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## B.C.'s Negotiating Framework - A Milestone in Labour Relations

**June 30, 2006 11:15 p.m.**

With an agreement now in place with the BC Teachers Federation, we have successfully concluded 137 sets of negotiations, covering 97 per cent of British Columbia's public sector employees.

Across the entire public sector, agreements have been reached which are fair to employees and affordable to taxpayers. They demonstrate the concern of all parties to go beyond compensation issues and improve service delivery to the public.

While negotiations were often difficult, they were respectful. Most importantly their creativity and flexibility allowed negotiators to craft solutions which fit the unique challenges and circumstances of each sector.

I want to thank each and every union, association and employer negotiator who worked so hard to reach these agreements.

The results demonstrate respect for the valuable jobs that public sector employees do.

We know that we've met the needs of public sector employees because most of the agreements received employee ratification approvals in excess of 90 per cent.

And we know that we've met the needs of taxpayers because these agreements were affordable. They bring long-term fiscal stability and allow everyone to focus on delivering better programs and services.

Each and every one of the more than 300,000 public sector employees covered by these new agreements is eligible for early and long-term incentives. Negotiations will continue with a further 9,000 public sector employees under 18 contracts that expire after June 30, 2006.

The negotiating framework has been more than a financial envelope – it has set the foundation for a new labour relations dialogue which we can build upon to continue improving services for British Columbians.

Carole Taylor  
Minister of Finance