

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

**A COMPLAINT SUBMITTED BY THE REGISTRAR
REGARDING LORNE HARDING COOK**

PANEL: Paul Brazeau, Heather Nagy, Anne Marie Levesque, Brian Doubleday

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Investigation Committee has disposed of this matter without a full investigation. The information contained within the following summary has been provided by the Complainant(s) and does not contain any input from the Member, Lorne Harding Cook. Unless otherwise stated in its Decision, no determination has been made by the Investigation Committee in respect to the veracity, or otherwise, of the allegations and information provided by the Complainant(s).

The Ontario College of Teachers (the "College") received a media article, dated June 4, 2004, from the Toronto Star indicating that Lorne Harding Cook, the former Head of [REDACTED] for Grades 3-8 at [REDACTED] (the "School"), was charged with sexual assault, indecent assault and sexual interference in relation to his conduct towards five former male students. The alleged victims were all [REDACTED] years old at the material time. The conduct towards them allegedly occurred between September 1, 1978 and December 31, 1999.

Lorne Harding Cook (the "Member") is a member of the College whose certificate is suspended for non-payment of fees.

According to the alleged victims, the Member allegedly behaved in an inappropriate manner towards them when he was [REDACTED] in connection with either an accelerated learning program called Super Learning or at a [REDACTED] operation ([REDACTED] operation"). The Member conducted Super Learning sessions as an extra-curricular program at the School. The [REDACTED] operation was an integral part of the [REDACTED] curriculum. Both programs were designed by the Member and were taught exclusively by him.

On or around April 26, 2005, the Member was charged with nine criminal counts in respect of this matter (court file 10003194). The Member was ordered to stand trial on all nine counts and elected to be tried by a judge and jury:

- Count 1 - indecent assault of [REDACTED] - between September 1, 1978 to June 30, 1987;
- Count 2 - sexual interference of [REDACTED] - between September 1, 1985 to June 30, 1987;
- Count 3 - sexual interference of [REDACTED] - between September 1, 1990 to June 30, 1992;
- Count 4 - sexual interference of [REDACTED] - between September 1, 1986 to July 1, 1990;
- Count 5 - sexual assault of [REDACTED] - between September 1, 1990 to June 30, 1992;
- Count 6 - sexual assault of [REDACTED] - between September 1, 1986 to July 1, 1990;
- Count 7 - sexual interference of [REDACTED] - between September 1, 1992 to June 30, 1993;
- Count 8 - sexual assault of [REDACTED] - between September 1, 1992 to June 30, 1993; and
- Count 9 - sexual assault of [REDACTED] - between September 1, 1992 to December 31, 1999.

On July 20, 2005, the Member was ordered to stand trial on counts 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the original Information. At the request of the Crown attorney, count 2 (sexual interference in respect of [REDACTED]) of the original Information was withdrawn.

On August 9, 2005, the Member was indicted on eight of the nine counts, and was ordered to stand trial in the Superior Court of Justice (court file #0388/05).

On September 11, 2005, the Member was arraigned on all counts. The Crown attorney withdrew counts 2, 3, 6, and 7. The Member pleaded not guilty to counts 1, 4, 5, and 8 of the Indictment and re-elected to be tried by a Judge sitting alone:

Count 1 - indecent assault of [REDACTED] - between September 1, 1978 to June 30, 1987;
 Count 4 - sexual interference of [REDACTED] - between September 1, 1990 to June 30, 1992;
 Count 5 - sexual assault of [REDACTED] - between September 1, 1990 to June 30, 1992; and
 Count 8 - sexual assault of [REDACTED] - between September 1, 1992 to December 31, 1999.

The matter went to trial in September 2006.

On October 12, 2006, Mr. Justice J. Trafford rendered his decision and issued his Reasons for Judgment. He found the Member not guilty of the indecent assault of [REDACTED] (count 1), and not guilty of sexual interference involving [REDACTED] (count 4). Further, Mr. Justice B. Trafford found the Member guilty of the sexual assaults of [REDACTED] (count 5) and [REDACTED] (count 8).

Mr. Justice B. Trafford ruled that the Member's conduct was not motivated by a need to seek sexual gratification, especially with regard to his use of the [REDACTED] however misguided. Rather, he stated that, the Member's conduct was driven by his need for domination, power and control. Thus, because of the trust the victims placed in the Member as [REDACTED] especially in the context of the [REDACTED] operation, Mr. Justice B. Trafford found that the Member abused his power in a way that violated the victims' sexual integrity.

On October 30, 2006, the complaint against the member was assessed as suitable for the College's Dispute Resolution Program.

On November 22, 2006, the Member was sentenced to two concurrent one-year conditional sentences. The Member was ordered to serve the first 30-days of the sentence at his home. During the remainder of the sentence, the Member was to be under house arrest with conditions and supervision in the community.

On December 1, 2006, the parties indicated that they were amenable to participating in the College's Dispute Resolution Program.

The parties signed a Memorandum of Agreement, which, in their opinion, resolved the issues raised by the complaint.

Allegations

The Registrar alleges that Lorne Harding Cook, the former Head of [REDACTED] for Grades 3-8 at [REDACTED] on or between September 1, 1978 and December 31, 1999, behaved in an inappropriate and unprofessional manner when he:

1. indecently assaulted male student [REDACTED], on or between September 1, 1978 to June 30, 1987;
2. sexually interfered with male student [REDACTED], a person under the age of 14-years, on or between September 1, 1985 to June 30, 1987;
3. sexually interfered with male student [REDACTED], a person under the age of 14-years, on or between September 1, 1990 to June 30, 1992;
4. sexually interfered with male student [REDACTED], a person under the age of 14-years, on or between September 1, 1986 to July 1, 1990
5. sexually assaulted male student [REDACTED], on or between September 1, 1990 to June 30, 1992;
6. sexually interfered with male student [REDACTED], a person under the age of 14-years, on or between September 1, 1992 to June 30, 1993;
7. sexually assaulted male student of [REDACTED], on or between September 1, 1992 to June 30, 1993;
8. sexually assaulted [REDACTED], on or between September 1, 1992 to December 31, 1999; and
9. in so doing, contravened a law or law relevant to the Member's suitability to hold a certificate of qualification and registration; and a law or laws which have caused or may cause a student under the Member's professional supervision to be put at or remain at risk.

Documents Considered by the Committee

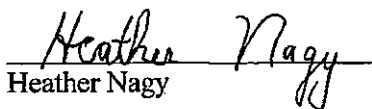
- Request for Ratification
- Media articles re. criminal charges against the Member, dated June 4, 2004
- Registrar's memo initiating a complaint against the Member, dated October 18, 2006

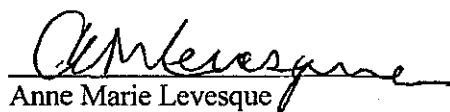
- Request To Initiate Investigation Form, dated October 25, 2006
- Investigator's memo re. Member notification, dated October 31, 2006
- Notification letter from the Registrar to the Member, dated October 31, 2006
- Member notification letter returned to the College by Canada Post, dated November 15, 2006
- Investigator's memo re. Member notification letter, dated November 15, 2006
- Canada 411 listing information re. Member's address and telephone number, dated October 30, 2006
- Notification letter from the Registrar to the Member, dated November 17, 2006
- Undertaking re. Lorne Cook, dated June 2, 2004
- Information # 100003194, dated April 25, 2005
- Information # 0388/05- Superior Court of Justice, dated August 9, 2005
- Indictment, Re-Election and plea made by the Member re. mode of trial, dated September 11, 2006
- Reasons For Judgment issued by Mr. Justice Trafford, dated October 12, 2006
- Investigator's memo re. notes from the Member's criminal trial from September 12-27, 2006, dated September 28, 2006
- Various media articles, dated September 10, 2006 to November 24, 2006
- Memo from the Investigator to file re. meeting with the investigating police officer, dated October 26, 2006
- Memorandum of Agreement signed by the parties


Decision of the Committee

On April 26, 2007, a panel of the Investigation Committee considered this complaint and, in accordance with the provisions of 26(5)(d) of the *Ontario College of Teachers Act, 1996*, the Investigation Committee ratified the attached Memorandum of Agreement. This is based on the opinion of the Committee that the terms of this Agreement resolve the complaint in the public interest.


Paul Brazeau, Chair


Heather Nagy


Anne Marie Levesque


Brian Doubleday