

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

IN THE MATTER OF CHARGES OF UNPROFESSIONAL  
CONDUCT AGAINST JOCELYN CHRISTINE JASTER

The hearing committee of the Professional Conduct Committee of The Alberta Teachers' Association reports that charges of unprofessional conduct laid against Jocelyn Jaster of [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 Wednesday, June 23, 1999 at 0900.

Professional Conduct Committee members present as the hearing committee were: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

The investigated member was neither present nor represented by counsel. The secretary provided several exhibits indicating that the Association had attempted contact with and service on the investigated member. The investigated member had not responded. The hearing committee was satisfied that service of notice of this hearing had been effected on the investigated member in accordance with section 63 of the *Teaching Profession Act*.

In the absence of the investigated member, the hearing committee recessed the hearing until 0935 to provide more time for the investigated member to appear. The investigated member did not appear. At 0935, the hearing continued.

Citing section 32(b) of the *Teaching Profession Act*, [Redacted] made verbal and written submission requesting that the hearing be held "in camera". As rationale, [Redacted] stated that this was necessary to protect a young person from abuse, harassment and embarrassment. (Exhibit 5)

The hearing committee heard a verbal submission from [Name Redacted], superintendent of schools for [School Division Redacted]. [Name Redacted] explained that [Redacted] wished to observe the hearing because [Redacted] was a complainant. In [Redacted] request, [Redacted] named a student directly involved in this matter.

The hearing committee considered and granted the request of [Name Redacted] for an "in camera" hearing. [Name Redacted] left the hearing. The hearing committee directed that the name of the student identified by [Name Redacted] be stricken from the record and that the student be referred to as Student X.

CONSTITUTION/JURISDICTION

There was no objection by the prosecution to either the constitution or the jurisdiction of the hearing committee to hear this matter.

PLEA

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

1. Ms Jocelyn Jaster is charged with unprofessional conduct contrary to the *Teaching Profession Act* in that she, while a member of The Alberta Teachers' Association did, commencing in the spring of 1998 and following, initiate and engage in a sexual relationship with a [Age Redacted] student at the school to which she was assigned, thereby failing to treat the pupil with dignity and respect and was not considerate of [gender redacted] circumstances.

2. Ms Jocelyn Jaster is charged with unprofessional conduct contrary to the *Teaching Profession Act* in that she, while a member of The Alberta Teachers' Association did, commencing in the spring of 1998 and following, initiate and engage in a sexual relationship with a [Age Redacted] student at the school to which she was assigned, thereby failing to act in a manner which maintains the honor and dignity of the profession.

3. Ms Jocelyn Jaster is charged with unprofessional conduct contrary to the *Teaching Profession Act* in that she, while a member of The Alberta Teachers' Association in full knowledge of the ongoing investigation, on or about October 6, 1998 to the present, failed or refused to cooperate with the investigating officer in that she left her place of residence in the Province of Alberta and has provided no means by which she can be contacted, thereby failing to comply with article 25(4) of the *Teaching Profession Act*.

In the absence of the investigated member and as the hearing committee had not received representation on behalf of the investigated member, a plea of "not guilty" was entered for each charge.

WITNESSES

The following witnesses were called by the prosecution: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], and Student X.

EVIDENCE ADDUCED AND EXHIBITS FILED INDICATED THAT:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



DECISION OF THE HEARING COMMITTEE

- Charge 1—Guilty
- Charge 2—Guilty
- Charge 3—Guilty

REASONS FOR DECISION

Charge 1

—J Jaster initiated and engaged in an inappropriate sexual relationship with a [REDACTED] student at her school who was under the age of [REDACTED]. Thus, J Jaster did not treat the student with dignity and respect and violated her position of trust as a teacher.

Charge 2

—J Jaster engaged in an inappropriate sexual relationship with a ■■■-year-old ■■■ student initially under the pretense of counseling. This relationship was initiated and developed within the context of J Jaster's position as a teacher at ■■■ School. By doing so, and with the resulting widespread knowledge of this sexual relationship, J Jaster compromised the honor and dignity of the profession.

Charge 3

—J Jaster refused to cooperate with the investigating officer as required by the *Teaching Profession Act*. J Jaster did not assist in the production of records as requested by the investigating officer.

PENALTY

The hearing committee of the Professional Conduct Committee imposes the following penalty:

Charge 1

- Cancellation of J Jaster's membership in The Alberta Teachers' Association
- Recommendation to the Minister of Learning that J Jaster's teaching certificate be canceled.

Charge 2

- Cancellation of J Jaster's membership in The Alberta Teachers' Association.
- Recommendation to the Minister of Learning that J Jaster's teaching certificate be canceled.
- A fine of \$1,000.

Charge 3

- Cancellation of J Jaster's membership in The Alberta Teachers' Association.
- A fine of \$2,000.

REASONS FOR PENALTY

Charge 1

—J Jaster's actions were deplorable. She breached the position of trust between teacher and student. Her actions may well have created a negative, long-term impact on the student and have certainly adversely affected ■■■ relationship with members of the community in which ■■■ lives.

Charge 2

—J Jaster established and engaged in a sexual relationship with a student. Society and the profession view these actions as repugnant, despicable and reprehensible.

—Society, composed of students, parents, teachers and the public, has a right to expect that teachers will act in an honorable and dignified manner.

—J Jaster's actions betrayed the trust relationship between teachers and society.

—By these actions, which gained quick and wide-spread notoriety in a small community, J Jaster has brought dishonor to the profession.

Charge 3

—J Jaster brought dishonor to the teaching profession by failing to cooperate as required under the provisions of the *Teaching Profession Act*. Teachers expect that their colleagues will not act in a manner that harms the standing of teachers.

—J Jaster's lack of cooperation shows disrespect for the profession, the Association, its processes and the manner in which it regulates itself.

Dated at the City of Edmonton in the Province of Alberta, Wednesday, June 23, 1999.

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

