



**IN THE MATTER OF THE *TEACHERS ACT*, SBC 2011 c. 19**

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER CONCERNING**

**CRAIG ANDREW THOMSON**



**CONSENT RESOLUTION SUMMARY**

*This summary is published under section 54(3) of the Teachers Act to protect the identity of a student who was harmed, abused or exploited by Mr. Thomson.*

1. Mr. Thomson (“Thomson”) held a valid Professional Certificate of Qualification. It was issued by the B.C. College of Teachers (the “College”) under the *Teaching Profession Act* on October 3, 2002, was valid from September 1, 2002 and was continued under the *Teachers Act* as of January 9, 2012.
2. Thomson was employed as a secondary school teacher at a school in a school district in British Columbia.
3. On April 18, 2017, the district made a report to the Commissioner regarding Thomson, under section 16(2) of the *School Act*.
4. In the 2016-2017 school year, Thomson failed to maintain appropriate professional boundaries with a student and entered into an inappropriate personal relationship, particulars of which are:
  - a. He communicated regularly and extensively with the student using social media and by texting.
  - b. The student disclosed personal information to Thomson and asked him to keep secret, which he improperly agreed to do. As a result of the student’s disclosures, Thomson was aware that the student was vulnerable.
  - c. Thomson and the student spent time together both during and outside school hours. He became the student’s confidant. On at least two occasions, Thomson hugged the student.

- d. At least once, Thomson talked to the student about his personal problems.
  - e. On one occasion, Thomson went with the student to a doctor's appointment and presented a list of concerns about the student's emotional health to the doctor.
  - f. On three occasions, Thomson met with the student late at night and into the early morning hours. During these occasions, the student expressed emotional distress and unhappiness and Thomson tried to comfort the student.
  - g. Thomson did not notify school administration or school counsellors of the student's emotional difficulties and distress. He did not report the student's absences from class.
  - h. Thomson lied to the police when he was questioned in the school parking lot and did not disclose to the school administration this interaction with the police.
5. In 2017, the District suspended Thomson under section 15(5) of the *School Act*.
  6. On May 2, 2017, Thomson gave an undertaking to the Commissioner not to teach in any role or position which requires a certificate of qualification or other authorization under the *Teachers Act*.
  7. On June 16, 2017, the District disciplined Thomson.
  8. On November 1, 2018, Thomson entered into a consent resolution agreement with the Commissioner in which Thomson agreed that his conduct set out in paragraph 4 constitutes professional misconduct and is contrary to Standards #1 and 2 of the *Standards for the Education, Competence and Professional Conduct of Educators in British Columbia*, Fourth Edition, January 2012.
  9. Thomson agreed to a suspension of his certificate of qualification under sections 53 and 64(b) of the *Teachers Act* for a period of four months from May 1, 2018 to June 30, 2018 and from September 1, 2018 to October 31, 2018.
  10. Thomson further agreed that the Director of Certification will place the following limitation and conditions (the "Conditions") on his certificate of qualification:
    - a. Thomson will not communicate with students through any personal social media or electronic means (including without limitation Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram). Thomson may communicate with students using his District email account, provided all such communication is appropriate and in compliance with any applicable District policies.

- b. Thomson will not communicate with students about non-school related matters.
- c. Thomson will not drive students.
- d. Thomson will not meet with students outside of school hours for any purpose unless:
  - i. there are at least three students present, or
  - ii. the parent or guardian of the student is present.
- e. Thomson will not communicate with, interact with, or engage in any activities with students whatsoever between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., except during a school-sponsored field trip and provided he is accompanied with another adult.

For the purposes of this paragraph, a “student” is a person under the age of 19 who is enrolled at or attending a school operated under the *School Act* or the *Independent School Act* at which Thomson is employed as a teacher.

- 11. Thomson agrees under section 64(f) and (h) of the *Teachers Act* that by April 30, 2019 (the “Condition Date”):
  - a. He will successfully complete the course *Reinforcing Respectful Professional Boundaries* through the Justice Institute of British Columbia (the “Course”) and provide satisfactory proof of completion to the Commissioner by the Condition Date.
  - b. If Thomson does not successfully complete the Course by the Condition Date, he will immediately advise the Commissioner in writing of the reason(s) he has not successfully completed it and set out the date by which he proposes to do so, at which time the Commissioner may extend the Condition Date to a later date (the “Extended Date”).
  - c. If Thomson fails to provide satisfactory proof of completion of the Course by the later of the Condition Date or the Extended Date, the Commissioner may require the Director of Certification (“the Director”) to suspend Thomson’s certificate of qualification under section 64(f) of the *Teachers Act*, until such time as he successfully completes the Course.
- 12. Thomson agrees not to make any statement orally or in writing which contradicts, disputes or calls into question the terms of this Agreement or the admissions made in it.
- 13. A breach by Thomson of any term in this Agreement, including any Condition, may constitute professional misconduct which may be the subject of separate discipline proceedings.