

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

IN THE MATTER OF CHARGES OF UNPROFESSIONAL  
CONDUCT AGAINST AMANDA CHILTON

The hearing committee of the Professional Conduct Committee of the Alberta Teachers' Association reports that charges of unprofessional conduct laid against Amanda Chilton 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 Friday, June 21, 2013, commencing at 0900.

Professional Conduct Committee members present as the hearing committee were [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] presented the case against the investigated member. The investigated member, Amanda Chilton, was not present and was not represented by counsel.

CONSTITUTION/JURISDICTION

There were no objections to either the constitution or the jurisdiction of the hearing committee.

CHARGES AND PLEA

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

1. Amanda Chilton is charged with unprofessional conduct pursuant to the *Teaching Profession Act* in that she, while a member of the Alberta Teachers' Association, on or about June 23, 2011, invited a student to her apartment for the purpose of consuming alcohol, thus acting in a manner detrimental to the best interest of students, the public or the profession.
2. Amanda Chilton is charged with unprofessional conduct pursuant to the *Teaching Profession Act* in that she, while a member of the Alberta Teachers' Association, on or about June 23, 2011, engaged in sexual intercourse with a student, thus acting in a manner detrimental to the best interest of students, the public or the profession.
3. Amanda Chilton is charged with unprofessional conduct pursuant to the *Teaching Profession Act* in that she, while a member of the Alberta Teachers' Association, between November 2011 and March 2012, provided false or misleading information to the investigating officer, thus failing to cooperate with the investigating officer as required by the *Teaching Profession Act*.

4. Amanda Chilton is charged with unprofessional conduct pursuant to the *Teaching Profession Act* in that she, while a member of the Alberta Teachers' Association, on or about June 2011 to March 2012, did allow or encourage a witness or witnesses to lie about a previous sexual encounter and, in so doing, failed to maintain the honour and dignity of the profession.
5. Amanda Chilton is charged with unprofessional conduct pursuant to the *Teaching Profession Act* in that she, while a member of the Alberta Teachers' Association, between June 2011 and March 2012, engaged in activities that led to rumours and gossip in the community, thus harming or tending to harm the standing of teachers generally.

The investigated member entered a plea of guilty to each of the charges, by written submission.

#### WITNESSES

No witnesses were called.

#### EXHIBITS FILED

- Exhibit 1—Statutory declaration, signed by Chilton, dated May 9, 2013
- Exhibit 2—Notice of hearing, dated May 9, 2013
- Exhibit 3—Canada Post confirmation of delivery on May 23, 2013
- Exhibit 4—Submission on plea, signed by Chilton, dated May 9, 2013
- Exhibit 5—Proof of Chilton's membership in the Alberta Teachers' Association
- Exhibit 6—Agreed statement of facts, signed by Chilton and [REDACTED], dated May 9, 2013
- Exhibit 7—Submission on penalty, to be recommended by [REDACTED], signed by Chilton, dated May 9, 2013
- Exhibit 8—Submission on penalty by Chilton, dated June 5, 2013

#### EVIDENCE ADDUCED AND EXHIBITS FILED INDICATED THAT:

1. Chilton was a member of the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) during the period September 1, 2010 to June 30, 2012 inclusive (Exhibit 5).
2. Chilton was employed as a teacher with [School Division Redacted], commencing in September 2010. She was [Age Redacted] of age. (Exhibit 6).
3. Chilton taught [Grades Redacted] at [School Redacted] in the town of [Town Redacted] during the 2010/11 and 2011/12 school years (Exhibit 6).



4. Chilton, during [REDACTED] participated in student council activities such as chaperoning the sch [REDACTED] (Exhibit 6).

5. [Name Redacted] was an [Age and Gender Redacted] student at [School Redacted] [Year Redacted] (Exhibit 6).

6. Chilton did not teach [Name Redacted], nor was she involved in [Gender Redacted] academic program (Exhibit 6).

7. No parental concerns were raised about Chilton's interactions with students during her employment with the division, although staff had provided Chilton advice about her casual interactions with older students (Exhibit 6).

8. Chilton said that she did not have a good relationship with her colleagues most of whom she felt treated her like a child. Chilton said that none of the staff tried to befriend her during her first year at the school (Exhibit 8).

9. Chilton lived in an apartment in [Town Redacted], a town close to [Town Redacted] (Exhibit 6). 10.

The annual [Event Redacted] was held [Date Redacted], 2011 (Exhibit 6).

[illegible]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Charges 3 and 4

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

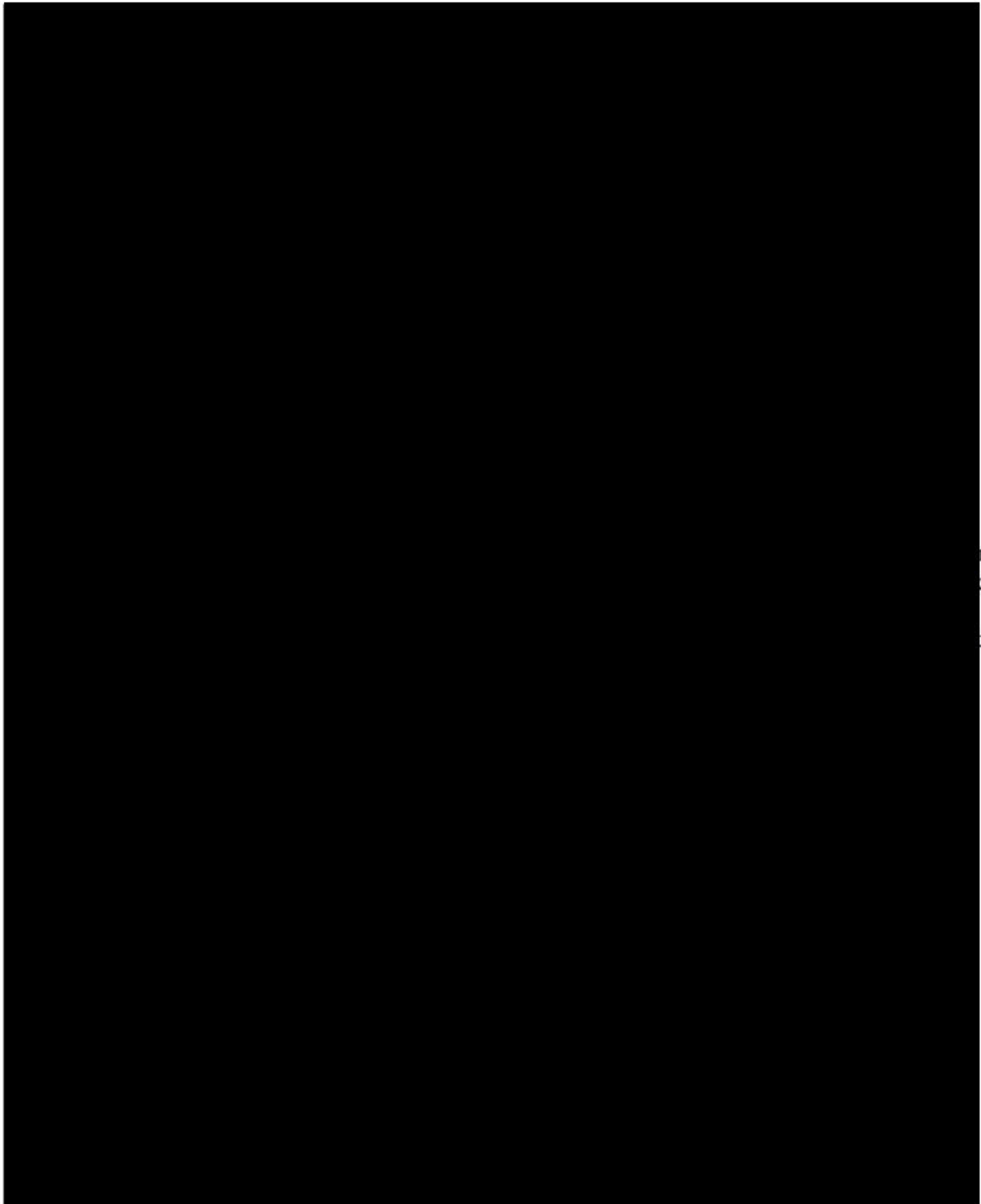
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DECISION OF THE HEARING COMMITTEE

Charge 1—Guilty  
Charge 2—Guilty  
Charge 3—Guilty  
Charge 4—Guilty  
Charge 5 Guilty

REASONS FOR DECISION

Charge 1

Chilton acted in a manner that was detrimental to the best interests of students, the public and the profession when she facilitated the consumption of alcohol, by an [Age Redacted] student, in her home. This demonstrated a serious lack of sound judgment and a failure to maintain appropriate boundaries between herself and an [Age Redacted], [Grade Redacted] student at her school.

Charge 2

Evidence provided to the hearing committee established that, by engaging in sexual intercourse with [Name Redacted] on June 23, 2011, Chilton failed to maintain clear and acceptable boundaries between herself and an [Age Redacted], [Grade Redacted] student at her school. She thus failed to recognize her professional role with students, the public and the profession, harming the honour and dignity of the profession.

Charge 3

The evidence presented to the hearing committee established that on January 5, 2012, January 25, 2012 and March 5, 2012, Chilton purposefully deceived, failed to cooperate and failed to provide factual information to the investigating officer. Members of the AT A owe their profession both respect and truthfulness and have a responsibility to uphold the honour and dignity of the profession and Chilton failed to meet these obligations in this case.

Charge 4

Based on the evidence, the hearing committee finds that Chilton encouraged and allowed others to lie for her, rather than admit and take responsibility for her actions.

Charge 5

PENALTY

The hearing committee of the Professional Conduct Committee imposes the following penalties on Chilton:

1. A letter of severe reprimand.
2. A fine of \$1,000, to be paid within 10 months from the date of the receipt of this written decision. If payment is not received by this date, the teacher will be ordered to appear before the hearing committee, at a time determined by the committee, as it retains its jurisdiction over the penalty imposed.
3. Chilton is ineligible for membership in the Alberta Teachers' Association for a period of three years, effective immediately.
4. A recommendation will be made to the minister of education to suspend Chilton's teaching certificate for a period of three years.

REASONS FOR PENALTY

1. Chilton contravened the Code of Professional Conduct when she facilitated the consumption of alcohol, by a student, in her home. Such behavior undermines the stature of the profession.
2. Chilton, while a member of the Alberta Teachers' Association, engaged in sexual intercourse with an[Age Redacted] student of the school where she was teaching. Chilton's actions were inappropriate, unacceptable and constituted a failure to treat the student with dignity and respect.
3. Society has the right to expect that teachers will act in a manner that establishes and maintains trusting relationships with students, the public and the profession.



4. Teachers have a responsibility to be honest and truthful, given that they hold positions of authority and trust within the community.
5. Chilton attempted to hide the fact that she had sexual intercourse with [Name Redacted] and further misled and lied to her principal and to the investigating officer of the ATA. Her lies were unethical and prolonged the investigation, while fuelling rumours within the community.
6. Lying is repugnant in these circumstances and undermines the standing of teachers and the profession. When a teacher allows or encourages others to lie on his or her behalf, it besmirches the reputation of all teachers. The ATA expects its members to uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. The fine of \$1,000 is appropriate as a penalty, not only to reinforce to Chilton the seriousness of her conduct, but also to send a message of general deterrence to the profession as a whole by reinforcing the obligation to be truthful and forthright to the ATA during its investigations of unprofessional conduct.
7. Chilton's facilitation of the consumption of alcohol by an [Age Redacted] student is not an indictable or criminal offence.
8. The hearing committee accepted that the sexual intercourse was consensual and given that the consent occurred between a [Age redacted] female and an [Age and Gender Redacted], it cannot be considered an indictable or criminal offence.
9. At Chilton's request, she and [Name Redacted] have had no further contact.
10. Chilton was a young and inexperienced teacher who felt she lacked collegial support in her first year of teaching.
11. Chilton's sexual encounter with [Name Redacted] in June 2011 was a spontaneous occurrence and did not arise in a grooming context where there had been a sustained relationship between Chilton and [Name Redacted]. Chilton did not use her position of authority or trust to secure a sexual encounter with [Name Redacted].
12. This was Chilton's first offence and she pled guilty to all five charges.
13. Chilton acknowledged that her actions were unacceptable; she was apologetic and demonstrated remorse.
14. Chilton ultimately accepted responsibility for her actions in a purposeful and convincing way.
15. Through her actions, Chilton brought dishonour and disrepute to the teaching profession.



16. Through her actions, Chilton undermined public trust in the teaching profession.

Dated at the City of Edmonton in the Province of Alberta, Friday, June 21, 2013.

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

