

BRITISH COLUMBIA COMMISSIONER FOR TEACHER REGULATION

## IN THE MATTER OF THE TEACHERS ACT, SBC 2011 c. 19

# AND

## IN THE MATTER CONCERNING

# **ROBERT LUKE ACHESON**

## CONSENT RESOLUTION AGREEMENT

#### **BETWEEN:**

THE COMMISSIONER, APPOINTED UNDER THE TEACHERS ACT

(the "Commissioner")

AND:

ROBERT LUKE ACHESON

("Acheson")

#### **BACKGROUND** and FACTS

- 1. Acheson holds a valid Professional Certificate of Qualification, No. **1999**, issued by the Director of Certification (the "Director") under the *Teachers Act* on July 5, 2017, and valid from that day.
- 2. At all material times, Acheson was employed as an inclusion teacher by School District No. 33 (Chilliwack) (the "District") at a secondary school in the District (the "School").
- 3. On June 22, 2023, the District made a report to the Commissioner regarding Acheson, under section 16 of the *School Act*.
- 4. During the 2022/2023 school year, while Acheson was an inclusion teacher with a caseload of students identified as vulnerable, the following events occurred:
  - a. On several occasions, Acheson made comments to students, including Student A, about their physical appearance.

- b. On several occasions, Acheson made comments to students, including Student A, about the physical appearance of another staff member at the School.
- c. Acheson shared an inappropriate story with students, including Student A, about a traumatic personal incident that occurred when he was in high school or middle school, which included inappropriate content of a sexual nature.
- d. Acheson shared a personal story with students, including Student A, about a high school girlfriend which included inappropriate content of a sexual nature.
- 5. On June 16, 2023, the District disciplined Acheson by issuing a letter of discipline, suspending him for 15 days without pay, directing him to take a professional boundaries course and no longer permitting him to take assignments that worked with vulnerable students, which included positions as an inclusion teacher, pathways teacher or in the Alternate Education Program. Acheson completed the Justice Institute of BC *Respectful Professional Boundaries* between August 9 and 11, 2023.
- 6. On August 15, 2023, the Commissioner ordered an investigation under section 47(1) of the *Teachers Act.*
- 7. On May 29, 2024, the Commissioner considered this matter and determined to propose a consent resolution agreement to Acheson, in accordance with section 53(1)(a) of the *Teachers Act*.

# CONSEQUENCES

- 8. This Agreement is made under section 53 of the *Teachers Act*.
- 9. Acheson understands and acknowledges that this Agreement is not effective until executed by the Commissioner, and that the date of execution by the Commissioner will be the effective date of this Agreement (the "Effective Date").
- 10. Acheson admits that the facts set out in paragraphs 1 to 7 of this Agreement are true.
- 11. Acheson admits that the conduct described in paragraph 4 of this Agreement constitutes professional misconduct and is contrary to Standard #1 and 2 of the *Professional Standards for BC Educators*, June 2019.
- 12. Acheson agrees to a one-day suspension of his certificate of qualification under sections 53 and 64(b) of the *Teachers Act*, on June 13, 2025.
- 13. In determining that a suspension is an appropriate consequence, the Commissioner considered the following factors:

- a. Acheson failed to maintain appropriate professional boundaries in discussions with students, by sharing inappropriate stories that included inappropriate content of a sexual nature, and by inappropriately commenting on the appearance of students and other staff.
- b. Acheson completed the boundaries course.
- 14. Acheson agrees not to make any statement orally or in writing which contradicts, disputes or calls into question the terms of this Agreement or the admissions made in it.

# EFFECT OF THE AGREEMENT

- 15. The Director of Certification will record the terms of this Agreement on the online registry of the Ministry of Education and Child Care, under section 79(d) of the *Teachers Act*.
- 16. Acheson acknowledges that this Agreement will be published in accordance with section 54 of the *Teachers Act*, which includes posting the Agreement, in full, on the following website: <u>https://teacherregulation.gov.bc.ca</u>
- 17. Notification of this Agreement will be made in accordance with section 55 of the *Teachers Act*.
- 18. A breach by Acheson of any term in this Agreement may constitute professional misconduct which may be the subject of separate discipline proceedings.
- 19. Acheson acknowledges and understands that if the Commissioner has reason to believe that he has breached any term of this Agreement:
  - a. the Commissioner may initiate an investigation under section 47(1)(b) of the *Teachers Act* into his conduct; and
  - b. the conduct and matters described in the "Background and Facts" to this Agreement are admissible in that inquiry as proof that Acheson has admitted to the conduct and matters set out in this Agreement.

20. Acheson acknowledges that he has voluntarily entered into this Agreement with the benefit of independent legal advice, and that he fully understands the terms and conditions set out in this Agreement.

Signed in <u>Chillunack</u>, B.C. this <u>3</u> day of <u>June</u>, 2025

Robert Luke Acheson

Signed in <u>New Westminster</u>, B.C. this <u>6th</u> day of <u>June</u>, 2025

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Donnaree Nygard, A/Commissioner