

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

## **AND**

## IN THE MATTER CONCERNING A TEACHER



## **CONSENT RESOLUTION SUMMARY**

This summary is published under section 54(3) of the Teachers Act to protect the identity of a student who was harmed, abused or exploited by the teacher.

- 1. The Teacher held a Professional Certificate of Qualification, Leaves. It was issued by the Ministry of Education on November 15, 1985, and was valid from September 1, 1985.
- 2. The Teacher holds a valid Professional Certificate of Qualification. It was issued by the B.C. College of Teachers under the *Teaching Profession Act* on June 3, 1991, is valid from January 1, 1988, and was continued under the *Teachers Act* as of January 9, 2012.
- 3. At all material times, the Teacher was employed as the principal of a secondary school (the "School") by a school district in British Columbia.
- 4. On March 23, 2018, the Commissioner initiated an investigation into the Teacher's conduct under section 47(1)(b) of the *Teachers Act*.
- 5. In 2017, Student A disclosed to the Teacher that one of their teachers at the School ("Teacher A") had touched them inappropriately. Student A indicated that they did not want to remain in Teacher A's class, and also that they wanted the Teacher to tell their parents what had occurred. The Teacher knew that Student A was scheduled to be in Teacher A's class later that day, but did not immediately remove Student A from the class as he doubted the credibility of Student A's disclosure. Student A therefore attended Teacher A's class that afternoon, as scheduled.
- 6. While Student A made the disclosure at 8:30 a.m., the Teacher did not contact Student A's mother until 3:30 p.m. to let her know what Student A had told him. As the mother was on

her way to the School to pick up her children, she missed the call. Consequently, the mother was not prepared to properly support Student A at the end of the school day.

- 7. On Commissioner in which he agreed that his conduct described in paragraphs 5 and 6 constitutes professional misconduct and is contrary to Standard #1 of the Standards for the Education, Competence and Professional Conduct of Educators in British Columbia, Fourth Edition, January 2012.
- 8. The Teacher agreed to a 3-day suspension of his certificate of qualification under sections 53 and 64(b) of the *Teachers Act*.
- 9. In determining that a 3-day suspension is an appropriate consequence, the Commissioner considered the following factors:
  - a. the Teacher failed to adequately protect Student A from emotional and physical harm; and
  - b. the Teacher made an assumption about Student A's credibility which impacted on his judgment in respect of the complaint.