

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

IN THE MATTER OF A CHARGE OF UNPROFESSIONAL
CONDUCT AGAINST RYAN RAY BOSTROM

The hearing committee of the Professional Conduct Committee of the Alberta Teachers' Association reports that a charge of unprofessional conduct laid against Ryan Ray Bostrom of [Location Redacted] was duly investigated in accordance with the *Teaching Profession Act*. The hearing was held in Barnett House, 11010 142 Street NW, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada on Thursday, March 26, 2015.

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

CONSTITUTION/JURISDICTION

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

CHARGES AND PLEA

The following charge was read aloud by the secretary to the hearing committee:

1. Ryan Ray Bostrom is charged with unprofessional conduct pursuant to the *Teaching Profession Act* in that he, while a member of the Alberta Teachers' Association, between March 29, 2008 and May 30, 2013, engaged in conduct for which he, on May 6, 2014, was convicted of an indictable offence, to wit: possession of child pornography, contrary to section 163.1(4) of the Criminal Code of Canada.

Given that the investigated member was not present and did not submit a plea, a plea of not guilty was entered.

WITNESSES

No witnesses were called.

EXHIBITS FILED

Exhibit 1—Notice of hearing and Canada Post confirmation of delivery on February 24, 2015

Exhibit 2—Certificate of conviction of Ryan Ray Bostrom, for possession of child pornography, on May 6, 2014

Exhibit 3—Proof of Bostrom's membership in the Alberta Teachers' Association

Exhibit 4—Statement of Facts between Her Majesty the Queen and Ryan Ray Bostrom

EVIDENCE ADDUCED AND EXHIBITS FILED INDICATED THAT:

1. Bostrom was a member of the Association from September 1, 2007 to May 31, 2014, employed by [School Division Redacted] (Exhibit 3).
2. While Bostrom was a member of the Association, between March 29, 2008 and May 30, 2013, he engaged in conduct for which he, on May 6, 2014, was convicted of an indictable offence, to wit: possession of child pornography, contrary to section 163.1(4) of the Criminal Code of Canada (Exhibits 3 and 4).
3. Bostrom pled guilty to, and was convicted of, an indictable offence pursuant to the *Criminal Code* on May 6, 2014 (Exhibit 2).

DECISION OF THE HEARING COMMITTEE

Charge 1—Guilty

REASONS FOR DECISION

1. Bostrom was convicted of an indictable offence under section 163.1(4) of the *Criminal Code* and is therefore guilty of unprofessional conduct under section 23(2)(a) of the *Teaching Profession Act*.
2. The *Teaching Profession Act* section 23(2)(a) stipulates that if a member has been convicted of an indictable offence, the conduct of the member upon which the conviction is based is deemed to constitute unprofessional conduct.

PENALTY

The hearing committee imposed the following penalty on Bostrom:

- A declaration of ineligibility for membership in the Association
- A recommendation to the minister of education to cancel his teaching certificate

REASONS FOR PENALTY

1. Bostrom was convicted of an indictable offence under section 163.1 (4) of the *Criminal Code*.
2. If a member is convicted of an indictable offence, then the conduct on which the conviction based is considered unprofessional conduct.
3. The circumstances surrounding this offence were repugnant because the activity occurred over a period of many years and included several incidents of downloading and viewing child pornography.
4. Due to the egregious nature of the offence, and due to a teacher's position of trust in relation to students, and due to a teacher's duty to act only in a manner that safeguards the interests of children generally, the hearing committee ruled that Bostrom can no longer be a member of the Alberta Teachers' Association, nor should he be considered suitable for certification.
5. Bostrom's possession of child pornography was unbecoming of a teacher and dishonoured the profession.
6. Bostrom's actions showed disregard for society's expectations of teachers. Society and the profession view such actions as repugnant and reprehensible.

Dated at the City of Edmonton in the Province of Alberta, Thursday, March 26, 2015.

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

