



## ***British Columbia Institute of Technology Faculty and Staff Association***

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For Immediate Release

# **BCIT's faculty and staff in position to strike**

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BURNABY--The BCIT Faculty and Staff Association will withdraw its members from all institute activities tomorrow from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. – a time BCIT does not schedule regular full time classes. An exception will be made for the student awards ceremonies scheduled for that time. No picketing is planned at present.

The FSA is in strike position today after 78 percent of members voted in favour of a strike last week. The union served 72-hour strike notice on BCIT shortly before 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 9.

“FSA members are dedicated to BCIT and its students. We are only at the point of striking because our members see the quality of BCIT’s instructional model being threatened,” said FSA President Teresa Place.

BCIT’s reputation for producing job-ready graduates relies on recruiting and retaining of faculty and staff with industry experience. Fewer mid-career professionals are choosing careers at BCIT.

“We need to improve salaries and working conditions to attract career-seasoned professionals from industries where wages have kept pace with inflation,” said FSA Executive Director and Chief Negotiator Paul Reniers. “Fair wages will ensure that BCIT can hire and hold on to the kinds of professionals who built this important institution,” he said.

The union is working to obtain a collective agreement that addresses the needs of its members and prevents a decline in quality at BCIT.

“We hope the provincial government will give BCIT the authority to negotiate a fair and reasonable contract,” said Place. “FSA members refuse to sit back and watch the erosion of the learning environment they have built,” she said.

The FSA's members have been without a contract since June 30, 2010.

The BCIT Faculty and Staff Association is the largest bargaining unit in BC's colleges and institutes, representing over 1,400 employees of BCIT, including technology and part-time studies faculty, assistant instructors, technical staff, researchers, curriculum development professionals, librarians, program advisors and counselors.

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