

**DECISION OF THE INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE  
OF THE ONTARIO COLLEGE OF TEACHERS  
IN THE MATTER OF**

**A COMPLAINT SUBMITTED BY THE REGISTRAR  
REGARDING BRUCE ABEL**

**PANEL:** Terry H. Price, OCT  
Marc Dubois, OCT  
Garry Humphreys

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

The Investigation Committee has disposed of this matter with a ratification of an agreement between the College and Bruce Abel.

On December 15, 2009, the Upper Grand District School Board (the "Board") notified the Ontario College of Teachers (the "College"), pursuant to sections 43.2 and 43.3 of the *Ontario College of Teachers Act, 1996*, regarding criminal charges against Bruce Abel, a retired teacher and guidance counsellor with the Board.

Bruce Abel (the "Member") is a member of the College whose Certificate of Qualification and Registration is suspended for non-payment of fees.

According to the Board, the Member had retired from their employ effective September 30, 1998.

According to information provided by the Guelph Police Service, in 1979 the Member was employed as a guidance counsellor and teacher at [REDACTED]

It was during this time that it is alleged the Member began counselling [REDACTED], a [REDACTED] year old female grade [REDACTED] student, after she had been referred to him over issues of absenteeism and "poor academic ability".

The Member sexually abused [REDACTED] on numerous occasions during sessions in his office.

Further, sometime between May 18, 1980 and June 30, 1980, the Member invited [REDACTED] to his home and had sexual intercourse with her.

████ moved with her family to █████ a short time later and it wasn't until July 2008, during a counselling session, that █████ disclosed her sexual abuse by the Member.

As a result of this disclosure, an investigation was conducted by the Guelph Police Service and on October 10, 2008, the Member was arrested and charged with Indecent Assault on a Female, Rape and Sexual Intercourse with a female under 14 years.

On June 23, 2009, the Member plead guilty to Indecent Assault on a Female and Sexual Intercourse with a Female under 14 years. The charge of Rape was withdrawn. The Member received a sentence of 42 months in a penitentiary.

In October 2010, the parties signed a Memorandum of Agreement (the "MOA") which, in their opinion, resolves the issues raised by the complaint.

## Allegations

As the Complainant, I, the Registrar, allege that Bruce Abel, from and including September 1, 1979 until June 30, 1980 acted in an inappropriate and unprofessional manner and failed to maintain the standards of the profession when he:

1. had inappropriate sexual contact with █████ which included:
  - a. hugging █████ and pressing his erect penis against her groin;
  - b. kissing █████;
  - c. fondling █████ breasts;
  - d. exposing his penis to █████;
  - e. allowing █████ to touch his penis with her hand;
  - f. allowing █████ to kiss his penis;
  - g. having sexual intercourse with █████; and
2. in so doing, contravened a law or laws relevant to the Member's suitability to hold a Certificate of Qualification and Registration and which caused or may cause a student under his supervision to be put at, or remain at, risk.

## Documents Provided to the Committee

- Request for Ratification
- Letter from Board to the College, dated December 15, 2009
- Acknowledgement letter - board/employer notification, dated December 22, 2009 (with attachment):
  - Request for Additional Documents from Employer
- Letter from Board Superintendent to Manager, Investigations re. Member Information, dated February 23, 2010
- Registrar's memo initiating a complaint against the Member, dated May 11, 2010

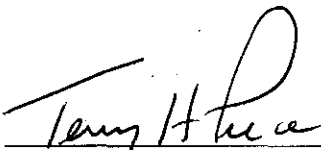
- Request to Initiate Investigation form, dated May 11, 2010
- Memo from Investigator to file re. Member notification, dated June 4, 2010
- Notification letter from the Registrar to the Member, dated June 4, 2010
- Agreement and Undertaking signed by Member, dated July 20, 2010
- Letter from the College to Court requesting information, dated March 15, 2010
- Court Information and appearances
- Letter from the College to Police requesting information, dated March 15, 2010
- Guelph Police Service information package, including Police Reports, Crown Brief Synopsis, transcripts of witness interviews and officers' notes
- Memorandum of Agreement signed by the parties


## Decision of the Committee

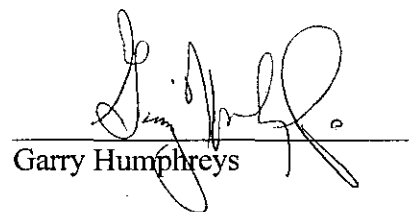
The Ontario College of Teachers (the "College") is the regulatory body for the teaching profession in Ontario. Its mandate is to regulate the teaching profession in the public interest. The College registers individuals who are qualified to teach in Ontario, supports teachers in their profession, and resolves complaints about members of the teaching profession.

On October 28, 2010, a panel of the Investigation Committee carefully reviewed the submissions of the parties and all relevant information available to the College. The panel also determined that none of the panel members were in a position of conflict regarding this complaint.

In accordance with the provisions of 26(5)(d) of the *Ontario College of Teachers Act, 1996*, the Investigation Committee is satisfied that the attached agreement between the parties resolves the complaint against the Member in the public interest and therefore, decides to ratify the Memorandum of Agreement.

  
 Terry H. Price, OCT, Chair

  
 Marc Dubois, OCT

  
 Garry Humphreys