



## DISCIPLINE CASE SUMMARY

- a. Stephen Gerald Paras (Certificate Issued: 1997.02.20)
- 
- b. Professional misconduct
- c. The hearing was held on May 13, 2008, at the College's offices in Vancouver, B.C. This matter originated as a report under section 7 of the *Independent School Act*.
- d. Mr. Paras was employed at an independent Christian school between 1998 and 2004 when the incidences took place. During the 2002/2003 school year, he was employed as a principal when he failed to report his knowledge of a sexual assault of a 13-year-old female student by an adult male to either the Ministry of Children and Family Development or the Police. In addition, he suspended her as a form of discipline and detained and isolated the student in a confined space for an inappropriate period of time during the initial investigation. The other incidences included disrespectful and demeaning comments towards a student during a role play in a Religious Studies Class; inappropriate comments during a school assembly speech; violating the privacy of students by disclosing personal information to other students and parents; issuing an improper assignment to students in his Religious Studies class concerning circumcision; taking six months to grade an assignment submitted by one of his students; and imposing an excessive suspension on two of his students for their involvement in alcohol distribution and consumption that adversely impacted their education. On August 28, 2008, the Hearing Sub-Committee accepted Mr. Paras' admission of guilt and ordered a four-month suspension of his College teaching certificate beginning September 1, 2008 and ending on January 1, 2009.
- e. The Hearing Sub-Committee (the "Committee") accepted the Statement of Agreed Facts and Disposition and was unanimous in its decision that Mr. Paras had jeopardized the safety and educational progress of particular students and had, by a misuse of his position of authority, threatened the integrity of the school in the eyes of the student body and the larger community. His misconduct constituted emotional, physical, and intellectual abuse, which would cause a loss of self-esteem in the students and a loss of trust in the school system by the public. The Committee accepted Mr. Paras' admission and found that this conduct is contrary to the standards of behaviour expected of a teacher and found him guilty of professional misconduct.
- f. The Committee considered the submissions presented by counsel on penalty, publication and costs. The Committee unanimously agreed that Mr. Paras receive a four-month suspension of his College teaching certificate beginning September 1, 2008 and ending on January 1, 2009. The Committee found that his misconduct is serious and warrants a significant penalty. With respect to costs, the Committee recommended that no costs be levied to Mr. Paras. In the matter of publication, the Committee unanimously agreed that his name be published in accordance with sections 27.2 and 27.3 of the *Teaching Profession Act*.