



ALBERTA
EDUCATION

Office of the Minister

November 8, 2023

Ms. Donna Marie Ross

Dear Ms. Ross:

The decision and recommendation of the hearing committee of the Professional Conduct Committee of the Alberta Teachers' Association has been referred to me, pursuant to the applicable *Teaching Profession Act*. A copy of the decision is enclosed for your reference.

As you are aware, the hearing committee found your conduct to be unprofessional when you failed to treat a student with dignity and respect by slapping the student on the cheek in class, and then failed to maintain the honour and dignity of the teaching profession by [REDACTED] to rationalize your use of physical force against a [REDACTED] student.

The hearing committee recommended that I suspend your teaching certificate for two years. I have reviewed the matter and, based on the hearing committee's decision, reasons for the decision, and penalty recommendation set out in the decision, I agree with the hearing committee's recommendation. In my view, the serious nature of your unprofessional conduct warrants a two-year suspension of your Permanent Professional Certificate.

I hereby suspend your Alberta Permanent Professional Certificate [REDACTED] for a two-year period until November 7, 2024, pursuant to my authority under Sections 31 and 32 of the applicable Certification of Teachers and Teacher Leaders Regulation.

A copy of this letter will be placed on your Alberta teacher registry file, and the decision of the hearing committee and my decision will be added to the online Teacher and Teacher Leader Registry.

Sincerely,

Demetrios Nicolaides ECA PhD
Minister of Education

Enclosure