



BRITISH COLUMBIA
COMMISSIONER FOR
TEACHER REGULATION

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

AND

IN THE MATTER CONCERNING

LUKE LAWSON



CONSENT RESOLUTION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN:

THE COMMISSIONER, APPOINTED UNDER THE *TEACHERS ACT*
(the “Commissioner”)

AND:

LUKE LAWSON
 (“LAWSON”)

BACKGROUND and FACTS

1. Lawson held a valid Professional Certificate of Qualification, No. [REDACTED]. It was issued by the B.C. College of Teachers under the *Teaching Profession Act* on March 7, 2007, was valid from January 1, 2007, and was continued under the *Teachers Act* as of January 9, 2012.
2. On November 2, 2021, Lawson’s certificate of qualification was cancelled for non-payment of fees.
3. At all material times, Lawson was employed as a counselor by an independent school in British Columbia (the “School”).
4. On October 8, 2020, the School made a report to the Commissioner regarding Lawson, under section 7 of the *Independent School Act*.

5. In 2020 and 2021, the following events occurred:
 - a. On September 24, 2020, police executed a search warrant at Lawson's residence, where they discovered printed images of nude young girls, as well as further digital images on his work computer. Lawson was arrested, charged with offences related to child pornography, and released with conditions, including not to be in contact with persons under the age of 16.
 - b. On September 25, 2020, police executed a search warrant at the School. Police determined that pornographic images had been sent to Lawson's work account and were printed at the School.
 - c. On November 9, 2021, Lawson pleaded guilty to possessing child pornography, contrary to section 163.1(4) of the *Criminal Code of Canada* (the "Charge"). The images were derived from nudist and naturalism websites and did not include students at the School.
 - d. On June 7, 2022, Lawson was sentenced to four months' jail, followed by 18 months' probation, with conditions. Lawson was also subject to various ancillary orders, a five-year order of prohibition under s. 161 of the *Criminal Code of Canada*, and 10 years' inclusion on the National Sex Offender Information Registry.
6. On September 25, 2020, the School suspended Lawson.
7. On October 30, 2020, the Commissioner ordered an investigation under section 47(1) of the *Teachers Act* and requested that Lawson agree to an Undertaking Not to Practice.
8. On November 6, 2020, Lawson signed an undertaking not to teach in any role or position requiring a Ministry of Education Certificate of Qualification, Independent School Certificate, or Letter of Permission as defined in the *Teachers Act*.
9. On July 28, 2022, the Commissioner considered this matter and determined to propose a consent resolution agreement to Lawson, in accordance with section 53(1)(a) of the *Teachers Act*.

CONSEQUENCES

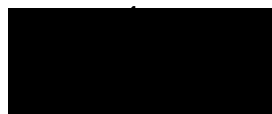
10. This Agreement is made under sections 53 and 43 of the *Teachers Act*.
11. Lawson understands and acknowledges that this Agreement is not effective until executed by the Commissioner, and that the date of execution by the Commissioner will be the effective date of this Agreement.
12. Lawson admits that the facts set out in paragraphs 1 to 8 of this Agreement are true.

13. Lawson admits that the conduct described in paragraph 5 of this Agreement constitutes professional misconduct and conduct unbecoming, and is contrary to Standard #1 and Standard #2 of the *Standards for the Education, Competence and Professional Conduct of Educators in British Columbia*, Fourth Edition, January 2012.
14. Lawson agrees that he will never apply for, and understands the Director of Certification (the "Director") will not be required to issue him, a certificate of qualification, an independent school teaching certificate or any other authorization to teach in the kindergarten to grade 12 education system under section 64(g) of the *Teachers Act*, or any successor legislation.
15. In determining that a lifetime ban on reapplication is an appropriate consequence, the Commissioner considered the following factor:
 - a. the conduct was at the serious end of the spectrum; and
 - b. Lawson failed to act ethically and undermined the credibility of the teaching profession by violating laws that protect children from sexual exploitation.
16. Lawson 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

17. The Director will record the terms of this Agreement on the Ministry of Education's online registry under section 79(d) of the *Teachers Act*.
18. Lawson 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: www.teacherregulation.gov.bc.ca.
19. Lawson acknowledges that he has voluntarily entered into this Agreement after being advised of his right to obtain independent legal advice, and that he fully understands the terms and conditions set out in this Agreement.

Signed in Richmond, B.C.
this 28 day of Oct., 2022.



Luke Lawson

Signed in Victoria, B.C.
this 15th day of November, 2022.



Howard L. Kushner, Commissioner