

Teachers ready to strike for more money

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B.C.'s public school teachers have voted 85.2 per cent in favour of strike action to back their contract demands.

The B.C. Teachers' Federation's current contract expires at the end of the month, and the union is prepared to begin strike action this September.

- FROM JUNE 2, 2006: [Teachers' strike plans detailed in leak](#)

The strike vote results released on Friday are not as strong a strike mandate as the BCTF received last year — before their two-week illegal strike. But union president Jinny Sims said teachers are more resolved now, after being legislated back to work last fall.

"We returned to work, and it was a leap of faith on our part, with an understanding that during this round, we would get to address our major issues."

- FROM OCT. 24, 2005: [School's in, as B.C. teachers end strike](#)

The biggest issue for teachers is money. The union is asking for increases totalling 24 per cent over three years. The province is offering eight per cent over four years.

Sims said that offer is insulting, noting that her members are paid less than teachers in Alberta and Ontario — and are overdue for a raise.

"Teachers can't afford to wait until 2010, for the Olympic debt to be there. They can't wait till 2014. We're just not prepared to wait."

- LINK: [BCTF bargaining bulletin](#) 

The B.C. Public Schools Employers' Association has said the teachers' demands are not affordable, and would cost an extra \$3 billion over three years.
