3. Request to Provincial Government to Rescind Bill 12 (File 111)

The following motion was submitted by Councillor Roberts at the Special Council meeting on October 20, 2005. Councillor Sullivan called Notice under Section 5.4(c) of the Procedure By-law and the motion was placed on the Regular Council Agenda immediately following the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets meeting to be held later that day.

WHEREAS the Liberal government refused to bargain in good faith and instead passed Bill 12 that imposed a contract on the province's teachers, allowing no wage increases nor any discussion of issues in the classroom such as class size and support for students with special needs;

WHEREAS Bill 12, which legislates the teachers back to work, provoked the teachers into going on strike to defend their right to collective bargaining;

WHEREAS the Premier and the Ministry of Education have refused to go back to the bargaining table and to enter into negotiations with the teachers to bring an end to the strike;

WHEREAS class sizes have grown so large in many schools that students' education has been adversely impacted;

WHEREAS students with special needs are failing to receive the special support they need to be successful in school and regular classroom teachers are too over-loaded to provide that special support;

WHEREAS 57 percent of people in British Columbia support the teachers, and whereas more than 30 school boards have passed motions calling on the provincial government to return to the bargaining table;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Vancouver City Council calls on the provincial government to restore the teachers' right to bargain collectively by rescinding Bill 12 and returning to the bargaining table.

Notice