers in the Burnaby School District. The Burnaby Teachers would like to express our collective dissatisfaction with the actions of Pacific Blue Cross during this current round of bargaining with CUPE Local 1816.

The members of CUPE 1816 provide an invaluable service to teachers in Burnaby and throughout the province. Our teachers have had their claims unnecessarily delayed, in large part, through the employer's tactics at the bargaining table that have included denying paid sick leave to CUPE 1816 employees, refusing to collect union dues on behalf of the Local, and ultimately locking out their employees. All this in an attempt to force the Local union to accept unnecessary concessions to retiree benefits.

As a non-profit organization that posted a net profit of nearly \$11 million in 2016 (source: Burnaby Now Article of Aug 25) the need to seek financial concessions from your employees seems unjustified and short-sighted. Burnaby teachers feel that the employer's current bargaining strategy is not in keeping with the principles of a non-profit organization that supports fair employment practices – the very reasons that teachers have valued our relationship with PBC in the past.

The Burnaby Teachers Association calls on PBC to reconsider its approach at the bargaining table with respect to seeking unwarranted concessions from CUPE 1816 members. The BTA will continue to monitor the situation in order to ensure that the claims of our members are adjudicated in a timely manner and will also encourage the BCTF to take this issue to our provincial employer organization.

Sincerely,

Frank Bonvino  
BTA President

cc (via email):

Mark Olsen (PBC Board Chair)

Glen Hansman (BCTF President); Moira Mackenzie (BCTF Executive Director)

James Richardson (CUPE National Rep); Beth Miller (CUPE 1018 Local President)

Ron Burton (Chair, Burnaby Board of Education)

BTA Members