

March 31, 2006  
For immediate release

**Media advisory:  
Support Staff workers to hold information picket at CBE meeting**

**CALGARY** – Calgary Board of Education Staff Association Chairperson Jean Minifie said the slow process of negotiations for a new contract is frustrating her members, and they intend to hold an information picket at the next CBE meeting, April 4, to show their concern.

“Our members have been without a contract since August 2004 despite 58 bargaining dates with our employer.”

The 3,100 members of the CBE Staff Association include education assistants, school based, Education Centre, Design & Maintenance office staff, lunchroom supervisors, library assistants, Technologists, Purchasing, Speech Language Pathologist, Psychologist and School Assistants.

“Workload is a huge issue with the majority of our members “working for free”, because our hours of work are not enough to complete our jobs,” said Minifie. “Help us to understand how a child with special needs can only have a Education Assistant assigned to them for three hours out of a six hour day. How can the needs of the child be met in only half the time?”

Minifie said her members are looking for a respectful agreement that is equitable with the other employees of CBE.

“At a time when the cost of living is dramatically increasing here in Calgary, the board’s refusal to set minimum hours of work and treat the members equitable will mean more turnover and staff shortage in our schools,” said Minifie. “That is very bad for the students, schools, and staff.”

Information picket:  
Date: Tuesday April 4<sup>th</sup> 2006  
Time: 4:30 p.m.  
Place: Calgary Board of Education

Contact: Jean Minifie, Chairperson  
CBE Staff Association  
(403) 242-7555

