

# Workshops

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## **SERIES ONE: 1:30 PM TO 3:15 PM**

- I.1 Member-to-member conflict\* .....(Spirit A)
- I.2 Crime and perceptions of crime in British Columbia..... (Spirit B)
- I.3 Bargaining models for changing times ..... (Spirit C)
- I.4 Civil liberties and the Olympics..... (Spirit D)
- I.5 TBA .....(Harbour)

*\* This workshop is eligible for the FPSE Labour Relations and Public Policy Advocacy Certificate.*

## **SERIES TWO: 3:30 PM TO 5:15 PM**

- 2.1 The Trouble with the News Media .....(Spirit A)
- 2.2 Better indexing for our pensions: What will it take?  
What can we achieve?..... (Spirit B)
- 2.3 Sustaining research and scholarship at primarily  
undergraduate universities ..... (Spirit C)
- 2.4 British Columbia's economy:  
Where do we go from here?..... (Spirit D)
- 2.5 Funding your future: What you should know about pension  
even though you are not thinking of retiring.....(Harbour)

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# WORKSHOPS SERIES ONE:

1:30 PM TO 3:15 PM

## 1.1 Member-to-member conflict \*

(Spirit Room A)

The purpose of the workshop is to assist participants in identifying the different types of conflict that may occur in their workplaces, the impact that such conflict has on individuals and on groups, and to identify the steps they need to take in developing best practices when dealing with conflict in their own work settings. Participants will also be provided with an overview of existing policy alternatives that other workers and employer organizations have developed.

**Presenter:** Lesley Burke-O'Flynn, FPSE Staff Representative

*Lesley Burke-O'Flynn spent her early career in the communications field and made a transition to labour relations as an activist member of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union in the 1980s. She has since worked for over twenty years in labour relations for public sector unions, including the Service Employees' International Union as business agent, and for the British Columbia Nurses' Union as Servicing and Negotiations Coordinator. At FPSE she is responsible for assisting member locals in grievance arbitration, education and collective bargaining. Over the span of her career she has been a working mom, a partner, a political campaign worker and a sometime singer.*

**Presenter:** David Piasta, FPSE Staff Representative

*David Piasta has been a Staff Representative with FPSE since 1996, and prior to that worked for the BC Nurses' Union as a Labour Relations Officer for 13 years. David is the Staff Representative responsible for the Disability Management and Rehabilitation Committee, and advisor on all things related to the Health Welfare plans.*

## 1.2 Crime and perceptions of crime in British Columbia

(Spirit Room B)

Over the last ten years in British Columbia we have seen an explosion in organized gang activity and the very public violence that goes with it. In fact, over the last two years, the level of gang violence occurring on our streets is unprecedented. The general public would feel a lot safer going forward if they had a better understanding of what is going on behind the scenes in terms of police activity and gang activity. Indeed, this kind of behind-the-scenes police activity is unlike anything we have seen before in the province, and it is producing spectacular results in terms of reducing gang activity and crime overall. This workshop will provide an overview of the initiatives police, governments, and other stakeholders have put in place to bring this turnaround in crime possible.

**Presenter:** Darryl Plecas, RCMP University Research Chair in Crime Reduction, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of the Fraser Valley

*Dr. Plecas holds the RCMP University Research Chair in Crime Reduction in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) where he has worked for 29 years. He has served as Chair of the School for 14 of those years. He is the author or co-author of more than 150 research reports, international journal articles, and other publications addressing a broad range criminal justice issues. He is GIC Board appointment to the Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse, a second-term Independent Chairperson for the Pacific Region, and an Affiliated Research Faculty in the Centre for Emergency Response Studies at John Jay College, City University of New York. He holds two degrees in criminology from Simon Fraser University and a doctorate in Higher Education from the University of British Columbia. In 2005 he received the British Columbia Lieutenant Governor's Award for Public Safety.*

### **I.3 Bargaining models for changing times**

(Spirit Room C)

Institutions where FPSE unions represent members have undergone significant changes recently; we are now composed of universities, colleges, and institutes. Nevertheless, bargaining remains our key means for effecting beneficial change for our members. Our unions must prepare themselves to use bargaining as effectively as possible for achieving both common and local objectives. In this workshop two experienced bargainers will discuss options for the next round of bargaining in 2010. Participants will have an opportunity for comment and input as well.

**Presenter:** *Sheldon Clare, Vice-President, Faculty Association of the College of New Caledonia. Sheldon began his teaching career as an army cadet at the age of 14. In January 1993, he began teaching technical writing and business communications at the College of New Caledonia. Sheldon has served Faculty Association of the College of New Caledonia as the Status of Non-Regular Faculty representative and as a member of the contract committee. He participated in three rounds of local bargaining and two rounds as a provincial negotiator. He is now vice-president, contract chair and chief negotiator for FACNC, and chair of the Bargaining Co-ordination Committee for FPSE. He holds a BA in International Relations and is currently working on a master's degree in military history at Norwich University.*

**Presenter:** *Frank Cosco, President, Vancouver Community College Faculty Association. Frank Cosco is currently president of the Vancouver Community College Faculty Association. Since 1988 he has been involved in nine rounds of VCCFA bargaining in a number of roles including committee member, local co-chair, executive member and president. He has also had some involvement in each of the six rounds of common CIEA/FPSE bargaining since the Coordinated Bargaining Committee in 1992, including being Co-chair of the CIEA bargaining committee for the 2001/04 round.*

### **I.4 Civil liberties and the Olympics**

(Spirit Room D)

This presentation and discussion looks at civil liberties issues arising in context of the Olympics, including widespread use of public video surveillance (and whether the cameras are going to be left behind as “Olympic Legacy”), policing of demonstrations and the use of “protest pens”, consent searches and “security perimeters,” and surveillance of “anti-Olympics groups” by the RCMP and CSIS. The presentation will also discuss the community mobilization around the use of the Britannia Community Centre Ice Rink as an Olympics practice venue and residents’ fears about how security measures will affect their neighbourhood.

**Presenter:** *Micheal Vonn, Policy Director, BC Civil Liberties Association. Micheal Vonn is the Policy Director of the BC Civil Liberties Association. She is a lawyer and has been an Adjunct Professor at the UBC School of Library, Archival and Information Studies where she teaches Information Ethics and the UBC Faculty of Law where she has taught courses in Civil Liberties. She is an Advisory Board Member of Privacy International and is a frequent speaker on a variety of privacy issues. She recently presented at the 10th Annual Security and Privacy Conference on Privacy and the Olympics.*

### **I.5 TBA**

(Harbour Room)

# WORKSHOPS SERIES TWO:

## 3:30 PM TO 5:15 PM

### 2.1 The trouble with the news media (Spirit Room A)

Are newspapers dying? Does it matter in BC? Is the Web the answer to everything, or anything? Is citizen journalism an oxymoron? This workshop will be a brief examination of some of the structures, critical trends and new technologies driving those structure-shattering trends in the news media industry today, and a collaborative exploration of possible solutions. Would you be willing to pay more for reliable online news? On your iPhone?

**Presenter:** Ross Howard, Journalism Instructor, Langara College

*Ross Howard is a Journalism instructor at Langara College and an award-winning professional journalist with more than 30 years experience in print, radio and television. Formerly an Editor with CTV News in Vancouver, a National Correspondent and Parliamentary Correspondent for The Globe and Mail, and previously with The Toronto Star, he is also seen and heard as a commentator on media issues. He is president of Media & Democracy Group, a Canadian non-profit consortium training journalists in conflict-stressed countries and emerging democracies.*

### 2.2 Better indexing for our pensions: What will it take? What can we achieve? (Spirit Room B)

This workshop will examine some suggested options for improving inflation protection in the pension plan. Participants will develop a better understanding of how indexing is funded and what is required to ensure full indexing in the future. As a result of this workshop, participants will be better able to evaluate proposals for improving pension indexing and will be better able to assist members in making bargaining decisions on issues related to pensions.

**Presenter:** Weldon Cowan, FPSE Staff Representative

*Weldon Cowan is a Staff Representative at FPSE. Prior to joining FPSE, Weldon taught French Immersion Science for over 18 years. He served as President of the North Vancouver Teachers Association for three years and as a BCTF staff person for four years. He is currently a Trustee on the College Pension Board.*

### 2.3 Sustaining research and scholarship at primarily undergraduate universities (Spirit Room C)

This presentation and workshop will summarize the speaker's experience in maintaining an externally funded research program in the face of systemic institutional obstacles at a primarily undergraduate university. The presentation will briefly review the role of research activity in the context of promoting student-faculty engagement and deeper learning in undergraduate education. An outline of the barriers that we have encountered in our efforts to sustain a long-term research program will be discussed along with some strategies that have worked well for us. The workshop will conclude with an interactive discussion focused on designing some creative mechanisms to integrate and support research and scholarship activities in primarily undergraduate universities in BC.

**Presenter:** Erik Krogh, Co-Director, Applied Environmental Research Laboratories,  
Department of Chemistry, Vancouver Island University

*Erik Krogh has fifteen years of teaching experience in the BC post-secondary system, during which time he has*

developed and taught a number of new Chemistry courses and supervised over forty undergraduate student projects. He is currently the co-director of the Applied Environmental Research Laboratories at Vancouver Island University, a Canada Foundation for Innovation funded facility founded in 2000. He has extensive experience with successful research grants and has been a co-principal investigator on a NSERC Group Discovery grant since 2003. Erik's current research involves the development of real-time analytical techniques and their application to investigate directly environmental processes.

## **2.4 British Columbia's economy:Where do we go from here?** (Spirit Room D)

This workshop will cover British Columbia's economic situation and the responses of both the federal and provincial governments. There will be a discussion of stimulus plans and ideas for next steps.

**Presenter:** Marc Lee, Senior Economist, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

Marc Lee researches and writes on a variety of economic and social policy issues for the CCPA's BC and National Offices. In addition to tracking federal and provincial budgets and economic trends, Marc has published on a wide range of topics from poverty and inequality to globalization and international trade to public services and regulation. Marc is the Co-Director of the Climate Justice Project, a five-year research partnership with UBC's School of Community and Regional Planning, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, examining the links between climate change policies and social justice. Marc holds an MA in Economics from Simon Fraser University and a BA in Economics from the University of Western Ontario. But most of the time he argues against the conventional wisdom in economics and policy debates. Marc chairs the Progressive Economics Forum, a national network of heterodox economists, and contributes regularly to Relentlessly Progressive Economics, a blog of the PEF ([progressive-economics.ca/relentless](http://progressive-economics.ca/relentless)). Prior to joining the CCPA, Marc was engaged in popular economics education through RAIN, a partnership with his spouse.

## **2.5 Funding your future:What you should know about pensions even though you are not thinking of retiring** (Harbour Room)

This informational seminar focuses on the importance, characteristics, and features of a defined benefit pension generally and the College Pension Plan specifically. Today there are many media headlines about the fragility of pensions. Our Plan has recently made some significant changes. Regardless of age, active members in the College Pension Plan need to be aware of the benefits of having a defined benefit pension, the specifics of the plan, and the importance of inflation protection.

**Presenter:** Dennis Anderson, Secretary, Post-Secondary Education Branch, BC Retired Teachers Association

Dennis Anderson spent 29 years in the public post secondary systems of Alberta, Ontario and British Columbia. As a faculty member he served on numerous provincial committees and was a faculty association president and contract negotiator. Dennis retired from the BC system as a curriculum and professional development coordinator at the Centre for Curriculum, Transfer and Technology when it was closed in 2004. Dennis is the protem President of the post secondary branch of the BC Retired Teachers Association, the Vice-Chair of the College Pension Board of Trustees, and organizes and coordinates two trips a year for the Habitat for Humanity Global Village program. He currently facilitates the BCRTA pre-retirement initiatives for college personnel.

# Floor Plan

