
SCHOOL ACT
ALBERTA REGULATION 4/99

PRACTICE REVIEW OF TEACHERS REGULATION

PRACTICE REVIEW PANEL HEARING

DECISION OF THE PANEL REGARDING COMPLAINT

ABOUT MR. SHAWN PATRICK WERKMAN

MADE BY

HEARING HELD ON OCTOBER 5, 2006
AT EDMONTON, ALBERTA

**SCHOOL ACT
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SHAWN WERKMAN HEARING – OCTOBER 5, 2006**

The Panel was formed to hear a complaint about the unprofessional conduct of Mr. Shawn Patrick Werkman as directed under section 109.1 of the *School Act* and section 19 of the *Practice Review of Teachers Regulation* (the Regulation). Pursuant to section 4 of the Regulation, the Minister of Learning, the Honourable Dr. Lyle Oberg, appointed the following as members of the Panel:

Chair and Public Member	[REDACTED]
Teacher Member	[REDACTED]
Teacher Member	[REDACTED]
Teacher Member	[REDACTED]
Teacher Member	[REDACTED]

The Hearing was held on Thursday, October 5, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. at the Harley Court Building. Proceedings were formally recorded by Court Reporter [REDACTED]

The following were present at the hearing:

[REDACTED]	Assistant Registrar
[REDACTED]	Investigator
[REDACTED]	Legal Counsel to the Panel
[REDACTED]	Assistant to the Panel

MANDATE OF THE PRACTICE REVIEW PANEL

To investigate the complaint that Mr. Werkman's actions constituted unprofessional conduct as defined under section 19 of the *Practice Review of Teacher's Regulation*.

HISTORY OF COMPLAINT

By letter dated December 13, 2005, [Name redacted], Chairman and [Name Redacted], Secretary of the [School Redacted], made an official complaint under the Regulation concerning Mr. Shawn Werkman. The complaint was based on an allegation that Mr. Werkman, while a teacher at [School Redacted], engaged in inappropriate, sexually-charged behaviour with a [Age redacted] [gender redacted] student.

The complaint was investigated by [REDACTED]. After reviewing the report submitted to the Registrar by [REDACTED] the Registrar concluded there was sufficient evidence to refer the matter to a Practice Review Panel for a hearing in respect of Mr. Werkman's behaviour.

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PRELIMINARY MATTERS

The Panel makes an order pursuant to Section 14(2)(b) of the *Practice Review of Teachers Regulation* that any student's name mentioned on the record in these proceedings or contained in any document before this Panel will not form part of the public record and will be held in confidence.

PROCEEDINGS

Prior to the start of the hearing, as part of preliminary matters, the hearing was opened to the public.

EVIDENCE

Registrar's Submission

The Registrar presented the following corroborated evidence with respect to the allegation that Mr. Shawn Werkman, while employed as a teacher at [School Redacted], engaged in inappropriate, sexually-charged behaviour with a [Age Redacted] student.

- Mr. Werkman engaged in escalating, graphic sexual Hotmail exchanges with a [Age Redacted] old student at [School Redacted] in September and October, 2005.
- The exchange of e-mails appeared to be a systematic desensitization to sexual and homosexual activities that had a strong potential to culminate in sexual acts.
- Mr. Werkman's relationship with the [Age Redacted] old student, with whom he was in a position of trust or authority brings into question the suitability for him to hold an Alberta teaching certificate given that his conduct is detrimental to the best interests of students, the public, and teachers generally.

Teacher's Submission:

The teacher was not present at the hearing.

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PANEL' S FINDING

The Panel finds that Mr. Werkman's conduct involving the exchange of Hotmail of an escalating, graphic sexual nature with a young person with whom he was in a position of trust or authority, constitutes unprofessional conduct.

PANEL' S RECOMMENDATION

On the basis of its finding, the Panel recommends that the Minister of Education cancel Shawn Patrick Werkman's Permanent Professional Teaching Certificate.



Chair
Practice Review Panel