

## **Teachers' union knew HELP's EDI and MDI are "subjective" but decided "we'll go along with it"**

In early February 2012 I called the BC Teachers' Federation to ask if the EDI would be done that month. I thought that due to the labour situation in BC schools – the teachers were on a 'work to rule' type of semi-strike and in very tense negotiations with the Ministry– they might decline to do the EDI. After all, it was the hated Ministry of Education that was asking them to do the EDI. For example, teachers were not doing student reports. But it turned out they were going to do the massive EDI report for HELP.

I was put through to David Halme. He said, "The EDI and HELP have been able to portray an image that is fairly respectable," and that HELP founding director Clyde Hertzman "went underground in some ways."

He explained that the EDI is done voluntarily by teachers and that the BCTF got feedback back in September and October 2011, and that the "BCTF position is they will do it."

I raised concerns about the EDI's subjectivity, bias, and lack of scientific rigor. He soon politely cut me off and said he was aware of these concerns and there had been "criticism from our side." He said "the MDI is very subjective and so is the EDI." He said he had questioned it when he was a local president in the union.

However, he said the Executive of the BCTF had decided, "we'll go along with it." Why? Because it's "another voice to support our side." Additionally the EDI is supported by First Call and other coalition groups.