

THE ALBERTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
REPORT OF THE HEARING COMMITTEE
OF THE PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT COMMITTEE

IN THE MATTER OF CHARGES OF UNPROFESSIONAL
CONDUCT AGAINST WILLIAM GHENT

The hearing committee of the Professional Conduct Committee of The Alberta Teachers' Association reports that charges of unprofessional conduct laid against William Ghent 6 [Location Redacted] were duly investigated in accordance with the *Teaching Profession Act*. The hearing was held in Barnett House, 11010 142 Street NW, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada on Tuesday, October 1, 2002.

Professional Conduct Committee members present as the hearing committee were

[REDACTED] presented the case against the investigated member. The investigated member was not present and was not represented by counsel.

CONSTITUTION/JURISDICTION

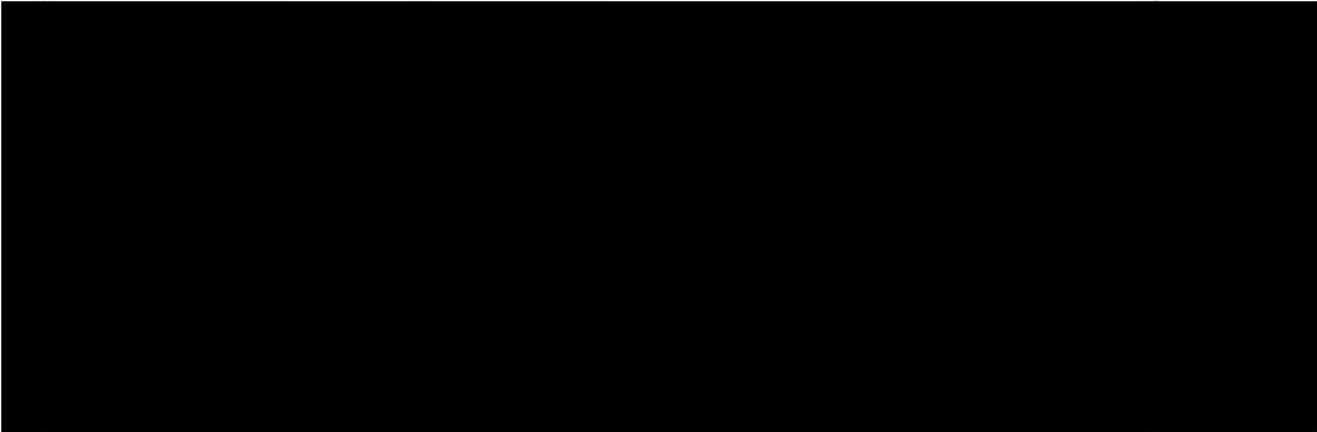
There were no objections to the composition of the committee nor to its jurisdiction to hear the case.

PLEA

The following charges were read by the secretary to the hearing committee.

1. William Ghent is charged with unprofessional conduct pursuant to the *Teaching Profession Act* in that he, while a member of The Alberta Teachers' Association, on or about March 21, 2002, was convicted of an indictable offence under section 271 of the Criminal Code of Canada to wit: that he, on or about the 17th day of January, 1999, at or near [location Redacted], Alberta, did unlawfully commit a sexual assault upon a minor, contrary to Section 271 of the Criminal Code.
2. William Ghent is charged with unprofessional conduct pursuant to the *Teaching Profession Act* in that he, while a member of The Alberta Teachers' Association, on or about March 21, 2002, was convicted of an indictable offence under section 271 of the Criminal Code of Canada to wit: that he, on or about the 17th day of January, 1999, at or near [Location Redacted], Alberta, being in a position of trust or authority towards or in a relationship of dependency with a young person, did for a sexual purpose unlawfully touch, directly or indirectly with a part of the body or with an object, a part of the body of said minor contrary to Section 153(1)(a) of the Criminal Code.

4. W Ghent was involved in tutoring a [Age Redacted] old [gender redacted] student. This relationship developed into a friendship involving emotional support. (Exhibits 9 and 10)

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7. This criminal case received widespread publicity in the media. (Exhibit 11)
 8. [REDACTED] contacted W Ghent on May 24, 2002. W Ghent professed to be unable to talk at that time. K Moench tried repeatedly to interview W Ghent from this date until September 18, 2002 but was unsuccessful in ever obtaining the cooperation of W Ghent. (Exhibits 7 and 8)
 9. [REDACTED] stated that he was unaware of any attempt of W Ghent to notify the Alberta Teachers' Association of his conviction of indictable offences and relayed information to the committee that the contact that caused the investigation in this case to occur came to the Association from a third party, not W Ghent.

DECISION OF THE HEARING COMMITTEE

The hearing committee found W Ghent guilty of unprofessional conduct on each of the four charges.

REASONS FOR DECISION

1. W Ghent was convicted of two indictable offences under the Criminal Code of Canada, sections 153(1)(a) and section 271. He therefore is guilty of unprofessional conduct under section 22(2)(a) of the *Teaching Profession Act*.
2. W Ghent brought dishonour and disrepute to the teaching profession because of his conviction of two indictable offences and his conduct giving rise to those convictions.
3. Society has a right to expect that teachers will act in a manner which establishes and maintains a trust relationship between teachers and students. W Ghent violated this trust relationship.

8. W Ghent failed to cooperate with the investigating officer despite his lawful duty to do so.

Dated at the City of Edmonton in the Province of Alberta, Tuesday, October 1, 2002.

HEARING COMMITTEE OF THE
PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT COMMITTEE
OF THE ALBERTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

