



association of university and college employees

Dec. 1, 1983

Operation Solidarity
3110 Boundary Road
Burnaby, BC
V5M 4A2

To the Steering Committee:

AUCE Local 1 recognizes that limited trade union gains were won through the settlement of the recent escalating job action. It's a relief to see Bill 2 withdrawn, and Bill 3 considerably emasculated. However, we don't feel that that settlement went far enough, since we still have to contend with the full force of Bills 11 and 26.

In addition to this, we were very unhappy with the virtual lack of settlement on other than trade union issues. Another promise of consultation, with no mechanism established for that consultation, is as good as no settlement at all. Our actions were taken not only in opposition to the anti-union legislation, but in opposition to legislation concerning human rights, renter's rights, cuts in social services, and cuts in education. This last item concerns us in particular, as AUCE represents workers employed by an educational institution. While we were dismayed by the agreement on elementary and secondary education budget cuts, which turned the teacher's protest into three days leave of absence without pay, similar to those imposed by the Ministry last year, we were even more dismayed that the issue of post-secondary education budget cuts was not addressed at all. These cuts, and they are severe, are a blow not only to us as workers in the post-secondary education sector but, more importantly, a blow to the quality of education in this province. We hope that whatever clout is left to the Solidarity movement will be used to address these issues. We also hope that Operation Solidarity will never again take the kind of unilateral action it took in settling the protest, and that in future consultation with the Solidarity Coalition will be given more than lip service.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ted Byrne".

Ted Byrne
Union Coordinator
for the AUCE executive

cc. Solidarity Coalition