



British Columbia Institute of Technology Faculty and Staff Association

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For Immediate Release

**Fair and reasonable mandate from the province is needed,
FSA tells Minister Yap**

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BURNABY, BC -- The BCIT Faculty and Staff Association calls on John Yap, the Minister of Advanced Education, to ensure that BCIT's employees receive a fair and reasonable wage settlement.

"We invite the Minister to come and talk with our members," said FSA President Teresa Place. "You will not find faculty and staff more committed to their institution, their programs, and their students than those at BCIT."

Recruitment and retention of qualified faculty and staff have now become huge challenges at BCIT and are negatively impacting students' education.

"Our members cannot continue to see their paychecks lose ground to the cost of living," said Place. "The career seasoned professionals who built BCIT's reputation are harder to attract as salaries outside the public sector keep pace with inflation and ours do not."

This is why the FSA has expressed its solidarity with members of the BC Government Employees Union who gave strike notice to BCIT on Friday, October 26. The FSA will be soon holding a strike vote of its own.

"Our members are strongly motivated because they believe increased wages and a new collective agreement are vital for educational quality," said FSA Executive Director Paul Reniers. "It is important to BCIT and its students, as well as employees and their families."

FSA members have been working for BCIT's students without a contract since July 2010.

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