

THE ALBERTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE HEARING COMMITTEE
OF THE PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT COMMITTEE

IN THE MATTER OF CHARGES OF UNPROFESSIONAL
CONDUCT AGAINST COLIN DREW STURDY

The hearing committee of the Professional Conduct Committee of The Alberta Teachers' Association reports that charges of unprofessional conduct laid against Colin Sturdy of [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 Friday, February 22, 2002 at 0900.

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

[REDACTED] accepted the composition of the hearing committee and had no objection to its jurisdiction to hear the case.

PLEA

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

1. Colin Drew Sturdy is charged with unprofessional conduct pursuant to the *Teaching Profession Act* in that he, while a member of The Alberta Teachers' Association, did not act in a manner which maintains the honor and dignity of the profession, when, on or about March 19, 2001, he plead guilty and was convicted of an indictable offence under the Criminal Code of Canada, namely, that he did unlawfully rob [Name Redacted].
2. Colin Drew Sturdy is charged with unprofessional conduct pursuant to the *Teaching Profession Act* in that he, while a member of The Alberta Teachers' Association, did not act in a manner which maintains the honor and dignity of the profession, when, on or about March 19, 2001, he plead guilty and was convicted of an indictable offence under the Criminal Code of Canada, namely, that he had his face masked or otherwise disguised when he did unlawfully rob [Name Redacted].

3. Colin Drew Sturdy is charged with unprofessional conduct pursuant to the *Teaching Profession Act* in that he, while a member of The Alberta Teachers' Association, did not act in a manner which maintains the honor and dignity of the profession, when, on or about March 19, 2001, he plead guilty and was convicted of an indictable offence under the Criminal Code of Canada, namely, that he did unlawfully rob [Name Redacted].
4. Colin Drew Sturdy is charged with unprofessional conduct pursuant to the *Teaching Profession Act* in that he, while a member of The Alberta Teachers' Association, did not act in a manner which maintains the honor and dignity of the profession, when, on or about March 19, 2001, he plead guilty and was convicted of an indictable offence under the Criminal Code of Canada, namely, that he had his face masked or otherwise disguised when he did unlawfully rob [Name Redacted].
5. Colin Drew Sturdy is charged with unprofessional conduct pursuant to the *Teaching Profession Act* in that he, while a member of The Alberta Teachers' Association, did not act in a manner which maintains the honor and dignity of the profession, when, on or about March 19, 2001, he plead guilty and was convicted of an indictable offence under the Criminal Code of Canada, namely, that he did unlawfully operate a motor vehicle in a manner that was dangerous to the public.
6. Colin Drew Sturdy is charged with unprofessional conduct pursuant to the *Teaching Profession Act* in that he, while a member of The Alberta Teachers' Association, did not act in a manner which maintains the honor and dignity of the profession, when, on or about March 19, 2001, he plead guilty and was convicted of an indictable offence under the Criminal Code of Canada, namely, that he did unlawfully have a stolen automobile in his possession.
7. Colin Drew Sturdy is charged with unprofessional conduct pursuant to the *Teaching Profession Act* in that he, while a member of The Alberta Teachers' Association, did not act in a manner which maintains the honor and dignity of the profession, when, on or about March 19, 2001, he plead guilty and was convicted of an indictable offence under the Criminal Code of Canada, namely, that he did unlawfully operate a motor vehicle while disqualified from doing so.

The investigated member entered a plea of "guilty" to the charges through a written submission to the hearing committee. (Exhibit 2)

WITNESSES

No witnesses were called.

EVIDENCE ADDUCED AND EXHIBITS FILED INDICATED THAT:

1. C Sturdy began working for [School Division Redacted] on September 1, 1978 and remains an employee with the school district. He is currently on [REDACTED] leave.
2. C Sturdy was a member of The Alberta Teachers' Association during the time he taught for [School Division Redacted]. This period included the date the seven indictable offences in question took place (November 10, 2000) as well as the date of conviction for these offences (March 19, 2001).
3. C Sturdy suffered from [Personal Info redacted] [REDACTED] at the time of the offences. (Exhibit 3)
4. C Sturdy went on [REDACTED] beginning October 16, 2000.
5. On November 10, 2000, C Sturdy robbed [Name Redacted], a [Age and gender Redacted]. During the commission of this crime, his face was covered by a black ski mask.
6. On November 10, 2000, C Sturdy robbed [Name Redacted], a [Age and gender Redacted]. The victim suffered several broken bones in [gender redacted] left hand. During the commission of this crime, C Study had his face covered by a black ski mask.
7. The aforementioned robberies involved C Sturdy driving a stolen motor vehicle in a dangerous manner while he was disqualified from driving as a result of an earlier impaired driving conviction.
8. C Sturdy was charged with and plead guilty to seven indictable offences as previously noted.
9. C Sturdy was sentenced to a total of 31 months incarceration and was ordered to pay restitution to [Name Redacted] in the amount of \$3,656.76. In addition, C Sturdy was placed on probation for two years following the completion of his period of incarceration.
10. C Sturdy attended [REDACTED] meetings prior to the events of November 10, 2000 and he sought treatment in residential programs to address his [REDACTED]

11. C Sturdy was forthright and cooperative in his interviews with the investigating officer and demonstrated strong regret and remorse for his actions.
12. C Sturdy reported to the Association that he had been charged and convicted of indictable offences.

The above evidence was adduced from Exhibit 3.

DECISION OF THE HEARING COMMITTEE

The hearing committee accepted C Sturdy's guilty plea on all seven charges.

PENALTY

The following penalty is imposed:

1. That C Sturdy's membership in The Alberta Teachers' Association be suspended indefinitely
2. That a recommendation be made to the Minister of Learning to suspend C Sturdy's teaching certificate indefinitely

REASONS FOR PENALTY

1. C Sturdy was convicted of seven indictable offences.
2. A teacher convicted of an indictable offence brings dishonor and disrepute to the profession.
3. Society expects that teachers will conduct themselves in an appropriate manner and maintain the honor and dignity of the profession.
4. Teachers are expected to be positive role models and thus are held to a higher standard than other members of society.
5. The violence demonstrated in the robbery of [Name Redacted] and the subsequent trauma suffered by [Name Redacted] were both factors in arriving at the penalty.
6. Widespread publicity of C Sturdy's criminal actions and subsequent convictions has adversely affected public perception of the profession.

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7. The penalty imposed acknowledges that C Sturdy accepted responsibility for his actions, cooperated in the investigation, and has demonstrated remorse. No fine is assessed in addition to the penalty.

Dated at the City of Edmonton in the Province of Alberta, Friday, February 22, 2002.

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

