

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

**A COMPLAINT SUBMITTED BY THE REGISTRAR
REGARDING PAUL RICHARD FORTIN, OCT**

**PANEL: Henry Tyndorf, OCT
Nick Forte, OCT
Susan Robertson**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Investigation Committee has disposed of this matter with a ratification of an agreement between the College and Paul Richard Fortin.

On May 18, 2010, the Ontario College of Teachers (the "College") received a letter of notification from the Headmaster of [REDACTED] International School (the "School"), a private school in [REDACTED], reporting allegations of unprofessional conduct and inappropriate behaviour by teacher Paul Richard Fortin.

Paul Richard Fortin (the "Member") is a member of the College in good standing.

The School advised that the Member had been employed since September 1, 2008, and taught Elementary Physical Education and Middle School Computers.

The School received an anonymous email indicating that the Member and a student were involved in a relationship. The School conducted an investigation which revealed that over the previous several months, the Member had a romantic relationship with a [REDACTED] year old grade [REDACTED] female student. The School indicated that the age of consent in [REDACTED] is 18 years. The Member was not one of the student's actual teachers, but had met the student while [REDACTED].

The School notified the student's parents, who did not wish to pursue any criminal proceedings. The parents have indicated having no objection to the relationship between their daughter and the Member. The Member continues to have a close relationship with the student and her family.

The Police were not notified. On May 16, 2010, the School filed a report with [REDACTED] Child Protection Services.

The Member had signed a "Code of Ethics and Behaviour" as part of his employment contract, which indicated that this behaviour was prohibited.

The Member admitted to a romantic relationship with the student.

The Member's employment was dismissed on May 12, 2010.

In October 2010, the parties signed a Memorandum of Agreement (the "MOA") which, in their opinion, resolves the issues raised by the complaint. The MOA is attached for the consideration of the Investigation Committee.

Allegations

As the Complainant, the Registrar alleges that, during the 2009-2010 school year, Paul Richard Fortin, a teacher at [REDACTED] International School in [REDACTED], acted in an unprofessional and inappropriate manner and failed to maintain the standards of the profession when he:

1. allowed [REDACTED], a female grade [REDACTED] student to visit him alone at his personal residence on campus;
2. kissed [REDACTED]; and
3. became romantically involved with [REDACTED].

Documents Provided to the Committee

- Request for Ratification
- Notification letter from the Employer to the College, dated May 18, 2010
- Letter from Manager of Investigations to Employer, dated June 9, 2010
- Letter from Employer to Manager of Investigations enclosing requested information, dated June 21, 2010
- Memo-Registrar initiating complaint, dated July 22, 2010
- Request to Initiate Investigation Form, dated July 21, 2010
- Notification letter to the Member from the Acting Registrar, dated August 5, 2010
- Letter to the Member from Investigator, dated August 5, 2010, enclosing Agreement and Undertaking
- Agreement and Undertaking, dated August 14, 2010, signed by Member
- Memorandum of Agreement signed by the parties

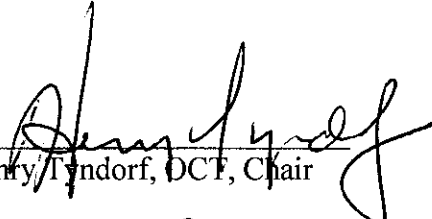
Decision of the Committee

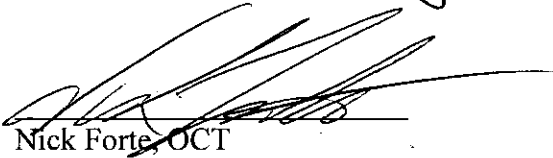
The Ontario College of Teachers (the "College") is the regulatory body for the teaching profession in Ontario. Its mandate is to regulate the teaching profession in the public interest. The College registers individuals who are qualified to teach in Ontario, supports teachers in their profession, and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

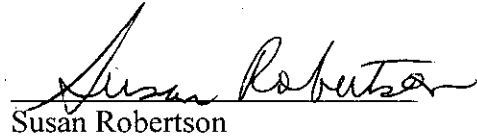
On November 25, 2010, a panel of the Investigation Committee carefully reviewed the submissions of the parties and all relevant information available to the College. The panel also determined that none of the panel members were in a position of conflict regarding this complaint.

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.

Pursuant to the Memorandum of Agreement, the Committee is issuing an admonishment to the Member.


Henry Tyndorf, OCT, Chair


Nick Forte, OCT


Susan Robertson