



British Columbia Institute of Technology Faculty and Staff Association

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For Immediate Release

BCIT Faculty and Staff vote 78% in favour of strike

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BURNABY -- Today, members of the BCIT Faculty and Staff Association have voted 78 percent in favour of a strike. The union is working to obtain a collective agreement that addresses the needs of its members and prevents a decline in quality at BCIT.

BCIT's delivery of job-ready graduates relies on the recruiting and retaining of its faculty and staff with industry experience. It is a model BCIT's reputation stands on -- a model now under stress.

"Better salaries and working conditions are needed 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 strike vote conducted November 7, 8 and 9 at BCIT's Burnaby and Downtown campuses, saw 689 members cast ballots.

"We hope this high turnout will make the provincial government give BCIT the authority to negotiate a fair and reasonable contract," said FSA President Teresa Place. "The results of this strike vote show that FSA members will not 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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