



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

AND


IN THE MATTER CONCERNING

JOHN WILLIAM YETMAN



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. Yetman holds a valid Professional Certificate of Qualification, . It was issued by the B.C. College of Teachers under the *Teaching Profession Act* on October 4, 1989, is valid from September 1, 1989, and was continued under the *Teachers Act* as of January 9, 2012.
2. At all material times, Yetman was employed as a high school teacher by School District No. 39 (Vancouver) (the “District”) at a District school.
3. On February 25, 2019, the District made a report to the Commissioner regarding Yetman, under section 16 of the *School Act*.
4. The following events occurred in January 2019:
 - a. Open Mosque Day BC had placed a public advertisement on Facebook which invited people to “explore BC’s major Mosques as we open doors to welcome everyone.” The advertisement included the following:

Ever been to a Mosque?

Major Mosques have united to host a province-wide “open Mosque Day on 16th February in the following cities...

Come & enjoy delicious snacks and have wonderful conversations.

- b. Yetman had a public Facebook page in which he identified himself as a “Teacher at Vancouver School Board”.
 - c. In response to the open invitation to attend Open Mosque Day, Yetman wrote intemperate and insulting comments about religion. Members of the public saw Yetman’s post, and some reported feeling concerned that a teacher would display this level of intolerance.
 - d. When concerns were brought to his attention, Yetman removed the post as well as other similar Facebook posts which were insulting of other major religions.
5. On February 6, 2020, Yetman entered into a consent resolution agreement with the Commissioner in which he agreed that his conduct described in paragraph 4 above constitutes professional misconduct and conduct unbecoming and is contrary to Standard #2 of the *Standards for the Education, Competence and Professional Conduct of Educators in British Columbia*, Fourth Edition, January 2012.
 6. Yetman further agreed to a reprimand under sections 53 and 64(a) of the *Teachers Act*.
 7. In determining that a reprimand is an appropriate consequence, the Commissioner considered the following factors:
 - a. Yetman’s behaviour raises the concern that students in his classroom may not be treated in a respectful fashion;
 - b. The language Yetman used to express his views was discourteous and disrespectful;
 - c. Yetman expressed himself in a public fashion and indicated he was a member of the teaching profession in the Vancouver public system; and
 - d. Yetman acknowledges that these posts were not appropriate and could undermine his efforts to provide an inclusive learning environment for his students.