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## Commencement of Negotiations

A two-day negotiation session was held between the Teachers' Bargaining Committee and the Government-Trustee Bargaining Committee in Saskatoon on May 3 and 4, 2017. At this meeting a number of preliminary matters to facilitate negotiations were agreed upon including mutual commitments related to respectful interactions, confidentiality and not bargaining in the media. The Teachers' Bargaining Committee also presented priorities and issues identified in the *Proposals for Teachers' Provincial Collective Bargaining* booklet that was approved by councillors at the Annual Meeting of Council, April 26 through 29, 2017.

The two committees will return to the table later in May.

## Route Selection for the Settlement of Disputes

During this and every cycle of collective bargaining, the Teachers' Bargaining Committee and the STF Executive strive towards the goal of reaching the best possible agreement, concluded with good-faith negotiations, voted upon and ratified by the membership. However, prior to each cycle of bargaining, *The Education Act, 1995* states that the Federation must provide a written notice to the Minister of Education and the Saskatchewan School Boards Association specifying the preferred process for resolution of disputes should an impasse occur.

For this cycle of provincial collective bargaining, the STF Executive selected the route defined by Subsection 239(1)(a), making the dispute resolution processes of mediation or binding arbitration available if an impasse occurs. Notice of this decision was sent to the Government-Trustee Bargaining Committee in March 2017 and councillors were informed of the route selected at the Annual Meeting of Council. The two dispute process options available are expressed in Section 239 of the Act and are as follows:

- **239(1)(a)** permits either party to the agreement to apply for mediation and/or binding arbitration as described in sections 243 through 250.
- **239(1)(b)** permits either party to apply for mediation and/or conciliation and, if conciliation fails, to jointly apply for binding arbitration as described in sections 251 through 260.

To learn more about dispute settlement processes, members are encouraged to check out the *Guide to Negotiations* print and new companion video resource on the Collective Bargaining page of the Federation website. When accessing the website, [www.stf.sk.ca](http://www.stf.sk.ca), please remember to log in to access the confidential information available to members.



Questions about teacher collective bargaining?  
Contact STF Bargaining Support by email at [bargaining@stf.sk.ca](mailto:bargaining@stf.sk.ca).

Discussions about teacher collective bargaining?  
Use the TeacherTalk private members' forum in MySTF on [www.stf.sk.ca](http://www.stf.sk.ca).

