

BRITISH COLUMBIA Commissioner for Teacher Regulation

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

AND

IN THE MATTER CONCERNING

JOSEPH SCOTT WILLIAM MCLEOD

CONSENT RESOLUTION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN:

THE COMMISSIONER, APPOINTED UNDER THE TEACHERS ACT

(the "Commissioner")

AND:

JOSEPH SCOTT WILLIAM MCLEOD

("McLeod")

BACKGROUND and FACTS

- 1. McLeod held a valid Professional Certificate of Qualification, No.
- by the B.C. College of Teachers under the *Teaching Profession Act* on October 11, 2006, was valid from September 1, 2006, and was continued under the *Teachers Act* as of January 9, 2012. McLeod's certificate of qualification was cancelled on November 1, 2021 due to non-payment of fees
- 2. At all material times, McLeod was employed as a high school counselor by School District No. 45 (West Vancouver) (the "District") at a school in the District (the "School").
- 3. On January 12, 2021, the District made a report to the Commissioner regarding McLeod, under section 16 of the *School Act*.
- 4. On January 15, 2021, the Commissioner ordered an investigation under section 47(1) of the *Teachers Act*.

- 5. On February 1, 2021, McLeod gave an undertaking not to teach in the kindergarten to grade 12 education system in any role or position requiring authorization under the *Teachers Act*.
- 6. The following events occurred:
 - a. In January 2021, police executed a search warrant on McLeod's home as part of an investigation into suspected child pornography offences.
 - b. On July 6, 2021, McLeod was charged with an indictable offence, as follows: Between June 27, 2020 and January 7, 2021, at or near North Vancouver BC, [McLeod] did commit an offence of possessing child pornography, contrary to s. 163.1(4) of the *Criminal Code* (the "Charge").
 - c. On August 3, 2022, McLeod pleaded guilty to and was convicted of the Charge.
 - d. On December 1, 2023, McLeod was sentenced to one year in jail, followed by two years' probation. McLeod was also subject to ancillary orders, including a DNA order and a five-year prohibition under s. 161 of the *Code*.
 - e. On February 28, 2024, McLeod was ordered to comply with the *Sex Offender Information Act* ("*SOIRA*") for a term of 20 years. McLeod has appealed the *SOIRA* order.
- 7. On January 12, 2021, the District suspended McLeod and later disciplined him by terminating his employment.
- 8. On April 24, 2024, the Commissioner considered this matter and determined to propose a consent resolution agreement to McLeod, in accordance with section 53(1)(a) of the *Teachers Act*.

CONSEQUENCES

- 9. This Agreement is made under section 53 and section 43 of the *Teachers Act*.
- 10. McLeod 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").
- 11. McLeod admits that the facts set out in paragraphs 1 to 7 of this Agreement are true.
- 12. McLeod admits that the conduct described in paragraph 6 of this Agreement constitutes conduct unbecoming and is contrary to Standard #2 of the *Professional Standards for BC Educators*, June 2019.

- 13. McLeod agrees that he will never apply for, and understands the Director of Certification (the "Director") will be required never to issue to 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.
- 14. In determining that a lifetime ban on reapplication and reissuance is an appropriate consequence, the Commissioner considered the following factors:
 - a. McLeod's conduct was at the serious end of the spectrum.
 - b. McLeod failed to act ethically and undermined the credibility of the teaching profession by violating laws that protect minors from sexual exploitation.
- 15. McLeod 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

- 16. The Director 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*.
- 17. McLeod 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>
- 18. McLeod 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>KINGSTON</u>, Ontario this <u>23</u> day of <u>JANNARY</u>, 2025.

Joseph Scott William McLeod

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

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Donnaree Nygard, Acting Commissioner